

Humphrey Leads Carter Forced Work Campaign

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, his supporters in the AFL-CIO, and his poverty apparatus are organizing a "Full Employment Week" to replace Labor Day this year. The purpose of "Full Employment Week" is to stage a display of "grassroots" support for the Carter Administration's far-reaching package of labor-intensive, forced work programs to aid Humphrey and Co. in their efforts to whip the package through Congress before American labor and industry realize what's up.

Refusing to take the steps necessary to revive U.S. capital spending and thus generate an upward trend in skilled manufacturing categories as the solution to the critical employment problem, Humphrey and Co. are instead promoting a bevy of bills which not only force unskilled workers into menial slave jobs, but attempt as well to foist this slavery onto skilled workers who are unemployed (almost completely junking the unemployment benefits system that labor fought for years to gain) and — not content with that — to force additional layoffs in industry to further augment the pool of Humphrey's potential victims.

This is the ugly reality behind Humphrey's full employment "week of joy."

Carter's Slave Labor "Triad"

The apparatus for creating a huge pool of unemployed workers who will have no choice but to participate in Carter's work programs, is already in place in the form of the recently created Energy Department. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger will use his authority to declare "energy emergencies" in order to shut down industry and throw millions of workers out of work. Oklahoma governor Bowen has charged that federal orders to Oklahoma firms to cease using natural gas already threaten to force 21 manufacturers to shut down, and this is only the tip of the iceberg. Indicating how he plans to wield his vast discretionary power, Schlesinger told Sen. Robert Packwood to sit down and be quiet when Packwood pointed out this week that a government report flatly contradicted his claims that the Carter program provides incentives for increased oil production. Schlesinger abruptly dismissed the report as the work of "potheads."

Schlesinger is already planning a "grassroots" organizing drive, parallel to the "full employment" campaign, to "educate" the public on the "need to conserve energy." One of the programs, headed by Carter crony Greg Schneiders, is geared to organizing youth groups such as the Boy Scouts to voluntarily insulate homes and to do "energy audits" in their neighbors' houses. Youth already participating in Carter's Youth Conservation Corps will do similar "energy-saving" tasks. A director

for the public brainwashing job is provided for in the Energy Department Charter under the title of Assistant Secretary of External Affairs. To get the campaign off the ground, President Carter himself will kick off the campaign officially in September.

The second arm of the fascist apparatus for forced labor is Carter's "welfare reform" package. After calling on Congress on August 6 to "totally scrap our existing welfare system," Carter proposed a new welfare plan which will force all able bodied men and women on welfare and those receiving extended unemployment benefits into public works jobs or their equivalent in the private sector. The penalty for a recipient's non-compliance, no matter how low the wage, is immediate cutoff from benefits. As Carter noted, the program will reduce the number of recipients by "as much as 50%."

Like the Energy Department, the welfare reform, if enacted, will create a large pool of scab laborers who will be used to force down the wages of all U.S. workers. As an estimated two to four million skilled workers are laid off from industries either bankrupted or forced to shut down because of "energy emergencies" under the Carter energy bill, they will be funneled into welfare and unemployment programs and then forcibly recycled back into the workforce at starvation wage levels.

The welfare reform masterplan centralizes various work benefit and income support programs — Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Supplementary Security Income, and the food stamp program — into a single program with a single grant.

The term able-bodied is never defined, and the only exception to the forced work provision is, in the case of AFDC, a single parent with children six or younger. When a parent refuses work, he or she is cut off, but benefits may continue for the children.

Federal reimbursements to state and city governments will increase approximately by 10%, an inducement for local leaders to accept the forced labor without protest. New York City's gullible Mayor Abe Beame led the way with an enthusiastic endorsement of the Carter plan.

Only 1.4 million public works jobs were offered by the Administration, indicating that to meet the 50 percent quota for reducing the welfare rolls, private employers will have their pick of forced laborers who have been thrown off welfare or unemployment compensation.

Although Carter does not expect the entire welfare proposal to become fully operational until 1980, particularly the program providing financial relief to cities and states, he expects to implement the forced labor provisions immediately.

U.S. workers who heard Carter's pious expressions of

sympathy for the sufferings of those on unemployment during last year's campaign probably never dreamed that he would move to reduce that suffering by reducing unemployment benefits.

Yet Carter is proposing just that, the third element in his "triad" of strategies to create an army of unemployed for his slave programs. While Carter's top labor advisor, Eli Ginzburg, is now advocating the idea of cutting off all benefits after only 15 weeks (federally funded extended benefits now extend to 52 weeks in some states — already a reduction from the 65 weeks available under the Ford Administration), the Administration is moving a bit more slowly. In addition to forcing those on the extended benefits into public works jobs, the Administration plans to raise the 4.5 percent unemployment rate "trigger point" which determines which areas are eligible for federal extended benefits, the Administration thus cutting off benefits for most of the country's workers after they have been on the rolls 39 weeks.

A Labor Department spokesman confirmed last week that the money saved from the reduced extended benefit program will be funneled into the forced work jobs programs for unemployed workers. Based on the average length of time over which workers were receiving benefits six months ago, 65 weeks, the *Wall Street Journal* recently pointed out, the elimination of extended unemployment benefits will mean a 60 percent reduction in the overall benefits available to the unemployed.

With its efforts to create a huge manpower pool of desperate ex-welfare recipients and unemployed workers well underway, the Administration plans Humphrey's "Full Employment Week" to be a big affair. Carter himself is scheduled to appear for a demonstration at Philadelphia's Independence Hall with Coretta King and a 2,000 man organizing meeting is reportedly planning for Aug. 15.

Humphrey announced to the Senate last week that his congressional Joint Economic Committee will hold hearings in his old stomping grounds in Minneapolis on Sept. 5 on the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, and declared that the "celebration" will include "demonstrations, rallies, 24-hour vigils, and picnics" in 50 cities. Included in a long list of participating organizations are the Urban League, the National Council of Churches, Environmentalists for Full Employment, and most of the country's largest labor unions. Murry Findley, President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers co-chairs the central planning body, the Full Employment Act Action council with Coretta King. Jacob Clayman, the Secretary Treasurer of the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO, co-chairs the Council's Full Employment Task Force with King. Legislative Representative for the United Auto Workers Jerry Tucker and United Steelworkers Vice-President Leon Lynch are also present at every planning meeting.

In addition to the participation of every variety of environmentalist, blacks, and women's groups, Jacob Clayton has arranged that 100 full-time organizers from the United Auto Workers, United Steel Workers, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and the International Association of Machinists organize "broad based" community support on union time.

Blacks are slated to be most immediately victimized by "Full Employment Week" since the Full Employment Council has said that "we could have riots like the 1960s" if the jobs program is not acted on, and singled out 25 Congressmen from "largely black and poverty districts" for special attention.

The success of the Humphrey-Carter fascist organizing drive depends on whether the "full employment" coalition can mobilize real labor support and thus cow Congress into passing such measures as the Carter "welfare reform." There are indications that honest unionists and elected officials are letting themselves be duped.

With the partial exception of the building trades, every local union contacted by reporters in Philadelphia on Wednesday — including the Teamsters — indicated "150 percent support" for "Full Employment Week." "We need jobs — any jobs" was a typical response.

At the same time, the Administration has positioned itself to ram the welfare program through Congress. The Carter-Mondale clique in Congress has responded with effusive praise to the proposed welfare reform, with Sen. Jacob Javits praising the forced work provisions as "right on target" and his New York colleague Sen. Daniel Moynihan — the chairman of Humphrey's "Full Employment Week" — hailing the hastily slapped together Carter package as "superbly crafted."

While Carter's HEW Secretary Joseph Califano announced on nationwide television that "Congress is ready" to pass the first real welfare reform, House Speaker Tip O'Neill moved quickly to set up a new ad hoc "supercommittee" on welfare stacked with Humphrey associates headed by Rep. James C. Corman (D-Calif.) to usher it through. Corman said he expects the entire package to reach three key House committees before Christmas.

The imbecilic preliminary response to the welfare package delivered by the potential opposition to Carter's latest deindustrialization bill indicates that they have learned nothing from their rout on the Carter energy package. The American Conservative Union, chaired by Republican Congressman Phil Crane announced its "opposition" to the Carter welfare program on the grounds that it is "too generous," while Rep. John Anderson, third ranking House GOPer, declared himself in favor of "the broad concept" of the Carter plan.

Energy Backlash

Humphrey and Carter are not home free, however, as evidenced by a mounting backlash against Carter's energy legislation, which must still be voted on by the Senate this fall. At this week's midwest governors' conference, the governors voted 11-1 to condemn the program as dangerous, on the grounds that it does not provide for means to increase energy production. At an American Bar Association conference in Chicago, representatives of the American Petroleum Institute and several corporations bitterly criticized the package; and a former head of the Federal Energy Agency under the Ford Administration charged that the Carter policy was based on a faulty concept of man as weak and helpless, unable to master nature in the service of human progress.