



We see the world  
through Black eyes

## NAACP energy statement errs

The NAACP is coming under heavy fire from other civil rights groups over its recently adopted energy policy. The policy was written in an energy conference held in November and approved by the NAACP National Board in January.

The policy has been interpreted as joining with the oil companies and corporate interests in an effort to defeat the Carter Administration's energy program. The policy is an attempt on the part of the NAACP to look past civil rights per se and involve itself in the great issues that ultimately effect the lives of Black people. That intention is good -- but based on the policy statement itself it appears that the leadership of the energy conference was co-opted by the energy industry and was representative of it rather than of the NAACP constituency.

The NAACP energy statement is based on false assumptions and therefore reaches faulty conclusions.

The NAACP statement is based on the theory: No government controls = higher corporation profits = increased corporate development in the ghetto = more jobs for Blacks. The theory is false.

The statement says, "Since the early 1960s gains have been made toward bringing the nation's Black citizens into the mainstream of American economic life. This has occurred largely during a period of expansion in the economy which created new opportunities for jobs." Although the statement associates the expansion of employment opportunities with the expansion of energy resources, we know that the expansion of opportunities for Blacks came from court orders and government requirements resulting from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. These opportunities were bought with blood -- not with oil.

The statement says, "Over the next fifteen years we must undertake to rebuild and revitalize our cities and urban areas where a very high percentage of Black people live...An abundant energy supply will be necessary if we are to have any chance to meet these challenges." The statement assumes that an abundant energy supply will insure rehabilitation of the cities -- that some of the oil profits will trickle down to the cities' poor. Yet in the years of massive energy company profits how much of these millions have been used to rebuild the inner cities? What little has been done, with few exceptions, has been financed by the federal government.

We also should know by now that "full employment" does not mean equality. Remember World War II when everyone had jobs -- where were the Blacks? On the dirtiest and lowest paying jobs, living in segregated housing and going to segregated schools.

There is no reason to believe that the corporations will invest in the inner cities -- build factories and housing -- when the pattern has been to expand into the suburbs and the rural areas. It's easier to build in the Arizona desert than to rebuild Harlem.

The statement then criticizes the Carter energy proposal because it might result in higher oil and natural gas costs. The NAACP's answer to the

problem: deregulate natural gas so the oil companies can make larger profits, so they can find more natural gas and eventually lower the price. What really would happen is that the price of natural gas would skyrocket and the residents of the cities of the east and the midwest, that are dependent on natural gas for heat, would freeze. During the great gasoline "shortage" the price of gasoline doubled -- and it is still doubled in spite of an abundance of gasoline.

The NAACP had better be concerned about the cost of oil and natural gas, as well as electricity, and rather than respond to Carter's program by asking for the deregulation of natural gas -- demand price controls on all energy sources.

They also should demand a federal investigation of the increase in energy costs, the gasoline "shortage", the oil company profit structure, and the withholding of fuel during the 1977 freeze when many people froze to death because they could not get fuel. (The recent TV exposure of profit-making in the reselling of oil to a Florida utility should be sufficient to require an immediate, thorough investigation of the energy field.) Or better yet, the NAACP should call for nationalization of the energy industry.

The NAACP also attacks the Carter policy: "The National Energy Policy, however, seems to call for a retreat from nuclear energy on the basis that the environmental and safety costs may be too high." The NAACP is concerned about safety, but this must remain in the background as long as fourteen percent of Blacks are unemployed and the earning gap between Blacks and whites is increasing. This position might be valid if nuclear energy would guarantee Black employment. It does not.

Carl Rowan and others have blamed the NAACP stand on domination of the energy conference by representatives of the oil industry. A retired executive of Oklahoma Natural Gas Company chaired the NAACP energy task force, "which was dominated by others representing the oil and gas industries directly, or the free-market viewpoint generally."

In defense of the position, Mrs. Margaret Bush Wilson, Chairman of the National Board and a member of the Board of Directors of Monsanto Company which makes oil-based products, said, "Who generates jobs in this country? It's not the public sector. The private sector does. Government policy ought to do what it can to stimulate the private sector. Our main thrust is to make certain government policy does just that." The fact remains that more Blacks hold high federal positions than in all American industry and business.

The NAACP has been successful over the years because its credibility and its constituency. Its positions have been well researched and documented and have withstood the test of the courts. The NAACP was responsive to its constituency -- the disfranchised Black masses. If it loses its credibility and loses sight of its mission -- to represent and protect the working class Black citizen -- then its power and respect will disappear.



## Jordan deserves respect

by Herb Cawthorne

In an interview with the *New Republic* only a few months before his death, Steve Biko, the South African Black liberation leader who was murdered in calculated cold blood, spoke about the need for Black Americans, albeit all Americans, to support the struggle of freedom in the racially torn southern tip of a great continent. What does the African struggle imply?

"So what it implies for the individual," replied Biko, "is building up within the United States a consciousness that lives of whole population groups are being brutalized by the system out here and that there is complete exclusion of Blacks from the political process, and what it means." Not long after, Biko was murdered. But the world remembers his challenge. It was heard, of all places, right here in Portland, Oregon.

It all started with the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, which on November 21, 1977, expressed "its opposition to the inhumane and racist policies of the government of South Africa." It urged that Americans reject the support of South African racism through an unwillingness to purchase the notorious South African Krugerrand.

The Krugerrand, billed all over the free world as "the world's best way to own gold," serves as a source of revenue for the apartheid system in South Africa. The United States is its market. Gold is sold, while the image of South Africa is enhanced. War bonds for the Nazi regime in Germany are comparable to the sale of the Krugerrand on the soil of the

world's leading democracy. City Councils in Denver, Chicago, San Antonio, Dayton, and Portland have passed resolutions urging citizens not to buy this coin of plunder. The development in Portland is of special interest.

Charles Jordan, the Commissioner for Public Safety, lead the charge. In opening discussion on the resolution expressing opposition to the racial policy of the Government of South Africa and opposing sale of the Krugerrand, Commissioner Jordan set the tone:

"The Krugerrand is just an unfortunate occasion that provides us with an unsolicited opportunity to say that we are opposed to human oppression be it South Africa, Montgomery, Alabama, Uganda, or Portland, Oregon."

The Commissioner identified his motivation later in the proceedings: "I have to live with myself, and I'm committed to fighting human oppression regardless of whether I'm on the Council or on Skid Row and Burnside, and therefore I will always fight it. I cast my vote Aye..."

Make no mistake about it, what Charles Jordan did took courage. And for those Blacks who seem to harbor little more than negative criticism, the question must be asked, "Would you have done the same?" For those who appreciate the risk involved, Charles Jordan deserves our respect. And he has it. At the Payton Awards, conducted by the Human Relations Commission, at which Marie Smith received the honor for her contribution to human relations in Portland, Charles Jordan was introduced.

Applause filled the room. The Black community of Portland seemed to be saying, "Thanks, Charles, for your courage."

The vote against the Krugerrand, although massively resisted by narrow minded whites and particularly some narrow minded local publications, was of great importance. For it must be remembered that "as long as the Krugerrand is sold in the United States, Americans will be contributors to the South African minority government." As long as we contribute, we too are guilty of murder, and oppression, and vicious hatred. Rationalize as you will, Excuse yourself if you must. The fact will remain: If we do not stop to help the South African Black liberation movement, we are contributors to the destruction of human life in that part of the world.

The world is inter-connected. What each of us does as an individual affects the well being of those whom we have never known and will never meet. Therefore, for the City Council to denounce the Krugerrand as the manifestation of an evil and racist regime in South Africa, all in this City can be reminded that they must not contribute, silently or in any other way, to the continuation of a vicious government and a small minority privileged at the expense of those who are suffering.

For his courage, Charles Jordan deserves our respect. For his courage, he deserves our undivided support.

## Through the eyes of Mr. W...

by Harold C. Williams

In the last nine to ten months there has been a lot of attention given to the Allen Bakke case which is now waiting a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Allan Bakke, a white applicant to a California Medical College, charged that he was discriminated against when under a special minority admission program vacancies were filled twice in entering classes for which he otherwise would have been eligible. However, the Allan Bakke case is not as important as the case that is sleeping in the shadows, which will have the greatest negative effect on minorities since the depression.

The case to which I am referring is the Louisiana case. Brian F. Weber, a white worker at the Kaiser Aluminum Company's plant at Grammercy, contends he

was denied admission to a special training program because the company and the United Steelworkers of America had agreed that half the trainees would be Black, irrespective of their seniority.

The program was designed to help move participants from unskilled labor into craft employment and higher wages. Under the labor-management agreement, the Black quota will end when the Blacks' share of craft jobs in the plant approximates the Black population percentage of the area.

The federal district judge agreed with Weber that the training plan violated the ban in the Civil Rights Act on discrimination in employment based on race. Three months ago, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, dividing two to one, affirmed

that ruling. If that decision is appealed to the Supreme Court, the justices will be under almost irresistible pressure to examine and resolve this aspect of the "reverse discrimination" dispute. If the court does not accept for review the ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals, it will become the established law in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, placing in question many affirmative-action employment programs in those states.

If this issue is not watched closely it will soon effect minorities and women nation-wide. Then it will take another fifty years to regain the achievements in employment that were accomplished during the '60s and early '70s.

## NAACP Energy Policy

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has for many years been dedicated to the task of defending the economic, social and political rights and interests of Black Americans. The growing national debate about energy has led us to examine this question to ascertain the implications for Black Americans. In an effort to gain a better understanding of the energy problem, the National Board of the NAACP convened a Conference on Energy in Washington, D.C., November 18 and 19, 1977. Leaders of our organization at all levels from every area of the country came together, exchanged ideas among themselves and listened to experts on the subject from Government, industry and public interest groups.

We are convinced that the nation faces a serious energy problem. The evidence is overwhelming that the primary fuels that supply our homes, factories, farms, transportation systems and commercial establishments are rising in cost at an alarming rate. It is also clear that our ability to supply the demand for oil and natural gas from domestic sources is diminishing while the level of imports of these fuels continues to grow. At the same time there appears to be a myriad of governmental constraints on the production and use of coal, our most abundant domestic fuel resources, and nuclear power. Efforts to develop alternative sources of energy are confronted with severe problems of raising the necessary capital in light of the many uncertainties regarding governmental policies.

Since the early 1960's gains have been made toward bringing the nation's Black Citizens into the mainstream of American Economic Life. This has occurred largely during a period of expansion in the economy which created new opportunities for jobs. However, a great deal more remains to be done. We still have tremendous unmet social and economic needs. The unemployment rate in the Black community is still twice the national rate. Perhaps more importantly, unemployment among Black teenagers ranges up to 50 percent. Over the next fifteen years we must undertake to rebuild and revitalize our cities and urban areas where a very high percentage of Black people live. We need to revamp urban and inter-urban transportation systems to facilitate urban dwellers' access to places of employment. An abundant energy supply will be necessary if we are to have any chance to meet these challenges.

We note the historic direct correlation between the level of economic activity and energy availability and consumption. Energy supply development throughout our nation's history has been critically important to economic growth. We find it

very disturbing to contemplate a future in which energy supply would become a constraint upon our ability to solve these critically important social and economic problems which confront Black Citizens.

We have examined the Administration's National Energy Plan in the light of the agenda for economic growth and development for America's Black people. What we see in the plan is an emphasis on conservation, and a reduction in the growth of total energy demand and consumption. The Plan basically takes a pessimistic attitude toward energy supplies for the future. It seems to make the basic assumptions that (1) we will run out of all primary fuels, except coal, relatively soon and (2) essentially nothing can be done to substantially increase or even to maintain existing production rates for oil and natural gas. This emphasis cannot satisfy the fundamental requirements of a society of expanding economic opportunities.

We think there must be a more vigorous approach to supply expansion and to the development of new supply technologies so that energy itself will not become a long-term constraint, but instead can continue to expedite economic growth and development in the future. 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. Other alternative sources, such as solar, geothermal, biomass, tidal, oil shale and synthetic fuels from coal must also be developed and made commercially available at the earliest possible time. A more positive attitude by the Administration toward supply development is extremely important because future developments

will be largely determined by the Policy choices being made now by the Administration and the Congress.

While we endorse the Plan's objectives of eliminating energy waste and to improve utilization efficiency, we cannot accept the notion that our people are best served by a policy based upon the inevitability of energy shortage and the need for government to allocate an ever diminishing supply among competing interests. 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. We also believe that many of the prohibitions proposed with respect to the industrial use of oil and natural gas will force the closing of many job-producing industries in urban areas and cause a massive shift of industries away from areas where most Black people live and work.

We recognize there is disagreement as to whether the Plan does in fact offer more incentives for new supply development. However, we are impressed with the conclusion reached by the Comptroller General of the United States in his evaluation of the NEP:

"...The plan's incentives are not greater than those which would be available if existing policy were continued through 1985..."

"Also, the Plan will reduce revenues to producers for most oil already discovered and may adversely affect oil companies' financial ability to support additional exploration. By not increasing the financial incentives for additional exploration and by reducing companies' financial strength, the Plan fails to come to grips with the problem of increasing (Please turn to Page 8 Column 1)



ALFRED L. HENDERSON  
Editor/Publisher

### Portland Observer

Published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Telephone: 283-2486.

Subscriptions: \$7.50 per year in the Tri-County area, \$8.00 per year outside Portland.

Second Class Postage Paid at Portland, Oregon

The *Portland Observer's* official position is expressed only in its Publisher's column (We See The World Through Black Eyes). Any other material throughout the paper is the opinion of the individual writer or submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Portland Observer*.

National Advertising Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.  
New York

1st Place  
Community Service  
ONPA 1973

1st Place  
Best Ad Results  
ONPA 1973

5th Place  
Best Editorial  
NNPA 1973

Honorable Mention  
Herrick Editorial Award  
NNA 1973

2nd Place  
Best Editorial  
3rd Place  
Community Leadership  
ONPA 1975



**\$7.50** in Tri-County Area  
**\$8.00** Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer**  
Box 3137  
97208