The fuel oil situation in South Carolina is critical.

I am informed that consumption of fuel oil, due to new construction and changing of heating plants, is 60 per cent more than it was before the war. Refining facilities of the producers have not yet been expanded enough to take up this margin.

I have taken some steps to have South Carolina's allotment of fuel oil increased, but results cannot be guaranteed.

In order that there may be a fair distribution of available supplies, I urge everyone using the oil to practice conservation to the fullest extent possible.

Thermostats should be turned down at night and turned off whenever the house is unoccupied for any length of time, particularly on weekends. Stores, schools, and churches should watch consumption carefully.

Indications are that the shortage will ease somewhat in January and February, but I am afraid that throughout this winter nothing like a normal supply will be available.

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