

*Energy Crisis*

# SC Gas Rationing Not Being Followed

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Voluntary gas rationing based on the "rhythm method" of odd - even ending of license plate numbers got off to a stumbling start in Santa Cruz today.

Most stations polled by the Sentinel were not instituting the system — many of the station operators complaining they have never been officially informed the voluntary system was to begin.

Bob Getts, Bob's Mobil Service on Morrissey Avenue, said, "There's been no direct contact with the station operators . . . this method of getting it to the dealers

through the newspapers is not the way to do it."

Those dealers trying the system which was recommended by the San Jose Chapter of the National Service Dealers Association were still pumping gas to all customers, but taking time to explain the system to get it started.

Under the system, customers with license plates ending with even numbers are asked to buy gas on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; those with odd numbered plates are asked to buy on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

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WASHINGTON (C) Secretary of State H. Kissinger opened a national energy conference today with a plea for "positive and productive dialogue" between producing and oil consuming nations.

Addressing more than 100 delegates from 13 countries which consume 85 percent of the world's petroleum, Kissinger outlined a four-point program for meeting the current energy crisis.

Kissinger called for all countries represented at the conference to join the United States in con-

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All motorists can buy gas on Sunday — if they can find a station open.

According to Joseph Calcagno, leader of the Santa Cruz sector of the San Jose chapter of the association, said, "Personally, I think it's too soon to tell.

"We're hoping it will set up a rhythm and today is the first beat of that rhythm.

"It's voluntary for both the customer and the dealer . . . it was not handed down as a dictum from San Jose. If we try it, at least it will add order to what as been a chaotic situation." Calcagno said.

Bob Craig, owner of Boulder Creek Shell, was one of many dealers who said his station would go along with the voluntary system, but explaining it would have to be predicated on the customers decision.

Craig and most other dealers are cutting down the amount of time their stations are open during the week.

Don Martin of Martin's Mobil

Service in Felton said. "I've never been contacted concerning the voluntary system of rationing and at present we're just cutting down the number of hours the station is open."

Getts believes the problem is intensified by the newspapers.

"We pumped 3,000 gallons in the morning of the last day we were open last week — usually it's about 500 gallons — and I think it was caused because people thought gas rationing was going into effect this week," Getts said.

Calcagno, who owns Plaza Shell on 41st Avenue, said. "That's not at all as bad as the fact that dealers have never been officially informed of federal price controls, and unless a dealer goes to the Internal Revenue Service in San Jose for some reason, he's never officially told."

In New Jersey, a plan to have motorists with odd numbered plates buy on odd numbered days, and even numbers on even days, was made mandatory and

begins today.

Three other states and the nation's capital set up like systems, only they are voluntary, according to the Associated Press.

Oregon was the first state to begin a voluntary system on Jan. 14 and a mandatory system was imposed on the Island of Oahu on Jan. 28.

The gas supply in Santa Cruz is undetermined - today, with dealers stating they are uncertain of supplies until the gas is delivered.

Gas prices were about 54 cents for regular and 56 cents for premium, after being raised about three cents on Feb. 1. Suppliers and dealers are allowed to make price adjustments on the first of the month, according to station owners.

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