

Back to the future for energy?

The greatest generation will remember the question, "Is your trip really necessary?" and the admonition by the FDR Administration to conserve energy ("Needless travel interferes with the war effort."). We who came slightly after and experienced the energy crisis years of President Jimmy Carter will also be able to identify with the need to limit our trips and save precious gasoline.

Well, welcome back, friends, to those not-so-thrilling days of yesteryear. It's the seventies reborn and America is once again paying for the horrendous decisions of an out-of-touch-with-reality Administration as the final month of Winter 2022 comes to a close. AND we are witnessing the disastrous results of that Administration's efforts to destroy our fossil fuel sector (and by extension the entire American economy) all to pay back the über Left wing of the Democrat Party for putting Joe Biden in the White House. Make no mistake; the radical *save the planet by destroying our financial security* types are in charge. They have been for over a year, and they will stop at nothing to sink their 'green new deal' roots deeply into the once fertile soil of one of the world's most productive economies by convincing us at the point of a gas pump that greening our energy is not only inevitable, but that it's time is NOW!

Fact: America's national security depends on energy independence. If you do not believe that I invite you to look around you. You will see the tension, frustration and anger of average Americans waiting (impatiently) in line to fill up their gas tanks with \$4, \$5 or \$6/gallon gas. Imagine being a fly on the wall as homeowners open their propane, heating oil or electricity bill and nearly keel over in disbelief. Then take a trip to the supermarket. Check out the prices on just about every product on the half-empty shelves that have been transported there by diesel-powered trucks. Seven and a half percent higher prices than last year are just the tip of the inflation iceberg and represent just an average of how much more we're paying for the same items. Then there's our military that depends on readily accessible (and abundant) fuel to power its vehicles, planes and ships.

The Left will tell you that the current energy crisis is not Joe's fault. His decision to cease drilling on oil-rich federal lands and the cessation of work on the Keystone XL pipeline are not the reason we're experiencing high energy prices. No, no. It's Russia's fault. That devil, Vladimir Putin, HE'S the cause of it all. These sentiments are now the official meme emanating from the Administration, its Cabinet Secretaries like the energy-illiterate Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and the mainstream media. We are now led to believe that NOW is the time to cough up a cool \$60K for an electric vehicle promoted by that paragon of transportation wisdom 'Mayor' Pete Buttigieg if we are to reap the benefits of 'going green.' Folks: If chutzpah were electricity we'd all be fully charged up with it. The same is true of all the junk science (about wind and solar energy's immediate potential) that's being peddled these days. We're just not there yet. Wind and solar are intermittent sources; the wind isn't always blowing and the sun isn't always shining. They can only be viewed as energy adjuncts that support a fossil fuel-rich energy portfolio.

Without going into the scientific 'weeds' about the problems associated with these energy sources, it is helpful to focus on one important aspect of solar in particular...we have no way to adequately store the excess energy that is not pushed to the electric grid, and until we solve that problem, solar will continue to be just an auxiliary technology. The Administration's green advocates won't touch that subject with a ten-foot Tesla coil! It's easier to blame the oil, gas and coal industry AND the auto industry for America's 'addiction' to fossil fuel. Stop for a moment and consider how much of our economy depends on our mobile lifestyle. It's ENORMOUS and it's inextricably linked to Americans' *freedom* - the freedom to pack up the chicken salad sandwiches and picnic basket and head for the great out-of-doors OR simply escape the confines of our houses for a short trip to the mall for an afternoon of window-shopping.

Then there's family to visit and vacations to take, not to mention business trips. The last two years of lockdowns have shown us what sequestration and social distancing have done to our collective psyche and to our ability to cope with immobility. It's been destructive on many levels, and if we

don't get a grip on an energy policy that includes expanded oil/gas exploration and production soon we won't have any choice but to buy Pete Buttigieg's sixty grand EV car and then hope there's any place worth visiting after our economy has cratered.

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