From: National Coal Policy Conference, Inc 1000 Sixteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D. C.

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NATIONAL FUELS POLICY HELD VITAL IN COLD WAR PRODUCTION RACE

PONTE VEDRA, FLORIDA...Feb 12...(SPL)...America's best brains must be applied to a thorough study of its fuel resources to evolve a policy which will insure that all are used for the best interests of the nation, Joseph E. Moody, President of National Coal Policy Conference, Inc., warned here today.

The coal industry spokesman told the annual meeting of the Mid West Coal Producers Institute, Inc., that the most efficient use of all of our available energy resources in the future will be a determining factor in our cold war production race with Russia.

A thorough study by Congress of the need for a National Fuels Policy was proposed by the National Coal Policy Conference in 1959 and resolutions calling for such a study are now pending action in both Houses. They were introduced jointly in the Senate by 43 Senators and 29 Representatives in the House introduced similar resolutions.

Mr. Moody quoted the historian Toynbee as observing that every great civilization is faced with a challenge to which it either responds or it disappears. He added; "One of the greatest challenges that we, as a people, face now and in the years ahead, is a test of our ability to maintain a competitive rate of growth. Can we do this in our society and still enhance the life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness of the individual, while elsewhere in the world those ideals are subordinated to nationalism and military might?

"This is the basic factor that we are discussing. It is the basic reason for the existence of the National Coal Policy Conference... We must build a solid structure that will enable coal to contribute its full share to the foundation of this economic growth.

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"One essential to building such a firm structure of national energy is the establishment of a sound National Fuels Policy," Mr. Moody continued. "It is vitally important that Congress take a good look at the crazy quilt of controls of every kind that have to do with oil, with gas, with electricity, with the importation and distribution of fuels -- today a complete crazy quilt of ad hoc regulations -- and evolve a program which will weld them into a sound and logical pattern. Senate Con. Res. 73 asks for a study of this problem and recommendations to the Congress for solution.

"We must put the best brains available on a thorough review of the present situation and must determine how our fuels can best be used for this great Nation of ours, and indirectly, for the world as a whole."

Mr. Moody explained the work of the National Coal Policy Conference, organized in 1959 and composed of major U.S. coal producers, more than 30 coal-carrying railroads, the United Mine Workers of America, a number of leading coal burning electric utilities and manufacturing suppliers of the coal industry.

"Aligned with us in this fight is, of course, the National Coal Association now representing a broad group of the elements of the coal industry under the able new direction of my good friend Steve Dunn," Mr. Moody declared. "For the first time in the history of this Nation, we have true, united national leadership for the coal industry, and those industries with tremendous investments of money and manpower which are dependent on a vigorous coal industry."

The three great long-range objectives of the National Coal Policy Conference Mr. Moody said are:

-- to see that the people of this nation get a new look at coal as the source of energy for our entire civilization;

--to emphasize the truth that coal has been the energy fuel which has made our great industrial development possible while other nations, lacking ample coal supplies, have plodded along in a beast-power economy; and

-- to make it very clear that continued availability of cheap coal powered energy is essential to American safety and her continued growth for many years to come..