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JOBS AND NATURAL GAS

"Putting Americans back to work" has been selected by House Speaker Thanas O'Neill as the first priority of the new Congress. Danocratic Congressmen started to 'WOrk on jobs legislation even without waiting for Jirrmy Carter to send his official econani.c package fran the White House.

The trouble with sane Democrats, however, is their tunnel vision in regard to how to create jobs. They think only in tenns of putting more people on the government payroll. All that accanplishes is to transfer dollars fran sane taxpayers' :p::,ckets into others.

What is needed is .imaginative thinking to stimulate jobs through the free enterprise system. Jobs in the private sector spring fran newly created wealth and do not place new burdens on the already hard-pressed taxpayers.

President Carter has a unique opportunity to create 50,000 jobs in the private sector without costing the taxpayers any money -- if he only has the vision to make the right decision.

In September when oil starts flowing through the Alaskan pipeline, the natural gas that cares out of the ground along with the oil will be placed in existing underground reservoirs. In a matter of months, those reservoirs will be filled and the natural gas must be piped sanewhere. The question is, where and by what route?

There are three routes under consideration by the Federal Power Carmission. The first is known as the Arctic gas proposal, which calls for building a pipeline across the Alaskan wilderness, through the Yukon and Saskatchewan in Canada, for delivery at the northern border of Michigan and Wisconsin.

The second route, called the northwest energy project, would send the natural gas fran Fairbanks, Alaska, through western Canada, with delivery on the northern border of Washington State and Idaho.

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The third plan is the all-American route. It calls for building a natural gas pipeline fran Prudhoe Bay in Alaska to a port near Valdez (which is ice-free 365 days of the year), and then shipping it by refrigerated tankers for delivery at Point Conception in' southern California.

The all-American route would stimulate at least 20,000 jobs to build the natural gas pipeline in Alaska paralleling the oil pipeline, plus 30,000 jobs in the United States to make the pipe, to build the gas tankers, and to lay such additional gas pipeline as would be needed. This would reduce unemployment, especially in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Massachusetts, Te.xas, California, and other construction areas.

If the Federal PCM'er Carnuission selects one of the Canadian routes, we would be subject to having our gas supply reduced or cut off by political decisions of the Canadian government. This would be most unwise at this time of bitter internal
dissension in Canada.

Using either of the Canadian routes would also mean that the jobs created by our money would be in Canada instead of in the United States, and Canada would
buy the pipe fran Red China and Japan instead of fran American plants. This would cause us to suffer a further unfavorable balance of trade.

Canadian lobbyists are working overtime in behalf of their interests. The Federal Power Carmission is due to make its decision by May, after which the final decision must be ma.de by President Carter and passed by Congress.

The right decision can be a significant step toward achieving three of our rrost important national objectives: cutting down unemployment, making America econanically self-sufficient, and reducing the flow of dollars out of our country.

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