

where's the GAS?

The Arab embargo on oil to the United States has caused the Americans to put through some rather drastic measures concerning oil use. The one that has hurt the Americans the most has been the restrictions put on the use of gasoline and their cars. The Americans have been taking travel by car for granted for years. The oil shortage is dissolving one of the great American dreams. The oil shortage in the United States is going to have some rather interesting correlations to Canada.

Even though 90% of the oil from Alberta goes to the United States, when sold as gasoline in the U.S. it is always more inexpensive than in Canada (even when one figures in the difference between an Imperial & an American gallon). Since the oil shortage began the U.S. has allowed the price of gasoline to go up. It has already gone up over 15¢ a gallon. If it continues to increase it will soon be more expensive than in Canada.

The President just passed a bill that would restrict all speed limits in the U.S. to 55 miles per hour. It will take longer in certain States to put it into effect but all States should comply by the beginning of February. This is really going to slow down travel since most super highways in the U.S. used to have a speed limit of 70. Canada however, is not going to put such a bill through.

Another bill that the President has put through is that all gas stations must be closed between 9:00 p.m. Sat. through until Mon. morning. This limits all travel on weekends and puts quite a restriction on people travelling long distances by car. This also means a lot of people run-



ning out of gas.

Since the gas stations are receiving less gasoling, they have either shortened their hours to something like 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or have put restrictions on the amounts of purchases such as 5 gallons per customer. This has caused many people to become gas station hoppers, going to maybe three or four to get their tank full.

With gasoline so hard to get and the demand so high the idea of the nice gas station attendant has disappeared. They don't have to wait for customers because they usually have a line up of cars waiting for gasoline. They have no reason to be nice to you since most of the people that come in end up blaming the gas shortage on the gas st-

ation attendant, or at least taking out their aggressions on them verbally.

None of these things have happened in Canada though. With Canadians always promoting Americans crossing the border to the north in order to see the wilderness and spend lots of money, it will look better and better. Americans have always loved vacations where they throw the kids in the car and go. With speed limits higher than 55 miles per hour, no restrictions on gas and probably less expensive than in the U.S., Canada will be quite the place to go. If the situation remains the same next summer I think there will be a huge influx of Americans into Canada (if they can get enough gasoline to reach the border)!

