

Beyond Humphrey-Hawkins — Part 2

NEW YORK, April 10 (IPS) — Last week's IPS weekly examined the strategy behind Wall Street's announced plans to go beyond Humphrey-Hawkins — the omnibus blueprint for fascism in the U.S. Part I of this report summarized several pieces of slave labor legislation which compliment a revised Humphrey-Hawkins bill. Part II examines an additional significant slave labor bill and the zero-growth energy legislation of both the Democratic and Republican Parties. In addition, the report offers a comprehensive summary of the recently enacted Municipal Bankruptcy Act that could place bankrupt municipalities under a Federal court-supervised fascist austerity regimes.

Though Wall Street was forced to accept a tactical retreat in last week's battle with the working class around the Teamster strike, most of this legislation is logjammed in Congress. The Atlanticists still intend to carry out the beyond Humphrey-Hawkins strategy at the earliest possible opportunity.

Slave Labor Legislation

Supplementary Funding For Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Attached as a Rider to legislation providing for a nationwide flu inoculation program

Rider Sponsor - Senator William Proxmire (D. Wis)

This CETA rider provides \$1.2 billion for 310,000 public service jobs, basically at minimum wage. The CETA program has in the past been used by such municipalities as New York City to rehire laid-off workers onto their old jobs at highly reduced wages. The rider bill allocates \$528 million to fund 888,000 summer "community service" jobs for youth aged 14 to 21. Money for such programs in the past have created "community service" jobs to carry out the functions of such triaged public services as garbage collection, but at greatly reduced wages and efficiency as compared to professional sanitation services. Community patrols, amounting to community self-policing units, have also been created from such funds. The Rider also provides for \$55.9 million to set up 15,000 part-time jobs for low-income elderly. Similar jobs programs have established piece work sweat shops in the home of aged citizens.

The Senate passed the CETA funding and flu inoculation legislation April 9 by a vote of 61 to 7. Passage by the House is expected early next week. President Ford is supporting the bill.

Energy Legislation

Now pending in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are a group of "zero-growth" energy measures whose enactment would place a legislative ban on the continuation

of the U.S. industrial economy after 1980, with all efforts to maintain the material conditions for human existence effectively outlawed shortly thereafter.

At stake is a collaborative effort by the Rockefeller and Harriman and Rothschild banking groups to preserve the essence of capitalism as perceived from One Chase Manhattan Plaza by creating billions of dollars worth of technologically retrogressive, economically disastrous and thoroughly fascist boon-doggles under the rubric of "energy conservation and development."

All the legislation discussed here is premised on a Rockefeller-commissioned study by the Energy Resource and Development Administration (ERDA), "A National Plan for Energy Research, Development and Demonstration: Creating Energy Choices for the Future." The supporters of the most recent version of the report were revealed in detail in the late March edition of the ERDA Newsletter, and were summarized by Deputy Administrator Robert W. Fri in a February 17 speech before the assembled New York Security Analysts.

Fri spoke in glowing terms of "the emergence of one or more whole new industries," each "a golden opportunity for the smart investor" — coal, shale oil, fission, and the solar and geothermal fantasy schemes of the "zero-growth" advocate Dr. Barry Commoner.

"According to one of the scenarios we have developed for the year 2000, we anticipate the need for 450 nuclear power plants of 1000 Megawatts each, including 80 breeder reactor plants: 400 geothermal power plants of 100 Megawatts each: 220 coal-fired power plants of 1000 Megawatts each: 140 synthetic oil and gas plants each producing the equivalent of 50,000 barrels of oil a day: 15 million electric automobiles: 10 to 15 million solar heated homes, a supporting infrastructure including mines, transportation and delivery systems..."

And the net result of this \$.5 trillion worth of "development?" "Major changes in end use systems," said Fri, "to achieve a 25 per cent reduction in demand growth." Notably, despite the announcement of major advances by the Division of Controlled Thermonuclear Reactions and other officials, the most honorable Mr. Fri did not mention the word fusion once in his speech.

The Energy Independence Authority Act

Sponsor

Sen. Paul Fannin (R-Ariz)

The Rockefeller boondoggle bill officially calls for \$100 million to be spent in the next decade for the creation of labor intensive work camps ("plants") for development of shale oil, coal, solar power, geothermal power and fission. But reports issued and speeches given by the Vice-President, by his office's spokesmen, and by his own spokesmen at Bankers Trust in New York, mention an \$800 billion figure through the year 2000. Identifying every energy source but fusion as a subject for investment, the Rockefeller bill focuses on none of them. What is produced in these ventures

apart from stocks, bonds, mortgages, acceptances and political power is a matter of difference to financiers, so long as the energy resources are developed "independent" of the needs of existing industrial capacity, working class life and related essential scientific considerations of human survival.

Energy Conservation Act of 1976

Sponsors

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass)
Sen. Ernest Hollinger (D-NC)
Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash)
Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash)

The bill's measures involve legally-mandatory use of home insulation, storm windows, etc. for what it terms "thermal efficiency" in the working class home and industrial plant. It mandates industrial installation of what it terms "heat recuperation devices," electrical resistance heating, and heat pumps. It mandates the installation of "solar heating units" in residences, business and industry.

According to a Kennedy aide, Stewart, budget hearings on such energy conservation are well underway, with the Congressional Joint Economic Committee expected to approve required funds. The Kennedy energy-consumer destruction act specifies a 410 billion loan guarantee and interest subsidy program for nationwide proliferation of its contraptions in fiscal 1977, to be administered through the Federal Housing Administration Title I, the Home Improvement Loan fund and the Small Business Administration Loan fund. It also provides between \$200 and \$250 million for research.

"Using less energy will strengthen the economy," Stewart maintained, "since a worker will save money on high cost energy that can be spent on other consumer goods." Stewart even managed to state that a 25 percent contraction in the U.S. economy would result in not only more consumer goods for workers to purchase — but more jobs! "Sheet metal workers were excited as Hell at the prospect of making all those solar reflectors," he qualified.

In the future, Mr. Stewart hopes to "get utilities to stop advocating the use of energy, by forcing them to perform

load management and electrical demand studies.... Rate reforms (upward) must also be implemented, to discourage high industrial use of electricity." It is the genius of congressional organizers like Mr. Stewart that they may talk without revealing knowledge of even their own statements of five minutes earlier.

In the House of Representatives, a carbon copy of the Kennedy bill is now pending along with a very similar "Energy Conservation Implementation Act" sponsored by Robert Drinan (D-Mass) and Harley Staggers (D-Va). Funding for this bill is currently designated at a 410 million for research and development with a loan guarantee program similar to the Senate version, and other revisions expected soon to make the correspondence with Kennedy's version complete.

The Petroleum Industry Competition Act of 1976

Sponsors

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass)
Sen. Philip Hart (D-Mich)
Sen. James Abouresk (D-S.Dak)
Sen. John Tunney (D-Cal)
Sen. Robert Packwood (R-Ore)

The bill requires straightforward vertical divestiture of oil company interests in exploration, refining, marketing and distribution facilities. This apparent anti-monopoly measure, which has eliminated horizontal divestiture provisions of earlier versions for quicker passage, would inevitably mean that all oil company investment decision-making would become firmly incorporated into the fascist "National Planning" provisions of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill and the corporatist structures which it and the related Financial Institutions Act of Wisconsin House Democrat Henry Reuss establish for such purposes.

This Kennedy legislation was passed by a 4 to 3 vote of the Senate Anti-Trust and Monopoly Subcommittee April 1 into the hands of the full Judiciary Committee. No hearing date has yet been set because it is competing of the committee's attention with the notorious Senate Bill No. 1, the police state Criminal Code reform legislation also sponsored by Senator Kennedy.