

Javits' Relocation Bill: A Case Study In Boxcar Economics

One of the principal goals of the Carter Administration's manpower policy is the creation of a national labor pool consisting of all "employables," from long-term welfare recipients on up through highly-skilled technicians. The underlying concept behind the national labor pool is to set up the conditions under which the individual worker's sense of identity, particularly regarding his skill level, but also in terms of his ties to a specific industry, trade and (or) geographical area, can be rapidly obliterated. In this situation, the Administration hopes, it will be possible to shuttle unemployed workers from one area of the country to another at will, while recycling them through an inexorable downward spiral of skill and wage levels.

Several proposals aimed at accomplishing this goal have been put forth in the last few years. The most notorious of these was Walter Mondale's National Employment Priorities Act of 1974 whose major provisions included the establishment of a National Emergency Relocation Administration (NERA) charged with overseeing the *forcible* mass relocation of jobless workers.

In the context of the Carter Administration's current campaign, it is not surprising to find that the old NERA

bill is being revived. Senator Jake Javits (R-NY), the key transmission belt for most of Wall Street's Nazi labor policy proposals, introduced such a bill last year (The Federal Employment System Act of 1976) and will reintroduce a similar bill after the August recess. Within the Administration itself, a Domestic Council, headed by former Mondale aide Bruce Carp, is developing its own version of NERA.

The Javits' proposal, excerpts of which are printed below, calls for setting up a Federal Full Employment Board, to function as a centralized command-and-control apparatus over the entire national labor market. The Board, together with its ten regional boards, would not only conduct in-depth analyses of regional labor market situations, but would also be empowered to tell Congress and the Administration what kind of employment programs are needed and where, and would, furthermore, be given the authority to oversee their implementation. At the core of the Javits' bill is a proposal for relocating workers to areas of "greater job opportunities" — a handy euphemism for describing a policy of forced relocation to low-paying, menial jobs amidst a rapidly collapsing economy.

Federal Employment System Act

A BILL

To provide for the implementation of a full employment policy through the establishment of a Federal Employment System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Federal Employment System Act of 1976..."

(b) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for the implementation of a full employment policy through the establishment of a Federal Employment System, composed of a Federal Full Employment Board and ten Regional Full Employment Councils...

Federal Full Employment Board

SEC. 4. (a) There is hereby established as an independent agency in the executive branch of the Government a Federal Full Employment Board, to consist of five members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, representative of labor and management and of the relevant professions and of investors and the public, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Commissioner of the Office of Education. Not more than three of the members appointed by the President shall be members of the same political party. The President shall designate one member to serve as Chairman...

Functions of Board

SEC. 5. (a) The Federal Full Employment Board is authorized and directed to—

(1) recommend to the President and the Congress by January 20 of each year (beginning January 20, 1978) a legislative program to help to achieve full employment in each fiscal year and alternative means of attaining that objective;

(2) upon analysis of the national unemployment problem and consideration of the recommendations of the regional employment councils provided for in section 6, request the President to direct the implementation of federally funded programs directly or indirectly affecting employment;

(3) review and make recommendations with respect to monetary, fiscal, income, and other governmental policies in terms of the impact of such policies upon achieving full employment;

(4) review and make recommendations with respect to decision made by public and private employers and establish appropriate procedures for the receipt of information, from such employers, necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act;

(5) in cooperation with the regional full employment councils, undertake national and regional manpower and employment planning, estimate long-range and short-term patterns of labor demand and labor supply by region, sector, industry, and occupation and recommend implementation of regional programs to match job va-

cancies with job applicants;

(6) assess the activities of relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of Labor and Office of Education, to develop an improved labor market exchange system, including—

(a) identification of manpower needs and career prospects; and

(b) preparation of a national inventory of the labor force, with specific reference to the supply of required skills;

(7) take affirmative action to encourage participation and cooperation of employers and trade unions to improve manpower planning, including—

(a) advance notice of significant changes in labor force requirements;

(b) maintenance of current job data banks; and

(c) monitoring of labor surpluses and shortages;

(8) hold nationwide and regional conferences designed to encourage the support of management and labor in meeting the objectives of this Act;

(9) analyze and make recommendations with respect to the extent to which the Federal budget may assist in reaching full employment, including the effect of different types of governmental funding and procurement policies; and

(10) perform such other functions as the President may direct...

Regional Full Employment Councils

SEC. 6. (a) There is hereby established, as integral components of the Federal Employment System, ten regional full employment councils, each to consist of five members from each region, representative of labor, business, and the public, appointed by the President after consultation with the Governors of the States in each region. The Regional Administrator of the Employment and Training Administration, the Regional Commissioner of the Office of Education and the Regional Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics shall serve on the Council in an ex officio capacity...

Functions of Regional Councils

SEC. 8. (a) The regional full employment councils are

authorized and directed to—

(1) recommend to the Federal Full Employment Board policies appropriate to the dimensions and characteristics of individual regional unemployment problems;

(2) seek the cooperation of regional labor and industrial organizations, to undertake long- and short-range labor supply and demand analysis and estimation and general assessments of labor shortage and surplus conditions in regional labor markets;

(3) report annually to Federal, regional, State, and local authorities on conditions in the regional labor market, including probable causes of and possible solutions to regional unemployment problems;

(4) recommend to State and local education and training institutions implementation of programs to prepare youth and adult members of the labor force for regional job opportunities and generally encourage integration and improvement in the linkages between education and work;

(5) encourage a greater coordination between the institutions of education, training, and skills acquisition on the one hand and industrial and labor organizations on the other;

(6) disseminate studies, reports, and other materials which might be used in the preparation of educational curriculums for employment and in career counseling;

(7) publish and make available, an annual nontechnical report to the people of the region, on conditions in local labor markets with respect to present and anticipated job vacancies and surpluses, and on the availability and location of youth and adult occupational preparation institutions.

Reports

SEC. 9. (a) The Federal Full Employment Board shall transmit to the Congress, on or before January 20 of each year (beginning January 20, 1978); a report, to be known as the full employment report, setting forth a program to achieve full employment for the following fiscal year, and alternative means of attaining that objective...

Carter Energy Program: Breezing Through Congress

On its current schedule — the schedule demanded by energy advisor James Schlesinger — the Carter Administration's no-energy package will become law by early October. The omnibus energy legislation — over 500 pages in length with 113 sections — is presently being railroaded through Congress at such breakneck speed that, even though Congressional leaders consider it to be "one of the most important pieces of legislation in Congressional history," it will likely pass with only a modicum of debate and deliberation.

OMNIBUS ENERGY BILL: After discussion in the House Ways and Means Committee and a few other key com-

mittees, the core of Carter's energy program was approved and sent to the specially established House Ad Hoc Committee on Energy, which gave its okay to the bill July 22. Set for round-the-clock debate and discussion for only six days — the brevity of this schedule considered "unprecedented" by leading Congressmen — the Committee actually completed its deliberations in an unheard of three days. Following orders from Carter's chief Congressional hack, Speaker "Tip" O'Neill (D-Mass.), the "amended" form of the legislation then breezed through the House Rules Committee in one day. Frantic to get the legislation passed before the August 5 recess, House leaders agreed to devote Friday to a full