

# National News

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## Administration coverage of Wirszup Report?

Through the office of White House science adviser Frank Press, the Carter administration will soon release a report on U.S. scientific and engineering education. Based on an investigation coordinated by the federal National Science Foundation and the Department of Education, the report was personally ordered by Carter this spring following publicity for a study by University of Chicago professor Izaak Wirszup that concluded the U.S. is badly trailing the U.S.S.R. in scientific and technical education.

"Our report sees no need to broaden the scope or quality of U.S. science education," one of the top participants in the study told *EIR* recently, though, he said, "the basic facts of the Wirszup report are correct."

"The only problem areas that need beefing up are in computer technology, where we have a bad shortfall in experienced people now, and in some aspects of engineering," he asserted. Coverage of the Carter response and what its drafters say about it will be featured in an upcoming issue of *EIR*.

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## 50 percent tax cut plan on Michigan ballot

Proposition D, or the Tisch Plan, was placed on the Nov. 4 ballot by the Michigan Supreme Court last month. The ruling reversed a previous court order upholding a challenge by former Democratic gubernatorial candidate Zolton Ferency and a coalition of 50 organizations called Citizens to Save Our State.

Ferency and the CSOS are now urging Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin to fulfill his duty and warn voters on election day that the proposition "would eviscerate the state." By law, the Secretary of State must post notices explaining the financial effects of ballot propositions.

The Tisch Plan mandates a 50 to 60 percent property tax cut that will, as the proposition states, "mean the possible reduction of existing state services." United Auto Workers representatives estimate the proposal will cut the state's discretionary budget by roughly 54 percent.

The Tisch plan will also require a three-fifths popular vote to pass any new state tax levies required to make up lost local revenues. The proposal comes on top of an already massive level of budget austerity.

Michigan will lose \$2.6 billion in federal budget cuts in 1980-81, plus tens of millions due to the collapse of the state's auto industry. A \$180 million state deficit is predicted. Governor William Milliken has announced \$800 million in budget cuts centered on public services.

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## Presidential statement cites fusion potential

The White House released the following brief statement Oct. 7, on what is informally known as the McCormack bill:

"President Carter today signed H.R. 6308, the Magnetic Fusion Engineering Act of 1980, a bill authorizing a magnetic fusion research, development, and demonstration program within the Department of Energy. The bill establishes as a national goal the successful operation of a magnetic fusion demonstration plant in the United States by the year 2000. The scientific results of magnetic fusion experiments have been highly encouraging so far, and there is considerable confidence that controlled fusion reactions can be achieved.

"Congressman [Mike] McCormack and Senators Church, Tsongas, Baker, and Domenici are to be commended for their foresight in obtaining enactment of H.R. 6308.

"Fusion power offers the potential for a limitless energy source with manageable environmental effects. And H.R. 6308 represents a bipartisan effort to develop fusion as a viable energy option for

the United States. Our nation is the undisputed leader in developing this advanced technology, and H.R. 6308 will help us keep it that way. This bill represents a reasonable approach to the broad advancement of fusion research and technology. I sign it into law with pleasure."

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## State Department heats Persian Gulf danger

Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced in an Oct. 7 speech to the annual United Press International conference in Boston that "we have vital interests at stake in the Persian Gulf region, and as the President has made clear, we will defend them. . . . The states of the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula have grounds for deep concern. They deserve our help, when they ask for it, in deterring the possibility of unprovoked attack." Christopher added: "We expect the Soviet Union to exercise self-discipline."

Christopher was preceded at the conference by Chinese ambassador to Washington Chai Zemin, who told the audience of editors and publishers the Soviets want to move south from Afghanistan to the Gulf, and from Vietnam to the Strait of Malacca to block oil supplies to other countries. "Once the Soviet Union wants to control the Persian Gulf and the Middle East . . . it can achieve victory in Western Europe, with or without battle."

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## McCormack calls for breeder reactor

Congressman Michael McCormack (D-Wash.), a leading spokesman for nuclear energy development, introduced into the *Congressional Record* on Oct. 1 a report issued by the General Accounting Office declaring the necessity for the breeder reactor if nuclear energy is to be an energy source for the U.S. In introducing the

report, titled *U.S. Breeder Reactor Program Needs Direction*, McCormack declared:

"The Congress has consistently supported the need for the development of breeder power-plant technology, as have a number of recent important studies, such as the National Academy of Sciences study called *Energy in Transition: 1985-2010* and the Department of Energy's study, "Nonproliferation Alternative Systems Assessment Program." However, as you know, the administration's resistance to the breeder program has resulted in a stalemate which is costly to the United States, both in dollars and in time lost in the development of this technology. . . .

"The committee has consistently taken the position that the administration's policies with respect to nuclear fuel reprocessing and to the breeder programs are unrealistic, and cause potentially serious consequences for our nation. This view is shared by many individuals and groups in this country and among our friends overseas.

"Resistance to the development of breeder powerplants is based on extremely optimistic projections of the availability of all other energy sources, and on an unrealistically low projected growth rate for energy demand. Current events in the Middle East make it painfully clear that such optimistic projections should not be relied upon for the security of our nation; and that we must proceed with the development of realistic domestic energy sources which will be needed to meet our future energy demands."

## Carter negotiator ready for Reagan

Elliott Richardson has resigned as the Carter administration's ambassador-at-large and special representative to the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference. In a letter to the President, Richardson said he is stepping down because an acceptable international agreement on development of the oceans' mineral resources has almost been reached.

Some sources say that Richardson—a prominent Republican who hails from a Boston Brahmin family—is positioning himself for a Cabinet or ambassadorial post should Ronald Reagan defeat Carter's re-election bid. According to Richardson's office, the ex-ambassador has "a very tight speaking schedule" over the next month. The aid said, "Draw your own conclusions" when asked if Richardson was covertly campaigning. Richardson is already considered a vital link between the Reagan camp and Capitol Hill.

This isn't the first time Richardson has resigned: he stepped down as attorney general in the Nixon administration rather than obey President Nixon's order to fire Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

## Carter tries to exploit Nigerian tour of U.S.

A six-day visit to the United States by the Nigerian President, Shehu Shagari, was played to the hilt by Carter campaign strategists, who billed Shagari as the "key to Black Africa" in a public relations effort aimed at black American leaders unfriendly to the Carter camp. State Department and other administration figures like Andrew Young were featured at Shagari's appearances in Harlem and elsewhere.

Sources close to President Shagari report that the Nigerians themselves prefer to see Carter re-elected, fearing a policy bias toward South Africa should Reagan take the presidency.

Diplomatic sources also report that "the British want to build up Nigeria as a surrogate African continental power not only because Nigeria has a lot of oil, but because a strong Nigeria, vocal in the Organization of African Unity, could become an interventionary power in southern Africa, and help to preserve British control over the critical raw materials in that area of the world. America's role in this context is to throw its might behind the buildup of Nigeria."

## Briefly

● **LABOR** Department officials say widespread unemployment in the Midwest and Northeast threatens to bankrupt the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund, from which state funds borrow to stay solvent. The administration held up a supplemental allocation until after the elections because Carter doesn't want to make unemployment any more of an issue, a DOL source says.

● **ED CLARK**, Libertarian Party candidate for President, has called for legalization of marijuana and abolition of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Clark, who considers himself an advocate of "pure free enterprise" as defined by Milton Friedman, favors legalization of prostitution on the same grounds.

● **THE FEDERAL** Election Commission informed the National Democratic Policy Committee this week that as of Aug. 30, 1980, the new committee qualified as a multi-candidate political action committee. The NDPC can therefore accept contributions of up to \$5,000, rather than the \$1,000 ceiling applicable to other political committees.

● **FIFTY U.S.** Congressmen and government officials are slated to attend a Nov. 11 commemorative dinner for Vladimir Jabotinsky, founder of the terrorist Irgun and previously condemned by many Zionists as a "fascist." Every U.S. Zionist group will also be represented.

● **PRESIDENTIAL** nominees to appointive posts were left in limbo when Congress adjourned. Most of the 100 hopefuls were held up by the Republicans, who look toward a Reagan victory in November. "Some of these positions should be available to the next President," stated the GOP's assistant Minority Leader in the Senate, Ted Stevens of Alaska.