

possible under the Percy-Glenn bill, should the President then decide it is in the national interest to override such an adverse NRC ruling on export, his decision is further subject to veto by either house of Congress.

Gerald F. Tape, a former United States ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, noted in this regard, "The probability of delay and ultimate veto is too high for most potential customers to accept, especially when such can arise after the basic agreement has come into force. How can a customer be assured that extraneous factors will not influence continuing cooperation?"

One of the most far-reaching thrusts of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978, to which remarkably little attention has been drawn by even informed congressional opposition, is the fact that the bill effectively bans approval of nuclear fuel reprocessing in a nonweapons state by imposing "timely warning" standards that are impossible to meet with existing

technology. As an official from General Electric has noted, "Such an absolute prohibition would be particularly offensive to allies such as Japan and West Germany, and would seem to prejudice the outcome of the fuel cycle evaluation that the United States and other nations have agreed to conduct." With passage of the legislation, the U.S. presently stands glaringly isolated among nuclear supplier nations, with the possible exception of Canada, whose export criteria by recent joint agreement are defined by "U.S. standards" — which now means the Percy bill. Western Europe, the Soviet Union, and Japan will now increasingly become the focus for nations seeking reliable sources of substantial nuclear energy technology. Perhaps the most telling and remarkable aspect of this destructive and, even on its own terms, self-defeating, piece of legislation is that it was developed completely outside any process of serious negotiation with either other supplier or other user nations.

—William Engdahl

Support Continues To Grow

Michigan NAACP Announces Energy Conference

Over 50 representatives of the Michigan Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) met in Lansing on Feb. 12 and resolved to mobilize support for their national organization's call for the development of nuclear energy by hosting a state-wide energy conference.

The resolution, introduced by Flint, Michigan NAACP member and former U.S. Labor Party congressional candidate Max Dean, urged that "representatives of industry, labor, and education be called together to participate in a conference to implement the NAACP's energy policy."

In motivating the call for a conference, Dean said, "This is perhaps the most important issue before us today....Energy touches on the most vital questions of livelihood....We must communicate the urgency to act quickly." Martha Thornton, chairman of the Michigan NAACP's Urban Affairs Committee, seconded the motion, saying, "The liberals who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama now want to tell us we don't know what should be done to provide jobs for ourselves. Well, they are wrong."

The motion was then unanimously approved by the 50 representatives present.

The planning of an energy conference by the Michigan NAACP coincides with the mobilization of a growing base of support for the association's call for the development of nuclear energy. The coalition between "big business, big labor, and big minorities" envisioned in the civil rights group's December policy statement is now taking shape.

In a widely publicized press conference Feb. 14, Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind) endorsed the NAACP energy policy as "far-sighted." Speaking to the im-

mediate issue of the ongoing coal strike and resultant fuel shortages, Lugar emphasized that the construction of nuclear power plants was necessary and should have "begun years ago. The risk involved in nuclear power is substantially less than conventional power....For years the antigrowth people thought they had the NAACP in their back pocket. Now blacks have a position...linking jobs, energy and economic growth. The NAACP took a grave risk...people should listen."

Midwest Press:

Business Must Support NAACP

Chicago Defender, "NAACP wants jobs, not handouts," Feb. 8:

Early in January, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People adopted a report on energy policy.

In a nutshell, this report recognizes three facts:

Black Americans are suffering a disproportionately high rate of unemployment.

New jobs come from economic growth in the private sector.

National energy policies that emphasize conservation over production will discourage growth.

The report therefore puts the NAACP in favor of a private-sector solution to the unemployment problem and in opposition to no-growth economic policies, including the Administration's energy plan.

This recognition of the vital link between black unemployment and economic growth is not in itself a new development. In fact, black economists have been moving to such a position in growing numbers. But their views have not yet had time to be digested by the man in

the street. Consequently, the NAACP's new stance strikes many observers as a startling departure from past practices. And for the organization, it is....

But old alliances do not necessarily meet the needs of new times. The need now is for real jobs and career opportunities. And when it comes to job creation, the record of the private sector is far superior to that of the government. Nine out of 10 new jobs created during 1977 were created by American business and 646,000 of these jobs were filled by black people. The NAACP would actually be failing its people if it did not change its outlook accordingly....

The NAACP's new thinking is evidently the product of a small band of its directors who have had high-level business experience, not the least of them being the organization's redoubtable chairman, Mrs. Margaret Bush Wilson, who is also a director of the Monsanto Company. The group's business connections have led to charges that they are biased toward the oil industry. It is the same kind of complaint that gives us government regulators who don't know the first thing about what they are supposed to be regulating.

These NAACP leaders need and deserve support from the entire business community, especially from black entrepreneurs who know where jobs come from and how to get more of them.

Mrs. Wilson, for her part, shows no inclination to cave in under pressure from the reactionaries. She recently reaffirmed her determination to "get the organization moving again, and in new directions." I haven't met the lady, but I want to. I'd like to shake her hand.

Chicago Tribune, "NAACP officials return the fire," by Vernon Jarrett, nationally syndicated columnist, Feb. 8:

"The message is beginning to come through loud and clear," said the poised woman lawyer from St. Louis.

"Obviously, there are people who claim to be our friends but who insist on determining the boundaries of our mental processes," said Mrs. Margaret Bush Wilson, the first black woman to serve as board chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Mrs. Wilson spoke with deliberation, as though she were attempting to avoid any statement that could be taken out of context or misinterpreted by her hosts some 20 members of the Chicago Association of Black Journalists. It wasn't easy for her.

She and the NAACP board of directors and its new executive director, Benjamin L. Hooks, have been the targets of a heavy battery of insults and rumors since the NAACP issued its "National Energy Policy Statement" several weeks ago.

The national board of the NAACP refused to endorse President Carter's national energy program. NAACP issued a statement which charged there was an over-emphasis on "conservation and a reduction in the growth of total energy demand and consumption..."

Mrs. Wilson calmly restated in Chicago what she and Hooks have attempted to explain to Eastern newspaper and television commentators since the liberal community acted as though it was stunned at what some writers called a sellout to Big Oil.

"Our No. 1 interest is the economic plight of black people," she declared again and again.

Hooks...expressed another concern shared by Mrs. Wilson and two other NAACP board members attending the black journalists' luncheon at Army and Lou's restaurant.

Labor leaders William Oliver of Detroit and James Kempt of Chicago noted particularly offensive articles in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the New Republic magazine, and the Village Voice.

Oliver said, "Those articles either tried to smear us by suggesting that the NAACP has been bought off by the oil companies or that we blacks are too dumb even to discuss critical issues such as energy."...

Senator Praises NAACP for Energy Stance

Prior to his Feb. 14 press conference, Sen. Lugar released a letter of support he had sent to NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks. Here are portions of it.

...The NAACP is absolutely correct in pointing out that strong economic growth is essential if we are to solve the problem of unemployment with its particular impact on black Americans. The NAACP's straightforward confrontation of this reality, and its advocacy of the reasonable trade-offs which are necessary to assure new energy supplies and economic expansion are events of importance to all citizens committed to full employment and a healthier, more just society. I commend your stance and am pleased to associate myself with it...*In his letter, Lugar acknowledged that the report has stirred controversy, commenting...* Resoluteness in swimming upstream against outmoded ideas has characterized the NAACP's leadership throughout its history, and I encourage you to persevere on this occasion also. I am certain that many other Senators will share my enthusiasm for working together with you in pursuit of greater energy production, and more jobs for black and white Americans...