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Carter's Congressional Energy Legislation

Senate Bill introduced by Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn) and 14 other Senators on Feb. 10 for the "rapid commercialization of solar energy." The bill would establish a six-year program under the auspices of the General Services Administration and the Defense Department to install 15,000 solar hot water and space heating systems across the country in Federal structures.

In motivating his bill, Humphrey said that "Solar energy is indeed far closer to economic reality than some of my colleagues and their constituents realize." This bill, he emphasized, is only the beginning of "a major push to ensure the rapid commercialization of solar technologies." All provisions of the bill are mandatory.

House Bill introduced on Jan. 4 by Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R-NY) and Pattison (D-NY) entitled the "Nuclear Energy Reappraisal Act," would end nuclear fission power generation in the U.S. through the following provisions:

"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is directed to cease, beginning on the first day after the date of the enactment of this Act, the granting of construction licenses or limited work authorization for the construction of nuclear fission powerplants and the granting of licenses for the export of nuclear fission powerplants." This termination will remain in effect until a "proper evaluation" has been made of the powerplants "safety, environmental, and proliferation consequences."

"Beginning five years and one hundred and eighty days after the date of the enactment of this Act...each existing nuclear fission powerplant and each such plant under construction shall not be operated at any time at more than 60 percent of the licensed core power level of such plant and shall thereafter be derated at a rate of 10 per centum per year...and shall not be operated at any time in excess of such reduced core power level."

Senate Bill introduced by Jennings Randolph (D-W.V) with Huddleston (D-Ky), Humphrey (D-Minn) and Jackson (D-Wa) on Jan. 4 cited as the "Natural Gas and Petroleum Conservation and Coal Utilization Act of 1977." This bill would convert electric power plants now using oil or natural gas for fuel to coal or coal derivatives obtained through coal gassification or to wood or other bio-mass. There is no mention anywhere in the bill of

using nuclear energy as a power source. In "furtherance of national energy self-sufficiency consistent with applicable environmental requirements" the bill requires:

"The (mandatory) capacity to use indigenous energy resources of the United States in lieu of imported energy supplies by the substitution of coal and other fuels for natural gas and petroluem products as the primary energy source for new electric powerplants and new major fuel-burning installations.

"The Congress finds that any new electric powerplant or any new major fuel-burning installation shall be deemed in compliance with the purposes of this title if such powerplant or installation has the capability to use coal and utilizes coal as its primary energy source in conformance with applicable environmental requirements."

Two Senate Bills introduced by Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) on Jan. 10, entitled "National Energy Mobilization Act of 1977," and "Energy Policy Act of 1977."

The Mobilization Act would establish an Energy Mobilization Board in the Executive Office of the President. The Board will consist of a Chairman and two members appointed by the President, with powers of subpoena for witnesses, books, papers, and documents and the power to prescribe its own operations and organization. The Bill states that "The Board may make such rules respecting its organization and procedures as it deems necessary...Subpoenas may be issued over the signature of the Chairman of the Board, or of any voting members designated by him..." And, furthermore, "The Chairman may appoint, with the approval of the Board, an executive director who shall exercise such powers and duties as may be delegated to him by the Board."

Its duties are: "To establish specific targets for domestic energy resources which shall include (establishing) a level of imports which is consistent with the national interest, and shall specify the necessary domestic production levels of all energy resources, the necessary conversion of utilities and industry from oil and natural gas to coal or another plentiful energy resource consistent with the domestic production targets, the buildup of specified energy resource stockpiles, especially oil, in storage."

"To monitor the activities of the private and governmental entities to determine the progress made by them toward achieving the specific targets, including "activities and programs being conducted by private enterprise and governmental agencies to increase conservation of energy, to implement conversion of utilities and industries from oil and natural gas to another energy resource and to build up energy resource stockpiles."

In addition to energy conservation, the bill calls for "the development and commercial utilization on a large scale of coal conversion and coal liquification technology," and there is no mention of nuclear power.

The second bill, "Energy Policy Act," would establish a 3-member Energy Policy Council in the Executive Office. Its purpose is to advise the President on energy policy within the framework of the goals and policies of the Energy Mobilization Board. In fact, the Policy Council is identical to Carter's proposed Executive Energy Department which will be directed by James Schlesinger.

Senate Bill introduced on Jan. 25 by Harrison Williams (D-NJ) as the National Energy Center Act. The Bill

would centralize all Federal energy conservation programs and Federal research and development in a National Energy Center. The core of the Center will be an Energy Conservation Service mandated to set up regional centers throughout the country with conservation training and propaganda programs.

"These field representatives would then be sent to operate out of metropolitan, city, suburban, and rural offices to advise and provide technical assistance (on conservation) and expertise to all sectors of the community."

Senate Bill introduced on Jan. 10 by Henry Jackson (D-Wa) to authorize appropriations for development of *non-nuclear energy resources*.

The bill provides funding in the following categories: \$541.4 million for fossil projects, \$319.7 for solar energy, \$241.5 million for energy conservation, \$148.1 million for environmental research and \$216.3 million for program support.

EXCIDENT

Carter Seeks Large-Scale Program Of 'Pick And Shovel' Publicly-Funded Jobs

The Ohio Civilian Conservation Corps legislation which would enroll the state's youth in militarized labor-intensive work camps modeled on the Roosevelt CCC was suddenly resurrected this week and rammed through the state House of Representatives by a 72 to 16 margin yesterday. The bill, sponsored by Carter Democrat State Senator Wilkowski and Rep. Zimmer, has the full backing of the Carter Administration, which is planning a broad program of similar legislation on a national scale.

Carter Democrats last week reintroduced onto the floors of both the House and Senate the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act, and the National Employment Priorities Act of 1974 (NEPA). The NEPA bill — more widely known as then-Senator Walter Mondale's "boxcar bill" — provides for the forcible relocation of workers laid off during the energy crisis to Humphrey-Hawkins-established labor camps.

Wilkowski:

'Once We Get Conservation Camps, Then We Go For Coal Gasification Plants'

The following interview was conducted Feb. 17 with Ohio Democratic State Senator Arthur Wilkowski. The interview was conducted by an independent journalist and made available to the Executive Intelligence Review.

Q: I understand that you have introduced an important piece of Youth employment legislation into the state legislature. What will it do?

Wilkowski: That's right. My Civilian Conservation Corps legislation passed the state House yesterday. It calls for the establishment of a pilot project on 200,000 acres of strip-mined land in the southeastern section of the state. 200 youth would be enrolled in this camp to reclaim the land. If things go well with this project, then the State Director of Natural Resources would authorize at least two more camps doing other things. We are working on some other work project areas, including a soil erosion project near and around Lake Erie. We could use some of the heavy equipment of the national guard and maybe even get some national guard supervision. We've had a rough winter and I'm sure we're going to have a rough spring. If my program were functioning, then the kids could be called up in an emergency situation like the severe snow storm we had or floods.

Q: Are you working with people on the national level? There are similar proposals in the Congress.

Wilkowski: Of course. I've worked with Rep. Meeds (D-Wash., ed.) and Rep. Pease, the newly elected chairman of the Freshman Democratic Caucus. They have assured me that my bill will get funded from the Federal level. The present public service legislation has a provision calling for \$40 million "seed money" for state programs such as mine. When the \$9.3 billion jobs stimulus package gets passed, there will be some \$400 million available.

Q: I understand that Sens. Javits and Humphrey have a national youth employment bill that incorporates a CCC