

SOUTHWEST GAS WINS CLEAN AIR COMMENDATION

The Nevada Tuberculosis and Health Association has presented Southwest Gas Corporation with a special state-wide commendation for its outstanding contribution to a better environment. The annual award was made in conjunction with national Clean Air Week for

SOUTHWEST GAS COMMENDATION

Southwest Gas Corporation's fleet of service vans that operate on natural gas. The natural gas fueled vehicles reduce smog-producing exhaust emissions by as much as 90 percent.

"It is gratifying to see private industry do something on its own to reduce air pollution," Gene McCoy, past president of the association, stated. "Contamination of the air we breathe is a serious hazard to community health."

Dr. Otto Ravenholt, Clark County health officer who participated in making the award to Southwest Gas president William M. Laub, said that motor vehicles are the major cause of air pollution.

"If all fleet vehicle operators would follow the lead of this company and convert to clean-burning natural gas, it would be a significant step towards smog abatement in metropolitan areas," Ravenholt said.

According to Southwest Gas, motor vehicles fueled by natural gas instead of gasoline reduce carbon monoxide exhaust emissions by more than 90 percent, hydrocarbons are reduced by nearly 70 percent, and oxides of nitrogen by 60 percent. The company estimates that one-fourth of the total tonnage of air pollution could be eliminated if all fleet vehicles switched from gasoline to natural gas fueled engines.

The award was made to Southwest Gas Corporation by the Nevada Tuberculosis and Health Association for its program to encourage other

firms with fleet cars and trucks to convert to natural gas operation. The annual presentation is made during National Clean Air Week to a Nevada organization or individual making the greatest contribution towards a cleaner and healthier atmosphere during the year.

William M. Laub, president of Southwest Gas Corporation, urged action by Congress to keep intact a major gas transmission system now serving Nevada and ten other western states.

He said that a U.S. Supreme Court decision requiring break-up of a 1959 merger of El Paso Natural Gas Company and the former Pacific Northwest Pipeline

Corporation could jeopardize both the economy and employment in the eleven-state area served by the merged company.

In calling for Federal legislation to preserve the merger, Southwest Gas joined the six distribution companies which provide natural gas throughout this region, and stated that break-up of the El Paso system would result in millions of dollars of additional increased rates.

"Our prime responsibility is to serve our customers with the best possible natural gas service at the lowest possible cost," Laub said. "A break-up of this transmission system would ultimately result in higher prices to us, which would have to be passed on to our customers through increased rates."

NEW YORK (WNS) - Premier Golda Meir called for "organized and responsible" efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry and scored the "irresponsible Jews who are harming this cause by using tactics similar to (Yasir) Arafat's (leader of El Fatah)." Mrs. Meir made this plea at a meeting with 40 Jewish leaders representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

WASHINGTON (WNS) - Six residents of Moscow have appealed to President Nixon to help them emigrate from the Soviet Union. The letter, with an accompanying statement by Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, was broadcast by the Voice of America to the Soviet Union in the Russian and Ukrainian languages.

NEW YORK (WNS) - Terrorist Leila Khaled, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whose Sept. 6 attempt to hijack an El Al airliner was foiled, has been hailed as a "revolutionary sister" in the latest issue of "The Black Panther," the official organ of the Black Panther Party. The party is noted for its pro-Arab, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic position.

NEW YORK (WNS) - The American Jewish Congress has opened a Soviet Jewry "hot line" to make available to the general public up-to-the minute developments affecting the lives of Soviet Jews. Callers may dial (212) TRafalgar 9-4554.

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