

Presidential reward offered

FFA accepts Carter's energy challenge

WASHINGTON, D.C.—“I set before you this extraordinary challenge, asking every FFA chapter in this country to get involved in this basic question of energy conservation...” That was President Carter's ‘unique call’ last month to FFA chapters all across the country.

He told the 96 state FFA officers gathered in the Rose Garden, “I will give recognition...to the one FFA chapter in the nation...which does the most outstanding job in carrying out this response to the energy crisis. I'm going to depend upon the FFA to take the lead in energy conservation...I know you will do this, and it's a solemn commitment between me and you.”

National FFA President Mark Sanborn immediately accepted the challenge on behalf of the FFA and enthusiastic applause ran through the crowd of blue and gold jackets.

Implementation of this challenge has followed with the FFA putting into motion a project, “The President's Challenge.”

Six days after Carter issued his challenge, the National FFA Board of Directors approved a resolution outlining and providing for the funding of the project. Plans are now being made to distribute information about the challenge, including “commitment cards” and “action information,” giving FFA chapters and members energy conservation ideas.

The program will run from August, 1979, thru June 15,

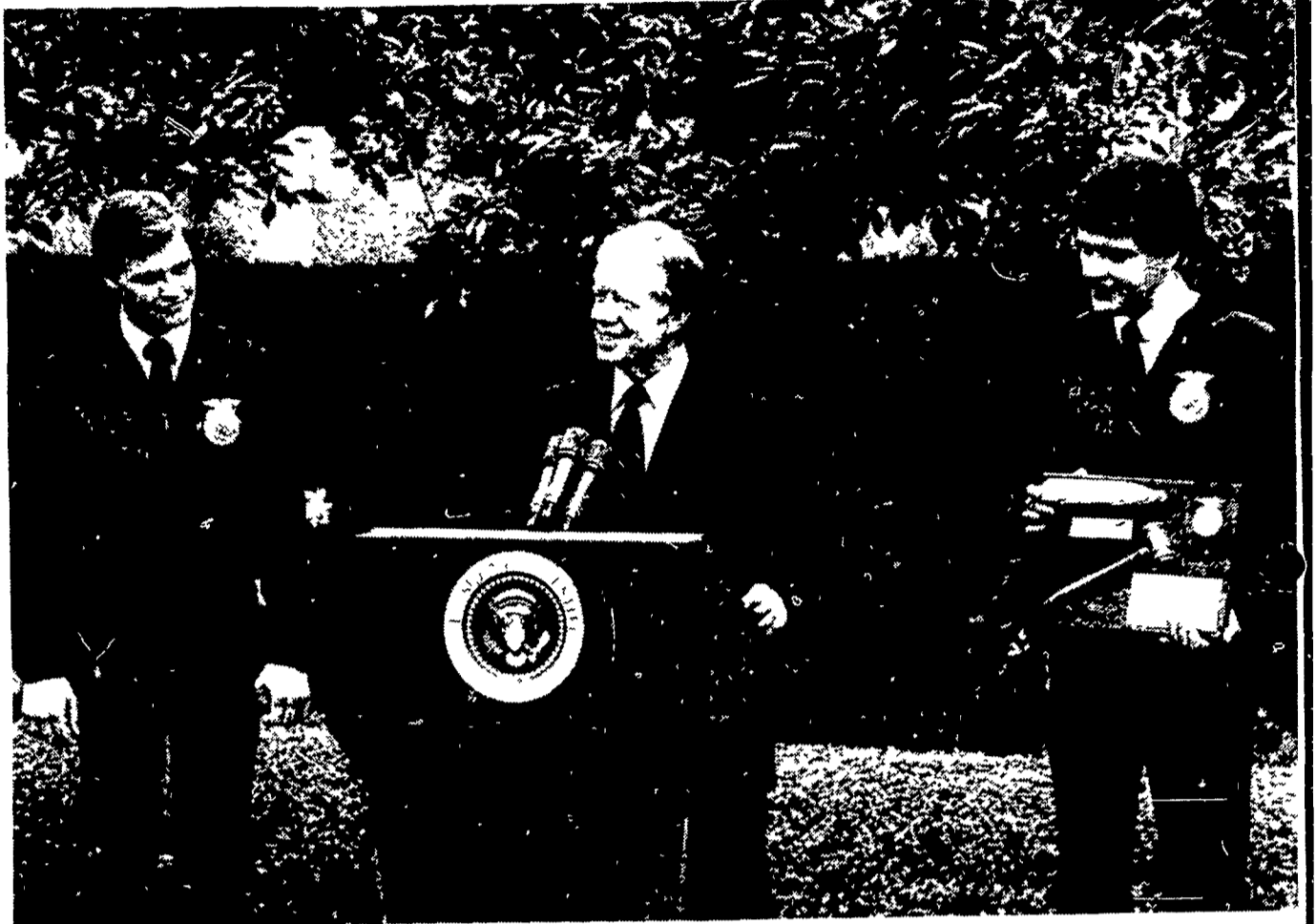
1980. Individual FFA chapters are encouraged to accept the President's challenge, and include energy conservation projects in their ongoing programs such as Building Our American Communities (BOAC), and local Public Speaking contests. In addition, it is hoped that chapters will see fit to aim new thrusts directly at what President Carter called “our war for energy security.”

At the 1980 State President's Conference, recognition will be given to the one FFA chapter which has answered the President's call for conservation most effectively.

Plans are also being made to recognize outstanding energy conservation measures on the state level. Both levels of judging will utilize a panel of individuals from the White House, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Office of Education and others to determine the best efforts of chapters in energy conservation.

Included in the “action information” packet, mailed to FFA chapters upon request, will be ideas for chapter action, through programs to: increase energy efficiency in crop production, reduce home energy consumption, reduce highway fuel consumption, increase energy conservation awareness, increase energy efficiency in livestock production, and reduce school, business, factory and community building energy consumption.

A mailing including the request form for “action conservation will be made in chapters, states, and teacher commitment card and information” on energy late August to all FFA education institutions.



President Jimmy Carter issues his challenge to the State FFA Officers at the State President's Conference. Mark Sanborn, National FFA

President, is holding a plaque honoring the former Plains FFA Secretary. National FFA Secretary Kelly Grant is at left.

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