



President Carter dedicates the White House solar installation, June 20, 1979.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

tax credits for new homes using passive solar technology, and increased funds for the Department's solar energy research and development program. Carter anticipated that by the year 2000 the Nation would be getting one-fifth of its energy from the sun or other renewable energy sources such as wind, wood, and water.⁶⁹

CARTER'S JULY 15, 1979, ENERGY SPEECH

The energy crisis deepened during early summer 1979 as gasoline shortages and gasoline lines spread across the country. In late June the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to raise crude oil prices by 15 percent. The President, in Tokyo for a summit meeting of major industrial countries, angrily declared that there was "no one on earth who will fail to suffer from these extraordinary increases." Since 1973 oil prices had increased tenfold with a rise of 50 percent in the first six months of 1979. Canceling his postconference vacation, President Carter flew back to Washington, D.C. on July 1 to prepare another major energy speech scheduled for July 5. On the Fourth of July, Carter flew to the presidential mountain retreat at Camp David and postponed his energy speech without public explanation. From Camp David, Carter called over 100 national leaders to join him in a "domestic summit conference" concerning

the country's problems and energy future. Finally, after ten days, the President returned to the White House to address the Nation on the energy situation.⁷⁰

On the eve of the President's energy speech, George Gallup reported that Americans were "misinformed, bewildered, and cynical about the management of the Nation's energy supplies."⁷¹ A growing percentage of Americans (42 percent) now blamed the oil companies for the gasoline crisis, while 23 percent (the same as in 1974) blamed the Federal Government. Interestingly, Americans now held OPEC and Arab countries (13 percent) more responsible for energy shortfalls than the American people themselves (11 percent), and only 11 percent thought the President responsible as compared to 19 percent of Americans who believed Nixon responsible in 1974. Most important, the vast majority of Americans continued to believe that the energy "crisis" was artificially and deliberately contrived by actions of the oil companies, the government, and oil-producing nations.

In his July 15 energy address, Carter soberly and insistently returned to themes that he had expounded previously. The President said that the United States stood at a major crossroad but had lost its self-confidence. If the Nation walked uncertainly down the "path that leads to fragmentation and self-interest," it would jeopardize its social and political fabric. Clearly, Carter hoped Americans would strike