

## The Publisher Speaks



Energy is the power in home lighting, heating, cooking, refrigeration, freezing, cooling, television and radio reception. Electricity is the energy which powers the trolley and trains which take workers to their jobs. It works the machines, the tools, the elevators, the assembly line belts, the computers and typewriters; even the coffee and soda machines. Oil, gas and coal perform basic heating functions.

There has been not time in America for Blacks when employment was not a critical issue; with the exception of wartime. Today, with America's trillion-dollar economy, with government spending at an all-time high, the Black community is in a state of depression; with youth employment at an astounding 40%.

What has this to do with energy? Plenty.

There are powerful forces in this country, with heavy financial backing, which want the increasingly required amount of energy production reduced. They want to stop the building of electric and nuclear plants; plants which could easily supply the energy for the present and for the progressive future. They claim a stoppage would stabilize the economy; that the country is over producing.

Amid this din, the Blacks and the poor must not be fooled in the least. If the skyrocketing demand for energy is reduced, then industry stops growing and expanding. Jobs diminish. The old last hired and first fired comes back into play. In other words, disaster for Blacks.

Some factions of the anti-nuclear and anti-energy forces claim a deep love for the environment; that new plants are dangerous and their building and operations will harm the environment. Protecting the environment can well be the position of the white middle and upper classes. Their cash and property reserves can cushion them against economic statemate.

But for the Blacks and the poor the environment would have to take a second spot to critical unemployment which would become even more critical. Blacks cannot stand a no-growth position. As bad as things already are, national growth is the only chance for Black growth survival.

President Carter has offered the solution of energy conservation. But what is really needed is additional sources of energy; sources which America can control. At the rate the need for electricity is increasing . . . to run the plants, light the homes, and move mass transit . . . there will not be enough power in the next eleven years to do the job. Not if new plants and new sources are not found.

Without touching on gasoline rate increases, but dealing with the creature comforts like

PEOPLE CREATE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
POLLUTION



heat, light cooking . . . who would suffer most from cutback in energy? If the generating sources of gas, electricity were slowed down, and the supply became overtaxed . . . who would be the prime victims?

Blacks and the poor, without question.

## Just the FACTS

It is hard for the people of Las Vegas to be laid off from their jobs, especially if they have been on those jobs for 27 or more years.

This is what is happening when the Desert Inn closes its doors on Nov. 6, 1977. Of course, this is only temporary, but some of these people will be put on the unemployment list.

The Desert Inn is closing the doors of the hotel and restaurant. The Casino and the Country Club will continue to operate, albeit on a reduced scale. Also, the management offices will remain open to plan for their grand re-opening July 4, 1978.

The unemployment rate in Las Vegas is already high, and will get higher when this happens on November 6.

As the news media deigned to notify the public that the Desert Inn was closing its doors permanently, prior to the notification given to the employees, it seems that most of the employees involved were taken unaware. Do you think this is the correct way for the media to act? The employees have a right to know when something affects them. The media should have waited for the Desert Inn to inform the employees before stating to the public that the Desert Inn was to close their doors permanently. This was a gross understatement, as the entire Inn was not planning to close its doors, but only the hotel, because the restaurants were closed due to the renovation that is presently in progress.

The news of the Desert Inn, coming on the heels of the Jackpot Casino closing due to going bankrupt, has hit the Las Vegas area hard. Let us hope the Desert Inn, when it reopens, will be as wonderful as the architects drawings show it to be.

## BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By: Charles E. Belle

The nation's population grew by only 0.7 percent in 1976, reaching an estimated 216 million on January 1, 1977, according to the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce. Blacks made up 11 percent of the population, totaling 24.2 million. While 11.1 million persons of Spanish origin comprised another five percent of the 1976 population.

It being common knowledge blacks and other non-white groups are usually under counted by official bodies for various and sundry reasons, such numbers are still substantial. Given that black people have been in this country as long as whites and some Spanish origin folks even longer, the lack of them on any major energy resource companies board of directors is indicative of racism in America.

Exxon Corporation, Texaco, Inc., Mobil Oil Corporation, Gulf Oil Corporation and even Standard Oil of California (Chevron) in California are household names across the nation.

Blacks are completely frozen out of the board of directors of these energy rich companies that get gasoline for your car and fuel for your home from around the world. These companies are too large for most governments to control.

The exclusion of blacks from the top of the corporate enterprises of America is as detrimental and racist as the lowest red neck lynching in Louisiana in the 19th century of colored people. Black Americans must be seen in all walks of American life from the janitor's closet to the boardroom.

The plan for disenfranchisement of blacks is still on the corporate black boards of America. The most popular person to place on a corporate board of directors is another company's senior executive.

Blacks cannot be put behind this waiting line if they are to overcome existing racist practices already in place. General Motors recent promotion of a Black American as general counselor gives him the honor of being the highest ranking black in corporate America.

But blacks must not lose sight of the fact that Rev. Leon Sullivan is a member of the General Motor's Corporation board of directors. We wish the new attorney for GMC well and know that he is capable. But it's a lot easier to be color blind when the other color has already caught your eye.

**LAS VEGAS  
VOICE**

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