

**Kaiser
Konsumer's
Korner**
By Inez Kaiser



We could continue our discussions about insurance because it is such a broad topic, but since the cold waves, snow, rain and sleet have covered many states, our thoughts this week will be directed toward ENERGY.

In recent months we have heard a lot of talk about America running out of energy. We have been told that there may not be enough energy to heat our homes or power our cars and trucks, trains and planes or even keep our factories running.

Well, whether we want to accept it or not all of us need to start making plans to be assured of having plenty of energy to maintain our present way of life. The only way we can do it is by using the remaining energy we have wisely.

In the past, gas and electricity utility bills were relatively small. We paid them with little or no trouble or thought. But everyone you talk to today who uses either for heating or cooling their homes or factories is complaining about the high costs. Those who live in areas where a high volume of gasoline is used for transportation have the same complaint.

The answer to the problem is "control." Control the amount of gas, electricity, and gasoline you use.

Since everyone wants to keep warm in the winter, you should insulate your home, especially the attic. Care should be taken to select the proper kind of insulation. There is all kind on the market today.

A reputable company should recommend the type to use and how to apply it. Every household can profit by turning their thermostat down several degrees in the winter. It has been said if we lower it six degrees we can save from \$13.00 - \$87.00. Along with this, it is necessary for us to be sure that we have storm windows or cover them securely with plastic to keep the cold air out.

All doors and windows should be calked and have weather strips. Furnaces should be serviced and oiled to assure the conservation of energy.

A combination of the above mentioned ideas will not only conserve energy, but money as well. Some of these things you can do yourself which will assure you of having a greater savings.

It's been interesting to observe that many people are purchasing electric heaters to use in the home and office. The old-fashioned belly coal stoves are on the market again. Who knows, we all may be burning coal soon.

As a result of the flood and black-out in Kansas City, kerosene lamps are found in many homes. They have them in decorative styles and with scented oil. In areas where commuting long distances is necessary, one of three things should be considered:

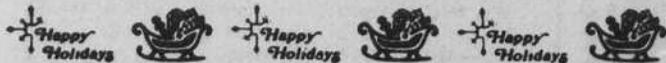
First, purchase a smaller automobile (if possible) that gives better mileage; Secondly, pool rides if you are going in the same direction and; Thirdly, use public transportation.

Some of these ideas may not strike your fancy, but if we wish to live through the cold wintry days ahead, we should start now conserving our use of energy. We, Americans only, can control the destiny of our energy. We might as well face the facts.

In the meantime, become familiar with the activities of your Public Service Commission that regulates the utility rates in your state. Know your rights as a consumer. If you cannot solve a problem on the local level, put it in writing to the commission. That is the only way we can correct or control the prices we pay.

We must never forget the least of us, many who cannot afford to pay the cost of energy today. They go to bed cold and in the dark. In future columns we will be discussing energy more in-depth, but until we do, keep comfortable.

Save America's Energy! We need it!!



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