

**EXCLUSIVE****NATIONAL REPORT**

# Carter To Kill Fusion Power; Cut Energy Consumption 30%

by Carol Lerner

President Jimmy Carter will institute 20 percent across-the-board cuts in next year's fusion research budget, three separate high-level Washington sources have revealed. When Carter announces his energy program before Congress April 20, the sources said he will propose cuts which will make the development of fusion power in the U.S. impossible.

John O'Leary, head of the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) made clear on the Feb. 13 "Issues and Answers" television program that this destruction of the U.S. research-and-development capability is part of a "negative growth" energy policy. O'Leary, an aide to Presidential Adviser James Schlesinger when he headed the Atomic Energy Commission, called for a "30 percent cutback in U.S. energy consumption" backed up by high energy taxes, a phaseout of natural gas for industrial use, and mandatory "conservation." The FEA has already set up a national committee to "monitor" the fifty most energy-intensive industries in the U.S.

The Carter administration's plan to bury all high-technology energy production follows line-for-line the script laid out in "The Unfinished Agenda," a report commissioned by the Rockefeller family and funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Issued Feb. 2 by the Fund's Environmental Agenda Task Force, the report is a blueprint for destroying the nation's industries by eliminating nuclear energy and instituting fivefold increases in energy prices — converting wealth into debt service.

"Dr. Schlesinger has currently assigned one of his staffers to thoroughly study the Rockefeller Brothers Fund report," a spokesman for the FEA has said. Presidential Adviser James Schlesinger found the report's recommendations "right on target," the official added.

## *Fusion Scrapped*

The cuts in fusion will destroy overnight every important U.S. fusion research center and send hundreds of the world's most advanced scientific cadre to the unemployment lines.

Funding has been cut so severely that even by the federal Energy Research and Development Administration's (ERDA) own projections, the U.S. could never develop fusion power. The Ford Administration's fusion budget was already so low that ERDA estimated that fusion could not be achieved until well into the next century. The new budget will slash \$60 million from the magnetic confinement program and over \$25 million in the laser fusion area out of current programs of \$304 million and \$127 million respectively. The fast breeder fission reactor program aimed at building a prototype commercial reactor will be entirely scrapped, and breeder

reactor plants, like the Clinch River Plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn., will be crippled by a reduced budget.

Carter officials initially proposed to salvage the Princeton Tokamak (TFTR) fusion project, now in an engineering stage, at the expense of other basic research programs, but ERDA officials, the sources said, are now considering an across-the-board approach. Either way the fusion program is down the drain. A top official from EBASCO, the prime contractor of the Princeton Tokamak, warned that any delay in the program may force them to abandon it.

Beginning an effort to win Congress to the "scrap fusion" perspective, the House Science and Technology Subcommittee held a briefing this week where fusion was roundly condemned. Princeton University physicist Dr. Frank Van Hoppel, addressing the Energy Subcommittee, attacked the fast breeder reactor as "unnecessary" and "unsafe." Energy Subcommittee member Rep. Thomas Harkin (D-Iowa) endorsed Van Hoppel's comments and suggested that fusion development be postponed until 2040 or 2050 so that funding can be diverted to solar power development. Only Dr. Norman Rasmussen, Chairman of the Nuclear Energy Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, defended nuclear energy. Rasmussen said that those who attack nuclear energy as "unsafe" are using the same logic as those who centuries earlier attacked the use of iron because it produced the spear.

## *The Alliance to Save Energy*

The progressive elimination of advanced technology is to be sold to the American population in the guise of "conservation" by the newly formed Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), in a statement issued for an ASE press conference Feb. 10. President Carter welcomed the "timely creation of ASE" and announced that conservation — whose initiators include Schlesinger, Henry Kissinger, Sens. Hubert Humphrey and Charles Percy, and David and Laurence Rockefeller.

The ASE program, like that of the Trilateral Commission, demands that the U.S. reduce its "vulnerability to the (OPEC) oil cartel" and calls for an end to investments in energy development, particularly "heat-wasting" nuclear power. Instead the ASE posits the notion that energy can be produced through energy conservation. Following this same logic, ASE spokesman and aide to Sen. Percy, Christopher Palmer complained, "One of the main problems has been to find a way to raise the price of energy."

The ASE also urges the development of solar energy and similar "soft energies" and calls for an "energy

bank" to finance the insulation of old houses in order to make solar power feasible.

Although not serving in any official capacity, Ralph Nader profusely congratulated Senators Percy and Humphrey at the ASE press conference for "launching this major national effort," and four days later, met privately with Jimmy Carter to map out a national conservation campaign. "I need your advice. I will welcome and use it," Carter told Nader, according to the Baltimore Sun. In return Nader graciously noted that this was the first

time that an administration had ever listened to him.

It is thought that Nader will be used to bring congressional conservatives into the conservative campaign. Of 30 congressmen on the ASE advisory board, nearly a dozen, including its honorary co-chairman Rep. John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.), are from conservative circles not aligned with the Rockefeller interests. These congressmen, including Sens. S.I. Hayakawa (R-Cal.) and Dewey Bartlett (R-Okla.), joined the advisory board on the basis of an innocuous "Dear Colleague" letter, according to an aide Sen. Lawton Chiles.

## "To Convince Every American"

*The following are excerpts from a press release issued by Senator Charles Percy and Hubert Humphrey at the Feb. 10 press conference held to announce the formation of the Alliance to Save Energy.*

...If we are to have an effective national energy conservation effort, there must be a different approach and a new definition, one which could capture widespread popular support.

Economic facts are a compelling argument for energy conservation. "Conservation energy" — based on more efficient and economical use of the energy we have now — is an enormous, untapped alternative energy source that can reduce our dependence on expensive foreign oil and dwindling domestic energy supplies....

...One of our chief tasks is to convince every American — homeowners, apartment-dwellers, motorists, business leaders, labor union officials, government officials — that it is actually far less expensive in the long run to invest to save energy than it is to purchase energy....

We believe that about 35 Quads of "conservation energy," which equals about 16 million barrels of oil a day, can be "produced" by 1985. This would provide for an average energy growth of about 3.5 per cent per year over the next ten years....

These 35 Quads of "conservation energy" represent the largest and least expensive source of new energy in the United States. It is time to make this a national goal, and to seek it as aggressively as we seek more expensive energy sources...

## Nader Endorses ASE

*The following statement was made by Ralph Nader at the Feb. 10 press conference announcing the formation of the Alliance to Save Energy.*

Senators Percy and Humphrey should be congratulated for launching this major national effort for energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy. Energy efficiency is our greatest immediate source of energy. We can reduce inflation, diminish pollution, defend the consumer and make our economy more efficient and competitive overseas. Mobilizing the public to secure more efficient automobiles, building operation and construction, industrial processes and consumer technologies will relieve greatly the pressures that are placed on our society by an energy scarcity based on waste. For this group to succeed requires the support and attention of many Americans.

## Carter Welcomes ASE, "Permanent Sabotage"

*The following are excerpts of a statement issued by Jimmy Carter at the Feb. 10 press conference announcing the formation of the Alliance to Save Energy.*

Saving energy must be a major national priority. It is one of America's greatest challenges.

I want to welcome the timely creation of the private, non-profit Alliance to Save Energy which is being announced today. This organization is dedicated to the concept that there is a new, inexpensive and accessible resource: conservation energy...

I have asked Vice President Mondale to serve as honorary co-chairman of the Alliance to save Energy ... As I said in my address to the nation last week, we must face the fact that the energy shortage is permanent ... Conservation will be the centerpiece of our national energy policy ... I'm confident that the Alliance to Save Energy will play a significant role in implementing our national energy policy...

## Who's In ASE

*The following is a listing of the officers of the ASE. A partial listing of Board and Advisory Board members follows.*

*Chairman:* Senator Charles H. Percy  
*Co-Chairman:* Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
*Honorary Chairmen:* Former President Gerald R. Ford;  
Vice President Walter F. Mondale  
*Honorary Advisor:* The Honorable James R. Schlesinger

### *Advisory Board:*

*Chairman:* Dr. Henry A. Kissinger  
*Honorary Chairman:* Representative Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
*Honorary Co-Chairman:* Representative John J. Rhodes  
*Honorary Chairwoman for Industry and Commerce:* Secretary Juanita Kreps  
*Honorary Chairman for Labor:* Secretary F. Ray Marshall  
*Honorary Chairwoman for Housing:* Secretary Patricia Harris  
*Honorary Chairman for Transportation:* Secretary Brock Adams

*Members of Advisory Board:*

Ambassador Anne Armstrong\*, *Ambassador to Great Britain*

Lester Brown, *President, Worldwatch Institute*

John Gardner, *Chairman, Common Cause*

Senator Henry M. Jackson, *Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee*

Ambassador Sol Linowitz

George Meany\*, *President, AFL-CIO*

Peter Peterson, *Chairman of the Board, Lehman Brothers*

Russell Peterson\*, *President, New Directions*

Eugene Pokorny\*, *Vice President of Cambridge Reports*

David Rockefeller, *Chairman, Chase Manhattan Bank*  
Laurance Rockefeller, *President, Rockefeller Foundation*

John Sawhill\*, *President, New York University*

Russell Train, *Former Director of Environmental Protection Agency*

Leonard Woodcock\*, *President, UAW*

Frank Zarb, *Former FEA Administrator*

\*Board of Directors

## Carter's Congressional Energy Legislation

Senate Bill introduced by Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn) and 14 other Senators on Feb. 10 for the "rapid commercialization of solar energy." The bill would establish a six-year program under the auspices of the General Services Administration and the Defense Department to install 15,000 solar hot water and space heating systems across the country in Federal structures.

In motivating his bill, Humphrey said that "Solar energy is indeed far closer to economic reality than some of my colleagues and their constituents realize." This bill, he emphasized, is only the beginning of "a major push to ensure the rapid commercialization of solar technologies." All provisions of the bill are mandatory.

House Bill introduced on Jan. 4 by Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R-NY) and Pattison (D-NY) entitled the "Nuclear Energy Reappraisal Act," would end nuclear fission power generation in the U.S. through the following provisions:

"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is directed to cease, beginning on the first day after the date of the enactment of this Act, the granting of construction licenses or limited work authorization for the construction of nuclear fission powerplants and the granting of licenses for the export of nuclear fission powerplants." This termination will remain in effect until a "proper evaluation" has been made of the powerplants' "safety, environmental, and proliferation consequences."

"Beginning five years and one hundred and eighty days after the date of the enactment of this Act...each existing nuclear fission powerplant and each such plant under construction shall not be operated at any time at more than 60 percent of the licensed core power level of such plant and shall thereafter be derated at a rate of 10 per centum per year...and shall not be operated at any time in excess of such reduced core power level."

Senate Bill introduced by Jennings Randolph (D-W.V) with Huddleston (D-Ky), Humphrey (D-Minn) and Jackson (D-Wa) on Jan. 4 cited as the "Natural Gas and Petroleum Conservation and Coal Utilization Act of 1977." This bill would convert electric power plants now using oil or natural gas for fuel to coal or coal derivatives obtained through coal gassification or to wood or other bio-mass. *There is no mention anywhere in the bill of*

*using nuclear energy as a power source.* In "furtherance of national energy self-sufficiency consistent with applicable environmental requirements" the bill requires:

"The (mandatory) capacity to use indigenous energy resources of the United States in lieu of imported energy supplies by the substitution of coal and other fuels for natural gas and petroleum products as the primary energy source for new electric powerplants and new major fuel-burning installations.

"The Congress finds that any new electric powerplant or any new major fuel-burning installation shall be deemed in compliance with the purposes of this title if such powerplant or installation has the capability to use coal and utilizes coal as its primary energy source in conformance with applicable environmental requirements."

Two Senate Bills introduced by Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) on Jan. 10, entitled "National Energy Mobilization Act of 1977," and "Energy Policy Act of 1977."

The Mobilization Act would establish an Energy Mobilization Board in the Executive Office of the President. The Board will consist of a Chairman and two members appointed by the President, with powers of subpoena for witnesses, books, papers, and documents and the power to prescribe its own operations and organization. The Bill states that "The Board may make such rules respecting its organization and procedures as it deems necessary...Subpoenas may be issued over the signature of the Chairman of the Board, or of any voting members designated by him..." And, furthermore, "The Chairman may appoint, with the approval of the Board, an executive director who shall exercise such powers and duties as may be delegated to him by the Board."

Its duties are: "To establish specific targets for domestic energy resources which shall include (establishing) a level of imports which is consistent with the national interest, and shall specify the necessary domestic production levels of all energy resources, the necessary conversion of utilities and industry from oil and natural gas to coal or another plentiful energy resource consistent with the domestic production targets, the buildup of specified energy resource stockpiles, especially oil, in storage."

"To monitor the activities of the private and governmental entities to determine the progress made by them