

'Governor Brown, Naderites Have Hog-Tied California's Energy Sources' Says U.S.L.P.'s Gubernatorial Candidate

The following "State of the State" message was issued in Sacramento, Cal. Jan. 12, 1974, by Nicholas Benton, U.S. Labor Party candidate for Governor of California in 1978.

The administration of Governor Gerald Brown, its conservationist appointees on key state commissions overseeing growth, and the Naderite groups generally have so hog-tied California that sheer catastrophe is being projected for the near-term by all those in positions to know the impact of these forces on energy supplies. nuclear power, oil, natural gas, and water supplies of the state are being so choked by the zero-growthers that experts have designated 1981 as the doomsday by which time the valleys will be parched, and hundreds of thousands of businesses and millions of homes will be cut off from energy supplies if current policies persist.

In the face of this crisis, the people of California must join with me as I extend the U.S. Labor Party's unique capacity to marshal multipartisan forces to confront this threat with an aggressive campaign of education, and legal and legislative initiatives on behalf of progress and science. The Labor Party has demonstrated its unique capacity to rally industrial, conservative, scientific, trade union and student interests around a comprehensive growth and energy policy, premised on the feasibility of the near-term development of nuclear fusion power, embodying the principles of progress and science fundamental to the American experience and the humanist conception of man. My campaign will be the focus for a legal strategy of challenging Naderite legislation and rulings on grounds that impediments to progress are unconstitutional, an educational strategy for rekindling commitment to science and growth on the campuses, in the workplaces and through the corridors of power, and a legislative strategy to motivate pro-growth tendencies in public offices through educational and legislative proposals and constituency pressure. The volume and effect of such strategies, and their ultimate success or failure for California, depends on the scale and intensity of support for my campaign.

We are on the brink of an irreversible regression to the Dark Ages. In every area of energy, the crisis is imminent and the needs clear:

Water

While Governor Brown is working out plans for imposing individual consumer water rationing, agricultural interests in the valleys have almost exhausted the deep water well resources, and current drought conditions threaten to turn the valleys into deserts. Farmers are immediately faced with being forced to abandon fruit and vegetable crops in favor of crops requiring less water, despite having cut back on winter wheat planting

this year by 10 per cent because of poor market conditions. Impediments to the construction of the Sacramento Delta-San Joaquin peripheral canal, the San Felipe projects, and other projects must immediately be removed. Shorter term solutions must also be explored and implemented. The Coastline Conservation Law must immediately be declared unconstitutional to facilitate rapid nuclear power development along the coast — both to alleviate the pressure on limited water-supplies that inland nuclear power construction would create and to attain indispensable energy-intensity levels for powering desalination and new irrigation systems that must be developed to fully realize expanded agricultural production levels.

Electrical Power-Nuclear Power

The blocking by the Brown administration and Naderites of nuclear power development threatens electric power cutbacks as early as next fall, and catastrophe by 1981 at the latest. Pacific Gas and Electric has issued a warning to its clients that failure to have its Diablo Canyon power plant operational by the late summer will force involuntary blackouts and brownouts of electrical power in northern California by the fall, due to the effect of drought conditions on its hydro-electric facilities. The state must bring full pressure to bear on the federal agencies that have yet to approve the facility, and to dispense quickly with any Naderite impediments. The three laws impeding nuclear power development, that were passed by the state legislature last year — imposing virtually the same restrictions contained in the infamous Proposition 15 that California's voters rejected by a wide margin — must be declared unconstitutional and be repealed. The Energy Commission dominated by Governor Brown appointees must be denounced and cleansed for its destructive policy based on an insane projection of a 3.0 per cent rate of growth in electrical energy use for the state. This is to be compared to a 7.0 per cent rate of growth in 1970, 4.8 per cent rate of growth at present, and what we could initially estimate as a necessary 15 to 20 per cent rate of growth required to effectively overcome current employment, environmental and energy-production problems. The insanity of the 3.0 figure is amplified by the fact it does not take into account greater than present dependence on electrical energy resulting from exhaustion of natural gas and oil supplies.

Legislative and policy impediments must be lifted to allow the immediate completion of the Southern California Edison nuclear power plant as an initial step to avert massive electrical power blackouts of

businesses and consumers being projected to begin irreversibly by 1981 under present policy. All forms of energy production must be encouraged to develop, but with a clear emphasis on the primacy of nuclear power, especially with the level of commitment to broad-based research and development of nuclear fusion power, as delineated in the U.S. Labor Party's Fusion Energy Act of 1977, as the singular feasible comprehensive solution to the energy crisis. To be effective means tackling this incompetent Naderite drivel head on with educational initiatives on the sound engineering solutions protecting against conceivable accidents involving the fission process and on the feasibility of the near-term development of fusion, as experts such as Dr. Teller have recently acknowledged.

Natural Gas

Federal Power Commission regulations on the interstate flow of natural gas guarantee that California will face a severe shortage of this energy source very soon. While the U.S. Labor Party nationally will be challenging these regulations, all impediments to the proposed construction of a natural gas facility at the Port of Los Angeles must immediately be lifted to enable import of gas. The suspicious explosion of the tanker in the Los Angeles port that has spurred environmentalists to block the Liquefied Natural Gas facility must be further investigated for evidence of sabotage, given the extraordinary pattern of gas and oil-related spills, explosions, and disasters cohering with a Carter administration drive for increased regulation and reduction of

Author of NEPA: 'We Need to Have a Lot Fewer People'

The following interview with Professor Lynton K. Caldwell of Indiana University was provided to EIR by a New York law student. Caldwell was the author of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) in his role as a consultant to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. He has a long history of involvement in "Public Administration" abroad, in particular in Thailand, Colombia, the Philippines, Turkey, Pakistan, and the Middle East.

Q: Where did the idea for NEPA come from?

A: There were a lot of people involved, but I really wrote the bill and the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) section.

Q: Who were the early supporters of environmental concerns?

A: In the 1960s there weren't many people who foresaw the environmental movement. The Conservation Foundation was one group that did.

Q: Who provided the backing for them?

A: I think the Rockefeller family; perhaps also the Ford Foundation. I was at the University of Michigan in 1963, a lot of people there were helpful. Also a behavior sociologist named Abe Maslow was very important.

Q: Wasn't he associated with Kurt Lewin?

A: Oh, yes, I found Lewin's ideas most helpful in formulating my own ideas about ecological sociology.

Q: You indicated in an article that Congress didn't realize the implications of NEPA in terms of its disruptive effects on the economy...

A: Not many people did. There was a good deal of political dynamite in it. It would have been just a nice piece of rhetoric without the EIS, but that really blew off the lid. There were about 35 bills that

session on the environment, but they were all rhetoric. The Jackson Bill (NEPA) was the only one with any teeth in it. We set it up so the public could blow the whistle on the federal agencies.

Q: There wasn't much debate, was there?

A: It might have had a rougher time if people knew what was in it. In the Senate it was passed on the Consent Calendar; there was some debate in the House. I can't think of a more important piece of legislation that had less publicity.

Q: NEPA seems to have had quite an effect on the rate of growth.

A: Growth is an omnibus term. This country could do with a lot fewer people. In the long run, we need to have a lot fewer people. We should encourage a sub-zero rate of growth.

In fact, I agree with Paul Ehrlich when he says that we could do better with half the number of people in this country. I happen to agree with Ehrlich that 100 million people would be a lot better than 200 million.

This is the only answer to problems like poverty and the environment. This is just plain humanitarian realism.

Q: Would you accomplish this through reducing energy consumption?

A: It will be hard to do. We have only a limited capacity to reduce energy consumption.

Q: What about the underdeveloped countries? Isn't there a real conflict between environmental concerns and the need for economic development?

A: There's no real conflict. Many of the developing countries' problems are environmental problems. The developing countries are wildly overpopulated; this can't be remedied by technology or economic development. Things are just going to get worse; there will be severe social conflicts.

energy supplies nationally.

Oil

Anticipating success in blocking the Liquefied Natural Gas facility at the Port of Los Angeles, the Brown administration is opposing the construction of a deep-water receiving facility for Alaskan oil at the Port of Long Beach on grounds that the pipeline to Midland that Standard Oil of Ohio intends to use to transport oil from California must be used instead of the import of grossly price-inflated natural gas to this state. Brown's determination to obstruct the development of the Long Beach facility most clearly reveals his surrogate role for larger interests committed to deindustrialization of the U.S. through manipulated energy shortages. The impact of such a policy on the economy of California, and on the individual Californian is obvious. Obstructions surrounding the more than 400 permits required to proceed with the construction of the Long Beach facility must be overcome as quickly as possible, and anticipated legal challenges from the Brown administration dispensed

with rapidly, since delays beyond 60 days from now begin to postpone the badly needed oil beyond the point that it will be ready to flow through the Alaskan pipeline in 1978.

All these battles must be fought, but not one at a time. The people of California will be recruited to this fight as they are impelled with a vision of a comprehensive growth policy, and the underlying humanist conceptions of man informing the Renaissance "Idea of Progress" and its highest political expression, the American revolution and the U.S. Constitution. They will be recruited to the fight as the relationship between energy and high living standards and opportunity for meaningful participation and contribution to an expanding economy mastering the capacity to alleviate world economic and political crises and tensions is spelled out. And they will be recruited as they see the legal and legislative initiatives for the fight create the opportunities for positive action. This is the task we must undertake. This is the task for which my campaign is the indispensable catalyst.