

Labor Leaders Falling For Carter Deals

The pro-growth leadership of the American labor movement did nothing but watch as the U.S. Senate voted earlier this week to cut funding for the breeder reactor program.

According to sources on Capitol Hill, labor had played the decisive role in bringing a vote on the breeder to the floor of both Houses of Congress. Only two weeks ago, the AFL-CIO, led by its Building Trades department, had engaged in an extensive lobbying campaign on behalf of proposals to fund the breeder at \$150 million: such efforts had included a letter under the signature of AFL-CIO President George Meany to all Congressmen urging passage of breeder funding as being in the best interests of the country.

But over the course of the last two weeks, these same Capitol Hill sources report that labor "demobilized." The office of Building Trades department head Robert Georgine told a reporter that their assessment was that the vote was sown up. "We have it made in the shade," he stated.

As the vote indicated, labor was wrong in this assessment. Informed observers have stated that labor's problem is not confined to simply a case of bad intelligence. Such sources note that it is symptomatic of a willingness on the part of key AFL-CIO leadership circles, especially around George Meany, to minimize and mitigate points of confrontation with the Carter Administration in exchange for "horse trading," with the White House and more particularly Fabian networks linked to Vice President Walter Mondale and Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn). Thus, labor is suddenly reaching "accommodations" with the Administration and its Congressional torch bearers on such things as labor law reform and the minimum wage, while pulling back in disarray on the breeder.

Lies

On the breeder question, it is widely acknowledged in Washington that if labor mobilizes and calls in its cards in Congress on the breeder, full funding will pass. Since it is only the Senate that has voted, even at this late date, labor can still pull the chestnuts out of the fire in the House vote next week.

Our sources in Washington report that the so-called Church compromise on the breeder would have never passed the Senate if several Senators had not been confused on the labor movement's position on the proposal. Since labor was saying nothing, and since such "friends of labor" as Sen. Scoop Jackson (D-Wash) and Sen. Frank Church (D-Id) were the people pulling the rug from the full breeder funding, several "border line" Senators figured that they had better line up behind a "labor-backed" compromise.

Meanwhile, at least one pro-development labor leader has indicated, ex post facto, that the compromise was

the best that could have been gotten "under the circumstances..." This leader and several others were shocked to learn that the "compromise" would all but destroy the breeder program: it seems that his "friends of labor" on Capitol Hill had been telling him something else.

Mutt and Jeff

The Meany AFL-CIO clique, which includes the gullible Building Trades, are falling for a pack of lies emanating from primarily the Mondale-Humphrey networks within the Administration and Congress. The game is Mutt and Jeff. On almost every issue, labor has been confronted with a "hardline" coming from various "Mutts" including at times, Carter himself. They are told by these "Mutts" that there will be no breeder program at all, that wage-price controls are in the works, there can't be labor law reform, etc. This is reinforced by psywar stories in the Wall Street press about the impotence and isolation of organized labor, usually dredging up some isolated fact to prove the point such as the defeat earlier this year of "common situs" picketing legislation in Congress.

Behind this smokescreen, various "friends of labor" - Jeffs—push a "soft line" of deals, compromises, and accommodations. Such Monty Hall-types as Church, Jackson, Labor Secretary Ray Marshall, productivity expert John Dunlop, provide labor leaders like Meany face-saving compromises touted as victories. As in the case of the breeder compromise, the victories only thinly - and temporarily - mask crushing defeats. But the key point, is that with each defeat, labor's overall *strategic* position vis-a-vis the monetarist enemy is weakened. And as soon as one compromise is reached, the next level of Mutt and Jeff operations begins.

The Labor Reform Hoax

The case of the labor reform compromise shows clearly how this "Mutt and Jeff" game works.

Early last week, the Carter Administration announced that it had reached a compromise with the AFL-CIO on a proposal to "reform" existing labor laws to make organizing workers easier and to provide monetary sanctions for those companies who resist. In exchange for Administration support, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the AFL-CIO had decided to forego, for the time being, its efforts to push for repeal of the open shop provisions of the Taft-Hartley law and more extensive revisions of the National Labor Relations Act.

The compromise had been set up by statements from hardliners such as Federal Reserve Chairman Arthur Burns that labor reform was unnecessary and even dangerous. The Wall Street press had done its bit by printing stories about how the AFL-CIO didn't have votes to pass its own package and would go down to a disastrous defeat with Carter support.

According to sources, Mondale and Labor Secretary Marshall, putting themselves forward as "labor friends," were able to work out the reported accommodation over a period of months.

Deluded labor leaders think that they have "won" an important victory that will eventually bring them millions of new members. They have been dealt a fast one.

They have pushed themselves onto a collision course with right-wing industry and political spokesmen, nominally associated with the agent-controlled "Right to Work" formations. Such a confrontation would be avoided if the labor law reform was included as a predicate of an overall national industrial development and incorporated credit policies, precisely the policies which are the antithesis of the deindustrialization and slave-labor program of the Carter Administration and its social fascist friends of labor like Mondale and Humphrey.

Now, instead of having key industrialists as their allies, Meany et al. are using what they perceive to be Carter Administration muscle to finally get "their way."

The announcement of the compromise has had the effect of a red flag being waved in front of a bull on industrialists, especially southern and southern rim defense textile and others who would be the targets of any union-government organizing drive: not coincidentally, these

layers represent the core of the non-labor opposition to Carter. With an issue to "get the troops out on," networks associated with Buckleyite agent Richard Viguerrie are already at work mobilizing an anti-labor offensive. In addition, the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have announced plans to "fight to the death against labor law reform..."

If the package should make it through Congress - and that is by no means certain, the reforms would mesh perfectly with Mondale-backed plans for a national productivity drive based on fascist labor management committees. An aide to New York Sen. Jacob Javits, the key Congressional spokesman for this effort, said, "If you are going to have a national productivity drive, then you need to have labor people to talk to (on labor management committees) and you are going to have to let labor organize to get them." This opinion of the "usefulness" of a labor organizing drive is shared by several Administration officials, especially in Marshall's Labor Department.

The fact that is obvious to almost everyone around Washington - including some Administration officials - is that labor leaders such as Meany and the Administration have nothing in common. Observers will be watching next week's vote in the House on the breeder - a vote in which labor will be decisive - to see if the people over at the AFL-CIO headquarters are finally wising up.

Executive Intelligence Review

Press Service Bureaus

CONTINENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wiesbaden BRD
62 W. Schiersteiner Str. 6
Tel. (06 121) 37 70 81

Mexico City
Paseo de la Reforma 95
Despacho 100 4-5
Tel. 5 46 17 39

New York
GPO Box 1972
New York, N.Y. 10001
Tel. (212) 563-8600

LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA — Bogota
VENEZUELA — Caracas

EUROPE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY —
Bonn, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Dusseldorf
BELGIUM — Brussels
FRANCE — Paris
ITALY — Rome, Milan, Turin
SWEDEN — Stockholm
DENMARK — Copenhagen

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES — Boston, Charlotte,
Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington,
D.C., Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Den-
ver, Seattle, San Francisco
CANADA — Vancouver, Toronto,
Montreal

Subscription Rates for
New Solidarity International Press Service
Executive Intelligence Review

Executive Intelligence Review
P.O. Box 1922, GPO
New York, N.Y. 10001

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

\$ 60 for three months

\$115 for six months

\$225 for one year