

Health Cuts; Carter Followup To No-Energy Plan

Barely one week after announcing his comprehensive no-energy plan to the American people and Congress, President Carter announced April 25 a "tough cost-control" program to cut national health care by an across-the-board five percent reduction in hospital budgets. Carter's proposed legislation is calculated to reduce health care costs by \$2 billion in 1977 and by \$5.5 billion by 1978. The President has designated Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano, who has criticized the "voracious appetite for money" of hospital administrators and doctors, to oversee the triage of the nation's health care system.

"Patients will die because of these cuts. This makes no sense whatsoever," said the administrator of a large New York City Hospital April 26. Summing up what is probably the estimate of every competent health care specialist in the country, Dr. Leo Gehreg, the head of the American Hospital Association, told NSIPS the same day, "Our ability to render services is already hampered by inadequate and outdated facilities. The Carter bill will effectively remove vital services from those areas which need it the most." Gehreg predicted that doctors will join consumers to fight the passage of the Carter plan.

Carter will deliver his health program to Congress next week.

After Carter himself proposed skyrocketing prices for energy to discourage consumption and encourage conservation, this week he demagogically decried "extraordinary increases in health care costs." The common strand in both the energy and health packages is the Trilateral Commission's demand for the reduction in living standards and deliberate triage of the nation's population, accompanied by deindustrialization and cut-backs in technology.

In an effort to present Carter's triage package in the best light, Wall Street's house organs have portrayed his health legislation as something designed to ease the cost of health care to the consumer. In point of fact, the principle of the bill is that certain patients will have smaller hospital bills because other patients will be refused hospital admission or specialized care — resulting in their needless deaths. The Carter legislation would impose stringent limits on the services offered by general care institutions, effectively prohibiting them from building new additions or employing new technology.

Charging that hundreds of thousands of hospital beds are not utilized and totally unnecessary, Carter would restrict capital expenditures, setting an annual national limit on such capital investment. Hospitals that exceed

the approved limit would not be reimbursed by Medicare or Medicaid. The first year limit would be equal to half the current rate of increase in capital expenditures for community hospitals.

Outside of the *New York Times*, only Ralph Nader's Public Citizen Health Research Group and AFL-CIO chief George Meany have come out so far in support of this licensed mass murder. Both have criticized the bill "for not going far enough." The April 29 *New York Times* editorially remonstrated: "To do nothing about hospital cost inflation, however, is surely worse than to risk some deterioration in patient care."

Implementing a related part of Carter's domestic austerity program, HEW Secretary Califano signed regulations April 28 aimed at banning discrimination against 35 million disabled Americans, 10 million alcoholics, and 1.5 million drug addicts. The regulations, which take effect June 1, will force sweeping changes in employment practices, according to the April 29 *New York Times*, to bring drugged zombies "into the mainstream of American life." Informed sources in Washington, D.C. are speculating that the inclusion of drug addicts in the Administration order is designed to allow Peter Bourne to legally take his place in the Carter Cabinet as the President's drug advisor.

A Cabinet group, including Califano, Attorney General Bell, Labor Secretary F. Ray Marshall, and Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, also recommended this week an extensive new policy to bring six to eight million illegal aliens "into the mainstream of American life" and to slow the "hidden invasion" across the nation's borders.

The new policy, if executed, would permit most illegal aliens to legalize their status, if they submitted to stringent self-policing and counterfeit-proof identification cards. But sanctions would be imposed on employers who knowingly hired future illegal aliens and more money and manpower would be allocated to guarding the nation's borders.

Correction

The last issue of the *Executive Intelligence Review*, in its rundown of congressional response to President Carter's energy proposals, inadvertently implied that all of the quoted comments were from the Congressmen themselves. In fact many were from the Congressmen's aides and offices.