

Industry: Publicly Guarded, Privately Critical

Thomas Aquinas Murphy, President of General Motors:

General Motors support the President and commends him for forcefully focusing public attention on this major national problem... In addition to conservation there is an urgent need for increased energy supply, basically founded on free market principles. National priorities should be established... We support the President.

A senior officer at General Motors:

The package of rebates and excise taxes is extremely simplistic... The plan is very deficient on R and D, and I'm very sorry to see the development of the breeder reactor stopped.

Continental Trailways, in a statement entitled "Common Sense '77":

The question isn't, "Do we bite the bullet?"; rather it's, "When do we bite the bullet?"

The current energy crisis isn't our first 'national emergency.' Two hundred years ago the American spirit faced up to a common problem and conquered it... Common sense tells us the same is true today.

Malthus said there could be "no such thing as over-population... when the numbers of humans outstrip the ability of the planet to feed them, they will simply starve and die-off until a balance of food-to-population is once again restored."... By enduring small hardships today we can avoid hardship tomorrow...

So, we praise President Carter... We pledge our support, even though some parts of his energy policy will cost us as a company.

We do, however, have one additional suggestion for conserving energy. We would suggest encouraging more people to ride the *bus* on their intercity trips.

Colin Lee, a planner for the Continental Oil Company:

Energy is Carter's Gordian knot, but this program is like trying to cut the knot with only one-half a pair of

scissors. The emphasis is on conservation and there is nothing for oil and gas exploration.

A senior official at International Harvester, one of the country's leading farm machinery producers:

Guarded by the insulation of Mr. Schlesinger, there is no way of influencing President Carter on energy policy. As far as I can see, Mr. Carter isn't committed to the growth of *anything*... It's difficult to see how we are going to get along without nuclear energy.

An official at Union Carbide Nuclear Division:

Mr. Carter's position on the fast breeder amounts throwing away a valuable asset... As far as his inclusion of some nuclear energy in his program, frankly we don't know what he's talking about.

An economist at Ford Motor Co.:

If the full amount of the gasoline tax is implemented, this will reduce production by 4 percent. Domestic sales will be affected more, of course... The main problem is not a 1-2 percent rate of inflation, but the uncertainty factor in the market...

An officer of the Corporate Planning Department of Allied Chemical:

Carter says he wants more nuclear development, but I've scoured the program and can't find anything specific.

The head of an independent oil association:

We felt that the glaring shortcoming is no increase in production. They're writing off the ability of the U.S. to increase production.

Gene T. Kinney, editor of Oil and Gas Journal:

Carter's program is artificial austerity without real benefit.

Labor: National Leadership Stalls; Members Ready For A Fight

The first response of the labor movement to this week's formal announcement of the Carter energy program was uneven and marked by contradictions between the wishy-washy statements of the top leadership and the general rejection of the program by secondary leaders and rank-and-file unionists.

AFL-CIO President George Meany offered his "tentative support" to Carter's April 20 speech, stating that

on behalf of the federation, he accepted the five basic premises of the program: the call for conservation, the call to create a strategic oil reserve, the call for increased coal production, the plan to convert utilities to coal, and the need for fair strip-mining regulations. The AFL-CIO President added that he felt the proposed gas tax was unfair, and that the program must guarantee "equality of sacrifice." To this Meany added that the