

EDITORIAL

Considering the source

Maybe if Archie Bunker had said it, we could shrug it off with the comment, "Consider the source."

Yes, if Archie had said it, it might even have been sort of funny. What you might expect. "We have every kind of mix you can have. I have a black. I have a woman, two Jews and a cripple."

Run it through as though it were coming from Archie. Can't you just hear him?

Archie Bunker. We despise his bigotry; we forgive him his ignorance; we like the guy because he really "means well." He makes us feel more enlightened, more broadminded than he, and that makes us feel good about ourselves.

We only wish we could say the same of James Watt. Quite the contrary, nothing he says or does tells us that "underneath it all, he's really a nice guy."

Because Watt is not a bumbling ignoramus, there's no reason to forgive him. He isn't a person deprived of advantages nor one lacking in opportunities to learn gentlemanly

behavior. He provides us plenty of reasons to despise him. He is callous, careless, and without compassion.

In accepting the post of Secretary of the Interior, he swore to protect the nation's natural resources; since assuming the position, he has made every effort to jeopardize our resources, to destroy conservation efforts that took twenty years to put into effect, and now denigrates members of a panel appointed to study his proposals to parcel out hundreds of square miles of coal-rich land, public land, under low-cost long-term leases.

James Watt behaves like Archie Bunker, talks like Archie Bunker, and thinks like Archie Bunker. Only more so. And Archie isn't Secretary of the Interior, nor a member of the Cabinet of the President of the United States. Archie never made any attempt to rise above his station.

Maybe the job James Watt is really best suited for is running a joint like Archie Bunker's Place. Seems as though he'd fit in there just fine.

Gone. and (hopefully) soon forgotten.