

White House Congressional Agents Gear Up For Energy Cutbacks

In his first presidential press conference Feb. 8, Jimmy Carter affirmed that cutting energy consumption is his administration's top domestic priority. Carter said bluntly his energy policy will engender controversy and "require substantial sacrifices on the part of the American people," and added, "this month we've imported over half of the total amount of oil that we have used — 10 million barrels a day on the average. This has got to stop."

Two days later Senator Charles Percy (R-Ill.) and Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) called a press conference in Washington to announce the formation of the National Alliance to Save Energy. The National Alliance is calling for a 50 per cent reduction in oil imports and will set up task forces of mayors, governors and state and local officials to lobby for and implement energy conservation programs. The watchword of the group will be "Energy saving is our major resource."

Both David and Laurance Rockefeller are members of the Alliance's new Advisory Board, whose chairman is Henry Kissinger. White House "energy czar" James Schlesinger is the group's official advisor; Vice-President Walter Mondale is honorary chairman; and cabinet secretaries Juanita Kreps (Commerce), Brock Adams (Transportation), Ray Marshall (Labor), and Patricia Harris (HUD) are all advisors. Panicked by the crisis atmosphere the Carter team has created, leading Republicans — most notably Gerald Ford and House Minority Leader John Rhodes — have joined this effort.

A leading staff member for the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, himself in frequent contact with Schlesinger's staff, reported that the White House is not

considering gas and oil rationing. He added that high energy prices plus mandatory controls on energy usage, were the only way to force real energy conservation.

Concurrent with the public campaign for cutbacks Congressional allies of the Carter administration have begun to beat the drums for solar energy. At the press conference unveiling the National Alliance, Hubert Humphrey announced he will sponsor the first solar energy conference in Minnesota and urged a national effort behind developing solar and coal resources. Capitol Hill sources have revealed that Congressman Ottinger, a participant at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund conference, is preparing legislation to require all federal buildings to convert to solar energy and the Joint Economic Committee is planning hearings on the subject shortly.

A key stumbling block to an all-out federal drive for solar energy the JEC staff member complained is the staff of federal departments including the Energy Research and Development Administration. Many were members of the Atomic Energy Commission and won't buy such ridiculous schemes as solar energy development. To handle this problem Congressman Rosenthal (D-NY) has launched an investigation into 200 ERDA staff members he claims have conflict of interest problems.

Meanwhile, James Schlesinger has already ordered ERDA to rewrite its fiscal 1978 budget to direct funds out of fission and fusion development into solar and coal programs. It is expected that proposed funding for conservation programs will be doubled by Schlesinger. The Office of Management and Budget is reviewing the reshuffled figures and Carter will act on them shortly.

USLP, ERDA, Testimony Focuses Congressional Resistance

Two events in Congress this week made public the national security issues which are at the forefront of the minds of responsible congressmen on both sides of the aisle:

On Feb. 11, U.S. Labor Party National Committeeman Richard Cohen testified at Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on the confirmation of Paul Warnke as Arms Control and Disarmament Agency director and SALT negotiator. Warnke's own testimony, said Cohen, demonstrated his unfitness for office, by opposing U.S. research and development efforts and denying the reality of Soviet technological advances which could provide a marginally decisive military capability; at the same time, Cohen charged, Warnke was covering up National Security Council operations under the direction of James Schlesinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski to pro-

voke a Mideast showdown in order to maintain Rockefeller control over Saudi Arabian oil. Thus, Cohen concluded, Warnke was speeding the U.S. toward general war at a time when the energy and research cutbacks championed by the Carter administration would further cripple U.S. defense capability.

On the same day one week after President Carter used his first "Fireside Chat" to dictate a 20 per cent cut in U.S. energy consumption, John Kintner, director of the Energy Resources and Development Administration fusion program, told a House Science and Technology subcommittee that a brute force fusion development program could supply the U.S. with all the energy it needs by 1990 at the latest. However, Kintner warned, if funding for fusion continues at its current low level, fusion reactors would never be commercially feasible in the

U.S. Reporting on the impressive breakthroughs in fusion technology made by the Soviets, Kintner said that the USSR has generously offered full collaboration on fusion development, including joint projects and laboratories, and a free flow of informational exchanges. "The information flows will be all one-way to our benefit," Kintner commented, as he charged that the U.S. is holding back from joint ventures, although they are obviously in the national interest.

The concerns expressed by Cohen's and Kintner's testimony were reflected at the Warnke hearings and in private congressional conversations, and no doubt contributed to the Senate Armed Services Committee's decision to convene its own hearings on the Warnke nomination. Rockefeller spokesmen including Hubert Humphrey and Paul Nitze felt compelled to respond to these concerns in their own remarks in the Senate: Humphrey presenting a quick SALT agreement as a device which would allow the U.S. to get away with short-changing its R and D programs; and Nitze "opposing Warnke" by retailing the Committee on Present Danger pitch for an all-out military buildup and an official repudiation of detente.

Meanwhile, congressmen from all sections of the U.S. continued to report their alarm over the impact of the Carter de-industrialization program on their constituencies, in terms which make it clear that even such traditional antagonists as conservative "free enterprisers" and Black Congressional Caucus members are becoming aware of their common interest in stopping Carter.

But although a sizable grouping of conservative — and in a growing number of cases, moderate to liberal — Democrats and Republicans share a perspective of rapid

fusion development and industrial and agricultural expansion as the primary goal for national survival, to date these forces constitute no more than an informal coalition committed merely to "containing" the Carter administration. With no centralized leadership, this informal and fluctuating group is pursuing a Maginot Line defense against Carter cuts and slashes, which can crumble quickly under the high-profile conservation offensive of the Rockefeller brothers.

Operating by a series of Byzantine alliances and "deals," the anti-Carter forces have chosen more often than not to negotiate with their opponents, thereby sowing confusion and demoralization in their own ranks. One conservative Republican Senatorial office confided, "We're in a situation where we have to bargain and barter with the Democrats," i.e. Carter.

Such "bargaining and bartering" has led leading Republican congressional spokesmen, such as House Minority Leader John Rhodes (Ohio), to endorse solar energy development, and to introduce legislation to make solar development an energy priority. Similar realpolitik by Rhodes has led him to introduce Carter executive branch reorganization legislation into the House, when a key member of Carter's own party, Jack Brooks (Texas) is stalling the bill because it "would stand the U.S. Constitution on its head."

Conservative Democrats, the natural ally of mainstream pro-growth Republicans, viewing the opposition party's vacillation shake their heads and resign themselves to isolation within their own party. The net result is that while a significant force exists for making fusion and industrial growth a reality, it has as yet no positive programmatic leadership and direction except that provided by the Labor Party.

Paul Warnke: Softie Or Soft Cop?

Despite the vehemence of the public brouhaha over the supposed "dovish" leanings of Paul Warnke, Jimmy Carter's nominee as head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and U.S. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) negotiator, informed observers of Washington and New York foreign policy politics are viewing the whole affair as a carefully stage-managed performance to convince the Soviets the Carter Administration is willing to pursue detente, buying breathing space for Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski to pursue their avowed policy of reducing "Soviet influence" in the Third World and Eastern and Western Europe, supposedly without provoking overt Soviet reaction.

In this view, even the vehement congressional opposition to Warnke being mounted by hardliners Henry "Scoop" Jackson and Rep. Samuel Stratton is likely to have the blessing of top Administration policymakers, who see the congressional brawl as helping boost Warnke's "soft-liner" image, while at the same time providing pressure which the Administration will then be able to invoke as it proves expedient.

The main question, these observers say, is whether the Soviets will fall for it. Wall Street Averell Harriman visited Moscow before Carter's election to assure Mr. Brezhnev that the Democratic candidate — despite his provocative campaign posture — was committed to continuing detente. In the past, they pointed out, the soft-line Soviet circles centered around Georgii Arbatov, the head of the USSR's USA-Canada Institute, have taken such gestures as the naming of Warnke as expressions of good faith.

A look at Warnke's public record discloses little reason for the fears being expressed by hardliners Jackson, columnists Roland Evans and Robert Novak, et al.

Warnke, like almost every other Cabinet-level appointee in this Administration, is a member of David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission. He sits on the Executive Committee, next to the Executive Director Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Administration's certified "hard-liner." Other Trilateral members include Cyrus Vance, who was promoted from foreign affairs editorial director of the *New York Times* to be Secretary of State, as well as Lane Kirkland and David Packard, both ex-