

July 16, 1979

Remarks by Congressman Les AuCoin
In response to the President's address
on energy, Sunday, July 15, 1979

This is not the time to nit-pick the President. Clearly he is trying to bring the nation's energy crisis into focus and to get a grasp on the problem.

He has put forward bold objectives that deserve the country's support and the support of the Congress. He certainly has my support. I look forward to hearing the details of this program.

Make no mistake. Achieving energy independence may mean higher prices for some things. It may mean that a balanced budget in 1981 will be harder to achieve. It may mean that we take fewer Sunday drives and walk to the store. But the sacrifices we make now will accelerate the return of the day when America is once again in full control of her own future.

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July 17, 1979

Remarks in response to the President's
speech to NACO officials, July 16, 1979

COST OF ENERGY PLAN: The cost of achieving energy independence is acceptable. It's an investment here at home that will generate economic activity that will more than pay for itself.

SYNFUELS: The first synthetic fuels initiative came out of the House Banking Committee and is compatible with environmental concerns. Hitler powered a war machine with a limited supply of crude oil products; surely this country, with its enormous technological expertise, can develop a synthetic fuel resource in peacetime.

**SOLAR BANK AND DEVELOPMENT OF
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES:** The Solar Bank proposal comes within the jurisdiction of the Banking Committee, and I intend to be deeply involved in it. This will be a big item on my agenda. I'll also be involved in alternative energy development issues in the House Oceanography Subcommittee, where hearings will be continuing on ocean biomass conversion and wave energy.

RATIONING: I support the need for an emergency standby rationing plan and will be looking with extreme care to assure that it is an emergency plan and not a substitute for production. It must also be more equitable than the last plan.

ENERGY MOBILIZATION BOARD: This could either be the answer to our energy dreams or an environmental nightmare. I'll do the best I can to support it, but I will fight strongly any effort to make this board a machine to mow down sound environmental protections the public needs, such as a rapid speed-up of licensing of nuclear plants.