

VIEWPOINTS editorials ● columns



Member North Carolina
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Insuring Equity

President Carter hit upon an important element in his Sunday night speech -- the concept of equity in our energy policy.

As he quoted a black woman mayor from the South: "They can't sell anything on Wall Street, unless somebody else digs it up first."

His selection of that quote and several segments of the energy policy the President unveiled gives some assurance that he is interested in an energy policy not just tailored for industrial moguls, but one that meets the needs of all Americans.

That is an important assurance for black Americans, who are long used to being left out of the really important issues which our country faces.

The equity which the President spoke of extends in several directions: First, he made a commitment to using the proceeds of a windfall profits tax, if passed by congress, to relieve the impact of spiraling energy costs on the poor. That would mean, depending on the actual amount of assistance rendered, the poor would not be held hostage to the need to promote conservation through higher prices.

Secondly, he spoke of diversity in the search for alternative fuels to replace imported oil -- giving equal weight to coal, oil shale, alcohol and other derived energy and solar power.

That variety is important because it does not put the country in the position of placing all its eggs in one basket. Despite the general acceptance that coal gasification and shale reclamation have received recently, there are enormous logistical and environmen-

tal problems to be conquered. In the case of the latter two alternatives, we are dealing with alternatives already in an advanced stage of development and already in use.

To really be a tool to fight the loss of confidence among Americans, the \$100 billion energy independence battle Carter outlined must also serve as a means of economic development for disadvantaged America.

For instance, the U.W. Office of Minority Business Enterprise is already promoting the development of gasohol mixing facilities among minorities in several Southern locations. These steps should be encouraged and expanded.

The crisis in confidence Mr. Carter spoke of is real. It has been created in large part by the overwhelming BIGNESS of the industries, governmental agencies and other institutions of our lives. It is little wonder that the average citizen feels helpless to influence policy.

The President's energy policy will truly address the crisis in confidence if it opens up the opportunity for the daring and innovative among the average, unprivileged America to forge new avenues for America's energy independence.

We call on all Americans to take seriously the President's call for a renewal of trust in one another. The energy crisis have the potential of making all the racial, class and social divisions among us pale in importance. The President's call could be the last chance we have to create the American dream of justice and dignity for all.

From the Grassroots

Manning Marable

The Crisis
In Economics,
part one



Manning Marable is an associate professor of history at the University of San Francisco, and former chairman of the political science department at Tuskegee Institute.

When this summer has ended, most of us will probably recall that economic affairs preoccupied our thoughts and our daily lives. The partial signs of an economic breakdown are almost everywhere -- long gasoline lines; gasoline riots in Pennsylvania; a trucker's strike for lower diesel fuel; a sixty percent increase in the price of crude oil; the Carter Administration's desperate attempts at controlling the roaring rates of wage and price increases.

The American public, waiting in long gas lines, anxiously searches for a "sacrifice" to punish for its economic uncertainty. For the first time in recent history, a sizeable section of the population now advocates the nationalization of the oil corporations, because of the "obscene profits" they have made at our expense.

Others accuse the Arabs of causing the whole problem and propose a cutback in produce sales to the Middle East: "cheaper crude or no more food!" Still others blame Carter for the economic mess.

As a recent George Gallup poll indicates, Democratic voters chose Ted Kennedy over Carter by a wide margin of 62 percent to 24 percent. Carter's overall public support has dropped to the lowest level of any modern President -- including Nixon during the Watergate crisis.

What most commentators and the public ignore is that the energy crisis is but one small part of a deepening, more profound crisis -- the crisis of capital. The entire

economic order, monetary supply and the social relations created by it are in serious disorder.

Several examples of the growing crisis in capital will suffice. A central part of obtaining the American Dream has been the acquisition of a single family house. At the end of the recession of 1973-75, home mortgage rates were slightly over 8 percent. Even last spring, mortgages for new and previously owned homes were at 9.46 percent.

By this June, mortgage increase rates had climbed above 11 percent. The average purchase price for new homes jumped from \$62,000 in June, 1978, to \$73,600 in twelve months. The average purchase price for previously owned homes during the same period rose from \$53,900 to \$61,800.

Contrary to traditional economic theories, inflation continues to rise without a concomitant drop in the numbers of the unemployed. Since the summer of 1975, inflation has grown from 5.5 percent to about 9 percent annually, and in recent months has averaged rates of over 13 percent. Simultaneously, unemployment has fluctuated from 9 to 6 percent, and black unemployment remains at least twice as high as the national average. Black youth unemployment is over 35 percent.

The Carter Administration has opted for the old-time Republican approach: create a deliberate recession, expand the numbers of the unemployed, cut taxes at higher income levels and cut government spending on certain domestic programs such as education and public welfare. Both Nixon and Ford tried to "whip inflation" by doing the same things: they didn't work then, and their prospects for working now look even worse.

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Right Move

At first, it seemed an embarrassing mistake. Maybe it was a practical joke. But right now, it's an insensitive affront

We are referring to a sign in the parking lot adjacent to the Big D Lounge at 1525 North Liberty Street. There's nothing wrong with the sign itself. It's an appropriate way to promote coming attractions in the nightspot.

However, one could quite reasonably object to the words "Jam with the _____ master" emblazoned in full public view.

Apparently someone had replaced the "n" with a "c." Fortunately, since we first noticed that aberration, we've noticed a change to a more suitable spelling "Funkmaster." We hope it was all just a mistake.

We continue to feel that it is a paramount importance that the various participants in our communities constantly stay aware of the need to present the best possible image of our living and shopping and working areas.

One never knows who might come riding by.

OAU Issues

Letter from Lagos

Robena Egemonye

LAGOS, Nigeria--The choice of Monrovia, Liberia as a venue for the OAU Ministerial and Summit Conference for 1979, to a certain degree could be perceived as the fulfillment of a precious dream for the struggling people of Liberia and its moderate rulers. However a thorough glance over the continent of Africa would enable any observer to come to the conclusion that the OAU sessions will be taking place at a time when there are particularly thorny issues facing Africa both internationally and in intra-African relations.

After a scrutinizing look at the current situations prevailing in Africa, one will not deny that there are critical, serious and thorny issues facing the continent. There are the pan-African problems, the struggle of the people of South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. The OAU state members are obliged to do something to liberate these territories and to have a solid stand against the racist regimes in the continent.

The conflict between the African states is another factor. This year the continent has witnessed a series of conflicts escalating to armed confrontations. There are on-going wars between Ethiopia and the Eritreans, Western Somalis (Ogaden) and the Ethiopian rulers: the Western Sahara problem which involved Morocco and Mauritania on the other side, the Chad question and National Unity including the Ugandan liberation.

The most interesting issue as far as the West is concerned would probably be the current situation in Uganda. One has to realize that the new government

began by now-departed Professor Yusuf Lule will be welcomed by most OAU states. Such states like Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, Zambia, and Botswana, which earlier gave aid and comfort to various Ugandan liberation movements will stand solidly for the new government in case certain signs of disapproval were echoed by forces loyal to Idi Amin on the circumstances that Professor Lule came to power through the active support of Tanzania.

Also, some African states have been reluctant to accept the new leadership in Uganda might use the OAU venue to get to know the Ugandan delegates better and later announce their support for the regime since public opinion in their countries support the change in Uganda.

Nigeria might come under this category. In addition to the pan-African problems, the intra-African problems and the internal disputes, Africa is faced with economic development problems. Africa's development must be seen in its wider context.

It has since been argued that African people need economic progress, but they need security just as much. One without the other is meaningless. Africa is politically disunited and militarily defenseless in the full gaze of a hungry world, it must be made clear to those obsessed with functional regionalism that Africa's enormous reserve of natural resources holds out an open invitation to international adventurism.

There are just a few points that must be dealt with at the 16th Summit Conference of the OAU in Monrovia.

Are You Concerned About The Future?

Chronicle Camera went to the campus of Winston-Salem State University to ask, "With the enrgy and economic troubles our country faces, are you concerned about the future?"

Following are the responses we got:

Patrice Hinnant--Yes, I'm very concerned about the future. If we run out of energy, there won't be any more. It would be nice if everyone could conserve more. But I'm not going to let it get me down, because I always try to lok at things on the bright side.

Ricky Clark--I'm concerned about the future

because of the talk of a recession and of rising unemployment. This gas shortage is already hindering my plans. I had thought about doing some traveling around to see where I would like to teach, but I don't think I'll be able to do that, particularly up North.

Marcella McCullough--The world's going to come to an end. All the greedy people are going to die.

Larry Ratliff--I don't think things are going to get any worse because we're in a helluva fix now. But I don't see them getting a y better. As far as energy, I don't think that problem will

be as enduring as people think because they're going to put their brains together and come up with some kind of synthetic fuel. It's just going to cost a lot more as long as it's privately owned.

Victoria Graves--No, it hasn't because you can't let things going on around you slow you down, especially right now since there's nothing I can do about it either way. It has somewhat affected my career choices because I wanted to major in psychology, but that's a closed field so now I'm geared more towards business and the computer fields.

To Be Equal

Vernon Jordan

Removing
the Poor



NEW YORK--Remember those urban renewal programs of the 1950s that plowed up central cities, destroying homes and neighborhoods of poor people to make way for speculative projects that benefited the better-off?

Well, hold on to your hats because those days are on the way back -- at least if numerous housing experts, city planners, and urban theorists have their way.

Typical of the new thrust in city planning is the testimony, before a Congressional committee, of a man descended in news accounts as "a theorist on the recovery of American cities."

He urged that the urban poor be moved away from center-cities so that the areas could be redeveloped to attract middle income suburbanites back to the cities. That sounds to me like a theory for the destruction of

American cities.

But it's typical of the mounting support for that kind of thinking that his testimony was taken so seriously. It fits into what is becoming known as the "triage" theory. That's a battlefield term for medics faced with a situation in which they've got to provide fast medical aid to casualties under battlefield conditions. Let the dying die, the theory goes, and concentrate your scarce resources on those who might pull through.

Translated into the urban environment by planners, the theory says, in effect, that poor neighborhoods can't be saved so just let them deteriorate while providing services to neighborhoods in better condition.

As for the poor who live in those neighborhoods -- tough luck. Help them relocate to the outskirts of town. Out of sight, out of mind.

