

# Congress Capitulates On Energy Dept., Carter Hardens Policy

Following in the cowardly footsteps of the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives approved June 3, by a vote of 310 to 20, the Carter Administration's proposal to establish a superagency with sweeping powers over all energy and energy-related policy. The Department of Energy bill, the keystone of Carter's "no-energy" program, will now go to a House-Senate conference committee, which is expected to produce a version for final Congressional passage within a week.

The House's passage of the Energy Department proposal after only one full day of floor debate, with only minor modification, is a significant setback for opponents of the Administration's overall energy package. This defeat underscores the absolute failure of the "step-by-step" approach being employed by Carter's Whig opponents, in and out of Congress. Once in existence, the department will provide the Administration with its most important institutional weapon for enforcing the destruction of the country's industrial and agricultural infrastructure under cover of "conserving scarce resources." Moreover, the Congressional capitulation to Carter on this crucial issue has convinced the Administration that it can now move to "strengthen" its energy program and get it through Congress more rapidly than originally anticipated.

This shift was signalled earlier this week by release of a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report criticizing the Carter Administration's energy program as inadequate for achieving the energy-conservation goals it set. Alice Rivlin, a former Brookings Institution fellow who now heads up the CBO, told reporters May 31 that if Congress wants to pursue the goals of reduced gasoline consumption, and curtailed dependence on foreign oil imports outlined by the President, then "the choice is either a tougher plan or a more distant timetable." "There has been a lot of talk of 'sacrifice' or of the 'moral equivalent of war,' Rivlin complained, "but one doesn't see it in (Carter's) plan."

Rivlin's outburst was immediately echoed by Senator Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill.). In an interview in the June 2 editions of the *Chicago Daily News* and *Chicago Sun Times*, Stevenson railed at Carter for not being tough enough on energy. "When Carter broached the energy proposal," Stevenson said, "it appeared to be with the attitude, 'This is going to be war.' Now, it is more like a picnic....Much of the urgency is gone....Carter should have declared, 'This is Pearl Harbor,' and gone to the people with his program."

According to the Chicago papers, "Stevenson also spoke with deep concern about the Soviet potential for creating havoc because of the West's dependence on imported oil. 'I hesitate to talk about this, because I don't want to sound like a hawk...but the fact is that the turbulent world is occupied by Russia, with its global designs, already occupying one-eighth of land mass of the planet, already the world's greatest oil producer ... ?

think it's a Pearl Harbor, dammit!' " Stevenson concluded by threatening that if Carter doesn't become a "stronger" President, then "Congress will take the bit in its own teeth."

Rivlin's and Stevenson's "criticisms" of Carter are deliberately intended to set the stage for Carter's Congressional operatives such as Stevenson himself, to push through a "tougher" version of the Administration's energy program — with the Administration's full behind-the-scenes complicity.

In fact, Carter and soon-to-be Energy Czar Schlesinger met with the House Commerce subcommittee on Energy and Power Wednesday morning just before it opened two weeks of mark-up on most of the non-tax components of the Administration's package. Carter's message to the subcommittee was: "I hope the Congress will draft an even stronger package than the one I presented."

The subcommittee, chaired by Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich), has been quick to oblige. Dingell yesterday introduced an amendment which would turn the Administration's proposed home insulation program from a voluntary into a mandatory one, while extending it to include not only private residences, but apartments, condominiums, etc. Other Carter Congressmen, such as Rep. Toby Moffett (D-Conn) are vowing to toughen up other parts of the package.

In the face of such Congressional compliance, the Administration has now decided to speed up its original timetable for securing enactment of its energy package.

Following a tete-a-tete with the President June 2, House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass) announced that he had "set a deadline" of July 13 for Dingell's subcommittee to finish the mark-up, with a view to full House passage by the end of that month. According to an aide to the subcommittee, "The members haven't been able to decide where they stand on any of the issues they're dealing with in mark-up. Hearings just ended last Friday. They've been deluged with information and what they're trying to do now is to clear the fog out of their heads just so they can figure out where they are."

The Administration is also moving to create an intensified climate of hysteria about the energy crisis to ensure that its timetable runs on schedule. To this end, the Office of Technology Assessment, dominated by pro-Carter members of Congress such as Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass), will shortly issue a report claiming that unless the Carter program is enacted, there will be "depressions, revolutions and even wars." Though the report is still in the drafting stage, an OTA staff member already briefed the House Ad Hoc Committee on Energy on the report's most hysteria-mongering aspects prior to the House vote on the Energy Department.

While a number of conservatives objected to the Department of Energy bill during the House debate, emphasizing the inherent dangers in giving its director such unprecedented powers over the vital question of

energy policy, none addressed the fact that the Carter energy program and the Administration's fundamentally-interlinked push for nuclear confrontation are *impeachable* offenses. The House's overwhelming approval of the Energy Department bill combined with the

Administration's speed-up timetable for passage of the overall energy package provide ample evidence that unless Carter's Congressional opposition summons up the courage to go for impeachment, any other form of resistance will be quickly steamrolled.

## Carter Appoints Trilateral Member For Nuclear Sabotage

The Carter Administration's announced appointment this week of Gerald C. Smith as Ambassador-at-Large in charge of international attempts to control development of nuclear technology, is the latest move in a game of international bluff whose aim is as much political and economic as it is energy-related.

The Smith appointment is a blackmail and arm-twisting operation, scripted by the Trilateral Commission before Carter stepped into the White House, to sabotage the growing array of international economic cooperation and industrial "technology transfers." The U.S. Administration's official line is the same RAND-Trilateral line that the development of nuclear energy in Third World countries opens the door to nuclear weapons "proliferation." Smith himself, whose nuclear energy expertise appears limited to service as Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Chief negotiator, is an executive member of David Rockefeller's notorious Trilateral Commission.

With the Smith appointment, the Carter Administration is trying to persuade the world to agree with the incompetent and suicidal Carter energy policy, in particular the ban on the development of nuclear fuel reprocessing centers and the related fast-breeder reactor. The same Rockefeller family financed oil companies such as Exxon which dominate the current world petroleum markets, and hold major U.S. coal reserves as well as uranium for existing light water generation reactors, stand to lose control of international energy prices if the fast-breeder and reprocessing technologies become widely available. (See EIR, Vol. IV, No. 7).

Increasingly, advanced industrial countries such as Japan, West Germany, France, and Britain have turned to nuclear transfer agreements to provide long-term nuclear energy development to the developing countries. The multi-billion dollar deal between West Germany and

Brazil which provides Brazil with complete fuel cycle independence and a similar arrangement between France and Pakistan have been the major targets of intense Carter Administration pressure.

Reports in the last 24 hours, initiated in the *New York Times*, indicate that following a Paris meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Vance, French Foreign Minister Guiringaud told Vance that France was "postponing" delivery of critical blueprints for the Pakistan reprocessing facility, citing the "political instability" of the Bhutto government as the reason. If confirmed, the French "delay" would allow the U.S. to greatly increase pressure on the Schmidt government in West Germany to back down on its sale of reprocessing technology to Brazil, a move which, if successful, would destroy European and particularly West German credibility and ability to enter into major international nuclear export contracts.

In the face of heavy political opposition to the Carter "proliferation" line from European, Japanese and developing countries, the U.S. has stepped up pressure to get the semblance of international compliance with the Trilateral anti-nuclear policy. This week in Argentina, long a proponent of peaceful nuclear development in Latin America, the Videla government called for a "reconsideration" of its previously pro-nuclear policy. The U.S. increased pressure on Argentina and Brazil the following day by signing the Tlatelolco Treaty to prohibit "nuclearization" of Latin America. With the exception of Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Guyana are now the only other non-signatories. Japanese sources report that the Carter Administration is also threatening that country, which is pressing development of reprocessing, with repeal of the Japan-American security treaty if the Fukuda government goes ahead with plans to complete the Tokai Muri reprocessing center.