

Landon Urges Import Quotas On Foreign Oil

Close Regulation Of Shipments Asked By Kansas Operator

TOPEKA, Kas., Feb. 7 (UPI)—Alf M. Landon suggested today to President Truman that "closely regulated" import quotas be set up for foreign oil.

The independent oil operator and one-time GOP presidential nominee urged checking the upsurge of crude oil imports which have climbed, Landon said, from 280,000 barrels a day early in 1948 to nearly 500,000 barrels daily now.

He said in a letter to the President that the "impact of this volume of foreign oil" has resulted in sagging prices for some refined petroleum products and the softening of the price of domestic crude oil.

"Lowered crude oil prices would touch off a recession in the American oil industry," Mr. Landon wrote.

Sees Middle Course

In his letter, Mr. Landon asserted:

"I would never advocate that imports should be curtailed or eliminated simply to permit the producing of domestic oil at the fastest possible rate.

"But there is a middle course between excessive and inefficient drafts on our own oil reserves on one hand and excessive imports on the other. That course lies in closely regulated import quotas for foreign oil and in the strict observance of the principles of conservation in developing and producing domestic oil."

Tied to Defense

Mr. Landon argued that the problem was tied to national defense. He said production and transportation of Middle East crude oil could not be maintained in the event of hostilities on any large scale.

"In such an event, neither we nor friendly European nations could benefit from these oil supplies," he wrote. "Furthermore, without access to Middle East oil, European nations would be forced to turn immediately to this country for their oil supply."

The United States, he said in the letter, should gradually build up as a safety factor the margin between the ability of oil fields to produce and actual production.

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