

pushed, in the fusion area. It was a major step forward, but it is not yet a demonstration of scientific feasibility, which means you get more energy out of the process than you put in, and consequently, while we wanted to take note of this achievement in an orderly way, we did not want to hype it up in such a way that — that the public got the impression that the problem of developing fusion energy was solved. . . .

*Hornig:* There's another question I'd like to ask you, Mr. Secretary, about OPEC. OPEC countries trade in dollars; the dollar is falling, and there is now talk among the oil producers to switch to another currency. If they do, what will that mean?

*Sec. Schlesinger:* Well, I think that it would be something of a — of a blow to the prestige of the dollar, but that's — that — the prestige of the dollar has suffered some frequent blows of late. If, indeed, the dollar has bottomed out and begins to rise in the years ahead, that would mean that our petroleum imports would be cheaper than they would otherwise be because the United States would be only one of several currencies against which oil was being priced.

*Benton:* Mr. Secretary, you're planning, I believe, a trip to mainland China this fall, I believe, in October.

Is that trip purely energy-related, or — or are you a part of the President's China card in the foreign policy hand?

*Sec. Schlesinger:* I think that the agenda for the trip is — is simply a technical agenda. We are planning to have technical exchanges with the Chinese, should they materialize. It may be that we can reach agreements during that trip. The — I'm sure that the press will speculate whether or not this is the part of the playing of the China card, but the agenda is a technical one.

*McLaughlin:* Mr. Secretary, are you thinking about changing your job? We hear that in the press a lot about you.

*Sec. Schlesinger:* I've got no plans to do so.

*Benton:* Is your — is your tenure in any way at all related to the success or failure of the energy legislation before Congress?

*Sec. Schlesinger:* I don't believe that it's related to that, save — save for the fact that we must have an energy program in this country. I am totally dedicated to achieving that. If it becomes clear that we are unable to have such a program then my usefulness may have been ended.

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## What Congress Says About Schlesinger

*Interviews last week with politically key Congressmen and their aides on the Administration's energy compromise included the following:*

### **An aide to a Midwest Democratic Senator:**

According to the aide, there is "substantial opposition" to the bill, primarily from the Northeast and Midwest. He claimed that although the Democratic leadership is moving behind it, considerable opposition by labor and industry exists. "In general," he said, "the Administration has a bad bottle of wine to sell, and is pushing it on the basis that we should drink it, to prove our resolve."

He also reported that Vice-President Walter Mondale met with congressional aides at the White House where he argued that the bill would help save the dollar. "But," the aide stated, "we couldn't get him to say how."

When asked about reports that Schlesinger might leave his post as Energy Secretary, the aide exclaimed: "Wonderful!"

### **An aide to a Democratic Congressman from the industrial Midwest:**

This aide drew the picture of a broad "left-right" coalition against the bill with "the incremental pricing

measures being a major source of the problem." He asserted that given the bill being presented, the general attitude is that "no bill at all would be better than this."

The aide stated further that the "President and his Secretary are crying about the sinking dollar, the need to resolve ourselves to act, the need to clean up our own house," but the Administration is "holding the energy bill hostage" to the natural gas bill. He noted that of five pieces of the energy package, three have been ready to go since last December. But the Administration is using them as leverage to get the natural gas bill through, since, the aide said, "they couldn't do it any other way." "The Administration is trying to pressure Congress on an apple-pie level, saying the welfare of the country is at stake if this bill fails."

When asked about Schlesinger's threat to resign if the bill is defeated, the aide stated: "All the more reason not to back the bill. In a short time he has offended everyone on the Hill. He has hurt legislation, and is a major obstacle to getting something through."

### **An aide to a gas state Southwest Democratic Senator:**

This aide reported that the Senator did not sign the bill since its original language had changed. He commented: "It is not good for producers. There are problems with intra-state regulation and other technical details."

In response to the news of Schlesinger's offer to

resign if the bill is defeated, he replied, "Senators have to consider the constituency, and the benefit of the country first. If Schlesinger can do the job, he should be able to work with them; if not, he must decide for himself what to do."

**A southern border-state Senator, generally regarded as a swing vote:**

This Senator was asked in a half-joking manner whether he would like to become a national hero by coming out on the fusion issue. He astutely responded: "For or against? — For? Sure."

Informed of Schlesinger's hints at resignation, the Senator equated killing the energy bill with terminating the DOE Secretary's tenure.

**A Midwest Senator:**

When informed of the Princeton fusion breakthrough, the Senator asked what the President had thought of it. Told that the President found out about it on TV, he said: "Aha! Schlesinger didn't tell him." Aware of Schlesinger's sabotage of advanced energy technologies, he stated he would be "glad to see him go." He said he will be voting against the natural gas bill.

**An Aide to a Western Senator:**

"The leadership will try to postpone the vote, because the thing is in bad shape," the aide reported. He further indicated that Schlesinger and the Senate leadership had met. "The plan is to back it up to recess, try to break the filibuster, since Congress will be aching to adjourn."

**Senator Henry Jackson's office:**

Jackson's office claimed they hadn't heard of Schlesinger's threat to resign and refused to discuss the chances of the energy bill.

However, Platt's *Oilgram News Service* of Aug. 21

quotes Senate Energy chairman Jackson to the effect that while there were enough votes to kill the filibuster, the actual support for the bill was "razor thin." If gas deregulation fails now, according to Jackson, it will not be attempted again next year. He further asserted that support for the bill was based primarily on the realization that the lack of an energy program was hurting the dollar, even though "all of us have reservations about the bill."

**Representative Hansen (R-Wyo.):**

Hansen, an opponent of the bill, has been quoted elsewhere as "decrying the pressure" from Carter, who met late at night with House-Senate conference members Rangel and Corman, to force the gas bill out of committee. He indicated that conference committee members have still not been given the final copy of the bill and said: "It seems quite anomalous that men who would not sign a check or a contract in blank for a few dollars will essentially sign a bill in blank affecting several billions of dollars." Responding to the pressure exerted on Rangel and Corman to obtain their signatures, Hansen stated: "I personally consider it outrageous that a carefully constructed agreement designed to facilitate careful consideration of this most important legislation should be abrogated under White House auspices in the dead of the night."

**An aide to Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.):**

The aide stated that the bill would pass the Senate and the House would take it up later. He said: "It's a lame duck session — there's lots of time later. Abourezk and Metzenbaum will lead a filibuster — call them for strategy."

When asked how the failure of the natural gas bill would affect the energy bill, he nervously replied: "Won't be too good, would it?"

## McGovern Charges Cambodia With Genocide

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) charged the Cambodian government with perpetrating "genocide" against its population and called for an international military force to "knock this regime out

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of power," during Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearings Aug. 21.

"Cambodia is the most extreme I've ever heard of...Based on the percentage of the population that appears to have died, this makes Hitler's operations

look tame. I find it very hard to believe a murderous gang that may have killed in three years as many as one-third of the people of that country is very popular. There is no excuse for us to ignore the systematic slaughter of people by their own country."

McGovern's statement is the first outcry by a high-ranking American official against the wholesale slaughter being conducted by China's puppet state Cambodia. Over the past three years of Maoist policies of resettlement of the cities, starvation, slave labor programs and outright executions of anyone who protests these brutal conditions, the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge have murdered between 1 and 2 million of its 7 million population.