

Whig Coalition Draws Line On Carter

In the last two weeks, a bipartisan coalition of Republicans and Democrats in Congress and in state legislatures has emerged which is drawing the line against Jimmy Carter on the issues of drug decriminalization, the electoral reform package which would legalize the Nov. 2 vote fraud which put Jimmy Carter in the White House, and with a growing drive in states for fusion the passage of fusion memorials to Congress. In Congress, this emerging Whig coalition has operated in joint actions between Republicans on the one hand together with either Southern Democrats or urban democrats on the other.

Nevertheless, while this coalition has put serious dents into Jimmy Carter's overall policy thrust, its current Maginot line mentality has so far kept it from going for the Trilateral Commission Administration's jugular: impeachment of Jimmy Carter for treason to the nation for economic and military strategic policies which if not stopped dead will lead to the country's rapid destruction.

The following reports are a summary rundown on the activity of the growing national Whig coalition — a rundown which, as the New York drug story shows — thoroughly documents its potential national strength.

Congress Bucks Carter On Farm And Water Bills

A growing bipartisan coalition in Congress engineered the defeat of several important Carter Administration measures this week, ignoring Carter's veto threats. The vote margins of this bipartisan coalition of Republicans and Democrats has increased to the point that Carter's threatened vetoes may be overridden. A group of Northern urban Democrats have joined the previously existing Republican-southern Democratic axis, creating a bloc consisting of more than two-thirds majority.

The following four measures which Carter considered to contain "excessive spending" provisions, were voted up by Congressional units this week mostly by wide margins:

SENATE FARM BILL — On May 24, the Senate passed a five-year farm bill that authorizes approximately \$1 billion more each year for primarily corn and wheat supports than the amount the President said he would accept. The Senate vote was 69 to 18. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) charged that "The Administration is up here trying to beat down the farmer instead of trying to help the farmer." The bill also establishes authority for special overseas sales and donations of food.

Although the House Agriculture Committee has called for price support levels closer to what Carter wants, there is an ongoing fight within the committee over Carter's proposed food-stamp reform which is also part of the bill. The bill is expected to reach the floor in July.

WATER PROJECT BILL — On May 25, the House Appropriations Committee passed unanimously a bill introduced by Thomas Beville (D-Ala.) to restore more than \$200 million for continued construction of 17 of the 18 water projects Carter had demanded be halted. The committee also voted up funding for 12 water project starts. The *Washington Post* reports that Carter had sent a letter to every member on Beville's subcommittee, who

voted up the bill earlier, expressing "deep concern and disappointment." This tactic only created an even fiercer determination to restore the cuts, with Beville firing back a letter stating that he "disagreed with the advice" he had just received.

House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.), speaking on nationwide television last week, cited the water projects bill as a severe test for the Congressional majority leadership and for the Administration. He said that if the House leadership is forced to bring a vetoed bill back for an override, this would discredit both themselves and the President. Such an event never occurred even once under Kennedy or Johnson.

The *Washington Post* reported that a White House official said that if the Water Project Bill, the Farm Bill, and a third bill which authorizes the Health Education and Welfare Department to allocate more on education than Carter wants, all arrive on his desk at the same time, Carter will not dare to veto all three. The White House source cited the Water Project Bill as the likeliest target.

LABOR-HEW MONEY BILL — On May 26 the House Appropriations Committee passed by voice vote a \$61.3 billion Labor-HEW bill which contains \$1.4 billion over Carter's allocation. Over half of the increase is for educational grants and loan programs Carter specifically asked to be halted. The Committee also defeated by a one-vote margin an amendment that would have cut \$563 million from Labor-HEW funds for fiscal 1978.

A Senate Appropriations subcommittee on the same day voted up its own version of the bill, adding another \$765 million for programs above the House committee-approved levels. The *Washington Post* noted that "the President's desire to hold down spending was hardly referred to during the Senate subcommittee's all-day

session." The close vote on the amendment was due to Rep. Robert Michel's (R-Ill.) and Appropriations Committee Chairman George Mahon's (D-Tex.) support of the amendment.

CLEAN AIR ACT — On May 26, the House of Representatives passed a bill to amend the Clean Air Act of 1970 by a vote of 326 to 49. The bill contains a provision for further delayed and permanently weakened controls on automobile exhaust fumes. The House also defeated an earlier Carter-backed amendment which would have contained stronger restrictions on auto emissions, by a margin of 202 to 190. The amendment that the House adopted was supported by the United Auto Workers union and the automobile industry and strongly opposed by environmentalists and the Carter Administration.

Representative James T. Broyhill (R-N.C.) who sponsored the adopted amendment along with John D.

Dingell (D-Mich.) said, "We want clean air, but we have other social goals."

However, Carter announced early this week that he intends to enforce current clean air regulations to the hilt, and a spokesman at the Council on Environmental Quality said in a recent interview that the crackdown on industry "would not require new legislation."

Also this week the House International Affairs Committee passed by voice vote an amendment sponsored by Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D-N.Y.) which supports Carter's blockage of the commercialization of the Clinch River Fast Breeder Nuclear Plant. The passage of the amendment does not mean that the fight ends here. The issue will be taken up in the House Appropriations Committee before it reaches the House floor.

Lastly, on May 26, the Senate passed the Administration's Comprehensive Youth Employment Act by a vote of 80 to 3. The measure creates thousands of unproductive menial low-paying jobs for youth and will now go to Carter's desk for signature.

Carter Takes Bloody Nose On Vote Bill

Bi-partisan opposition to the Administration's Universal Voter Registration bill, authored by Vice President Mondale, last week forced Administration backers in the House of Representatives to withdraw the bill from the legislative calendar. The action is the Administration's response to Democratic Representatives' warnings to the President that they do not have enough support to ensure the bill's passage.

Opposition in both Houses intensified after hearings in the Senate Rules Committee found that the Justice Department with evident White House approval, had suppressed memoranda which warned of the vote fraud possibilities in the bill.

The bill was pulled from the House calendar only hours after Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC) announced that he and other Senators were prepared to filibuster the legislation in the Senate, a move which would effectively kill the bill in both houses.

Thurmond made his promise May 19 at a press conference called by Rep. Philip Crane (R-Ill) chairman of the American Conservative Union, to announce the results of a poll on the bill taken among secretaries of state and election officials on the state level. Of 50 officials polled, representing each state, Crane reported that 29 opposed the "reform" bill, 12 supported it, and nine were undecided.

While the Crane-Thurmond press conference was in progress, Carter met with a delegation of urban Democratic Congressmen who told him that they could not guarantee the passage of the bill in the House. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill) reported that the Dems were worried about the broad national opposition to the bill particularly from predominantly Democratic urban election officials. A large delegation of officials from Cook County, Ill. had given extensive testimony to committees in both houses, opposing the measure because of the vast fraud potential.

Efforts by Mondale, the President, and Democratic leaders in the House to armtwist more votes have thus far proved unsuccessful. The White House strategy now is to work over what they term "recalcitrant" Congressmen and election officials during the Memorial Day recess. Both the Senate bill and the House version are expected to be heard after Congress reconvenes on June 6. Rep. Frank Thompson (D-NJ) told reporters: "We have the votes to pass it but not by a wide enough

"I urge everyone to vote early and often."

— Walter Mondale,
Vice President
of the United States

Nov. 1, 1976

margin to impress the Senators." He and the White House are worried that even if the bill passes in one house, the margin will be so slim that the measure will die in the other house.

Taking advantage of the Administration's dilemma, Republicans in the House, led by Rep. Frenzel (R-Minn) are sponsoring a series of additional amendments which would gut the bill, and thereby kill any support. Frenzel stated to reporters after the bill's withdrawal, "When you've got a leaky vessel in the fleet, that's where you direct your fire." Frank Thompson, a sponsor of the bill and chairman of the House Administration Committee commented on the continued attacks on the bill because