

## RESOLUTION No. 13—H. F. No. 1382

*A concurrent resolution memorializing the President and Congress of the United States and the federal agencies concerned to amend SFAW Regulation 26 effective April 1st, 1945, to eliminate certain restrictions contained therein with a view of preventing undue hardship to the consuming public and dealers in solid fuel in the State of Minnesota.*

WHEREAS, on the 14th day of March, 1945 Solid Fuels Administrator for War, Harold L. Ickes, issued a directive effective April 1st, 1945, providing among other things that consumers be allotted only 80 per cent of their normal annual yearly requirements of scarcer solid fuel from April 1st, 1945 to March 31st, 1946; that the retail dealer cannot deliver to a consumer more than 50 per cent of his annual yearly normal requirements of solid fuel before August 31st, 1945; that solid fuel dealers shall be required by the regulation to verify consumers' normal annual requirements of solid fuel; and that retail solid fuel dealers are frozen to old contracts which they previously served and are not permitted to accept any new business with schools, municipal buildings and government agencies, and

WHEREAS, eighty per cent of the consumers' normal annual requirements is not sufficient solid fuel to properly insure sufficient heat and to assure healthful conditions during the long winter months encountered in Minnesota particularly in view of the fact that firewood is not available in sufficient quantities which can be used for heating purposes due to the fact that pulpwood is selling at such a high price; that labor is not sufficiently interested under the present conditions in cutting firewood, and

WHEREAS, because of the severity of the weather conditions in the State of Minnesota causing bad road conditions due to snow, storms and blockades, which prohibit wintertime deliveries and because of the necessity of providing fuel to the farms, rural schools, industry and homes, a sufficient stock must be on hand at the docks to provide enough fuel to supply this area and therefore the restriction that the retail dealer cannot deliver to a consumer more than 50% of his annual yearly normal requirements of solid fuel before August 31, 1945, is not only impractical but is bound to cause severe hardship, and

WHEREAS, the provision to verify consumers' normal annual requirements of solid fuel by the dealer will entail such tremendous amount of detail and office work that it will be practically impossible under the present war time conditions to

secure sufficient help to properly check and provide this information and will add to the already high cost and burden of handling distribution of solid fuel in Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the provision contained in SFAW Regulation 26 prohibits dealers from contracting to supply new patrons during the heating season from April 1st, 1945 to March 31st, 1946, is unconstitutional and by the provisions of the regulation creates an abnormal distribution of solid fuels in the State of Minnesota and places certain consumers in a position where they may not be able to obtain solid fuel without great inconvenience and unnecessary delay, and

WHEREAS, the provisions contained in the regulation have been given serious study and consideration it appears obvious to those who are acquainted with the weather conditions in Minnesota, the manpower shortage, the lack of equipment and other burdensome wartime delivery restrictions will make the regulation impossible of performance without creating great hardship and suffering on the part of the people. Compliance with SFAW Regulation 26 will create a shortage which will result in severe hardships on the consuming public and retail coal dealers creating a back-log of solid fuel orders during the winter months, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota receives nearly all of its coal requirements via the Great Lakes; whereas it is necessary to obtain an adequate supply at the docks before navigation closes; whereas any deficiency in movement via the Great Lakes cannot be supplemented except via all-rail movement; whereas facilities for all-rail movement are already overburdened and cannot be relied upon to bring coal into Minnesota;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, to Harold L. Ickes, Solid Fuels Administrator for War, and to each member of the Minnesota Delegation in Congress, with the request that SFAW Regulation 26 be amended to permit sufficient coal to move via the Great Lakes docks during the navigation season and to eliminate the provision pertaining to 80 per cent of the solid fuel allocated to the coal consuming public and by striking out dealers' verification of consumers' requirements and to eliminate the restriction providing that only 50% of the consumers' normal annual requirements can be delivered before August 31, 1945, with a view of eliminating the plight of the solid fuel industry and the consequent impairment of the solid fuel supply for Minnesota.

Filed April 19, 1945.