

# Mondale 'Conservationists' Routed As Senate Scuttles Energy Package

In a humiliating defeat for the political tendency allied with Vice-President Walter Mondale, the U.S. Senate has scuttled the Administration's no-growth omnibus energy package. "The energy program is in shambles," Senator Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.), one of the proponents of the "conservation, not production" orientation, bitterly told a Treasury Department representative. "Shouldn't the President and (Energy Secretary James) Schlesinger go back to the drawing board and come up with a new program?"

The rout of Ribicoff and the rest of the Senate's hard core of Fabian liberals was made all the more painful by the fact that their most prominent ally, Vice-President Mondale, was forced to act as political hatchetman against the Fabian filibuster tactic over which he himself had earlier presided. The public wailing and gnashing of teeth by liberal spokesmen in the aftermath of the energy package's dismemberment in the Senate expresses their fear that the White House may abandon them completely.

## Call For Public Pressure

The effective defeat of the Administration bill, has opened the door to a serious energy program — one of rapid development of nuclear power, on the scale required to defeat the economic havoc being wrought by the Anglo-American financier backers of the Mondale group.

But the same Senators who helped gut the zero-growth Administration bill, although privately eager to see a high-technology program introduced as legislation, are currently unwilling to *publicly* step forward with such a program themselves. These primarily conservative Congressmen are hoping to strike a compromise with the "conservation" formulas that will promote some sort of energy production. They are relying on the old no-win rules of political horsetrading and "clever" short-term advantage, when political leadership is what is urgently required.

To help bring these privately prodevelopment legislators out of the closet, the U.S. Labor Party is cir-

## Schlesinger: Let's Have A Real Cold Winter

In defiance of the U.S. Senate which last week repudiated the Carter Administration's well-head tax on domestic oil, Energy Czar James Schlesinger told a national TV audience the Administration would 'do it any way.' Schlesinger delivered his threat Oct. 2 on the ABC-TV show "Issues and Answers" saying that a \$15-billion-a-year duty on imported oil could be enacted without legislative approval under the Trade Adjustment Act.

To back his threat, Schlesinger said: "The American people still have not recognized the nature of limits. In their heart of hearts they don't really believe that we're running out of gas and this could interfere with the freedom and independence of the nation..."

"Reality has a way of dissipating all the ideologies that you see scattered around the country. It's going to get worse, and I suspect it's going to get worse a lot sooner..."

"I think we'll be able to grapple effectively if we have a real cold winter... Otherwise we'll be skating on thin ice."

Schlesinger continued his ranting at the International Energy Agency meeting last week, warning that Western nations will face a major political and economic crisis in the mid-1980s as the world's "oil wells start to run dry and a physical scramble for energy developed." In a statement before the 19-member nation Paris meeting, which the U.S. officials acknowledged was intended as a bludgeon against Congress on behalf of "the international case" for the President's energy program, Schlesinger said the U.S. would see "a degree of political and social unrest of the kind we did not see in the 1930s."

While Schlesinger spoke in Paris, the Senate Finance Committee reaffirmed its rejection of the well-head tax. At an Oct. 6 meeting, the committee, under the guidance of Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan), voted 10-to-6 to prevent Schlesinger from exercising Administration prerogative to impose the \$15 billion dollar duty on oil imports.