

Congressmen predict rough sledding for energy board

By TIM RICHARD
and TOM LONERGAN

Oakland County's congressmen were all impressed by President Jimmy Carter's "forceful" and "sensible" attack on America's energy problems and lack of self-confidence.

They predict the most controversial part of Carter's program, outlined in speeches Sunday and Monday, will be the proposed Energy Mobilization Board designed to cut through federal red tape and speed up energy production. The energy board, patterned after the World War II War Production Board, faces criticism from environmentalists.

Development of synthetic fuels includes such methods as production of oil from shale and sand flats, which environmentalists fear could permanently scar the earth's surface.

In contrast to his 1976 campaign, which emphasized energy conservation, Carter is now emphasizing both conservation and alternative production methods as a method of decreasing American dependence on Arab oil.

"I PLAN TO give him the benefit of the doubt until more specifics are available," said veteran Rep. William Broomfield, R-Bloomfield Township.

The 19th District congressman, lone Republican in the group, said he specifically favored the Energy Mobilization Board because "government regulations and delays are among the biggest stumbling blocks" to producing more energy.

"This is about the sixth energy speech he's given," said Broomfield of Carter's Sunday night televised address. "Does he mean what he's saying? If he does and can get his proposals through the

head noted several portions already have received favorable action — the synthetic fuels and windfall profits tax on oil companies have passed the house, and a standby rationing plan has been reported out of house committee.

Broomfield was disappointed at the lack of White House interest in one plan favored by many liberal Democrats — a federal purchasing authority to deal with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The idea is to avoid oil companies' bid-

'The country is ready for some action.'

— William Broomfield

dling up crude oil prices and to give the nation a stronger hand in dealing with the Arab oil cartel.

"I GIVE HIM A for effort and B for content," said Rep. James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge.

"It's important that there be follow-through. It's important the president himself spend most of his time on energy and the economy. I'm glad he has started to think big," said Blanchard, whose 18th District includes most of Troy.

Blanchard said the synthetic fuels bill, which he had co-sponsored, passed the house and is awaiting senate action. He predicted the solar bank bill will pass the house in September.

Of the \$140 billion pricing Carter put on the program, Blanchard said, "It's expensive, but the cost of not doing anything at all will be greater." He predicted the house would be "very responsive" to Carter's energy policies.

Blanchard said the \$10 billion for 10 years which Carter proposes to spend on public transportation was "not enough," considering southeast Michigan's plans for a light rail rapid transit line. But Blanchard said he personally knows Carter favors expanded bus service and mini-buses over high capital projects such as rapid transit.

"HE WAS FORCEFUL," said Rep. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, whose 12th District includes the eastern half of the Rochester area, but then he added:

"I'm not entirely pleased with the direction. I would like to see more in the way of conservation and solar energy."

Bonior said a "self-indulgent society" will be willing to make the sacrifices Carter called for if they see a sharing of sacrifices. "The oil company profits drive them (the public) up the wall," he said.

Part of the problem in Congress, said Bonior, is that special interests finance congressional campaigns — thus, a Congress which, in Carter's words, "pulled and twisted by the interests." Bonior said federal financing of congressional elections would be necessary to cure the influence of special interests.

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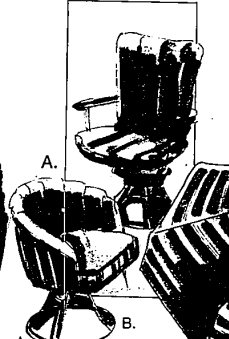
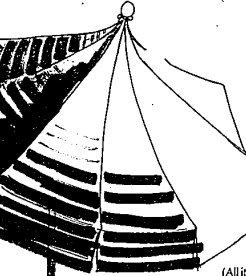
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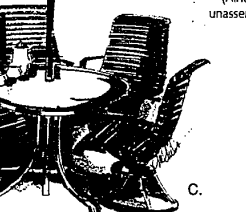
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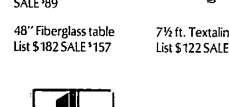
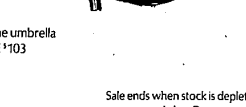
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