

Editorial

The biggest challenge we have this year is keeping closer contact with our saltatorial government. Events which marked 1973 have had a decided effect on our leadership in Washington. Much of what they held as cornerstones to democracy has either crumbled or developed gaping fissures. Rising prices under static controls, alleged food shortages, dollar devaluation, political party intrigue and more have virtually destroyed credibility in government as it once existed.

On top of this we are now faced with shortages in energy — oil, gas, electricity. Government, rather than permitting industry to solve the situation in an economy where demand meets supply, has once again grabbed the tail of the dog. Instead of governing best by governing least, the Washington machine has loosened the threat of gasoline and fuel supply rationing on the constituents. This may seem logical to shell-shocked politicians; it may even have appeal. But to the consumer, it breeds more distrust, more controls, more belt-tightening and the whole idea of rationing has a negative connotation.

Rationing of any sort represents a major energy drain. Brainpower and manpower concentrated here is counter-productive. The average consumer would far rather see tax dollars being invested in

People Power — An Energy Source

finding alternative sources of energy. The costs to execute an effective rationing program are astronomical. None of it adds a gallon of gasoline or a kilowatt of electricity to the total. Our experience with the debacled administration of wage and price controls would indicate that just the opposite is true. About the only thing we may buy is a little time, and scant little at that.

The Green Industry can do much to change this deteriorating situation. It is we who are at stake. Our businesses and occupations will suffer first and most drastically unless positive action is taken, and fast. Picture a tree care business without the mobility of trucks. Weed control might be done with two-gallon sprayers, but it is economical when herbicides are delivered via trucks. Commercial turfgrass care will result in nothing short of a cow pasture unless sophisticated mowing equipment and other items of a turf maintenance package are employed.

What can we do? Individually we can write letters to congressmen and senators. A letter from each reader of this magazine will increase the feedback in Washington by many thousands. If you don't believe it, try it. Tell your representative what he should be doing for you the voter,

(continued on page 28)



The Green PARK Rabbit symbolizes the fast start and seeding vigor for which PARK variety Kentucky bluegrass is famous. It is the registered trademark of the Northern Minnesota Bluegrass Growers Association ... the original producers of PARK.

PARK

America's No. 1
certified bluegrass
from its No. 1 producer

More acres of PARK Kentucky bluegrass are grown in the United States each year than any other variety of certified Kentucky bluegrass.

It was the Northern Minnesota Bluegrass Growers Association which first introduced PARK to the commercial market ... and the association remains the primary supplier of certified PARK seed.

Fact Sheet, prices and other information is available from Twin City Seed Company, exclusive distributor for all PARK variety Kentucky bluegrass grown by the Association.

Write or phone today.

Twin City Seed Company, 500 30th Avenue N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55418

SHUT DOWN MAINTENANCE

(from page 23)

containing rubber parts, these parts should also receive a coating of preservative. If a flexible shaft is used, grease should be applied at all fittings.

The engine should be run until it is warmed up to operating temperature and then the oil drained and the oil filter changed. New oil with a rust-preventative should be added and the unit again run a short time to distribute the oil. **A word of caution here: if the power unit is connected to the pump through a clutch, the pump should not be allowed to operate during this warm-up period. If the pump is directly connected to the power unit, the warm-up and engine service should be performed prior to draining the pump unit. The pump should not be run without fluid in it.**

While the engine is warm, the coolant should be checked. If you are using one of the all-year type coolants that are now on the market, the level and the degree of protection are all that need to be checked and necessary addition should be made. If water or a methanol type of antifreeze have been used, the cooling

system should be drained and refilled with water, rust inhibitor and antifreeze.

The spark plugs should be pulled, cleaned and re-gapped and about two ounces of SAE 50 engine oil should be poured into each cylinder and the plugs replaced.

The distributor cap should be removed and a small amount of oil placed on the governor weights and a drop of grease on the grease wick. The distributor cap should then be replaced and sealed with weatherproof masking tape where the cap joins the distributor housing.

The air cleaner and breather cap should be removed and stored inside after cleaning, and all openings in the engine, carburetor, exhaust and breather should be sealed with a weatherproof tape.

The fuel filter should be removed, cleaned and replaced.

Any engine safety switches and the lines to them that are operated by water should be drained completely. Electrically operated safety switches and the ignition system should be given a good coat of one of the spray-on electrical protection compounds to prevent corrosion.

Any grease fittings on the engine

should be given a good shot of new grease.

Batteries should be removed, charged and stored in a cool, dry place.

If the driver is an electric motor, the old grease should be flushed out and new grease put in and then the motor run for a few seconds to distribute the new grease and allow the excess grease to get out prior to replacing the grease plugs.

The motor should be protected from oil, water and rodents during the shut down period, **but should not be covered with a plastic or canvas cover that will not allow proper circulation of air in and around the motor during shutdown.**

The starting switch box should be checked for missing knock-out plugs or other holes and these should be sealed against rodents and dirt.

Insure that all switches are in the off position and either lock the panel in the off position or remove the fuses to prevent an accidental or vandal type start-up during the shut down season.

A pumping unit properly prepared for storage this way will be ready for start-up in the spring with a minimum amount of problems.□



is the most accurate fertilizer spreader you can use.

Right behind the spreader. . . or 20 feet to each side. . . your turf gets the same amount of fertilizer if you use a Vicon. Field tests have proven it.

Vicon uses an exclusive system. . . a spout oscillating at 540 times per minute. This gives a rectangular coverage pattern that eliminates the overlapping and missed spots you get with fan spreaders.

Vicon is quality constructed to last for years. Major parts are non-corroding polyester and stainless steel. Application rate is easily adjusted from 10 to 2500 pounds per acre.

Even lime is no problem for the Vicon. It handles lime, fertilizer, seed and chemicals. Six hopper capacities from 600 to 7000 pounds suit your course and budget.

Vicon has the accuracy that professional turf men are looking for. Write today.

Vicon the better idea from Holland
Vicon Farm Machinery, Inc.
5898 Poplar Hall Drive • Norfolk, Virginia 23502

For More Details Circle (114) on Reply Card

EDITORIAL

(from page 6)

not what to do for the political process. Green Industry organizations must exercise their lobbying power in government as the organized voice of the membership. Sitting back on the sidelines in silence signifies consent with the situation.

Above all, we must expend a little motivational energy to turn the tide. Energy in teamwork will bring order to the current chaos. The rewards of our effort more than justify the means.

Mr. Sod Grower:

Earn more profits and place yourself ahead of competition with the finest sod available. . .

Warren's A-20 & A-34

Kentucky Bluegrass

Performance proven across the nation and rated highest by universities doing turfgrass research. Sells for more yet is less expensive to produce than other bluegrass strains. Two crops of sod in one growing season possible with A-20 & A-34. A few northern territories open for exclusive grower's franchise. Write or call for information:

WARREN'S TURF NURSERY

8400 West 111th Street, Palos Park, Ill. 60464

Phone: 312/974-3000

For More Details Circle (143) on Reply Card

WEEDS TREES and TURF