

Importance of What Carter's Energy Plan Doesn't Do

To The Denver Post:

A CALL to our U.S. senators and representatives regarding the energy crisis.

The recent polemics reflecting congressional reaction to President Carter's energy proposal beg the issue. The President's plan is indeed deficient; however, nowhere in the uproar have the people's representatives brought the true deficiency to the public's attention.

In the hue and cry over the proposed increased cost of fuel, there has been a diverting of attention from what the plan doesn't do. The plan does not provide the American public with any feeling of confidence that there eventually will be a solution to the escalating cost of fossil fuels and their disappearance from our planet.

When our country had to win a war, we marshalled our behemoth energies and utilized our best minds to split the atom in the Manhattan project. When we were challenged by Sputnik, we retrained our nation's mathematics and

science teachers to prepare high school students in the study of space technology. From there, students went out to become space scientists. The nation made space technology a national goal, and this effort resulted in a man on the moon only 12 years after we started this gigantic effort. Huge complexes were developed, pure research was supported, and our country did the impossible.

The President's energy plan should use some of the proposed increased taxes to fund a federally sponsored research program for alternative energy sources that will render the Manhattan project and the space program miniscule by comparison.

The matter of finding inexpensive, alternate, non-fossil, renewable energy sources that will supplant our current dependency on rapidly vanishing reserves cannot brook further delays. Congressional protests that adding taxes to fuels cause commuters too much expense do not recognize that, in seven years, commuting will be an

anachronism. We must develop techniques for producing energy that are not dependent on oil.

I plead with our congresspersons to protect our life styles in the future by having Congress develop a crash program of the described scope to supplement the President's far overdue, and still inadequate plan.

We must establish priorities in research for safe nuclear fusion power plants and retrain those scientists in the nuclear fission industry who are losing their jobs. If we neglect this recycling of our scientists, other countries will import their expertise, and we will develop a "brain" drain.

Finally, we should pursue the earlier recommendations of President Ford and develop technology that will use nature's bounties of wind, ocean currents and geothermal heating.

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