

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.