

Congress Defeats Efforts To Kill Clinch River Breeder Program

In a major defeat for the Carter Administration, two key Senate committees last week voted to fund \$150 million for the Clinch River nuclear breeder program, despite massive White House pressure to kill the project. Eliminating the breeder has been a cornerstone for the entire Carter energy austerity program and the Administration has made the breeder project fight a test of its credibility. The vote of no confidence in the Administration's policy promises to have major international repercussions, as President Carter's demands that Europe scrap its own breeder programs to avoid the danger of nuclear proliferation hinge on his ability to prevent its development in the U.S. The way is now cleared for the full Congress to pass the breeder funding and legislate a complete energy growth program, and for Japan, Germany and France to go ahead with their own breeder programs.

On June 22 the Senate Appropriations Committee voted 13 to 7 to fund \$150 million for the breeder; two days later the Senate Energy Committee did the same, in a 9 to 9 vote. The committee was evenly split on the issue all day and defeated by tie votes an Administration proposal to fund \$33 million to close down the breeder program and a compromise proposal by Senator Church to fund only \$75 million for the breeder.

Committee chairman Senator Scoop Jackson (D-Wash) a strong breeder proponent broke the stalemate by invoking a rule stating that unless a majority voted against the breeder, the Energy Committee could not overrule the Senate Appropriations Committee vote. The way is now cleared for floor votes in both the House and Senate, which are expected after the July 4 recess.

Strong labor union mobilization, especially from the Building Trades, Teamsters and the AFL-CIO, along with stout support from conservative, pro-growth Senators was responsible for the Administration's defeat. Senator McClure (R-Idaho) explicitly warned that the breeder was necessary to prevent war. "It is absolutely essential that we develop new energy sources like the breeder because if we don't, we have condemned this country to an inevitable war. Nations fight wars because of lack of essential raw materials. If we fail to develop new energy sources we will have set this world on an inevitable course toward war."

The U.S. Labor Party was instrumental in mobilizing support for the breeder, especially trade union support. Two weeks ago the *Washington Post* led its front page article on the breeder by listing first among pro-breeder lobbyists, "the U.S. Labor Party, united with the AFL-CIO." The Labor Party initiated the mobilization for the

NSC Defends Carter Energy Policy

The following interview with Jessica Tuchman, head of the Global Issues section of the National Security Council was provided to EIR

Q: Today's *Washington Post* says that the only real opposition to the Clinch River Breeder Reactor has come from within the Administration and references you as a key person who has influenced President Carter to oppose the project. The *Post* reports that the reasons that you and others have given to the President for opposing Clinch River Breeder are based on false information. This seems to be an attack on you by the *Post*. How do you account for this?

A: You didn't read the article very carefully. It was not an attack on me. It only said that some members of the Administration were only lukewarm in their attitude toward the breeder. It was the President's decision, no one else's.

Q: From the numerous articles appearing in the

press playing up Henry Kissinger and his "style" versus Brzezinski's and strong attacks on Carter's push for human rights, it appears that there is a drive to replace Brzezinski with Kissinger. We have heard that Kissinger is waiting to be called by the White House. James Reston's recent column which said that West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and other European leaders are extremely upset by Carter's human rights campaign seems to be an attack on Brzezinski, the person behind that campaign. Do you think what I've said is true?

A: I really can't help you on Kissinger, but on the Reston column, I think Reston swallowed a line. First of all, the President went way out of his way to avoid any conflict on human rights. The CSCE report which he issued, was required by law, he didn't even attach a policy statement to it, because he wanted to avoid this problem. Secondly, Reston exaggerates the response of Schmidt and others. We have found no indication of anywhere near that kind of dismay.

breeder months ago and is committed to ensuring that passage of the breeder program becomes the first step in inaugurating a comprehensive energy development program.

A General Accounting Office letter to Senators Jackson and Baker (R-Tenn) released Friday, declared that President Carter may already have violated the law with his proposal to fund \$33 million to phase out the breeder demonstration program. The GAO said the President "lacks legal authority to implement this plan" while Comptroller General Elmer Staats said that "to implement the President's plan without such authority, would be in violation of the law."

The Administration has been conducting a massive arm-twisting and dirty tricks campaign in Congress and among trade unions to force agreement with this illegal proposal. Early this week Administration allies, Congressmen Bingham (D-NY), Fish (R-NY), George Brown (D-Cal), and Tsongas (D-Mass) formed a Committee to Stop the Breeder. Their main effort has been attempting to dupe the Steelworkers Union (USWA) and the mineworkers union to join the agent-led United Autoworkers Union against the breeder. Congressmen Brown and Bingham met secretly with union officials to "show that labor is not united on the breeder," and especially to force the steelworkers to break with the pro-breeder AFL-CIO. Acting USW legislative director Jack Sheehan said that the "union was not as rigidly in favor of the breeder as the rest of the AFL-CIO" and was weighing what to do. Late this week the UMW legislative office was still considering a writing campaign against the breeder. Congressman Bingham's office was trying to fuel this motion, telling labor leaders that the money saved in cutting out the breeder "could be better spent on (low wage) CETA and public works jobs."

This Administration supported activity has apparently backfired. The AFL-CIO is reported to have sent a letter late this week to Congress, urging complete support for the breeder. Al Zack, Jr., the assistant public relations director of the Federation, told a reporter that the AFL-

CIO intended "to lobby hard to get the breeder through Congress" and intended "to pull strings to break the stalemate" in the Senate Energy Committee. Member unions have put pressure on the steelworkers to follow AFL-CIO policy, and there are reports that a special AFL-CIO executive board meeting will be held next week where the board, including the USW President Lloyd McBride, will be asked to reaffirm their support for the breeder. Several Steelworkers Union officials have privately expressed dismay that the union could even consider not supporting the breeder.

Angry Building Trades President Robert Georgine declared "we are 100 percent for the breeder." The Building Trades unions have been working closely with the Teamsters, also firmly committed to the breeder program. "We will not lead the fight," a Teamster spokesman said, "but if our support is needed, you can bet our troops will be there."

The White House conducted a major lobbying effort with Congress throughout the week with Carter personally involved. Carter sent a letter to House Speaker Tip O'Neill warning him that he must come out with a clear statement on the breeder — either supporting Carter or the breeder's Congressional backers. And just before the Senate Energy Committee voted June 24, Carter telephoned Senator Church for a last attempt to change the Senator's mind.

At the same time Bingham tried a last desperate dirty tricks operation to convince the Senate to defeat the breeder funding proposal. Bingham released documents to the press purportedly showing that Burns and Roe, the chief contractor for Clinch River, knew four years ago that the project would be a lemon because of cost overruns and poor siting. The "scandal" broke in the *Washington Star* June 22 afternoon as the Energy Committee was voting. According to a euphoric aide in Bingham's office, Senator Church, chairman of the Senate Energy subcommittee on nuclear power postponed an earlier vote on the Clinch River when told of the impending leak, fearing the story would unfavorably influence the vote.

Rusk, Stetson Sound Carter War Cry Over Energy

If Congress won't pass the Carter Administration's energy program, the U.S. will go to war with the Soviets to secure a Rockefeller stranglehold over world energy supplies. That was the message delivered by Rockefeller spokesman Dean Rusk and John Stetson in well-publicized interviews in U.S. News and World Report and the Chicago Tribune last week.

Rusk, former Secretary of State, former President of the Rockefeller Foundation, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, demanded the U.S. population cut energy consumption by one-third and get used to a correspondingly reduced standard of living. Stetson, Carter's Secretary of the Air Force, promised that

"somebody will drop some firecrackers" to overcome Americans' resistance to a massive new arms buildup. The interviews are excerpted below.

Dean Rusk

Q: Professor Rusk, has the basic challenge for the U.S. abroad changed in the past few years?

A: Indeed it has. The entire human race is faced now with problems which are different in kind than we ever faced before. I have in mind the continuing nuclear-arms race and the threat of general war in a world in which there are thousands of megatons lying around in the