

lined by Herman Kahn, of the Hudson Institute and Nelson Rockefeller's Commission of Critical Choices. Kahn began his speech by quickly conceding that "The U.S. needs new energy technologies, like the breeder, in the future. For now, we should go with what we have... We need 200 coal gasification plants. The good thing about coal is you need to repair the railroad system to ship it, and we have the ideal labor force to do the job. We should take the ghetto kids and put them into the country part time each week to repair the rail lines... And we already have an adequate employer of last resort in the private sector which means simply doing the dirty unpleasant jobs..."

Limits To Growth Trap

The "program" advanced by Kahn for Rockefeller has little to do with coal gasification for the moment but relays Rockefeller's new austerity in the context of a "limited development" idea. It expounds Rockefeller's policy of seducing labor and industry into adopting *short-term military and slave-labor austerity measures*, from the standpoint of expediency, which will mean raising energy prices into the stratosphere. Then, Rockefeller's 200 coal gasification projects would become "competitive" and feasible (the original blueprint of the Commission on Critical Choices).

The Clinch River decision itself is a reflection of this baited trap. The decision to go ahead with the project is a semi-victory because the \$150 million appropriation does not even fully restore President Ford's proposed \$237 million.

Other energy parcels passed through House committees in the past six days also reflect the danger of the trap. They include the House Ways and Means Committee's approval yesterday of Carter's tax on "new" domestic crude oil. Under this tax, consumers and industrial users would be gouged \$3.50 more per barrel in 1978, \$7.70 additional in 1979, and another \$3.00 in 1980. The definition of what constitutes "new oil" was simultaneously broadened by this heavily Carter-stacked Committee, which also defeated a plow-back investment credit for exploration and development. The full house voted down the President's recommendation to kill 16 dams and irrigation projects, and recommended an appropriation of \$10.2 billion to cover these programs, but the Senate later killed half of those projects to avoid a Carter veto.

Also last week, the House Commerce subcommittee on energy and power opposed Carter's proposed new ceiling of \$1.75 on all interstate natural gas, and instead got sucked into passing deregulation of all new gas — a move that plays straight into Rockefeller austerity gameplan.

Teller: Yes To Breeder In The Future

At a June 16 press conference, Edward Teller, Associate Director of Emirtus, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, University of California made contradictory statements typical of many supporters of the Carter Administration energy policy now answering to Rockefeller authority.

Promoting the Carter Administration line the former Atomic Energy Commissioner Director said, "Project PACER is an excellent idea. It is something we should definitely pursue. The resistance to this kind of thinking comes from the bad impression in the public mind from the bombing of Hiroshima." (Project PACER outlined the use of the development of nuclear bombs to develop clean, safe nuclear energy—ed.)

In answer to a reporter's question on the findings of Soviet scientists L. Rudakov, who most directly contributed to the USSR's E-beam developments, Teller claimed, "I never heard of him."

Later in the conference Teller stated, "We do not need the breeder reactor now. We should develop the thorium cycle — though it is not a breeder. . . We will demonstrate fusion within three years. At that time it will cost \$1,000 per kilowatt hour, and will not become economical before the 21st century. . . Therefore President Carter was right not to mention it in his (April 20) speech."

Teller then suggested the U.S. mass produce nuclear power plants. "They should be placed in harbor facilities where careful control and efficient construction would lead to their efficient shipping."

Teller acknowledged his own past opposition of nuclear power plant construction, but said the plants have now been shown to be safe. Third world countries Teller noted "desperately need a large expansion of energy supplies right away. The most effective means of supplying this expanded energy is to have the United States, Europe and Japan build a very large number of nuclear reactors, and make available the freed-up oil supplies to the underdeveloped countries."

Teller delivered an attack on environmentalists, by relating how India and Ceylon had employed DDT to wipe out malaria. Environmentalists then convinced the Ceylon government to prohibit DDT with the result that two million people contracted malaria. Ceylon resumed the use of DDT and reconquered the disease.

Teller further claimed that he personally had briefed the Washington D.C. press corps on the story. "You check this out, and write me a letter on what you find." The only response he received confirmed every detail of the story, and added others but was stamped "confidential for your use only." The letter was not allowed to be released to the press. "What would happen if some industry caused event should make two million people seriously ill? Do you think it would be spread all over the national news media? And yet in this case not a single newspaper in America picked up this story or said a word about it."

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