

# Carter Sends Energy Dictatorship Bill To Congress

In a bill drafted under the direction of U.S. "energy czar" James Schlesinger and sent to Congress for immediate action this week, the Carter White House is demanding sole authority to declare a natural gas emergency and unprecedented powers to oversee the allocation of natural gas supplies on a national basis. The bill would hand the President broad subpoena powers, backed by the threat of court action, to obtain information from any source he deems necessary to enable him to decide how gas supplies should be rationed.

The bill hardly pretends to offer solutions to the actual problem of natural gas shortage. Nowhere does it provide for emergency imports of natural gas or the utilization of existing U.S. wells on a crash basis; nor does it offer any long-term method for increasing U.S. energy supplies.

A comparison of the contents of the gas bill with Trilateral proposals for U.S. executive reorganization and global policy orientation, (all are excerpted below) should make it obvious that the bill instead offers the Trilateral Commission's standard "crisis management" administrative proposals — in effect putting the U.S. under an energy dictatorship in which lower Manhattan financiers who control Carter could wipe out major portions of U.S. industry and systematically destroy their political opposition.

Under the terms of the legislation, Carter will be able

to wage virtual economic warfare against the population by selectively shifting the gas shortage from one section of the country to another, shutting down industry after industry and throwing millions of workers out of their jobs. The fact that the Schlesinger bill designates homes, hospitals and small commercial establishments as high-priority recipients of gas rations makes it entirely in keeping with the monetarist spirit of Carter's overall de-industrialization thrust. Exacerbating the ongoing energy crisis, the bill will also force up natural gas prices by permitting regulated interstate purchasers to buy from the intrastate market at deregulated prices.

The extraordinary subpoena powers which the bill authorizes to the President will give Carter a lethal tool for blackmailing non-Rockefeller linked natural gas and oil producers and other industrial forces into compliance with his policies, or driving them out of business altogether.

The most criminal aspect of the legislation is this: by deliberately failing to propose measures for immediately increasing natural gas supplies, the legislation feeds directly into the Rockefeller-Trilateral Commission conspiracy to maintain the U.S. in a *permanent* energy crisis which will be continuously used over the coming months to justify precisely the kind of dictatorial powers which Carter is now demanding — but on a far broader basis.

## Emergency Gas Bill

*The following are excerpts from the natural gas emergency bill presented to the Congress by the Carter Administration this week:*

### A BILL

To authorize the President of the United States to order emergency deliveries and transportation of natural gas to deal with existing or imminent shortages by providing assistance in meeting requirements for high priority uses; to provide authority for short-term emergency purchases of natural gas; and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Emergency Natural Gas Act of 1977."*

### DEFINITIONS

Sec. 2. As used in this Act:

(1) The term "high priority use" means — (A) use of natural gas in a residence; (B) use of natural gas in a commercial establishment *in amounts of less than 50 mcf* on a peak day; or (C) any other use of natural gas the termination of which the President determines would endanger life, health, or maintenance of physical property ...

### Presidential Declaration

Sec. 3 The President may declare a natural gas emergency if he finds that a severe natural gas shortage