

GOP Leaders Step Forward For High Technology

Speeches this week by leading Republican Party spokesmen which have to date received surprisingly little public attention, have opened the door for a vigorous national debate over high-technology energy policies, particularly around nuclear energy.

Former Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller has recently made proposals for expanded industrial development, including a call for nuclear energy. Governor John Connally, former Treasury Secretary and Republican presidential hopeful, has proposed high-technology exports as the foundation for U.S. economic recovery. Similar endorsements for attacks on zero-growth economics have been issued by Conservative Union Chairman, Representative Phil Crane of Illinois, who recently endorsed the NAACP's nuclear energy development resolution, and Senator James McClure of Idaho, who has publicly recognized the need for industrial development in southern Africa.

All have made strong statements in the past week which in one form or another emphasize industrial and economic development, with particular emphasis on expanded nuclear energy and related high-technology capital formation, as the key to solving interrelated domestic and foreign economic and political problems.

We present here relevant portions of speeches made in the past week by Mr. Rockefeller, who although professedly "out of politics" is just back from a high level series of meetings in a number of Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, where he discussed formation of a multibillion dollar private international development corporation to fund development of energy and food projects in developing countries.

Also included is an exclusive account of a speech given by Governor Connally before 700 Republicans in the Chicago suburb of Lake County, May 21. The Connally speech is a clear differentiation from the "policies of no-growth," whose emergence he lays to the 1972 Presidential campaign of George McGovern, and proposes to restructure the Republican Party around a majority constituency which will include minorities and organized labor as well as traditional business layers; to form a "party of growth, opportunity, and progress."

Rockefeller: Technology and Survival Are Inseparable

The following are excerpts from a speech given by former Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller at the Harry Truman Good Neighbor Award Luncheon held in Kansas City, Missouri on May 8:

...Of all the major nations, the United States, which uses more energy and depends upon a plentitude of energy more than any other, has done the least to ensure the continued availability of energy within our borders. Ironically, we have the technical, scientific and resource capacity to meet our needs — if only we make up our minds to do it.

In the nuclear field, we are stalemated by controversy and indecision. From the Nation that pioneered atomic development and that under Truman undertook to share the peacetime uses of this new energy source with the rest of the world, we have become halting and hesitating. In fact, the situation has even reached the point where it is seriously proposed that we contain technology, arrest development and stop its application.

Yet, if postwar nuclear history has shown us anything, it is that nuclear knowledge cannot be contained. Research and development recognize no enduring monopoly by any one nation. Indeed, the history of the modern world has demonstrated that technology and progress march together; that technology and quality of life are married; and that technology and survival are inseparable...

Of course, we applaud the idea of harnessing solar energy, but we know that practical considerations of cost and technology will inevitably delay and limit its large-scale utilization. Clearly, nuclear technology for the generation of energy, along with coal and the use of alcohol in gasoline made from surplus grain, sugar and even garbage, is one of the keys to economic self-reliance of this nation in the energy field, to freedom from the fear of embargo and the drain of excessive imports on our balance of payments. Despite all those dire predictions of impending doom, we have had nuclear-generated electric power on a commercial basis for 20 years and no accidents have occurred involving public injury. In this same period, 909,726 people have been killed by automobiles. Yet I know of no movement to "ban the automobile." Let's have some of that Truman common sense on *this* issue too. . . .

Let's go on to a renewed sense of common effort to renew the Nation's strength and liberate its basic dynamism.

We have got to have trust and confidence in the ability of our institutions to adjust to change. And we've got to provide those institutions with a sense of national purpose and a stable framework of laws within which they can make the adjustments and build to meet the future needs of America.

This also means a social and governmental climate that will make it possible for our institutions to attract creative leadership and enable leadership to function...

John Connally: We Should Be Exporting Energy!

The following report, exclusive to Executive Intelligence Review, records former Texas Governor John Connally's remarks at both a press conference and his address to 700 Lake County, Illinois Republicans on May 19.

Governor John Connally addressed a press conference here today, prior to leading a Republican fundraising dinner. During the questions, he was asked to comment on the recent Soviet-West Germany 25-year trade treaty: "That the Germans have made this deal with the Soviets is to their great credit and intelligence. I am not familiar with it. If there are opportunities for us, we should pursue them."

When asked if he had changed his proposal to utilize high technology exports to solve the U.S. trade deficit, he responded, "Not at all. The emphasis must be on high technology export. Failure to do so undermines the value of the dollar, destroys international confidence in the U.S. and creates inflation and the huge deficit."

Clarifying his switch from the Democratic Party to the GOP, he explained, "My ultimate loyalty is to my country. When you get to a point where your duty to your party is more important than your duty to your country, you ought to get out of politics...The Republican Party, if it is wise, will win labor and blacks over to its side.

"It's not a matter of capturing blacks. The NAACP responded to the President's energy message the same way we do: Carter's energy message gives no hope for economic expansion. It's a program of retrenchment, of sacrifice. It offers no future for black people. It is a program lacking vitality, greater prosperity, growth. The NAACP has rejected the policy of 'sharing scarcity.' We believe, along with the NAACP, that new frontiers exist. Just when the American dream was realizable — beginning to become realizable for all people — the Democratic Party has become the party of no growth.

The NAACP is totally turned off by such isolationism and zero growth. We view the situation similarly."

Illinois Representative Phil Crane, Chairman of the Conservative Union introduced the Governor to the evening Republican fundraising dinner by emphasizing, "To realize the American dream...we have the energy; we have the most skilled workforce the world has ever seen."

John Connally opened his address with an analysis of the "American character," a people "of great optimism, great belief in themselves and their country...Republicans are the party of hope, optimism, growth and vitality...George McGovern started the no-growth tact in 1972...'We have to share the scarcity...retrench...withdraw, become isolationists, renounce expansion, growth and vitality. Withdraw from the world!...Shirk the responsibilities of world leadership!'"

Connally pointed out that this zero growth outlook and its advocates have "gutted the greatest hope for the cheapest energy: nuclear power and the breeder in particular."

"...The Soviets, and the rest of the world are ahead of us — and ahead of us in hydrogen fusion. We're shirking the duties of a great free nation, leaving the responsibility to the Soviets.' The Democrats are saying: 'Let the world take care of itself'...Their policies mean wrack and ruin and bankruptcy...

"We should be able to build nuclear power plants in 5 or 6 years like the rest of the world, rather than the 12 years it takes us.

"We should be exporting energy! We should be shipping nuclear power plants to the developing nations...

"I've traveled this country from one end to the other, and I believe what the American people — the working man, organized and unorganized, all levels — want is what we believe in: capital formation, world leadership, technological development, modernization of U.S. steel mills, open markets...

"We have to redefine the GOP! It should be the party of growth, opportunity, and progress!"