

LWVUS
May 1978

AMPLIFICATION OF NATIONAL ENERGY POSITION

ENERGY GROWTH RATE

The League supports a *"significant and progressive reduction in the national energy growth rate."* If the necessary steps are taken, the United States can and should reach an annual energy growth rate slightly more than 2% by 1985 and significantly less than 2% by 2000 in an orderly, gradual way. (Note: Long-term U.S. energy growth rate has averaged 3.5% annually; the 1950-59 rate averaged 3.1% while the 1960-73 rate averaged over 4.0%.)

ENERGY SOURCE MIX

"Top priority to conservation" means that conservation of energy--using less and using it more efficiently--should be the keystone of U.S. national energy strategy. Energy conservation can extend the use of present non-renewable resources and buy time for additional development of renewable resources and other environmentally benign sources and technologies.

"Top priority to renewable resources, especially solar heating and cooling, bioconversion and wind," means that the League supports federal policies and programs that would make them more market competitive and expand their use to supplement conventional sources in the transition period and move them to major sources beyond 2000. In addition, some of these technologies permit decentralized production, providing alternatives to large, central systems.

In assigning *"top priority to the environmentally sound use of coal,"* the Leagues recognize that U.S. coal reserves are far more abundant than domestic oil and gas reserves, the fuels that dominate our current energy mix, and should therefore be increasingly utilized with the strong caveat that federal standards and compliance

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measures protecting the environment should not be relaxed. Technologies should be developed and utilized that promote the extraction, conversion, transportation and use of coal in a way not damaging to the environment.

"Dependence on imported energy sources must be reduced" reflects League concern about the continuing rise in energy imports, particularly oil, and the resulting U.S. vulnerability to supply cut-offs and balance of payments problems. The League does not generally support such limiting policies as quotas and tariffs, though it does recognize that the current world pricing situation results from a cartel situation rather than free market forces.

The League believes that domestic pricing policies should reflect the actual price of imported sources and that this policy would lead to reduced imports. Reduced consumption, increased use of renewable sources and coal will also bring about greater independence of foreign supplies. Obligations undertaken by the United States under the International Energy Program to reduce demand for imported oil should be an integral part of the U.S. energy policy.

"Reliance on domestic oil and natural gas should not be increased" reflects League's recognition that domestic reserves are finite and that there must be a shift away from predominant reliance on them. But the League is not opposed, per se, to increased exploration for and production of domestic oil and gas. Federal policy actions should encourage industries and utilities to convert from oil and gas to coal and other more abundant fuels, promote increased efficiency in the use of oil and gas, and lead toward reserving these fuels for uses in which they have the maximum value and for which there are presently no substitutes.

The League *"opposes increased reliance on nuclear fission"* but recognizes its place in the nation's energy mix. This does not mean that the League is opposed to the

struction of all new nuclear light water reactors but that nuclear fission's present proportionate share in the mix is the maximum use of this energy source which is acceptable. Future government nuclear priority should be in the direction of fusion and away from the plutonium breeder reactor.

Decisions among various energy sources should be guided by certain additional criteria:

1. Choices should be consistent with an integrated, balanced national strategy for optimum source mix.
2. Between now and 2000 preferred alternatives e.g. conservation, renewable resources and the environmentally sound use of coal, must be fully considered before turning to domestic oil and gas or to light water reactors. Least preferable alternative is use of imported oil or gas.
3. Maximum utilization should be made of indigenous sources, such as geothermal, wind and hydroelectric.
4. Environmental protection is a primary consideration.
5. Economic consequences must be taken into account, with particular concern for impact on employment and on low-income population.

FEDERAL POLICIES AND REGULATORY ACTIONS

Achieving an optimum mix of energy sources requires immediate initiation of policy and regulatory actions that will effect progressive changes in production and use during the transition period and make possible commercialization beyond the year 2000.

In more specific terms the League supports:

- [] Increased federal research and development funding for renewable resources and for conservation research, development and demonstration.

- Financial incentives to business, industry and individual consumers to promote conservation investments such as tax credits for insulation expenditures and energy-efficient technologies.
- Tax incentives to business, industry and individual consumers to promote the use of renewable resources such as tax credits for insulation of solar heating and cooling, solar hot water heating and solar electric.
- Conversion and investment credits for businesses and industries to encourage a switch from oil and gas to coal and renewable resources.
- Tax disincentives or penalties to business, industry and individual consumers to discourage consumption, such as increasing taxes on gasoline and a tax on gas guzzlers.
- Gradual decontrol of oil and gas prices to encourage conservation and the shift to renewable sources and coal with accompanying tax measures to recoup any resulting windfall profits.
- Mandatory energy conservation measures including thermal efficiency standards for buildings, efficiency standards for major new appliances, mileage standards for new automobiles with no relaxation of auto emission control standards.
- Redesign of utility rate structures to reduce energy demand and minimize the need for new generating capacity by such techniques as marginal cost or peak load pricing concepts.
- Public education that provides a basic understanding of what energy is, what it does and the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits associated with its production and use.

Statement of Position on Energy

as announced by the National Board March 9, 1978

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the United States cannot and should not sustain its historical rate of energy consumption. Not only as a responsible member of the world community but also in the national interest, the United States must make a significant and progressive reduction in its energy growth rate. To achieve this goal, the nation must develop and implement energy strategies that--while taking account of differences in the needs and resources of states and regions--give precedence to the national good.

Between now and the year 2000, while arriving at long-term energy strategies, the United States should develop and use a mix of energy sources based on the following policies:

- // Top priority must be given to conservation; renewable resources, especially solar heating and cooling, bioconversion and wind; and the environmentally sound use of coal.
- // Dependence on imported energy supplies must be reduced.
- // Because finite supplies of domestic oil and natural gas must be conserved, reliance on these sources should not be increased.
- // Reliance on nuclear fission (light water reactors) should not be increased. Special attention must be given to solving waste disposal and other health and safety problems associated with this energy source.

Beyond the year 2000, the United States should rely predominantly on renewable resources. To make this change possible, the federal government should:

- ∏ give top priority to conservation and to the development and use of solar heating and cooling, solar electricity and bioconversion;
- ∏ emphasize energy-efficient technologies, especially cogeneration and district heating;
- ∏ Support the development of fusion and geothermal energy;
- ∏ give extremely low priority to the plutonium breeder reactor.

To achieve a reduced energy growth rate and the optimum mix of sources and technologies, the federal government should:

- ∏ use research and development funds, tax incentives and loan guarantees to encourage business, industry and individual consumers to conserve energy and to shift toward the development and use of renewable resources.
- ∏ use tax disincentives to promote energy conservation and, in the case of individual consumers, to foster the use of renewable resources.
- ∏ gradually deregulate oil and natural gas prices and at the same time tax windfall profits attributable to deregulation;
- ∏ set mandatory standards for energy conservation.

Federal standards and compliance timetables that protect the environment should not be relaxed in pursuit of national energy goals.

In developing national energy strategies, the federal government should spread costs and benefits (environmental, social, economic, health) as equitably as possible. In keeping with this criterion, states and regions should take steps to maximize conservation and to utilize their indigenous, renewable resources. There should be assistance for low-income individuals, when changes would bear unduly on the poor.

In the distribution of roles and responsibilities, the following principles should apply:

- ∏ The processes used to develop and implement national energy strategies should give a voice to all levels of government.

- / The federal government should set national standards to reach policy objectives. States may set more stringent standards, within the context of national policy. Implementation and enforcement of national standards should be primarily at the state level.
- // States and regions should cooperate with each other and with the federal government to achieve national energy goals.
- // Public understanding and cooperation are essential to the success of any national energy strategy. Citizen participation in decision making must be assured at every governmental level.

The Energy Committee has decided that in order to allow five panelists adequate opportunity to express their expert viewpoints and provide a question and answer period within the total meeting time period of two and one half hours, we will confine our questions to three general ones. Within each one, each participant is free to speak to whatever areas or points he or she feels are most important. Though perhaps such a presentation would give as much opportunity for exchange and challenge of opposing views as under a different type of format, we believe there will be freedom for your preferred emphases & time to hear your information.

There will be a time limit of 5 minutes per person for each presentation. We will reverse the order in which we call on panel members so that each group has some chance for comment on previous remarks.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

There will be an introduction based on League energy study and position. In which we wish to focus on Philadelphia Electric and the Fulton Plant site but to set the local situation into the larger national picture of nuclear power. Two charts and 3 maps will be briefly alluded to for this purpose.

INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS/SPEAKERS

Each participant will be introduced with a brief biographical sketch.

QUESTIONS

I. Do you feel nuclear power is a desirable energy source? (25 min.)

(Some of the factors we assume you would want to bring out here would be : economic costs , costs associated with health & safety , feasibility vs. other resources etc.)

* Will call on utilities representatives first on this, then environmentalists and NRC representative.

II. Are more nuclear power plants needed in the Lancaster area? (25 min.)

(Some factors here would be: generating capacity, utility rate structure, lead time for plants , alternatives to building more plants etc.)

* Will call on environmentalists first, then utilities & NRC.

III. What is the role of government, primarily the federal , in nuclear power?

(Factors such as funding for research & development, responsibility for safety standards, regulation , siting etc.)

* Will call on NRC first , then alternate between utility rep. & environmentalist.

The questions needn't be considered mutually exclusive. There may well be places that overlap or are more appropriate in a different place than the brief suggestions we have provided.

QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD (25 minutes)

(Questions from the floor addressed to specific participants)

MENTION THAT MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE ON TABLE IN ROOM PROVIDED BY PARTICIPANTS & THAT PE WELCOMES VISITS TO THE PEACH BOTTOM PLANT INFORMATION CENTER.

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464

Betty Wickstrom
1937 Temple ave
Lancaster, Pa. 17603
Nov. 14, 1978

Dr. Stanley Kirsalis
U.S. NRC
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Kirsalis:

I have just received the letter
corroborating your attendance
at the League of Women Voters General
Meeting from Mr. Moore. Thank you
for the materials sent also.

Enclosed you will find copies
of our LWV Energy position as well
as a supplement to that. The ques-
tions and format of the meeting
are included also.

We are looking forward to
your contribution to our in-
formation & are glad you
can come.

Sincerely,
Betty Wickstrom
Energy Champion

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11