

steel. Construction of rigs would put steelworkers back to work.

That, of course, means we would need twice as much pipe — not only to put it in the well, but also to pipe the oil away from where they find it into the pipelines. We would need workers to operate all that, the equipment to clear the sites and to move on location, and the geophysical equipment to help find where the best location to drill would appear to be.

Those jobs have a multiplying effect. We ought to create them. It is a lot better than those CETA make-work jobs and a lot better than leaf-raking for the country.

Think of all the fall-out jobs that come from that — manufacturing of pipe and making it into rigs and making it into the equipment. We have tremendous need of all this.

## DOE Fight: Energy Czar's Covert War To Keep Nuclear Advocates Out

A number of the Carter Administration's nominees for top posts in the Department of Energy (DOE) have come under attack by environmentalists and their Senate representatives for being "too favorable to nuclear energy" and "too closely tied to the oil industry." The attacks are being orchestrated by Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger himself, who admitted in a recent interview with the *Washington Post* that the DOE would "change dramatically" under his leadership, focusing on "solar and biomass" energy sources rather than nuclear power.

Carter to withdraw Lynn C. Coleman's nomination as DOE general counsel. These senators are furious with President Carter for choosing Coleman, who has been a strong advocate of increased energy production and is a member of John Connally's Houston law firm.

The *Washington Post* was particularly incensed by the Administration's DOE nominees. Putting the blame for the choices on President Carter personally, the *Post* ran a front-page article, "Old Hands Grip New Energy Dept.," featured a "leak" that the Department would be stacked with the same "folks that brought you the B-1 bomber, the breeder reactor, and John Connally."

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### ENERGY REPORT

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Schlesinger is doing everything in his power to strip the newly formed Department of Energy of any pronuclear sentiment. The national press — particularly the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* — has depicted Schlesinger as "pronuclear," concocting out of thin air a phony dichotomy between Schlesinger and his environmentalist protégés. But the bulk of the assistant secretaries nominated for the DOE are raving environmentalists, like the Ford Foundation's Alvin L. Alm, nominee for Assistant Secretary of Energy, and Schlesinger plans to scotch the chances of the few token advocates of energy development that have been nominated through intimidation and environmentalist harassment.

At Senate confirmation hearings last week, DOE nominee for Assistant Secretary for Energy Technology, Robert D. Thorne, became Schlesinger's first target of intimidation. Raked over the coals for over three hours by proenvironmentalist Senators James Abourezk (D-S.D.), Howard Metzenbaum (D-Oh.) and others, Thorne was accused of being biased in favor of nuclear energy and against soft energies like solar power. His only support came from a U.S. Labor Party representative who urged Thorne's confirmation precisely because "of his past record of supporting nuclear power development."

These same zero-growth advocates, joined by Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), have urged President

#### *Witch-hunt*

At the Nov. 2 Senate Energy Committee's confirmation hearing, the majority of the senators present turned the hearings into a trial aimed at branding Thorne "guilty by association." His crimes? Senator Abourezk, armed with a stack of Atomic Energy Commission and Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) pamphlets as "evidence," tried to "prove" that Thorne had swung the outcome of a California referendum on nuclear energy. Specifically, Abourezk charged that Thorne had disseminated ERDA pamphlets in favor of nuclear energy while he was manager of ERDA's San Francisco operations office.

One observer described the hearings as reminiscent of a "medieval witch-hunt, where scientists were burned at the stake." While predicting that Thorne and Coleman — whose confirmation hearings have not yet been set — will reluctantly be confirmed, the source argued that not only the nominees, but all government scientists, will be tamed by the terror tactics employed. "The hearing was a show trial to purge all high-technology sentiment within the DOE," the source said.

Under these pressures, Thorne buckled under, ingratiating himself to the Fabian senators and the four representatives of various Ralph Nader environmentalist front groups, including Consumer Action Now and the Friends of the Earth, who testified. I am really a solar power backer, and only passed out the pro-nuclear ERDA literature as part of my job, he said.

This backpedaling was partially checked in the afternoon when U.S. Labor Party representative Laura Chasen testified at the hearings and gave Thorne "quali-

fied support" (see excerpts below).

Chasen's attacks on Schlesinger for his "deliberate sabotage of nuclear development" prompted an angry outburst by Committee chairman Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wa.): "Mr. Schlesinger is not under discussion here." "What I am saying is far more relevant than anything else said here today," Chasen snapped back. She completed her testimony without further interruption.

— C. Lerner

### Why the Labor Party Backs Thorne's Nomination

*Laura Chasen, representing the U.S. Labor Party, presented the testimony excerpted here to hearings on Nov. 2, 1977.*

The national interest of our country, and indeed the progress of the entire planet, being dependent on the rapid development of advanced nuclear technology, the U.S. Labor Party recommends confirmation of Robert D. Thorne to be Assistant Secretary of Energy Technology because of his past record of supporting nuclear power development. We caution, however, that he has recently indicated a willingness to compromise his pro-development orientation, and suggest that this Committee get a clear statement of commitment to nuclear progress — to the breeder and fusion — from Mr. Thorne before supporting his confirmation to this crucial position.

Whether or not to develop advanced energy technology is the most basic policy decision facing our government....

This is a concrete question of great immediate importance; the positive motion created by the Carter Administration in the Middle East, in improving relations with the Soviet Union, and the possibility for such positive initiatives in southern Africa and the rest of the Third World face the most serious danger from James Schlesinger's energy program and its deliberate sabotage of nuclear development. Domestically, without the promise of an expanding economy based on growing energy supplies, we can only provide an unemployed worker someone else's job — or lower the living standard and skill of the whole nation through fostering labor-intensive over high-technology jobs.

The nuclear question is key as well for economic

policy. Without nuclear development, we can only fight our enormous balance of payments problem through self-destructive attempts at forced conservation austerity aimed at cutting back imports. Only with a program of government fostered high-technology exports can we move from the current recession to a period of growth and prosperity.

In fact, the gutting of the industrial base of our economy, advocated by such anti-nuclear development zero-growthers as James Schlesinger, and their sabotaging of world development, is an offense against the American Idea of Progress, and is inherently reactionary and racist.

Secretary Schlesinger has an undeserved reputation for being "pronuclear." In fact, his activity while at the AEC opened the way for environmentalist sabotage through the courts of the use of even light water reactors. Schlesinger himself is personally responsible for the recent Administration attempt (successfully countered by Congress) to kill, by funding deferral, key fusion energy research projects. And his own stated position towards nuclear power is that we must use light water reactors only because we must resort to the last resort — and the more advanced reprocessing and breeder energy sources are not even on his agenda, let alone given the priority our national interest would dictate. And if one looks at the place accorded nuclear development within the Department of Energy, one is struck by the continuing downgrading over recent years of our nuclear effort. Under Schlesinger, the position for which Robert Thorne has been nominated — the top nuclear post — is only one among fourteen fourth level positions: I am submitting an appendix to this testimony which demonstrates that any attempt to downgrade nuclear in favor of solar and other "soft" technologies would increase our energy costs about ten-fold — yet such downgrading is Schlesinger's deliberate policy, and thus it becomes vital that Assistant Secretary of Energy Technology be someone with an unwavering commitment to nuclear power....

The issue involved in the nomination proceedings before you today is thus clear-cut: will we have an Assistant Secretary of Energy Technology who expresses the belief in the necessity for scientific progress and industrial expansion that is held by the vast majority of our citizens.