

**Yankee Steve's Almanac**  
**for the Week of December 9, 2008**

Adapted from an e-mail message:

Does anybody recall the rationale given for the establishment of the Department of Energy during the Carter Administration? Bottom line . . . we've spent over a hundred billion dollars in support of an agency the reason for its creation which few now can enunciate. At the time it was simple, and taxpayers agreed that it was appropriate.

The Department of Energy was activated on October 1, 1977 to determine and develop ways to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. In 2007 the U.S. consumes 24% of the earth's petroleum and only produces ten percent. We import 58% of our crude oil. So after the lining up around the corner in the 70s to fill up at the gas pump, we still lag in implementing energy alternatives and increasing production.

Over 30 years later, the Department's budget is \$24.2 billion annually with 16,000 federal and over 100,000 contract employees on payroll. Wow, what a good job the Department has done!

Ah yes, good old bureaucracy, and now we are ready to turn the banking system over to the federal government!