OPA TELLS SAVING IN GAS RATIONING

Maryland's thirty-nine war-price and rationing boards have reduced B, C, and non-highway monthly gasoline rations by 523,939 gallons since inauguration of a Statewide OPA gasoline conservation program last September, Leo H. McCormick, State OPA director, said this week.

The boards are still reviewing applications for supplementary mileage, he said, and further cuts are expected. The review will continue until all applications on file have been considered.

In addition, Mr. McCormick stated, the boards are scrutinizing gasoline rations and applications for new rations, to effect cuts wherever possible.

Ration-board clerks have been instructed to make immediate cuts in over-issued rations, unless a motorist's renewal date is imminent, he said. They also must revoke prefrred mileage (C) rations where persons have been found ineligible for them.

The review of records of all B and C gasoline coupon holders is being made at the direction of the OPA regional office in New York. It is designed to effect a monthly cut of twenty-five per cent in gasoline usage in Maryland.

Rations of defense workers farmers, contractors, boat operators, clergymen, medical men, undertakers and others are subject to the review.

The regional OPA instructions point out that "applicants are not entitled to a ration for occupational activity which can be carried on by mail, telephone, or which can be carried on by other means of transportation."

Accordingly, board members are rechecking the following items on application forms:

Number of miles from home to the nearest transportation facility.

Number of miles from home to work.

Time required for travel from home to work.

Travel time is not considered a factor unless it takes two hours, or four times longer, a day than it would take by automobile.

Car-sharing provisions are being rigidly applied, Mr. McCormick asserted. Where the driver and riders of one car club can be added to another club, he said, the car clubs are merged, thus saving one ration.

Boards are checking mileage on maps for accuracy, and allowing for possible "emergencies." They also are making new issuances on actual, rather than anticipated requirements, as was done heretofore.

TWO AND ONE-HALF PAIRS OF SHOES FOR CIVILIANS

Present production figures point to about two and one-half pairs of shoes a year for civilians, W. W. Stephenson, the Office of Price Administration's national shoe-rationing chief, declared yesterday.

"If an individual is allowed three pairs a year, production totals of 25 million a month, or 300 million a year, would have to be stepped up to 378 million," he told a recent conference. "Manpower and material shortages are obstacles to this."

ADVISE EARLY MAILING OF CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

Delivery of the annual flood of Christmas gifts and cards on time, always a serious problem, "will be more than a problem this year—it will be an impossibility — unless Christmas mailings are made largely in November," Postmaster General Frank C. Walker warned this week.

"Transportation facilities are burdened to the limit with war materials and personnel, and the postal service has sent more than 31,000 experienced employees into the army and navy," Mr. Walker said.

"The only solution ti the Christmas problem is: Mail in November. Mark your parcels, 'Do Not Open Until Christmas.' That is the only way to avoid disappointment on Christmas day not only for many civlans but also for millions of members of the armed forces who are still in this country.

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