

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 no 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 stalemate.

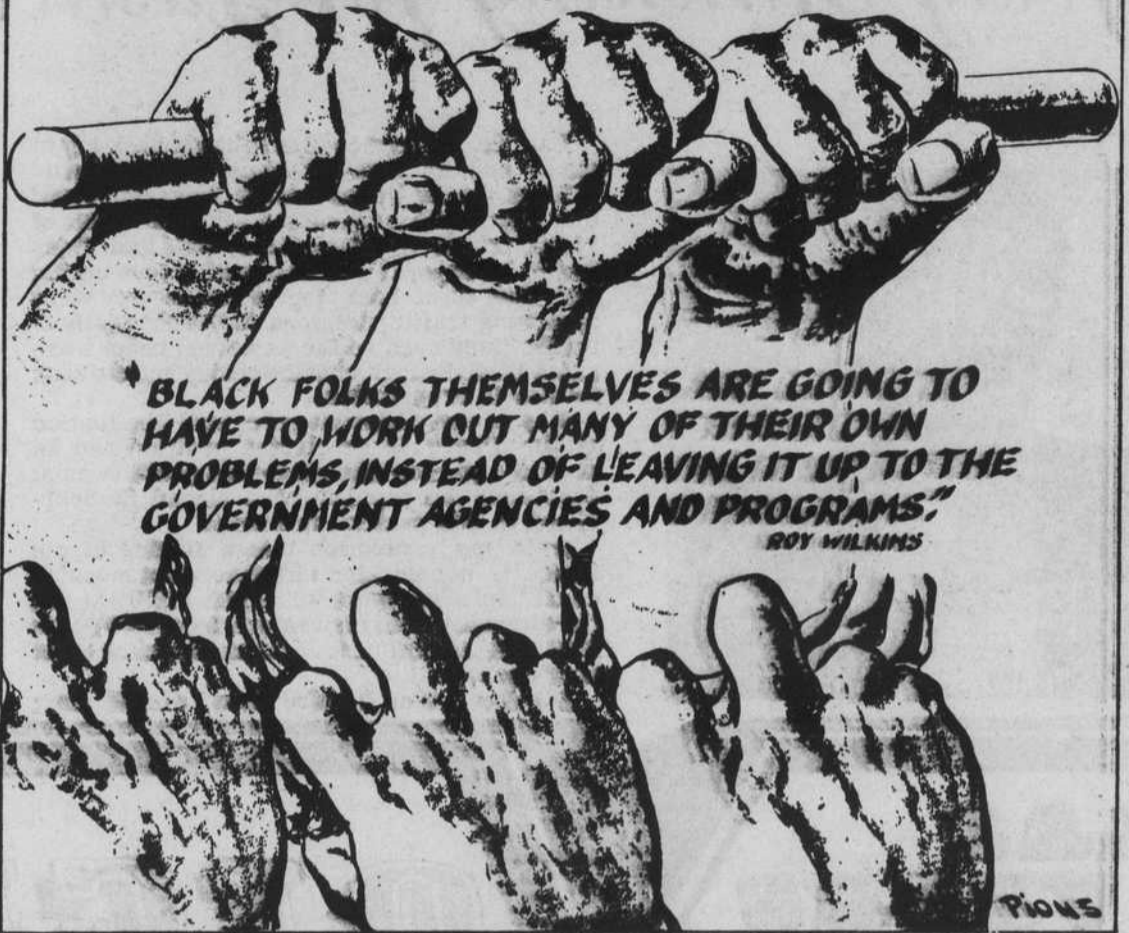
But for the Blacks and the poor the environment would have to take a second spot to critical unemployment which would become even more critical. Blacks cannot stand a no-growth position. As bad as things already are, national growth is the only chance for Black growth survival.

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 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

BLACK AMERICA

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES



'BLACK FOLKS THEMSELVES ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK OUT MANY OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, INSTEAD OF LEAVING IT UP TO THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS.'

ROY WILKINS

would be the prime victims?
Blacks and the poor, without question.

Just the FACTS

When I wrote about new organizations in this column several weeks ago, I neglected to list one of the newest: The Urban League under the able direction of Clifford Alexander.

I am sorry if this caused any hard feelings, but am listing it here now.

All of the new organizations are worthwhile, and should be investigated, and memberships taken out in as many of them as you feel you are able. Most of them have reasonable membership fees: NAACP, \$5 (or up to \$500) annually; PUSH \$5 (or up to \$500) annually; LVIA \$2 annually; The Urban League \$5 annually; SCLC \$2 annually; and the newest, Second Chance, Inc. has yet to set their membership fees.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By: Charles E. Belle

The occasion of my attending a Commonwealth Club of California evening meeting last month was met with astonishment by one club official. She would not have been so surprised to see me had she been a regular reader of this column. Back in November two columns were devoted to describing the perils of Japanese firms' invasion of the American job market through unequitable pricing policies.

While describing Toyota as a turkey, other food for thought was included in the writings. The first article "Toyota Takes its Toll" pointed out that Americans of all persuasions do not profit by Tariffs placed on U.S. companies to protect the Datsun and Toyota types of foreign manufacturers.

While the second column "Toyota's Tearing Up Economy" reminded Black readers that Chrysler Corporation alone employs some 39,000 Black Americans and like other Amer-

ican automobile makers are obstructed from sales in Japan. A Ford Mustang costs \$12,000 in Japan compared with prices starting around \$3,500 in the U. S.

Ford Motor company sells very few cars in Japan, less than four-tenths of one percent in 1976 of a total new car market there of about 2.8 million cars. Stalking this evening meeting was somewhat of a turkey hunt and the Japanese served up on tough old turkey.

Yoshio Kawahara, Commercial Minister of Japan to the United States has been called back to Washington, D. C. for a second time to protect the Japanese business interest in this country under cover of providing an entree to the Japanese markets to increase U. S. sales. In fact, the Japanese have a trade delegation designed to discover how best to sell more to the U. S.

The delegation will visit U. S. cities to increase sales to the infidels. The Japanese delegation just might meet a hostile host in many of America's major cities with large black populations.

Black people and politicians might want to put to test Japan's commitment to President James Earl Carter, Jr.'s call for human rights by demanding affirmative action programs in its banking, automobile and electronic distribution systems in this country.

Japanese have followed the time tested racist tradition of buying and banking only with their brothers to bowl over competitors. Minister Kawahara at the meeting was joined in the National Public Radio show hosted by Pauline Frederick with Walter Hoadley, executive vice president and chief economist of Bank of America, the nation's largest bank, and Michael Berger of the San Francisco Chronicle.

Mr. Hoadley pointed out that the U. S. is Japan's largest market. Indeed, Minister Kawahara admitted the volume of U. S. and Japanese trade is \$25 billion. This is \$1,000 a year for every black man, woman and child in America. The net trade balance to Japan was \$10 billion last year or \$400 for every black person in sight. Since tariff protection from Congress can take time, a black boycott of Japanese products provides the first line of defense. The reduction of jobs available in the U. S. due to the failure of U. S. manufacturers to sell their products in Japan will be fired first on the falling assembly lines.

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