

Carter's Fence-Mending Tour A Fiasco

In his whirlwind "fence-mending" tour of five states last week, Carter walked right into the trap laid for him a fortnight before by Vice-President Mondale and Mondale's associates in the Administration, and returned to Washington amid press reviews unanimously panning the excursion a complete fiasco.

The public relations disaster was personally arranged by Mondale during an identical tour two weeks prior to the President's trip. But Carter himself sealed his ignominious fate by ignoring the strong public mandate for industrial and energy expansion and development, and instead taking his no-growth energy package "to the people" for certain rejection.

As prescribed by the Mondale-set agenda, Carter was confronted by jobless lumpens demanding the Humphrey-Hawkins public-works "jobs" bill in Detroit, greeted by a multi-issue calvacade of anti-Administration demonstrators in Los Angeles, and embarrassingly upstaged by a dying Hubert Humphrey in Minneapolis. The Oct. 24 *Washington Post* slyly reported that Carter's stopover to pick up the ailing Humphrey was the "highlight of the trip after three days in which the high points seemed few... any sense of focus or central purpose seemed lost."

The Oct. 25 *New York Times* scored Carter's failure to publicly support the Humphrey-Hawkins bill in Detroit, charging he had been "insincere" in the negotiations

with the Black Caucus on the legislation, and quoted Detroit Congressman John Conyers' bitter complaint: "I feel I have been put on."

In Des Moines, Iowa, Carter reenacted his Schlesinger-inspired fireside chat on energy and recent "oil rip-off" speech, telling his disbelieving audience they had to "swallow the bitter pill" of energy conservation or face an "energy catastrophe." The local press noted that in recent polls Carter's "popularity in Iowa has plummeted along with farm prices."

The Oct. 25 *Baltimore Sun* found the President's attempts to mollify West Coast Democrats on the Middle East "rambling, unfocused, overlong... poorly prepared, delivered, and received," and accused him of trying "to defuse opposition at the rate of one issue every three hours" (among them, urban policies, his farm program, Western water policy, the Panama Canal treaties, and the Middle East).

By the time he stumbled back into Washington, Carter had been unequivocally informed by the press that his efforts to rally political support had been an unmitigated failure; serving only to underscore his political weakness. The Oct. 23 *New York Times* welcomed Carter home with a five-column headline: "Carter's First Nine Months: Charges of Ineptitude Rise," and the observation, "Every Night is Amateur Night at the White House."

Teamsters' President Declares War On Union Busters

Frank Fitzsimmons, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, broke precedent Oct. 27 in a speech which named the names of the enemies of labor as identified in the U.S. Labor Party's pamphlet The Plot to Destroy the Teamsters — Who's Behind It — How to Stop It. Fitzsimmons's speech, issued at a meeting of the Teamster Southern Conference in Dallas, was a clarion call to the American labor movement to declare war on those who are attacking the

Building Trades, and the IBT are sending telegrams of support for the Nov. 11 rally of West German trade unions in Dortmund, West Germany for nuclear power.

These developments signify the beginnings of a programmatic labor counterpole which can act as the muscle behind a labor-industry alliance for high-technology capital investment to reverse the depression.

Following is the full text of Fitzsimmons's speech.

LABOR

IBT as the leading edge in a campaign to destroy all U.S. trade unions.

The Fitzsimmons call is the result of a process — led by the U.S. Labor Party — to bring U.S. trade unions into action for the revival of the U.S. economy based on high-technology energy production and capital export. It comes at the same time as the office of United Steelworkers President Lloyd McBride has authorized steel locals across the country to buy the U.S. Labor Party's programmatic briefs on steel and nuclear energy in bulk, and as growing numbers of local officials in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the

There is a refrain from a song which describes this affair held in honor of our good brother Dick Piland. You remember the words, "The stars at night are big and bright, deep in the heart of Texas." Certainly brother Piland is the star of the show tonight, and the attention is so richly deserved because Dick has been associated with the labor movement in Texas for so many years.

It is a truth of the labor movement that only the best representatives of labor survive in the south where laws and atmosphere demand that a labor leader give totally of himself to overcome those adversities. Dick Piland fits that mold.

I would like, tonight, to look at some of the reasons for the justified pride of Dick Piland, and yes, of all of you who represent Teamster members in Texas and throughout the nation.