

# Scoreboard On Carter's Program In Congress

## Carter Adm. Proposals

## Congressional Action

### Legislation

#### *Water Projects, Feb. 20*

Just as the Western states' governors met in conference, the Carter Administration announced cuts in 19 dams, irrigation and other water projects across the country, some of which were 90 percent completed. In mid-March, Carter announced further cuts, bringing the total of cut projects to over 30.

Immediately after the cuts were announced, the Senate Budget Committee, led by Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Me), attacked the cuts as "smacking of the imperial presidency." On March 30, House Majority Leader Rep. Jim Wright (D-Tex) sponsored a resolution rejecting Carter's cuts which then passed in the House Budget Committee; this vote reversed a previous vote that only rejected one-half of Carter's proposed cuts. On April 6, the Senate Budget Committee voted to restore most of the projects cut by the Administration.

#### *Nuclear Energy Programs*

Feb. 22 Carter announced crippling cuts in federal programs for the development of nuclear fusion energy and the liquid metal fast breeder reactor.

Both the House and the Senate have refused to act to approve Carter's cuts until after his April 20 energy policy statement. Throughout February and March, the House Science and Technology Committee held hearings documenting the urgency to develop both fusion and the breeder, under the leadership of Reps. Flowers (D-Ala), Goldwater (R-Ariz) and Myers (R-Pa). A group of other Congressmen began circulating a letter calling for reinstatement of the cuts in fusion, which now has endorsements from Congressmen representing twelve states. Staffs of the Senate and House Appropriations public works subcommittee have reported that the fusion and breeder cuts will be restored by their committees regardless of action elsewhere. During hearings on the Administration proposed legislation that would create a distinct Energy Department, Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) challenged White House energy Czar James Schlesinger to respond to U.S. Labor Party testimony on the intent and effect of his policies. In hearings before the Senate Energy Committee April 4, Sen. Dewey Bartlett described Henry Kissinger, then testifying, as Schlesinger's "twin."

### *Technology*

Carter's cuts in energy program and defense research and development; his opposition to the British-French Concorde.

In early March, the entire House voted to approve funds for research and development of an American supersonic jet, the SST. The House Science and Technology Committee report that motivated the expenditure emphasized the need to keep U.S. research and development capacities intact.

### *Elections*

Carter proposed electoral "reform" legislation that would institute nationwide on-site same-day voter registration, mail registration, Federal control of all Congressional elections, etc...

After an initial endorsement, the Republican Party unanimously opposed the plan through a statement issued by GOP national chairman William Breck and at hearings on the plan before the House Administration Committee. Rep. Wiggins (R-Cal) said at hearings that Carter was "rejecting 180 years of history," that the plan was unconstitutional, and invited vote fraud.

## Carter Adm. Proposals

As part of his economic "stimulation" program, Carter proposed a \$50 per-person tax rebate, and demanded that the legislation be passed before the Easter recess.

Carter demanded that his \$4 billion public works jobs program be passed quickly, before the Easter recess.

The Carter Administration has called for the creation and funding of a "new International Monetary Fund facility" that will reportedly take over bad loans held by the New York commercial banks.

Carter Administration proposed legislation to make compliance with the boycott by U.S. firms illegal, thereby disrupting economic relations with Arab states and OPEC.

Carter Administration and pro-environmentalists courts have imposed rulings that will severely weaken industry.

Pro-Carter Congressmen drove Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex), chairman of House Assassination Committee from his position for his attempt to fire staff director Richard Sprague.

## Congressional Action

### *Tax Rebate*

The original Democratic sponsors of the measure have bolted from support of it. One former sponsor, Sen. Haskell (D-Cal) has said the proposal "was like shoveling money out of airplane." Action on the rebate has been postponed until after the recess. On April 5, Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va) announced that if Carter tried to impound funds allocated for the water project the rebate would be killed in Congress

### *Public Works CETA Jobs*

On April 5, a joint House-Senate conference on the bill and other legislation "collapsed." Sources on Capitol Hill reported that Congressional leaders has decided to stall the measure in late March. At that time, the House leadership refused to appoint conference on the bill, opposing a \$9 billion Water Pollution measure attached to the Senate bill and backed by environmentalists. Days later the House passed amendments to Water Pollution statutes which had been strongly opposed by the Nader lobby.

### *Bailout Of N.Y. Banks*

A series of hearings in March and April in the House Banking and Currency Committee exposed the Administration's policy to bailout the N.Y. banks. Statements and questions of Reps. St. Germain (D-RI), Annunzio (D-Ill), Hansen (R-Io), Hanley (D-NY), Rousselot (R-Cal), and others confronted federal and banking officials with the implications of their policies. The Senate Budget Committee recommended a \$400 million cut in funds requested by Carter; a Senate Appropriations staffer said the programs will never pass in the Senate even if the House passes it. The House passed it with 95 abstentions and less than a majority in favor.

### *Anti-Arab Boycott Legislation*

In the opinion of Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis), an amendment to the legislation proposed by Sen. Harrison Schmitt (R-NM) and passed in committee by 8 to 7 has eliminated the impact of the bill.

### *Clear Air Act*

In late March, the Senate passed amendments to the Clean Air Act that environmentalists charge "gut" the power of the Act over industry.

### *House Assassination Investigation*

Under pressure from a majority of House, Sprague then resigned.