

Bourne 'Pillgate' Scandal Aimed At Carter's Head

Open proposals of "Cartergate" are proliferating from both "left" and "right" U.S. press in the wake of the resignation of Dr. Peter Bourne, the White House advisor on drug abuse.

The Bourne case, wrote conservative columnist Patrick Buchanan in the July 27 *New York Daily News*, "could be the thread which, drawn, could unravel the Carter administration." In the same day's *Baltimore Sun*, liberal Joseph Kraft reported "wide rumors" that "there is more to the story of drugs at the White House" and speculated that "the President will have to take very strong action."

As every informed Washington source knows, the Bourne affair was a deliberate political setup from the beginning. Peter Bourne is a British-born, Oxford-trained psychiatrist previously on record as supporting the United Kingdom's system of legalized heroin distribution. He is also a vocal advocate of the "decriminalization" of marijuana pushed by the National Organization for the Reform of the Marijuana Laws (NORML), sometimes referred to as the "Pot Lobby."

Eighteen months ago the U.S. Labor Party exposed the details of Bourne's unsavory career in testimony at Senate hearings on his appointment.

As Kraft points out however, the Carter Administration as a whole is by no means committed to the "end of prohibition" and full-scale legalization and "regulation" of the drug culture of which decriminalization of marijuana is the first step. "It was certainly no accident,"

says Kraft, that Bourne was quickly exposed through leaks to the press for writing a prescription for a powerful sedative Quaalude for his executive assistant, whose identity he tried to mask by using a fictitious name.

Moreover, stories that Bourne and other White House staff members sniffed cocaine and smoked pot, "were substantiated by NORML officials in the apparent hope of nailing...an Administration waffling on its previous stand in favor of decriminalizing marijuana," Kraft reports. Bourne himself was quoted in the press that there was "a high incidence" of marijuana usage in the White House.

The White House partially "detoxified" the Bourne case by forcing Bourne's resignation, and Carter himself issued a strong memorandum on illegal drug use to all White House employees. The President warned that he expected "every member of the White House staff to obey the law...You will obey it, or you will seek employment elsewhere." In a subsequent press conference, the President stated emphatically that he did not support the growth or use of marijuana, and praised the efforts of Mexican President Lopez Portillo for helping to stop marijuana — and heroin — running into the U.S.

Nevertheless, press furor escalated from such well-known London conduits as *New York Times* columnist William Safire and the *Washington Post's* Jack Anderson and Mary McGrory.

Meanwhile, environmentalist Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) pushed the "Pot Lobby's" cause ahead by pushing a bill through the Senate to prevent U.S. funds from being used in anti-drug programs abroad where paraquat, a weed-killer, is sprayed on fields of marijuana. The "Pot Lobby" claims that paraquat harms pot-smokers who obtain the sprayed weed, and should, therefore, be banned.

Carter Considering Japanese Fusion Offer?

London replies: no need for A-power with Mexican oil

The Carter Administration this week formed an inter-agency Ad Hoc Committee to make a formal reply to the recent Japanese proposal for a joint U.S.-Japanese research effort in developing the most advanced form of energy, thermonuclear fusion power.

ENERGY

The formation of the committee is one of several indications that President Carter may be taking seriously the communiqué issued by the seven-nation July 16-17 Bonn summit meet, proclaiming the indispensable role of nuclear energy development to world economic growth. (For the text of the communiqué, see this week's SPECIAL REPORT.)

During the Bonn proceedings, Carter met with Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda to discuss the merits of U.S.-Japanese collaboration on nuclear research, expressed two months ago in a Japanese plan for a billion dollar joint fusion effort as an immediate goal.

Partially in answer to this emerging shift in Administration thinking, a network of individuals and organizations who in the past have been prominent promoters of "energy scarcity" scenarios — including Senator Edward Kennedy, the *Washington Post*, and the select British-linked zero-growth planning agency known as the Aspen Institute — are suddenly trumpeting that Mexico's new oil fields, among new finds elsewhere, invalidate Energy Secretary James Schlesinger's "oil crisis" forecasts for the early 1980s.

Their goal, as expressed by Aspen and the *Washington Post*, is to use the enormous Mexican reserves to argue