Do Americans Really Support Carter's Conservation Program?

With the inauguration of emergency rule and dictates in several states to deal with the energy crisis, the U.S. press has emphasized to its audience the emergence of a groundswell of support for President Carter's energy conservation measures and other government proposals put forward by Ralph Nader and similar environmentalists. The opposite is in fact the case. Printed below is selected evidence which demonstrates that, contrary to the emissions of Trilateral Commission controlled news media, the Carter-Naderite campaign has produced a backlash of publicly stated commitment to energy-intensive development: Included below are the statements of two governors issued this week and the statement of HIRE, Help Implement Regional Employment) a coalition of business and labor in Indiana, and pro-development statements from regional press. These forces are demanding that potential nuclear sources of power be allocated adequate funding, and that proposed facilities be completed to free the U.S. from dependence on fossil fuels.

The following was broadcast on station WRFM Jan. 26, and repeated Friday Feb. 3,1977 by the station news director Jim Grant.

We are in the throes of an energy crises. After years of being spoiled by cheap energy, we not only are finding energy expensive, but scarce. Our oil and natural gas wells are running dry and we're not drilling new ones at a rate sufficient to fulfill our needs. Energy has become as precious as gold and diamonds. There are threats of unemployment, industrial turmoil and personal hardships all round us due to a shortage of energy. And yet energy is all around us. One pound of any substance, converted to energy, would equal ten million tons of TNT. One pound would release ... eleven billion kilowatt hours, 15 billion horsepower years ... A room air conditioner for half a million years ... A home furnace ... Continuously for 25,000 to 50,000 years ... And supply all of the electric power needs of the United States for five days. I'm news director Jim Branch and a world of energy is the subject of *The WRFM Report.*

In theory, our supply of energy is infinite. With our thermostats turned down to 65 ... with business and schools closing because of a natural gas shortage ... and with threats of more gasoline price hikes ... what quack could have made such a ridiculous statement. That quack ... was Albert Einstein ... and the statement evolved from a simple mathematical formula ... $E=MC^2$. That theory overturned the long standing belief that matter and energy were two totally different things in the universe. Einstein made it clear that he didn't think energy could be released from matter ... because of man's inability to smash the atom. However, Enrico Fermi turned that theory into reality in 1942 with the first nuclear chain reactor. In a controlled manner, man has been able to open the heart of matter to get at the energy within. We have become relatively expert in using fission to split an atom to release energy. We have established nuclear power plants around the nation to provide us with electricity. They are currently the center of controversy because environmentalists claim they are unsafe. After sixteen years of service, and no harmful accidents, the charges are without foundation ... and nuclear energy must remain an important source during our period of depleted oil and natural gas supplies ... and until more sophisticated alternate forms of energy can be practical. But fissionable power is not the final solution because there is the problem of nuclear waste. The fission process leaves radioactive residue that must be shielded from mankind for thousands of years. A relatively simple process over a short term ... but a process that becomes increasingly difficult over many years as the waste piles grow. The future may lie in the ultimate of the transferring of matter into energy. Fusion. Solar energy advocates want to harness the suns rays as they strike the earth and convert them into energy. But only 2/1,000,000,000 of solar energy produced every reaches the earth. Why not recreate the sun's power source. That source is thermonuclear ... and we call the process fusion. Unlike fission, that splits an atom to produce energy ... fusion fuses atoms together to release energy. And there is no nuclear waste. The process goes on constantly on the sun. As stars go, the sun is very small... but to us it is immense ... weighing an estimated two billion billion billion tons. It's radiation surface has a temperature of 10,000 degrees and at the core temperatures reach 25 million degrees. Every second, the sun converts 657 million tons of hydrogen into 653 million tons of helium ... with the remaining four million tons released as energy. That's an output equal to 380 million billion billion watts. And what's more the sun has been doing this for around six billion years, and appears to have used up about five percent of its potential. The fusion process has been accomplished successfully, but there are still problems to iron out before it can be used commercially. Scientists are having a difficult time finding materials to produce the chambers where the thermonuclear process takes place because of the extremely high temperatures involved. But they are convinced they can solve those problems and deliver a workable energy system by 1990. If they have the money. The fusion energy foundation is trying to encourage the Carter Administration to spend $2 billion for research in 1977 ... instead of the $350 million budgeted by President Ford. They object to the increasing amount of money being spent for fission research, because they believe fission is only a short term solution ... while fusion could solve our problems for all time. It seems that politicians simply can't plan that far ahead ... to the year 1990 or 2000. It's a shame. Energy is all around us. All we have to do is tap the source. And fusion offers us that opportunity.

The Case Of Indiana HIRE: Business And Labor Fight For Growth

HIRE *a coalition of Northwest Indiana business and labor groups, was formed one year ago in order to resist sabatage of the vital Bailly nuclear generating plant. The coalition, strengthened by successful court action allowing construction to begin at Bailly, is currently broadening its concerns to domestic economic growth through nuclear energy development.*

Leaders of HIRE made the following statement on their commitment to fight for growth and development:

Now that the coldest winter in this century has wreaked massive havoc by immobilizing industry, bringing traffic to a halt, squeezing retailers to shut down, closing schools, threatening hospitals, increasing incendiaries, and multiplying human misery and unemployment, we pause to pose some pertinent questions.

Where is all the fuel the pooh-poohers said was in plentiful supply in secret caves, aboard tankers off Cape Cod, and filling Gondolas in railroad yards, awaiting price rises resulting from the energy-cum-winter crunch?

What of the substitutes the rose-tinted agreed that American ingenuity would develop in ample time for just such emergencies — technological, fiscal miracles as solar energy, geothermal power, tidal surges, aerodynamics' shale oil, etc?

Now that the bleeding hearts have taken care of the butterflies, Bluejays and Bluegills, what can we realists do for the human race that God put on Earth to "fill the Earth and subdue it; have dominion..."

Verily, of what value is super-clean air when cattle freeze in unheated barns, diminishing the supply of beef, hiking the cost of milk, and eliminating dairy products from the American table?

Who benefits from federally mandated quietude when the air is rent by the cries of hungry babies, elderly pensioners, winter fire victims, overcrowded hospitals and unemployed tradesmen?

And what will the selfish-interest groups who worship exotic flora and fauna above human good and welfare learn from this costly and pain-filled lesson? Will they allow the badly needed and long-overdue power plants to be erected 10 years late and at 10 times the original cost?

Will Congress cease meddling with the market's supply and demand equalizer in the mistaken belief that more oil, gas, coal is available by holding down prices, that taxing oil-exploratory ventures will encourage free enterprise, that constant threats of divestiture will keep the industries productive?

Will our neighboring states — and their self-seeking politicians — mind their own business and stop trying to divert attention from their own ineptitude by "protecting" Indiana from its programs of progress?

Will the news media drop its nay-saying, doomsday philosophy on energy-producing projects adopted to hype sales, increase readership, and controversy, and raise advertising rates? Will they recall that the very industries affected by this windmill tilting are the advertisers who make their existence possible?

Let us go about our business of making the most of earned lessons. Let free enterprise — made up of the people: management, construction, unions, financial institutions, stockholders, consumers — build the power plants HIRE has advocated. The plants that have met with every federal approval but stymied by those who deny the need and refute the authority.

Governors Hit Carter No-Energy Programs

Before beginning a 10-day tour of other Southern states, Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards issued a statement last week in opposition to administration energy policy "We cannot go from emergency to emergency scenario forever. I propose immediately:

*** The removal of all restrictions of the mining and use of coal.
*** The opening of the Atlantic Seaboard to off-shore exploration
*** The development of alternative fuels.
*** The deregulation of natural gas and other fuel prices.

"...President Carter's plan to reallocate gas will mean less gas for Louisiana ... In my judgement, reallocation will mean a 50 per cent curtailment of the industry of Louisiana in the next 30 days — while the state's natural gas goes to heat non-industrial uses in New York and elsewhere. I am critical of Maryland, New York, New Jersey and Delaware for not licensing off shore oil drilling."

Republican Governor of New Hampshire Meldrin Thompson sharply criticized Feb. 7 the Carter Administration following the Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearing to approve the completion of the Seabrook, New Hampshire, Nuclear power plant:

"This continuing delay points up sharply the need for action by President Carter ... On Saturday, when I was in Washington, I met with the president's aide, Steward Eizenstat to arrange a meeting between myself and the president and got no cooperation. I can't believe that the president of the United States would refuse to receive this urgent message on the need for nuclear power when the signatories represent 100,000 Americans. We will be working through New Hampshire Congressman D'Amours to get this meeting arranged this week."