

Sorenson Defeat Shows Anti-Carter Forces' Strength on Capitol Hill

Just days before being sworn in as the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter suffered a swift political defeat at the hands of Constitutional forces in this country.

On Monday, Theodore Sorensen was forced to withdraw his name from consideration as Carter's Director of Central Intelligence rather than face certain public rejection by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Only four days prior to Sorensen's announcement to the opening session of the Intelligence Committee's confirmation hearings Monday morning, no national media network or journal had the slightest idea that the Sorensen appointment was in trouble. Over the weekend media speculation and rumors erupted that the would-be CIA director's confirmation would be voted down by a majority of Republicans and Democrats on the Committee.

At the Monday hearings, Sorensen bewailed what he complained were "scurrilous and unfounded attacks which have been anonymously circulated," before conceding his defeat. Had Sorensen gone through with the hearings, a stream of witnesses were prepared to testify to his unsuitability for the CIA post, including the U.S. Labor Party, the Fusion Energy Foundation, the conservative Liberty Lobby, the American Conservative Union, and former U.S. Ambassador to Chile Edward Korry, who recently laid bare the Rockefeller-Kennedy conspiracy to destabilize Latin America at Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearings on Secretary of State designate Cyrus Vance (see Korry testimony in Executive Intelligence Review Vol. IV No.3).

Sorensen's defeat inflicted heavy damage on the Carter Presidential "prestige," and at the same time gave impetus to anti-Carter circles in the press and Congress to escalate their efforts to restrain the new government's push toward a confrontationist foreign policy and a low energy domestic policy. The day of Carter's Inauguration New York City's weekly *Village Voice* hit the newsstands with a full-page article entitled "Impeach Carter!" Even before the new President took office, the *Voice* stated he has done more to merit impeachment than Richard Nixon ever did while in office. The same day, the *Washington Post* reminded Carter of Nixon's fate in a lead editorial. Several days before the Jan. 16 *Post* ran a lengthy expose on the Carter Cabinet's interlocking directorship with David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission, pointing out that 13 members of the Carter team from the President, Vice President on

down have been Trilateral members since the Commission's inception in 1973. The following day, the *Post* explored the Carter Administration's connections to Wall Street law firms and financial interests associated with the Rockefeller brothers. Heretofore what has been common knowledge throughout Europe, where Carter's Trilateral Commission connections have drawn considerable concern from leading media, has only been made public in the U.S. via publications of NSIPS, the U.S. Labor Party and its collaborators.

Nonplussed by the public show of opposition to Carter's Trilateralism, Carterites in Congress and the press are raising a hue and cry designed to drown out their critics. During the aborted Intelligence Committee hearings Monday, Sen. George McGovern (D-SD) took the witness stand to accuse members of the Committee of carrying out a "McCarthyite" attack on Sorensen. Committee chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Ha) responded by rebuking McGovern for impugning the Committee's integrity in order to silence him. The following day, the *New York Times* echoed McGovern's spurious charges by editorializing against the "subterranean stream of accusations made against him (Sorensen)," and mooted elsewhere that the "far right" was responsible for his defeat.

Not even the *Times*, however, has been able to dismiss the ominous implications which Sorensen's defeat holds for the future of the Carter regime. "Not since the Republican-controlled Senate of 1925 rejected President Collidge's nomination of Charles Warren for Attorney General has a President been turned back by a Congress controlled by his own party," the Jan. 18 *Times* admitted. The *Washington Post* reported the Sorensen affair as "a painful public display of Carter's limited influence on Capitol Hill" and "an omen of the political realities" facing the Carter Administration.

Carter's first political bloody nose seriously destabilized him. After proclaiming his unequivocal support and confidence in Sorensen on Sunday, he did not issue a statement on his nominee's withdrawal until Monday evening, nearly 12 hours after Sorensen's own statement.

The Sorensen debacle has significantly heartened anti-Carter conservatives of both major parties. Senate insiders report that many members are thinking twice about the criteria by which to judge Carter's other appointees. On Jan. 20 the Senate postponed action on three Carter designates — Griffin Bell as Attorney General; Ray Marshall as Labor Secretary; and Joe Califano as