

NATURAL GAS CARS A SUCCESS

After 60 days of on-the-street testing, Southwest Gas Corporation reports that its virtually pollution-free fleet of natural gas fueled vehicles are proving to live up to all expectations.

William M. Laub, president of the Las Vegas-based utility, stated that the natural gas vehicles "are meeting all expectations, both as a dependable and economical service van, as well as an effective means of reducing exhaust contaminants."

"We converted a portion of our customer service fleet to natural gas operation in mid-September," Laub said. "Since then numerous fleet operators, both

private and governmental, have expressed interest in converting their fleets to this fuel system."

Laub added that Southwest Gas Corporation is working with these firms and government agencies and hopes to announce their participation in the program in the near future.

Natural gas fueled engines reduce up to 90 percent of smog-producing exhaust emissions -- carbon monoxide, reactive hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen, according to tests conducted by the California Air Resources Board. The fuel system was developed by Pacific Lighting Corporation in Los An-

geles. "In this two month's period we have encountered no operational or fueling problems," Laub stated. "Performance data thus far indicates these converted vehicles not only contribute to smog abatement, but will prove out to be economically feasible."

He pointed out that the objective of this project is to encourage other fleet users to convert to this fuel system. Laub said it is estimated that one-fourth of the total tonnage of air pollutants could be eliminated in the Las Vegas basin if all fleet motor vehicles were operating on natural gas.

"We feel this is a target worthy of our efforts, particularly in our Las Vegas service area where clear, clean skies are an important asset to our tourist-oriented economy."

In addition to fleet operators who are concerned with air pollution Southwest Gas Corporation's pollution-free service vans, dubbed the "Clean Power Patrol", have generated much favorable public interest. The Nevada Tuberculosis and Health Association presented the utility with its annual clean air award.

The system used by Southwest Gas is a dual fuel system. Motor vehicles can operate either on compressed natural gas or gasoline.

Clean-burning natural gas is normally used instead of gasoline where conventional motor vehicles are apt to be pollution offenders -- at "stop-and-go" speeds in heavy traffic and congested urban areas.



We hear you, Israel.

ISRAEL INSISTS ON U.S. GUARANTEES

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel's Cabinet rejected as inadequate President Nixon's reply to political guarantees sought by Israel. The Cabinet postponed any decision on returning to the Jarring peace talks with Egypt until a later date. At the same time, Foreign Minister Abba Eban was reported to have informed Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring that Israel was willing to resume talks with Jordan and Lebanon.

The Government has expressed satisfaction with American guarantees of military and economic aid for the next two years, but is still seeking in writing American "guarantees" in case Soviet pilots and advisors become involved in a new outbreak of fighting between Israel and Egypt.

It is also seeking "clarification" of American attitudes towards Israel's re-

quests that the U.S. reject the borders suggested by Secretary of State William P. Rogers when he proposed the peace initiative one year ago; that the U.S. use its veto power in the UN Security Council to prevent Arab attempts to "re-interpret" Resolution 242; and for more "active" U.S. political support in the UN General Assembly to prevent the adoption of resolutions unfavorable to Israel. In an apparent reversal of position,

the Cabinet decided to "seek clarification" of these points through normal diplomatic channels, not through Defense Minister Moshe Dayan who will meet with top Administration officials in Washington this week.

Israel hopes to receive "clarification" of American attitudes before Gen. Dayan visits Washington so that he can discuss final details with the U.S. without being hampered by uncertainty over Israel's policy or major problems.

NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Congress this week distributed to community relations councils and group relations agencies the recommendation of the Long Island Interfaith Council that "no religious celebrations... be held in the public schools during the Christmas-Chanukah season, the Easter-Passover season, or other religious holidays."

BUFFALO, NEW YORK (WNS) -- Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, the educational arm of the Lubavitcher movement, has announced the opening of a new regional office in Buffalo, New York, to serve the entire surrounding area as well.



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