

an already bleak and deteriorating economy. Such meager attention to the development of a means to equitably distribute the burden of the energy crunch, encourages the assumption that the Administration has been engaged in a symbolic exercise.

The poor and disadvantaged segments of this nation already suffer a disproportionate hardship because of the energy crisis. On an average, low income households spend more than 20% of its gross income on home fuels and gasoline. In addition, poor people generally pay a higher price for energy than their more affluent counterparts. Therefore, the rising costs of energy will force the disadvantaged, the poor and those on fixed incomes to make bareboned cutbacks on the basic necessities of life.

The American people, in the President's words, are being asked "to pay more for less." Already at the point of double digit inflation, the cost of living may become intolerable if no economic guarantees are provided for the hard-pressed disadvantaged while oil companies reap huge bonanza profits.

By fashioning an equitable energy program that encourages research and exploration for alternative energy resources, and discourages windfall profits for the oil industry at the expense of those least able to afford it, the Administration and the Congress could get down to business for the benefit of All Americans.

sources and in energy production, conversion and conservation.

The Minority Economic Development Center, through this plan, should reverse conditions of exclusion which are costly to the entire nation in terms of waste, human resources, and the loss of regional and local technological and industrial capabilities.

The Center will create new jobs, strengthen the business and industrial base and promote long-term economic growth and development in minority and poor communities throughout the Valley.

As the only black Congressman from the TVA region, I felt it a responsibility to push for this plan. The only way minority groups can effectively achieve such a development program is for local representation of minority interests to join forces in identifying their economic and social needs and developing strategies, based upon locally available resources, through which the needs can be satisfied.

The Center has been studied for a long time. A planning committee composed of minority business people, professionals and other resource people shaped the final draft of the proposal which was approved by TVA.

**Chilean Racism**

Congressman John Conyers of Michigan is to be commended for his strong response to Chilean racism as expressed by the president of that country's Supreme Court who has refused to extradite three Chilean secret police officials to the United States to stand trial for their part in the murder of Orlando Letelier and his aide.

Chile's Supreme Court President Israel Borquez used as an excuse (for not extraditing those charged) the racist claim that a fair trial had not been conducted because a black judge, the Honorable Barrington Parker, and a black jury had found the defendants guilty.

Chile, of course, is a racist country like Argentina where the Europeans drove the Indians out. The country is 97 per cent white.

Also, if those responsible for Letelier's death were extradited, they would likely be much higher up — those who overthrew President Salvador Allende, including perhaps some members of the CIA who are said to have lent a helping hand.

Attorney Almanina Barbour, a black Quaker (Society of Friends) scholar and Philadelphia attorney, will address the "Mission of Theology" theme relative to personal ethics and social witness. Other invited guest speakers include the Rev. Dr. Phillip Potter, president of the Switzerland-based World Council of Churches; director Owen Brooks of the Delta Ministry in Mississippi, and the Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, general secretary of the International Freedom Mobilization.

On-site conference registration begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, at the University Christian Movement (see Rev. James Leehan, 2012 Euclid Avenue) and at the Cleveland Interchurch Council office of conference host pastor, the Rev. Thomas L. McCray (2230 Euclid Avenue). Registration fees are \$20 per person; \$25 per family, and \$10 for students or unemployed persons. The public is invited. Pre-registration by mail is \$15. Interested persons of all races and religious affiliations can pre-register or request information by writing: Black Theology Project, P.O. Box 63, Chester, Pa., 19016.

Telephone contacts are Rev. Thomas McCray (216)621-5925; Rev. James Leehan, (216)382-7248; and Rev. Kenyatta, (215)527-1865 or (215)649-4709.

# down to business

Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell  
President  
National Business League



The Administration's tax provisions, lauded as a substantial bite on windfall profits, may be more a paper tiger than a tough and effective regulation. Many Congressional leaders have expressed concern and skepticism about just how hard the Administration's measures will tackle oil industry profits. Moreover, there is growing debate over the actual amount of money that will be generated by this windfall profits tax.

According to Administration projections, the tax would amount to 50% of the profits accrued from decontrol benefits. However, independent reports peg the potential revenues at a much lower figure, and note

that although the rate may be 50%, that does not mean that half of the profits will go to the tax. In addition, they note that a larger tax bite already exists in the form of royalties, and federal and state excise taxes that the oil companies must pay. And despite all the fuss about a windfall profits tax, the benefits of decontrol will boost oil industry profits by a whopping \$5 to 10 billion in any case.

More significantly, the Administration's proposals neglect to define the implementation procedures for the energy security fund. Despite all the public interest rhetoric, the new plan fails to provide adequate economic protection for the poor and disadvantaged in

## Congressional Black Caucus Reports to the People



By Rep. Harold Ford

in 1978. This extremely low figure should be significantly upwardly adjusted with the creation of the Minority Economic Development Center.

Although the Center will be involved with assisting minorities to obtain more TVA contract opportunities, it will also provide a framework for a more comprehensive approach to the economic development of the poor people of the Valley. The Center, moreover, is designed to allow for interaction of all minority organizations, agencies, and institutions to achieve a broad-based and well-coordinated economic development system.

Some of the more specific functions of the Center are to design, develop and implement programs in the following TVA areas:

- economic research and analyses; economic/business feasibility studies; minority purchasing and business development; management and technical assistance in support of business and economic development projects; sources and support mechanisms for equity and debt financing and bonding; manpower development and training; experimental and demonstration projects in the development and alternative energy

# The Black Side of Washington

By Sherman Brisco — NNPA

faces when we note that Haitian refugees are being put back on the boat and sent home.

We blacks, with twice the percentage of our people out of work as whites plus forty to sixty per cent of our young people jobless, are puzzled, too, by an American policy which permits our multinational corporations to move so many jobs overseas where they manufacture everything from safety pins to tvs to automobiles, paying the natives fifty to sixty cents an hour, and selling the products here at home for an inflated American price.

Ideally, there would be one-world without political boundaries and quotas and passports and visas, and everyone would be free to settle wherever he could find a place. And work and live and share with everyone. No one should have to live on a boat, or go hungry, or be denied health services, clothing, shelter, education, and employment.

And all of this is very possible in our world and should be accomplished. But the millennium has not arrived. In the meantime, why should blacks bear so large a share of the burden?

# BLACK CHRISTIANS WANT BIBLE REVISED

black epistle," elaborates Rev. Kenyatta, a Baptist minister and lecturer in sociology of religion. "The sacred letter or epistle is also a common Biblical form. Martin Luther King, the black Christian writing to the white churches of Birmingham, parallels the Apostle Paul, a Jewish Christian writing to the Roman churches."

However, Rev. Kenyatta and other BTP spokesmen emphasize that the canonization concept is only to be one of many proposals discussed by the 300 delegates and observers expected to attend.

The conference's main thrust will be "practical theology" according to BTP chairman, the Rev. Fred Douglas Kirkpatrick of New York. Unemployment, African liberation and youth evangelism are three critical issues requiring coordinated strategies by black churches and community ministries, says Rev. Kirkpatrick.

The Rev. Gregg Brown, a BTP executive committee member and leader of the National Youth Mobilization for Jobs, sees the issues of unemployment and youth evangelism as related. Rev. Brown, of the Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church in Brooklyn, asserts that churches must become militant advocates for jobs, quality education and high moral values to regain the respect of youth and young adults.

In addition to such domestic issues, BTP conferees will ponder the "Theology of Mission" in its international dimensions. The Rev. Dr. L. Maynard Catchings will address the problems of overseas mission from a black perspective, drawing on over twenty years of mission involvement in the Third World. Dr. Catchings presently serves as a staff executive with the United Church Board of World Missions and is a founder of the Pan African Skills Project related to the National Council of Churches.

Highlighting the international focus will be a keynote address by journalist Dumisani Kumalo, a South African exile, who has lectured extensively in the United States under sponsorship of the American Committee on Africa. Joining Kumalo will be various representatives of liberation movements from Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

## Special Feature

[Continued from front]

sons are expected to attend the conference whose theme is "Mobilizing for the Challenges of the 80's."

The NUL last met in Chicago in 1943 when the Conference theme was "Victory Through Unity" focusing the nation's attention on the need to put aside racial hostilities and include blacks in the war effort by bring down segregated barriers in defense industries and by integrating the armed forces.

Headquarters for the 1979 conference is the Conrad Hilton Hotel. The more than 200 exhibits which comprise the exhibition portion of the conference will also be housed in the Conrad Hilton.

Registration to the Conference is open to the public. Information may be obtained by contacting the National Urban League Conference Department, 500 East 62nd Street, New York New York 10021.

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## Energy Proposals Signal Windfall Hardships For Minorities

The continuing discussion of the Administration's proposals to deal with the energy crisis has generated little hope, and a lot of hoopla.

Unveiled in dramatic stages to insure maximum media attention, the new energy plan purportedly presented a package of tough measures to address our national dilemma, while forcing the oil industry to share the high costs of dwindling energy resources. The terms of the energy proposals, however, fall far short of the attendant fanfare.

As delivered in Congress, the new energy plan boils down to price decontrol of domestically produced oil, with a recommendation for a windfall profits tax on excessive oil industry profits. According to the broad scope of the plan, the revenues generated would be used, in part, to provide an energy security fund for the disadvantaged and finance research on alternative energy sources.

In an effort to shore up the President's populist image, Administration spokesmen have waged a non-stop campaign, promoting the new energy plan as a series of stringent measures against the profit-hungry oil companies. But, a careful review of the proposals reveals some important, though unheralded, details.

## Helping Blacks To Share TVA

The Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has approved a plan I submitted to it to expand opportunities for minorities to share in the agency's \$3 billion annual work contracts throughout the seven-state region. The plan calls for the creation of a Center for Minority Economic Development which is now underway.

This Center is designed to rectify the historical imbalance which has prevented black people who live in the region from fully participating in TVA activities. Since its creation in 1933, TVA has made few concerted efforts to channel its development resources directly into the minority communities within its service area. This is in spite of the numerous development programs and activities in the Tennessee River drainage basin and its adjoining territory.

The need for the Center is great. In 1976, only four minority firms received TVA contracts for a total of \$119,726. This represents only .01% of all TVA contracts awarded for that year. More recently in 1978, 139 minority contractors received TVA contracts representing \$4.6 million or .08% of the total contracts awarded

## Exporting Jobs, Importing People

Unemployed blacks, and in deed all blacks in America are caught in the trap of America's anomalous position of exporting jobs and importing people, intensifying the already serious unemployment problem of which mostly blacks are bearing its full brunt.

Recently, President Carter announced that he was doubling the monthly refugee quota of Southeast Asia from 7,000 to 14,000. Most of these are Vietnamese boat people, trying to find their "friends" with whom they fought a senseless war. Except for Britain's Hong Kong, most other countries of Southeast Asia — Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand — are turning the refugees away. America's expanded refugee quotas are in addition to the normal annual immigration quota of 290,000.

That the U.S. is accepting more refugees shows a streak of decency of which we all can be proud. However, a puzzled look must appear on many black

A proposal to add another book to the 66 books of the Holy Bible will be one of many topics confronting the Black Theology Project at its third national conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Beginning August 1 and lasting through August 4, the conference will meet at Cleveland State University campus on the theme "Mission of Theology: Theology of Mission".

"Yes, some of our delegates have advocated extending the Holy Scriptures to reflect God's revelation in the Afro-American context," says the Rev. Muhammad Isaiyah Kenyatta, director of the Black Theology Project (BTP). "Some have suggested canonization of the 'Letter from a Birmingham Jail' written by Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963. Others have suggested the 'Message to the Black Church and Community' drafted and adopted by 200 theologians and church leaders in Atlanta in 1977."

(Canonization is the process by which a written work becomes accepted as sacred text inspired by God. The Protestant canon or Holy Bible includes 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Roman Catholic canon includes these 66 books plus seven others. Canonized Christian scripture has remained virtually unchanged since the end of the Fourth Century A.D.)

Contemporary black theologians as James H. Cone, J. Deotis Roberts, Olin P. Moyn, Gayraud S. Wilmore and others agree that Afro-Americans are a chosen people in the context of American Christianity just as the ancient Hebrews were the chosen people in the Biblical context. In traditional Christian theology, the chosen people status has been extended to include the Biblical church formed after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"Thus it is not surprising that a movement would develop within American Christianity and especially in black theology to extend Biblical canon to an inspired

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