

Jimmy Carter Demands Energy Czardom From Congress

Jimmy Carter sent to Congress March 1 legislation to establish a Department of Energy which will function as an extra-constitutional superagency to carry out the zero-growth energy programs put forward by Carter and the Administration's energy czar James Schlesinger. If passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate, Carter's bill will put Schlesinger — leading spokesman of the concept of "limited nuclear warfare" — in charge of the cabinet-level Department.

"This legislation is a major step in my Administration's program for a comprehensive reorganization of the Executive Branch," Carter announced in his message to Congress (see below). "Nowhere is the need for reorganization and consolidation greater than in energy policy."

Schlesinger, once established as Energy Department Secretary, will gain nearly total control over electrical power generation. Schlesinger will control regional marketing functions for electric power as well as the rate of public land leasing and energy production on federal lands. With Security and Exchange authority to regulate utility mergers rounding out the package, Schlesinger can phase out the bulk of high-technology energy generation and other so-called "soft energies."

The new "conservation-oriented" superagency will entirely eliminate the Federal Power Commission, the Federal Energy Administration, and the Energy

Research and Development Administration. At the same time, it will usurp key functions from the Interior Department. The consolidation will permit Schlesinger to weed out pro-nuclear energy bureaucrats and scientists.

Schlesinger has hired 750 so-called managers, doing so outside of ordinary U.S. Civil Service rules, grades, tests, and appointment lists, the *Baltimore Sun* reports. The legislation also leaves to Schlesinger rather than Congress the deployment of five out of eight assistant secretaries in the new department.

Schlesinger's first assignment, Carter said at a Feb. 23 press conference, will be commandeering Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus' "admittedly superficial studies" on alleged natural gas withholding of largely independent Gulf Coast natural gas producers. Schlesinger will then use his allegedly more detailed studies to shift blame away from his energy sabotage by targeting independent oil companies for largely trumped-up withholding charges.

The Energy Department is only the first stage in Carter's reorganization plans, a spokesman for Common Cause said recently. "After we get an Energy Department, we will make a big push for a Department of the Environment," he said, adding that Common Cause has started a major lobbying effort to insure passage of the energy legislation.

Proposed Legislation To Create New Cabinet Department Of Energy

Message From The President Of The United States

(H. DOC. No. 95-91)

To the Congress of the United States

I hereby transmit to the Congress proposed legislation which will create a new Cabinet Department of Energy.

This legislation is a major step in my Administration's program for a comprehensive reorganization of the Executive Branch.

Nowhere is the need for reorganization and consolidation greater than in energy policy. All but two of the Executive Branch's Cabinet departments now have

some responsibility for energy policy, but no agency, anywhere in the Federal Government, has the broad authority needed to deal with our energy problems in a comprehensive way.

The legislation I am submitting today will bring immediate order to this fragmented system:

— It will abolish the Federal Energy Administration, the Energy Research and Development Administration, and the Federal Power Commission, thereby eliminating three agencies whose missions overlap and