

## U.S. Press:

# The President Sounded Un-American

*Journal of Commerce*, April 22 editorial:

Mr. Carter deserves every credit for stating bluntly the stark facts about the nation's energy crunch and for orchestrating them in the somber tones that occasion requires.... The crunch is not only going to be with us for a long while, but perhaps forever.... Our main criticism of his plan is that while it has the appearance of being comprehensive, it is nowhere near as comprehensive as it should be.... No energy policy that fails to bring about a drastic reduction in public consumption can rate as an energy policy at all.

*Detroit News*, April 21:

commentary column by John Peterson, "We Need to Ask More Questions About Energy":

...It (the Carter energy program-ed.) requires among other things a suspension of public disbelief — which is exactly what Jimmy Carter in his best soft-spoken 'I love y'all' manner was asking for this week....

Mr. Carter suggested it was our patriotic duty to limit national growth and to cut back our lifestyle...

He was aided by a conveniently timed CIA report that found the world's energy demands will far exceed the world's energy supplies within a decade. No one in the press so much as snickered. That alone ought to make the public suspicious.

The press — rightly or wrongly — never has hesitated to attack CIA credibility where the Agency was dealing solely within its area of expertise such as estimating the military strength of the Soviets...

If you're worried that civil liberties might be subjected to restrictions by an all-powerful federal energy czar you may lose some sleep over a proposal advanced by the President's old softball buddy, Ralph Nader on "Meet the Press" last Sunday. Nader, who has become the President's top adviser without portfolio in recent weeks has favored the creation of an energy conservation corps.... Cutting through his attempt to finesse the

## Wall Street Journal:

# Carter Will Return Us To The Dark Ages

*The following are excerpts from the Wall Street Journal editorial of April 22, entitled "Energy Psychology":*

...At best the package is a confusing mish-mash...some parts of it are actually destructive...the proposal to push prices up through taxes gives you all of the supposed disadvantages of price decontrol with none of its advantages.... His package should have more stress on production incentives...

Mr. Carter's call for sacrifice, his total emphasis on conservation instead of production, plays upon and nurtures one of the most dangerous psychological impulses at large in society today.

This is the neo-Malthusian notion that the essential task for mankind is rationing and parceling out a finite and constantly dwindling store of resources. The Club of Rome led this attack on the belief in progress, and then saw that it was in general undermining the intellectual and moral foundations of modern civilization, and in particular undermining the hopes of the poorest people everywhere. But though the Club of Rome recanted, its original paralyzing pessimism has taken an extraordinary grip on broad sectors of the American mind.

Yet the factual foundations of this notion are hard to discern....Mankind is in the extraordinary position of being able to see conceptually where its energy will come from for as many generations ahead as its mind can conceive.

Laying aside our own hunch that a good deal more oil and natural gas will be found when the price is right, everyone concedes that there are a couple of centuries worth of coal. Even without manufacturing plutonium, present nuclear power technology can probably carry us until fusion can make energy from seawater....There are no meaningful physical limits to energy; the problems are economic ones. And these problems can be solved....

...Investment in new energy sources must be encouraged, or at least not discouraged....In the Carter package, the revenues from higher energy prices would be dissipated....The package has no recognition (of this) whatsoever....

...We do worry that perhaps Mr. Carter's ringing call for sacrifice will not open and broaden the debate, but instead lead it down the path of sterile pessimism into self-realizing fears of energy disaster. We would even go so far as to say that if the neo-Malthusianism runs too long unchecked, it will lead not only to dim lights but to a dark age.