

Gas dealers plan 3-day protest closing

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By Frank Zahour

INDEPENDENT GASOLINE station dealers have called for a three-day shutdown of their stations to protest government price policies, the director of the Illinois Gasoline Dealers Association said yesterday.

"We got clobbered in Phase 4," said Robert Jacobs, head of the association which represents about 4,000 dealers in

the Chicago-Gary region. He said price policies and the gasoline shortage have put pressure on independent station owners.

NO DATE has been set for the protest, which will include signs in station windows reading "This Station Closed by Government Bungling," said Jacobs.

The Cost of Living Council Thursday set Aug. 19 as the date when dealers must revert to profit margins which

were in effect Jan. 10, said Jacobs. The association charges that this is unfair to independent operators and that the move will promote stations affiliated with major oil companies.

"At that time, we were in a price war. We can't go back to those margins," said Jacobs.

The most visible evidence to the consumer of the new controls on gas prices will be red, white, and blue stickers on

service station gasoline pumps. Each pump will display the lawful price and octane rating for the gasoline in that pump.

Final regulations for petroleum prices are scheduled to be released in the near future, but John T. Dunlop, director of the Cost of Living Council said that the system of price ceilings which will go into effect when prices are unfrozen next Sunday will include roll-

backs in gasoline and heating oil prices below freeze levels.

GOVERNMENT PRICE policies also prohibit station dealers from passing on increased operating costs to consumers.

The decision to call for the protest shutdown was made after the association's board met in an executive session which began Friday night and ended early yesterday.

"We were concerned and our concern turned to anger," said Jacobs.

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