

# Carter Puts Welfare Slave-Labor Program Into Effect

The Carter Administration is putting its forced-work program for welfare recipients into effect without bothering to ask Congress for its approval. Sources at the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare confirmed this week that more than 100,000 welfare mothers are slated to be given the choice of "public service" jobs or loss of benefits, over the next several months, with funding for the program coming from funds recently passed for Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

Many of these recipients will be taking away union jobs — especially in the municipal unions — a Labor Department spokesman said. Duped leaders of the trade union movement are the strongest lobbyists for such funding legislation.

Simultaneously, HEW Secretary Califano reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to pay starvation-level wages for its forced work, while Secretary of Labor F. Ray Marshall announced plans to tie federal education grants for "disadvantaged youth" to their participation in forced-work programs, such as the newly passed Civilian Conservation Corps.

An administrator of New York State's "workfare" program summed up the fascist concept behind all the Carter manpower programs: "We must force people to work. We don't care what kind of jobs they do. People must not be allowed to get paid for doing nothing...The work ethic is what is important." Under the New York program, all able-bodied recipients are forced to work off their checks for three full days a week, regardless of how little assistance they receive. Some recipients are already working for as little as \$20 or \$30 a week, New York officials boasted.

Carter's message to workers who may feel that they will not be affected by "workfare" is: "you are next." Labor Department spokesmen indicated workfare, which could force over 1.4 million recipients into jobs, is part of a "total overhaul of the transfer payments system, which includes unemployment insurance, social security," as well as relocation assistance and welfare. "The goal is to make every able-bodied person now on the government dole work," the spokesman said. "It is not a question of if, but of how."

Two recent decisions by the judiciary have reinforced Carter's fascist work ethic. Last week a federal judge in New York declared unconstitutional a state law that allows strikers to collect unemployment benefits; the judge charged that the law encouraged strikes. Earlier this week, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld an Ohio state law that bars payment of unemployment benefits to workers whose plants are shut down due to shortages of parts or raw materials caused by strikes; under this ruling, steelworkers, for example, would be ineligible for

benefits if their steel plants were closed by a coal shortage caused by a miners' strike.

Workfare would be used to recycle and relocate workers forced onto the government roles through the implementation of Carter's no-energy program. "They (the workfare and related programs — Ed.) will let us make an orderly transition to the kind we are creating through the energy program," the Labor Department spokesman said.

Manpower planner, Eli Ginzberg, a self-professed Nazi admirer and the man said to be the author of the Carter proposals, has stated in previous interviews that such a "full employment" economy is premised on the continuous recycling of workers to lower and lower skill levels until finally they are burned out. "We will have to de-skill a large number of American workers to achieve full employment," Ginzberg has stated.

## *Workfare All Ready*

Labor Department aides boasted to reporters how well prepared everyone was to implement the workfare. Orders had gone out as soon as Marshall took over the Department to prepare to place large numbers of welfare mothers on work projects. "They can't do complicated labor," one planner said. "You have to break down jobs, maybe have three mothers do what one worker would normally do."

"Work-for-welfare" programs are already being implemented in several states, including New York, Massachusetts, Oregon, and California, while the Labor Department has a functioning slave-labor program through both the WIN and CETA programs. "We just have to plug in the money," the aide said.

The \$6.6 billion CETA funding legislation, which recently cleared Congress and was signed by Carter, was viewed as important "to getting things really going." "We were a little bit worried about the unions screwing things up," the planner said. "We thought they might oppose the program for taking some jobs away. But they didn't. They lobbied harder for it than anyone else." He confided that the unions "may not really understand what we are doing."

A spokesman for New York state welfare commissioner Toia, a leading regional spokesman for "workfare," said that forced-work programs will "definitely not be limited" to public service-type jobs. He reported that in the New York program, counties and other local governments are already being told to place recipients — both men and women — into public works jobs. He singled out "road construction" and "road repair" as two good areas for slave labor placements: "They always need people." Congress, with AFL-CIO and

especially building trades backing, recently passed an expanded \$4 billion public works jobs appropriation bill.

The New York Times, last week described how an ongoing workfare "pilot" project — a residue of the 1930s WPA — was "working."

Recipients, the article reports, are being forced to work at \$2 per hour; their pay has already been cut from \$2.30. Supervisors are reported to work the recipients to almost the point of collapse.

The duped union leaders who were supporting the Milwaukee program are now screaming "slave labor." "Our people are being put out of work while the pay-for-work people are still there at \$2 an hour," one union spokesman is quoted as saying. "It is involuntary servitude. They got these people over a barrel — it's work or no aid. It's inhumane."

#### *Starvation Wages*

While the Labor Department was in the process of implementing the workfare plan through the backdoor, HEW Secretary Califano made public some details the proposed Carter welfare reform package — *to be introduced to Congress late in the summer!* "We have decided to put as many people to work as possible," Califano told the press, which dutifully reported the statement as if it were a revelation. The plan is shocking in its open commitment to starvation-level wages. Healthy adults with no children would get a basic payment of \$1,100; they would then be forced to work at or around the minimum wage and would have their benefits reduced by 50 cents for each dollar earned; such individuals, while not now "eligible" for welfare, receive food stamps for approximately the equivalent amount. In two-parent families, at least one parent would be required to work as would single parents with no small children. The payment to a family of four would be \$2300; it would be reduced by 50 cents for each dollar earned above a certain fixed amount. In all, the income of a family of four on "workfare" will likely average around \$5,500, or well below the poverty level. Asked if this wasn't slave labor, an HEW official would only reply, "We didn't think that everyone would like what we are doing."

#### *Phony Debate*

Labor leaders are being sucked into supporting slave labor programs that will destroy both their unions and members in part by a phony debate between Labor Secretary Marshall and HEW Secretary Califano over the size of the Carter job program.

Califano, according to sources in Washington, is being represented as the "tough cop." There is ample evidence to support such a representation. A McNamara-connected cost-efficiency lunatic, Califano has moved to slash certain key "hand-out" programs such as food

stamps and school milk programs and has authored the incompetent Carter Hospital Cost Reform proposal that would wreck the nation's hospital system. Simultaneously, he has reorganized the entire Department, setting up "task forces" to deal with corruption and crime in the administering of programs. Califano, the man who under Ginzberg's tutelage helped to run Johnson's Great Society, is reported — according to the Carter-planted rumors — to "oppose jobs creation programs" and to "favor" reducing welfare rolls by "dealing firmly with cheats."

Marshall, the protégé of the fascist Ginzberg, on the other hand is known among "enlightened" AFL-CIO circles as "the best damned friend we have in Washington." He is reported to be lobbying against Califano for increased "jobs creation" programs and is trying hard to "win Carter's support" for "billions more in public jobs."

According to sources in the Labor Department and HEW, however, Marshall and Califano are in complete agreement on almost every point of the Carter slave labor program and are "planning jointly" to implement it. For example, Marshall proposes programs to integrate youth slave labor and low-skill education are being studied by a joint Labor-HEW task force.

Similarly, Califano has leaked to the press a series of "cost cutting" measures aimed at "saving billions" and keeping the program within Carter's announced stipulation that it must cost no more than the one presently in operation. The guts of Califano's proposed efficiencies is eliminating millions of marginally employed individuals and others from the rolls while deploying his "anti-cheating" task forces to provide an excuse to throw off others. When the proposal, which according to Washington sources was worked out with Marshall, was announced it prompted a cry of outrage from several state officials, who said that, in effect, HEW will need a Gestapo network to enforce it. An aide to the HEW Secretary answered his critics by stating, "we told people that this would be painful to some people. And it's going to be..."

The net effect of the Califano-Marshall "Mutt and Jeff" operation is to rally the credulous leadership of the AFL-CIO behind Marshall and his slave labor programs. "We intend to push and push hard for jobs and back the Labor Secretary," and AFL-CIO spokesman said.

An editorial in the May 29 Boston Globe indicates that labor leaders will pay dearly for such stupidity. The Globe attacks the miserable gains in the steelworkers' recently announced contract with the aluminum industry asking how can one justify granting such benefits to fortunate steelworkers while providing subsistence-level jobs to welfare recipients. This "stark contrast" the Globe says, must be eliminated — by cutting back on wage and benefit gains for unionized workers.

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