

Carter Attempts To Railroad Vote Fraud Package

The Carter Administration last week rallied its forces in Congress to railroad the stalled Universal Voter Registration through committee onto the House floor, simultaneously forcing a favorable vote on the Birch Bayh-Ted Kennedy bill to abolish the electoral college in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In what is reported as a "concession" made by Carter to partisan opposition to his measures which would destroy the U.S. electoral process, the Administration agreed with Democratic House leaders to amend the registration bill to make it "optional" in the upcoming 1978 elections. The maneuver was specifically designed to curb opposition, which has verged on exposing the Administration's role in last year's vote fraud, a move which would be tantamount to impeaching the illegitimate President.

Carter met early this week with the House Rules Committee where he announced that he wanted the Universal Voter Registration bill, which would legislate same-day voter registration, to be brought onto the House floor immediately. The bill had been indefinitely removed from the House legislative calendar nearly two months ago, after Democratic backers of the Administration warned Carter that they could not assure him of the bill's passage. The personalized arm-twisting by Carter, aided by House Majority leader Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.), resulted in a Rules Committee vote of 9-6, along party lines, to bring the bill to the floor. The bill will go to the floor with the Administration "concession," prompted by the bill's sponsor Frank Thompson (D-NJ).

The Rules Committee action came just one day after the House Administration Committee heard testimony from Federal Election Commission chairman Tom Harris on campaign financing. Harris cited the "success" which the FEC had found in administering the presidential public campaign financing legislation, and argued in favor of extending the current law to include Congressional campaigns, thereby greatly extending the powers of the FEC which is already acting as the Administration's private "plumbers unit."

While the Administration has sought to act with impunity to ram through a full package to institutionalize vote fraud, these attempts have not been met without opposition in Congress. That opposition, however, is not fully cognizant of how effective a well-coordinated campaign to expose Carter's "Achilles heel," the vote fraud and campaign scandals would be in terminating the Carter-Mondale Administration. The basis of such a discrediting, reaching far beyond the scale of Nixon's

Watergate, was hinted at in a series of developments throughout the past week.

Jeffrey St. John, a television reporter for station WRC, a Washington, D.C. affiliate to NBC, opened a line of fire against the Administration's illegal use of the FEC to destroy political opponents of the Administration. St. John reported that the FEC had been sent 11 boxes containing 200,222 letters and postcards from U.S. voters opposing the Carter-Mondale voter registration bill. The letters were sent, St. John continued, for the purpose of preparing an Administration's enemies list by the FEC. High on such a list, St. John claimed, are the U.S. Labor Party, the Liberty Lobby, and the Libertarian Party.

While the St. John story was being widely circulated on Capital Hill, Rep. Charles Wiggins (R-Cal) led an attack on the registration bill before the Rules Committee voted to bring it onto the House floor. Wiggins, a leading minority member on both the House Judiciary and Administration Committees, declared that "the penalties to the American people will be far greater than any conceivable benefits from the bill." Wiggins demonstrated how the legislation would contribute to "tremendous vote fraud" in the states of at least Illinois, Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania.

Wiggins broke from past GOP policy by accurately reporting to the committee on the extent of vote fraud in the Wisconsin 1976 elections, thereby destroying Walter Mondale's lying assertion that no vote fraud occurred in Wisconsin or Minnesota, two states where same-day registration is already in effect. Wiggins told the committee that the "GOP and a newspaper" had launched an investigation into the Wisconsin vote fraud and found a rate of fraud of 4-5 percent.

Despite such opposition, other aspects of the Carter-Mondale electoral package are moving smoothly through Congress. The Senate Judiciary Committee this week voted 9-8 in favor of bringing the Bayh bill to amend the Constitution to eliminate the electoral college to the Senate floor. A full 50 Senators, one-half of the upper house, is already co-sponsoring the amendment, which requires 67 votes to approve a Constitutional change. While Senate opponents to the move have threatened a filibuster, only 60 votes are needed to end such a debate on the Senate floor. With the Senate and House committee actions, the Administration has cleared two hurdles in its push to end democratic elections. The test for serious Congressional opposition will occur during House floor debate on the registration bill, scheduled for July 21.