

Urging emphatically that nuclear power be put in its rightful place as the cornerstone of U.S. expanded energy policy, Thurmond noted that "technological advancement brings the high standard living which, in the long run, is the only sure remedy for human discord."

A fifth source of disagreement — one which has temporarily subsided but which is bound to resurface after

April 20 comes from the Congressional bloc representing independent oil and gas producing states. Rightly fearing that Carter intends to liquidate all independent energy producers into the Rockefeller cartel, representatives of these states, such as Rep. Waggoner (D-La), Pickle (D-Texas) and many others, will probably line up against at least part of the Carter package.

Fusion Memorialization in Legislatures Shapes Energy Fight Across The Nation

By an overwhelming vote of 108-3 on March 29, the Maryland House of Delegates passed legislation calling on the President and Congress of the United States to vigorously promote the development of fusion power and upgrade scientific research in the U.S. The lopsided vote, despite the fact that the bill had no sponsor, demonstrates the strong support for industrial growth throughout this highly industrialized state.

The Maryland legislation is the first fusion bill to reach the floor in the eight state legislatures where it is now introduced: Michigan, Washington State, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Connecticut. Legislation calling on Congress to commit the U.S. to the development of fusion power is now being drafted in Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Colorado, and Vermont to be introduced after the Easter recess.

The Maryland fusion legislation now goes to the legislature's Economic Affairs Committee and then to the Senate floor, where it is expected to be approved. The fact is that once the legislation actually becomes public, even the most dyed-in-the-wool backers of President Carter's "conservation"-oriented energy policies can't justify voting against it.

In the Democratic-dominated Maryland state legislature, under heavy Carter influence, it was initially impossible to obtain a sponsor for the bill. Finally Rep. George Price (R-Baltimore County) introduced it at the request of the U.S. Labor Party. The well-attended and highly publicized Fusion Energy Foundation Conference in Baltimore on March 2 built a climate of support for the legislation. The conference, co-sponsored by the Maryland-based engineering-architectural firm Harrison Associates, was attended by representatives of the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), Baltimore Mayor Schaeffer's office, and numerous corporations and local business groups. The conference received prominent coverage in the *Baltimore Sun* and the city's financial *Daily Record*. The legislation simultaneously gathered support from local Chambers of Commerce and was under consideration by 11 leading union locals in the Baltimore area, a well-known union city.

At open hearings held on March 17, Maryland State Labor Party chairman Larry Freeman, Fusion Energy Foundation spokesman Charles Stevens as well as Labor Party members from plants around the city advocated immediate passage. Fred Hittman, president of Hittman Associates, wrote the Environmental Affairs Committee

a letter in support of the bill, HJM No. 80, and the Bethesda Chamber of Commerce voted to back it. In the face of this support even a walkout during the testimony led by pro-Carter Environmental Matters Committee head John Arnick (D-Dundalk) could not stall the bill. It was unanimously passed by the Committee and a full mobilization of calls of support into the legislature from around the state forced the Carter Democrats to back down and support the bill in the floor vote.

Northwest

In the Northwest, fusion power legislation has been sponsored in two states by a coalition of pro-development Democratic and Republican legislators.

Washington State: The Senate Energy committee has unanimously voted up a memorial calling on the Congress to "undertake the measures necessary to accelerate and broaden the research and development of controlled fusion reactions" and "enact complementary enabling measures to develop fossil fuels usage and nuclear energy expansion under existing technologies to bridge the period between now and the target period of the mid-1980's when controlled fusion energy can 'come on line.'"

This fusion resolution caused a complete re-alignment of the legislature and the political factions in the state. Old-line Democrats such as former Senate Majority leader August Mardesich and Senate Energy Committee Chairman Max Benitz supported the resolution, which was also sponsored by leading Republican Senators Kent Pullen and Bob Lewis.

The battle lines were drawn clearly when Fusion Energy Foundation Director Dr. Morris Levitt testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Utilities on Feb. 17. There, angry Naderite legislators demanded that the resolution's references to the historical U.S. commitment to progress and the disavowal of zero-growth be deleted. Senator Lewis acknowledged the basis of the dispute but declared "It's an important issue which must be addressed." The legislation, SJM No. 102, is expected to reach the Senate floor soon.

The Washington state AFL-CIO leadership and the state's strong Building Trades lobby have also split over whether to support the bill.

The U.S. Labor Party's extensive lobbying in the state has injected the fight for energy development as a major issue in the upcoming special congressional election for Seattle's 7th C.D., vacated by Transportation Secretary

Brock Adams. The fusion fight has also undercut efforts to drum up constituency support for the solar energy legislation being pushed by Rep. Mike McCormack.

Oregon: A bipartisan grouping including nine Democrats and six Republicans has introduced a fusion energy memorial in both Chambers, HJM No. 5, which has been referred to the House Trade and Economic Development Committee. In February, the newspaper of the Oregon State AFL-CIO endorsed the legislation while simultaneously urging the defeat of five pieces of Naderite energy legislation.

This growing battle in the legislature against Naderism and associated press coverage of the U.S. Labor Party testimony at hearings around the state is blocking the Carter Administration's plan to fire such pro-nuclear and pro-growth energy administrators at the Bonneville Power Authority as Don Hodel. Industrialists' invitations to the Fusion Energy Foundation to testify at important Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearings also demonstrates that the pro-growth forces in Oregon are using the U.S. Labor Party and its mobilization to make a comeback against the Naderism rampant in the state and give a strong rebuke to the state's newly-elected zero-growth governor Straub.

Midwest

In the Midwest, the USLP-initiated fusion legislation has been introduced in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Michigan: Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) has introduced a fusion energy development memorial which will soon be heard by the House Policy Committee. The bill is co-sponsored by Democratic Assistant House Majority Leader Tom Anderson, who is the chairman of the Energy, Technology and Science Committee of the National Association of State Legislators. As in Maryland, the legislation will be virtually impossible to oppose once it is publicized, even for Democrats normally controlled by Leonard Woodcock's UAW. Sixteen additional co-sponsors have been lined up in the past week, and the pressure will intensify further following a town meeting on the legislation set for Livonia, Michigan on April 3.

The Livonia Town meeting will be addressed by Livonia Conservative Caucus leader George Kettunen, local Democrats, Republicans, church groups and patriotic organizations. A similar town meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan two weeks ago was reported by the Grand Rapids Press as a thoughtful analysis of the history in the U.S. of the fight for progress.

Illinois: A memorial resolution calling for the development of fusion power has been introduced by Republican representatives Meyer, Reed and Bartoulis and one Democratic representative, LeRoy VanDuyne. The bill, which will be heard by the Energy Committee at the end of April, has already exercised a significant affect on the upcoming Chicago mayoral election, with democratic candidates Edward Hanrahan and Roman Pucinski affirming their commitment to industrial growth as the basis for a healthy city in opposition to the views of the candidate picked by the First National Bank of Chicago, Michael Bilandic.

Wisconsin: A coalition of eleven Republicans and

three Democrats led by Rep. George Klicka (R-Wauwatosa) introduced legislation on March 30 memorializing Congress to develop fusion power. This alliance of conservative Democrats and Republicans was forged in part during the hard-fought contest waged to block the certification of Wisconsin's electoral votes for Carter last November. Massive vote fraud in the November election was made possible by an illegal "same day" voter registration law which was rammed through the state legislature last session. Rep. Klicka, who is leading the drive both for the fusion memorial and for abolishing the same day registration, reflects the determination of the state's pro-growth legislators to defeat Wisconsin's entrenched "progressive" fabian forces this time around.

The introduction of fusion legislation in the home state of the leading Congressional spokesmen in favor of a bailout of the New York banks, Sen. William Proxmire and Rep. Henry Reuss, represents a point of vulnerability to be exploited by their opponents in Congress. Town meetings and press conferences are now underway in the area to demonstrate constituency support for an economic program based on industrial development for the state.

Northeast-Mid-Atlantic

Connecticut: The fusion memorial was killed in the Government Administration and Policy Committee through Democratic opposition a month ago. However the Connecticut state legislature has since been bombarded with an increasing mobilization of the trade unions and pro-growth industrialists to adopt a policy of energy expansion. On March 14, Fusion Energy Foundation nuclear engineer Jon Gilbertson testified at the request of the building trades coalition LITE (Laborers, Ironworkers, Teamsters and Operating Engineers), to block a Naderite clean air act, explaining how such legislation is being used across the country to enforce deindustrialization and the alternative of a high-technology fusion economy.

Pennsylvania: The state's House Committee on Energy and Mines heard Gilbertson testify on the possibility of fusion in the U.S. by 1990 at a special session convened by Rep. Ivan Itkin (D-Pittsburgh). The Energy and Mines Committee voted unanimously to sponsor the fusion energy resolution as a committee resolution. It is now in the State-Federal Committee where it will be heard in early April and then move to the floor of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

At the same time, the growing activity connected with the Fusion Energy Foundation's upcoming April 29 conference in Pittsburgh, on "Fusion Energy and a High-Technology Economy for the U.S.," has already attracted to the conference speakers from the Teamsters, Duquesne Power and Light, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University as well as political groupings from around the state. This conference, which promises to be of international significance, will be a signal to the state legislature to demand that the U.S. Congress enact legislation to achieve fusion power as the solution to the energy crisis.