

support the Social Democrats, has lost massively, falling below the 4% threshold—meaning that they would not get any seats in the future parliament. On top of this, the party leadership is plagued by scandals. There are two leading figures who could possibly replace Johansson. The first, Andreas Carlgren, two years ago confessed to being a homosexual (and anthroposoph). The other, Lennart Daleus, recently was exposed as being an ardent nudist. The Center Party clearly has its problems.

Bill to close plants losing support

At the center of the heated fight is a government bill, for which the Social Democrats got the support of the Center Party at the beginning of the year. The bill stipulates that the government can, any time it wishes, withdraw the right of the owners of a nuclear power plant to run it, if the owners are reimbursed for their losses. Before the parliament was to have voted on this bill, it was sent out to various institutions for consideration, including the universities. Members of the parties which were not part of the deal could also submit their own motions. Something unheard of has happened: Stockholm University sent back the bill, commenting that it has to be seen as an attempt to settle a dispute between two parties, the state being one of the parties. Such a procedure is unlawful, the university stated.

As if this were not enough, the Moderate Party, led by Carl Bildt, finally ended its refusal to take a stand in this conflict. At the beginning of October, the party, which six months ago became the largest national party and is steadily growing, stated that if it were to win the election next year, it would turn the Barsebaeck nuclear power plant back on, should the combined forces of the Social Democrats and the Center Party close it down next summer, before the elections. Two other non-socialist parties have announced that they are going to turn the government bill down, thereby supporting the moderates in a flanking maneuver.

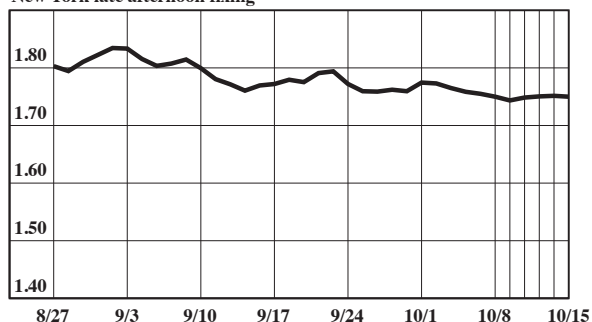
That 70% to 80% of the population, in poll after poll, is showing some sense of reality, by stating that the nuclear power plants should not be closed down prematurely, has not had any visible impact on the prime minister. That a combination of trade unions and industrialists, mainly those connected to the export sector, have repeatedly pointed to the national interests involved in keeping Sweden's electricity prices low, has not had any impact on the prime minister, who seems to have pushed the self-destruct button without even being able to realize it.

The most outspoken support for nuclear energy is coming from southern Sweden, from the greater Malmö area. The region has been bubbling with enthusiasm and hope since early spring, when the first foundations of the 15-kilometer-long bridge between Malmö and Copenhagen were put in place. The bridge, which will give a significant economic boost to the region, is scheduled to be ready for operation in the year 2000.

Currency Rates

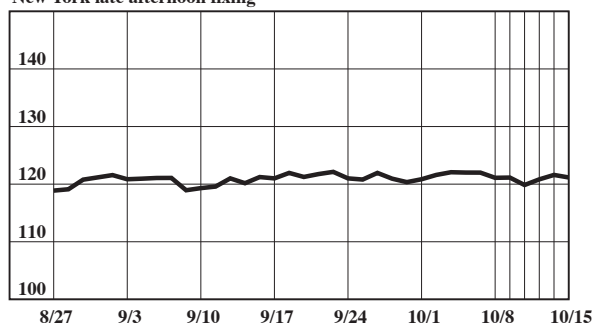
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



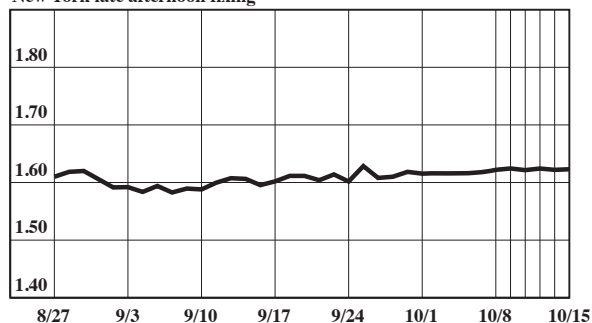
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

