

"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

Internecine 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."