

INFORMATION

November 26, 1973

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM:** William E. Timmons  
**SUBJECT:** National Emergency Energy Act

After your discussion with Senator Saxbe in the California Room tonight you instructed me to give you a report on legislation to amend the Clean Air Act, giving our energy needs priority over environmental concerns.

The consensus Energy bill, S. 2589, passed the Senate last week. It is now before the House Committee and should be on the Floor next week. Administration officials worked closely with bipartisan leaders to develop this measure.

Under the bill, the President through the EPA could:

1. Order temporary suspensions of clean air standards for stationary sources (such as power plants);
2. Approve requests from stationary sources for suspensions of emission requirements if the owner had a long-term contract for a supply of low-sulfur coal; and
3. Redistribute low-sulfur fuels to avoid pollution problems.

Also, environmental impact statements would not be required for major actions taken under the act that lasted less than one year. Instead, an environmental "analysis" would be required within 60 days of such action.

EPA Administrator Train testified before the Interior Committee in favor of these provisions.