

NAACP Statement At Center Of U.S. Energy Fight

The Jan. 8 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) announcement that it will challenge the Carter Administration's no-growth energy plan has polarized the U.S. press. This call for expanded energy development by the largest and the oldest civil rights group in the U.S. has emerged as the major catalyst in a struggle to determine whether Administration policy—both domestic and foreign—can be shaped to return the U.S. to economic stability.

The statement for energy development was adopted at the Association's November 1977 conference on energy. The Carter White House, however, ignored the document, prompting the Association's public action.

Scores of publications have lined up for and against the

NAACP's call for energy expansion, signaling that the fundamental domestic policy fight is actually over energy. White liberals and their media outlets have dropped a decade-long facade of "concern" for the rights of blacks to scream "sellout," but the NAACP has found new sources of support which include conservative Republican leader Ronald Reagan.

In the midst of this motion most of the organized labor movement has remained sitting on the fence, with the exception of the United Auto Workers official who has unwisely committed himself to a public "refutation" of the NAACP's energy policy. For both labor and industry, the NAACP's bold initiative could be a powerful wedge for influencing Congress to develop a growth-oriented alternative to the national energy program.

'The NAACP And The Republican Party Are On The Same Wave Length'

On Jan. 22, former California Governor Ronald Reagan told an Atlanta, Ga. gathering of 300 conservatives from all over the South that the NAACP's energy program is "a most significant piece of news...the NAACP and the Republican Party are on the same wave length." The speech occurred during a day-long series of political workshops sponsored by Citizens for the Republic, the political action group which Reagan founded.

The Washington Post's version of the event was, "Ronald Reagan, darling of the Republican Party's right wing, reached out today to an unusual ally—the NAACP—in criticizing Carter's domestic policies." In reality, almost the entirety of Reagan's speech was devoted to the NAACP's initiative; here are some portions of it.

There is a significant piece of news I'd like to share with you...it isn't news to the White House. They have had this embarrassing information for weeks, hoping that if they didn't look at it it would go away.

Well, it didn't...its impact can hardly be ignored...

The NAACP held a national energy conference for its members. The result was withdrawal of its support for President Carter's energy program...it supported instead deregulation of oil and natural gas, and an emphasis on nuclear power...

With legal barriers removed against blacks, the NAACP is shifting its emphasis to the economic front...the limits to growth people who are so influential in

the Carter Administration are telling us...that the economic pie is going to shrink. That we all have to settle for a smaller slice.

But that's not the American way, nor is it what developed this great land....Those who have only recently opened the door to better jobs and greater opportunity must not now be told that their struggle has been in vain. Millions of blue collar Democrats and independents don't believe it.

Let us Republicans tell them we don't believe it; that we choose the high ground of optimism and that with their help we can keep this land of ours what it always has been—the land of promise—where dreams come true.

NAACP President Cites American Tradition of Growth

Benjamin Hooks, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, speaking before an audience of 100 businessmen, ministers, and politicians at the Association's annual dinner in Philadelphia Jan. 23, likened the situation facing the U.S. population today to the founding of the American republic.

The British monarchy was rejected 200 years ago, because of its refusal to permit technological advancement in the American colonies, Hooks told the audience.

"The founding fathers labored to create a Declaration of Independence and a Constitution that went against the divine right of kings and that spoke for freedom in a world that still contained slavery in many of its parts."

The contribution of every human being must be utilized, Hooks said. "We will either be 10 percent of your disgrace and defeat and poverty or 10 percent of your success and triumph. If you have 10 percent, or one foot, in the ditch, you're still standing in the ditch." Moving to the immediate crisis of the collapsing U.S. economy and decline in technology development, Hooks attacked functional illiteracy among both blacks and whites as "unacceptable in our highly technical society."

"As for the U.S. energy policy now being decided in Congress, Hooks laid the cards on the table: President Carter is "more concerned with conservation than expansion," he said, and he lambasted the U.S. Congress "which doesn't seem to know what it wants."

Colorado Civil Rights Leader Backs NAACP

Clarke Watson, head of the American Association of Blacks on Energy, released a strongly worded statement Jan. 26 endorsing the NAACP's energy report. In explaining why the NAACP is "pro-jobs," Watson's release states:

The American Association of Blacks on Energy fully concurs with the concerns reflected in the recently released NAACP call for economic mechanisms within the energy policy that will stimulate jobs....Mr. Carter's energy policy inferentially advances the notion of prejudicial poverty for blacks...

The fact is that certain national organizations purporting to represent blacks in service or elected capacities cannot (appreciate) the rather simple dynamics of a free market economy and rely on advice from outside the black community, advice which usually comes from persons whose career depends on welfare-service type

programs — and are threatened by what they see as an eroding source of power — their "poor minorities." There are two paths for blacks to follow — to the breadline or the bank. These days, the bank appears to offer a bit more sustenance and (the) stability of opportunity.

St. Louis Paper Sees Rejection Of Carter Policy

On Jan. 16, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat — one of the most respected conservative-oriented newspapers in the country — gave a stunning editorial endorsement to what they called the "Historic NAACP Energy Stand." We reprint here excerpts of that editorial.

In recent days the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has delivered a crushing blow to the Carter energy plan that could bring this ill-advised program crashing to the ground...

In words that future generations may cite as a turning point in the nation's quest for an intelligent energy policy, the NAACP said:...

"All alternative energy sources should be developed and utilized. Nuclear power, including the breeder, must be vigorously pursued because it will be an essential part of the total fuel mix necessary to sustain an expanding economy."...As for the controls proposed in the Carter program, the NAACP says that "Those aspects of the plan which would perpetuate price controls on newly discovered oil and natural gas and extend those controls to new areas appear to us to be incompatible with the need for new supply development."

...There is much more in the statement dissecting the Carter energy bill that now is before the House-Senate conference committee for final action. But this should be enough to demonstrate that the advocates of a controlled, no growth U.S. energy industry are now in deep trouble. If they had presumed that black Americans strongly endorsed their energy plan for putting U.S. oil, Natural gas and nuclear energy producers in a strait jacket, they now

U. S. Press Blacks Out, Distorts NAACP Report

Interneccine warfare has broken out in the ranks of the U.S. press over the coverage of the recent NAACP report advocating nuclear energy development to create employment opportunities for blacks.

The report, a criticism of President Carter's energy plan now before Congress, was released to the U.S. press at a Dec. 23 press conference, which not one reporter attended. The report only began to get coverage the second week of January in the Midwest. When the content of the report became known as favorable to nuclear energy, the *Village Voice*, *The Real Paper* of Boston, New York City's *Amsterdam News* and the *Chicago Daily News* responded by playing up a quite minor aspect of the report — support for deregulation of oil and natural gas prices — as the NAACP's "position," and began attacking the NAACP for being owned by "Big Oil."

Meanwhile, on Jan. 21 in Atlanta Ronald Reagan before a group of 300 conservatives from all over

the South heartily praised the NAACP report and denounced the Carter Administration's coverup of it. The *New York Times*, in its coverage of Reagan's speech failed to report the conservative leader's endorsement of the NAACP report, which was virtually the entire content of his speech. The *Times* reported instead that Reagan called NAACP Board Chairman Margaret Bush Wilson "Mrs. Bush."

Informed sources report that the *Charlotte Observer* has killed at least two stories filed on the NAACP report, while press throughout the South have received calls asking "when Reagan and the NAACP agree on something, it's news. Why isn't it covered?" One Washington D.C. bureau chief, characterized the U.S. press response to the NAACP policy in the last month, saying "I never really believed that there was a U.S. press conspiracy until I saw this."

must recognize they have badly miscalculated.

The Carter energy legislation already is under mounting attack from all sides. This thunderbolt from the NAACP could give it the coup de grace that it so richly deserves.

The NAACP obviously has done its homework well. It has seen through the shallow thought processes of the Carter energy planners.

Mrs. Margaret Bush Wilson of St. Louis, the NAACP chairman, told the Detroit News that the Carter energy package "was put together by a virtually lily-white coterie of White House advisers who subscribe to a limits-to-growth philosophy. A limited-growth policy tends to freeze people to whatever rung of the ladder they happen to be on. That's OK if you're a highly educated 28-year-old making \$50,000 a year as a presidential adviser. It's utter disaster if you're unskilled, out of work and living in a ghetto."

With this kind of perceptive thinking by leaders of one of the nation's most respected organizations, there is new hope that the nation will reject the Carter approach and devise an energy program that will spur development of all forms of energy so badly needed to provide new jobs

and a healthy economy.

Texas Paper Lauds Energy Push

In technology-rich Texas, the Dallas Times Herald joined the growing list of those applauding the NAACP's recent call for energy expansion in an editorial headlined "Blacks Focus on Jobs" Jan. 20.

...The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People recently adopted an energy report in which it urged deregulation of price controls on new oil and natural gas and argued against forced conversion to coal by "job-producing industries in urban areas."

In addition, the NAACP report asserted that environmental and safety concerns about nuclear power are outweighed by future needs for electricity and the "economic and social objectives that are more important to black Americans."

The NAACP recognized that the pessimistic attitude of President Carter about developing domestic energy resources "cannot satisfy the fundamental requirements of a society of expanding economic opportunities."...

Liberal Press, UAW Slam NAACP Energy Report

Mark Stepp, a black United Automobile Workers (UAW) vice-president and the head of the Michigan UAW Committee on Political Action, has written a letter challenging Margaret Bush Wilson, Chairman of the NAACP's National Board, to debate the NAACP's recent pronuclear policy statement, sources reported earlier this week. The NAACP national headquarters confirmed knowledge of the debate challenge on Jan. 25 in New York.

One black political figure from Detroit responded to Stepp's debate challenge: "Mark Stepp is out of his league."

Although it is now attacking the NAACP for its strongly pro-nuclear energy stance, in the 1950s under the leadership of the late Walter Reuther, the UAW was among the most outspoken supporters of President Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace Plan. Reuther supported the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as the only way to industrialize the underdeveloped nations and erase the poverty which would otherwise lead to confrontations between the U.S. and USSR.

Black Weekly Echoes Village Voice, Calls NAACP Sellout

The Jan. 28 edition of New York's largest circulating black weekly newspaper, the Amsterdam News, continues the ongoing "big lie" operation being carried out through the media against the NAACP.

In the guise of a news article covering a press conference held Jan. 23 by the Congressional Black Caucus the Amsterdam News charges anew that the NAACP has "sold out to the oil companies" while neglecting to mention the NAACP's strong endorsement of the

development of nuclear power.

In an unprecedented move the paper cites the Village Voice as the authoritative source on "the economic interpretation of the forces behind the turnaround" of the Association and charges that "the NAACP leadership were instruments used by the oil industry experts on the civil rights organization, to further the interests of the industry."

Excerpts from that page one article follow:

In the first major publicly expressed policy difference among Black leadership groups, the Congressional Black Caucus, Monday, followed the National Urban League in taking positions on the energy program in opposition to the pro-oil industry and anti-Carter administration stand of the NAACP.

NAACP chairman Margaret Bush Wilson, who called in November for a new partnership between "Big Government, the Big Minority and Big Oil," aligned the civil rights organization with big oil, in the final position paper. And the NAACP pledged to mobilize citizens nationwide to urge Congress to pass aspects of the program it backed.

...Reacting to (the NAACP's mention of deregulation in their report) the Congressional Black Caucus noted the claim that deregulated prices would lead to significant new production and thus bring economic growth and new jobs...

...the worst burden of deregulation would fall on the low income, elderly, minorities and poor people and the unemployed...The Caucus noted.

...In a statement issued last Friday, National Urban League director Vernon Jordan took positions similar to that of the Caucus...

"The Village Voice did an economic interpretation of