

Carter Administration Endorses Empty Humphrey-Hawkins Legislation

The Carter Administration made its long-awaited endorsement of a reworked version of the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act last week. The final version of the bill, containing no jobs creation programs or funding provisions, resembled the original version so little, that reporters at the White House press conference called to witness the "big an-

will cement the labor-Democratic alliance..."

The Carter endorsement will further erode the President's shaky base. "Carter thinks he has made a clever deal," said one aide to a Fabian Senator. "Instead he's got everybody pissed off. The left will think he has copped out and has not gone far enough. The right thinks that he has gone too far. This could be the beginning of the end of Jimmy — I say, thanks for opening the door." He and similar individuals would like to see Vice President Mondale become President — as quickly as possible.

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nouncement" were wondering if they had somehow gone to the wrong room.

"But where is the bill?" one reporter asked Domestic Policy Advisor Stu Eizenstat, Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall and Council of Economic Advisors head Charlie Schultz. "This can't be it."

"This is the most we could expect to get," said an aide to Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn), one of the bill's prime sponsors. "It is an empty shell... we'll have to fill it in with programs later."

The missing content of the bill is to be filled out as part of an overall national employment-urban policy. Planners linked to Vice President Walter Mondale report that the center piece of such plans will be the relocation of millions of urban poor out of the cities — although the precise timetable has not been worked out; Humphrey-Hawkins public service jobs programs will become a transitional program for such ultimate relocation policies (see Special Report).

"We wouldn't have a ghost of a chance of passing even this (the present version of Humphrey-Hawkins) now, said an aide to Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Cal) the bill's other major sponsor. "But we are not talking about now. The economy will get worse and there will be a great deal of pressure to do something."

Several other sources reported that the Carter endorsement will enable the currently disorganized ranks of Fabian congressmen and their "allies" in the labor movement, in the words of one Congressional aide, "to pull together around a piece of social legislation... this

Lie Of The Week

The editors of the *Full Employment Advocate* deserve an award for "effort." The *Advocate* is the newsletter of the National Committee for Full Employment, an umbrella organization mustering support for the rejuvenated Humphrey-Hawkins labor legislation. The October issue of the *Advocate* features a front-page headline, "Millions Turn Out For Full Employment Week."

In reality, the week's heavily publicized festivities were a total bust. Only handfuls of trade-union bureaucrats, their families, and assorted poverty pimps turning out. One of the organizers confessed that it was "the most disappointing turnout of my career."

But the resourceful *Advocate* editors assert that "in over 300 cities and towns, millions of Americans participated in the largest grass-roots mobilization for full employment in the nation's history." As proof, the editors offer a picture of two men, one pushing a wheelbarrow and the other holding a sign, over a caption about a 25,000-strong turnout in Kansas City.

One organizer of the week's events summed up, "We'll bring the people out, even if we have to do it with mirrors."

That's a lot of mirrors...