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Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, many years ago Mr. Justice Felix Frankfurter wrote: "No one, no matter how exalted his public office or how righteous his private motives, can be judge in his own case. That is what courts are for.

It has long been a basic tenet of our constitutional system that the courts are the proper place for resolution of public and private disputes and that everyone must obey the courts.

I am appalled that the President is unwilling to say that he will obey the High Court. The President's conduct represents a presumptuous affront to the dignity of the Court as well as a serious blow to public confidence in our governmental processes and the rule of law.

Repeatedly over the past several weeks, high White House officials have turned against the President's willingness to obey a Supreme Court decision. Most recently, Mr. St. Clair in California last night repeatedly refused to say that the President would obey the Court.

I cannot understand the President's apparent unwillingness to say, simply, that he will obey the U.S. Supreme Court. Such a statement is little to ask of a lawyer, a member of the Supreme Court bar, a former Member of Congress, and the chief executive officer of the Nation. Such a statement would seem to represent nothing more than a reaffirmation of commitment to the rule of law. Yet, we do not get an answer.

Mr. CHURCH. Mr. President, the time has come for Congress to enact legislation to aid the independent fuel dealer. In the wake of the energy crunch, they have become the pawns in a marketing game being conducted by the Nation's major oil companies.

Time is of the essence and I urge the members of the Commerce Committee to report out what has been called the "dealer day in court" legislation. The Senate has already passed such a measure three times. But each time it became the victim of circumstances, once being left out of a conference report, and once vetoed, as a part of the emergency energy legislation, by the President.

I have written a letter to Senator Magnuson, chairman of the Commerce Committee, setting forth a history of this legislation, its current need, and a suggested vehicle for bringing the matter before the full Senate. I urge its consideration.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my letter to Senator Magnuson,