

### 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 not been time in America for Blacks when employment was not a critical issue; with the exception of warteme. 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 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?



## Just the FACTS.

### Toward Black Liberation

It is White Power that makes the laws, and it is violent white power in the form of armed white policemen that enforces laws with guns and nightsticks. The vast majority of Blacks who live on the Westside, live in captive communities and must endure the conditions of oppression because and only because, we are Black and powerless.

Without bothering to go into the historic factors that contribute to this pattern of economic exploitation political awareness, discrimination in employment and education, one can see that to correct these patterns will require far reaching changes in the basic power, relationship and the ingrained social patterns within the society.

The question of course is: What lines of changes are necessary, and how is it possible to bring them about?

In recent years the answer to these questions has been given by most articulate groups of Blacks and their White allies, the liberals, have been in favor of something called intergration according to the advocates of intergration.

Social justice will be accomplished by intergrating the Blacks into the institutions of society from which he has been traditionally excluded. It is very significant that each time I have heard this formulation it has been in terms of the Black, rather than in terms of the community.

We are on the Westside not by choice but by force, economic, employment and education. But our great White fathers forgot one thing: PUTTING US ALL TOGETHER ON THE WESTSIDE, WE ARE A SOURCE OF POWER, A POLITICAL MACHINE, WE CAN MAKE OR BREAK A POLITICAN, BROTHERS AND SISTERS THE TOOLS ARE RIGHT HERE ON THE WESTSIDE PICK THEM UP AND USE THEM . . .

## BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By: Charles E. Belle

### Food Prices Moving Higher

Even the farmers are finding fault with the Carter Administration's food price predictions for 1979. Black American consumers are already caught in the ever increasing price spiral and sinking job market. Current signs of a broad and general acceleration of economic activity portend a higher inflation rate for 1979 than 1978 and the delay and subsequent deepening and extending of the impending recession.

The recent 14.5% projected increase in the price of crude oil is significantly larger than anticipated by almost all earlier economic forecasts. The hike will undoubtedly accentuate previous economic accounts estimates of unemployment and inflation.

While the demand for petroleum products has in the past turned out to be very largely price inelastic over a wide range (for gasoline, for example, from thirty cents a gallon to seventy cents), it would seem to be unwise to assume much elasticity in the incremental cost resulting from the rise in the price of crude oil. Taken by itself, the rise in the oil price represents an absorption of income whose effects will largely be felt in markets other than petroleum products. Such an increase will spill over into food prices.

Farmers who find additional cost of fertilizer and farm equipment operations will try to pass on the increased costs to consumers. Farm state congressmen will introduce legislation which will push food prices up.

Senator Robert J. Dole (R-Kansas) ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, plans to introduce a new farm bill that would, as he puts it, "quickly improve farm income." The proposed legislation would, for example pay farmers to take wheat, corn and other crops out of production, while requiring the Agriculture Secretary to increase the support level of sugar and to restrict beef imports when supplies are "ample." An effective design which will destroy low cost food for the consumer.

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