

## **GOP: we can lead the way to a dark age, too**

*President Carter's energy addresses prompted an immediate response from the many announced candidates for the Republican presidential nomination. The following selection gives a flavor of their "critical support," which fairly translates into a statement from the candidates that the GOP could do a better job at energy crisis management.*

**John Connally, "If I were President," New York Post, July 17:** It should have been evident to any observer after the oil embargo in 1974 that this nation was vulnerable to the whims of OPEC. Yet since that time, Congress has done nothing to improve the situation. Indeed, our vulnerability is more acute today than it was in 1974....

While I fully support the all-out development of solar, geothermal and every other kind of potential or synthetic energy source, we will be dependent on oil and gas, coal and nuclear energy for the rest of this century whether we like it or not.

My top priority would be to seek congressional authority to relax environmental standards to permit the mining and burning of more coal in this country...

I would immediately deregulate all oil and gas to encourage every possible exploration for new hydrocarbon reserves in the country, to reverse the current trend of a 3.5 percent loss in production....

I would urge Congress to get rid of red tape and regulations which now make it impossible to build a nuclear power plant in less than 13 years when the rest of the world does it in 6.5 years...

We should renew research on the fast breeder reactor, focus on reprocessing of spent fuel, and strive to regain leadership in the field which we pioneered.

Nuclear power already supplies 16 percent of the country's energy and it is not realistic to hope that we can meet our needs without substantially more of it in the near future.

I would move to create a massive effort in the development of synthetic fuels.

It is imperative that we make gasoline out of coal, and make gas out of coal. It will require a staggering investment, but our natural resources are enormous, and every dollar spent on that development is a dollar that won't be sent overseas.

Finally, and of great significance, I would attempt to arrange an immediate meeting with the newly elected Prime Minister of Canada and the President of Mexico to explore the establishment of a North American Common Market for energy. The combined resources of our three nations, both natural and technological, are of awesome magnitude if developed in harmony on a fully equal basis...

**Senator Howard Baker, National Association of Counties Convention, July 17:** This is not the time to nickel-and-dime these (President Carter's) proposals to death. It is time, instead, to enact a bipartisan national energy program which the country can support, and which will get the job done. It is time we exercised the responsible political leadership the American people have a right to expect of us.... No one is now seeking perfection. Everyone recognizes that we have a real problem on our hands. I think it's time to give the president his turn at the bat. I am willing to work with the president if he would let me ... on a bipartisan coalition to work on solutions to the nation's energy crisis.

**Ronald Reagan, from his headquarters, July 16:** President Carter identified the problems clearly, but spoke as if he and his administration had not been at the center of them for the past two-and-a-half years. He talked in his speech about freedom, but his proposals seem to lead away from freedom.... They are based on massive new taxes and government programs. He proposes setting up a new superagency to cut away the red tape produced by another superagency he created, the Department of Energy.... We can all agree that synthetic fuels can play an important role in a U.S. energy program, but these proposals are coming from the same government that has not been able to supply gasoline. ... We need tax credits and incentives to encourage industry to invest in new energy sources.... We need a creative use of our coal resources, and intelligent use of nuclear power....

**George Bush, from his headquarters to NSIPS, July 18:** President Carter's speech was a proper attempt to arouse the American people to focus on the energy crisis. There were components of the president's program which I not only support, but which I have already called for. The success or failure of the program will depend on Carter's ability to constrain the special interests of the Congress and his own party. Among the specific proposals made by Carter, I support his call for conversion from oil to coal, a massive synfuels program, and the Energy Mobilization Board. I also believe that the windfall profits tax should be passed to Congress with a "plowback" provision to the energy

industry to encourage new exploration. I wish the president had placed a stronger emphasis on the need to expand nuclear energy in the event the commission investigation of the Three Mile Island makes that feasible....

**George Bush, Washington Post, July 18:** If there is a lack of confidence in government, it is the fault of Mr. Carter's policies, not the men and women entrusted to carry them out.

## Simon says: Carter's cracked

*Former Treasury Secretary William Simon termed President Carter's energy speeches "frightening" and his request for sweeping Cabinet and staff resignations "evidence of mental instability" in an interview made available to Executive Intelligence Review. Simon should know. Now based at the New York investment firm, Blyth Eastman Dillon, and reportedly nurturing presidential ambitions of his own, Simon is often described by those in a position to know as "flakey" if not downright "fanatical." Excerpts of the interview follow:*

**Q:** How would you characterize President Carter's speeches of this past week?

**A:** In one word—frightening. The president is proposing a massive government response to a problem that was created by the government. The reason for the current energy crisis is simply due to excessive government regulation. If we didn't have price controls and regulation, then the industry would be producing plenty of energy. Look, we've got half of the free world's coal resources, at least 2,000 years of natural gas, and 100,000 billion barrels of oil in the Outer Continental Shelf. Yet we can't develop these sources because of government interference.

**Q:** Don't you think that the kind of effort involved in synthetic fuels development requires some kind of government funding?

**A:** No. The private sector can do it if the government lets them, especially since the rise in the world price of oil will soon make synthetic fuel production economically viable.

**Q:** What do you make of Carter's move to get his Cabinet to resign?

**A:** Nothing would surprise me about the president at this point. He's showing all the signs of a very unstable president.

**Q:** If that's the case, do you think that some of the Cabinet members may choose not to stay on if their resignations are not accepted?

**A:** Look at it this way: It's hard enough to get competent people to take jobs in government; to get some-

one able to take a job with a president who's so obviously unstable, well....

**Q:** I've heard rumors that the president may try to forge a kind of government of national unity, bring in Republicans, that sort of thing. Al Haig's name has been mentioned as someone Carter may have to turn to. Do you think that's possible?

**A:** No, I don't, though I must say it would be great if Haig were brought into the administration.

**Q:** Do you think Carter might be forced to resign if this mental instability you talk about keeps up?

**A:** No, I think we'll have to suffer through the next months....

## AFL-CIO hails 'sacrifice'

*The AFL-CIO issued a press release the day after President Carter's energy address which we reprint below.*

AFL-CIO President George Meany today made the following comment on President Carter's energy message Sunday night:

In his speech, the president accurately stated the depth of the energy crisis confronting the nation and properly pointed out that failure to deal with this crisis had shaken the confidence of the American people in their government and its leaders. We agree with the president's somber description of the problem and the need for action.

He sounded a call for all Americans to rally in the spirit of sacrifice to convincingly assert the nation's independence in energy and, thus, free its economic system from domination by foreign cartels, which threatens the nation's political as well as economic stability.

The president's six-point energy program is good, long overdue and warrants the support of the American people. If his program is forcefully executed, America will be on the road to energy independence, free from coercive pressures.

Obviously, the twin economic evils of inflation and unemployment, which are greatly affected by both the supply and price of energy—likewise require the same resolve and commitment the president has displayed on energy. Eliminating these problems will also necessitate clear goals and specific programs.

The president's speech was forceful; the goals it set are both necessary and attainable. We can assure the president that American workers will do their part as they have always done when the nation was in trouble. They will accept their fair share of the sacrifice that must be forthcoming from everyone.

We have long been urging action of the type the president is now spelling out, and we will strongly support the thrust of his program.