

Senators Call For Investigation Of Carter Coverup On Vote Fraud

Testimony on the Carter Administration's proposed Universal Voter Registration Act before the Senate Rules Committee last week brought to light a suppressed Justice Department report which flatly contradicts Administration claims the bill will not lead to an increase in vote fraud. Initial attempts made by Deputy Attorney General Peter F. Flaherty to invoke executive privilege to withhold the Justice Department memo from the committee led Senators to call upon the Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate appearances of a cover-up. The entire affair has raised the spectre of Administration perjury involving both Attorney General Bell and Vice President Walter Mondale in earlier testimony before the House Administration Committee.

The Suppressed Memo

The memo which Sen. Griffin requested be released to the Senate Rules Committee was written by Craig Donsanto, in the Justice Department's Criminal Justice Division, on April 1 and was circulated in the Justice Department well in advance of Attorney General Bell's April 6 testimony before the House Administration. Bell reported, under oath, that he had no knowledge of any evidence that the enactment of the voter registration would lead to fraud. The April 1 memo clearly warns that the bill could create a "tremendous potential for fraud" and states that it would be a "dangerous relaxation of what precious few safeguards presently exist against abuse of franchise."

The memo was eventually released, only hours after Flaherty had invoked "executive privilege" and was used in the next day's hearings before the Senate Rules Committee as evidence of a danger of institutionalizing vote fraud. While Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, testified against the bill, reading from a telegram written by Thomas H. Henderson, Jr., chief of the Justice Department's public integrity section of the department's criminal division. The telegram, sent to all United States attorneys, warned that "We recognize that election-day registration may increase the opportunity for election fraud." Senator Griffin charged that the Attorney General had obviously known of the first memo when he testified before the House Committee. He further charged that as the White House had actually written the bill and yet Bell was testifying in its behalf, that serious questions are raised about the usual separation between the White House and the nation's top law enforcement agency. Sen. Allen (D-Ala.) took the attack still further, by terming the testimonies of both Flaherty and Bell as

"highly irregular" and calling for the Senate Judiciary Committee to look into the matter.

These events in the Senate have already led Rep. William Frenzl (R-Minn.), of the House Administration to hold a press conference calling upon his committee to "reconsider the bill" and withhold further action until the Justice Department answers questions that had been left open. Frenzl made the statements just one day after the House Committee had voted to recommend the bill to the full house, by a vote of 17-8. He declared that "The raising of executive privilege in the Senate Rules Committee raises questions regarding the independence of the Justice Department and the White House and indeed calls into question the openness of the White House. What appears to have been a mere blunder (by Flaherty—ed.)... is much more serious..."

Frenzl further reported the chronology of Justice Department testimony before the House Committee, where further evidence of a Justice Department stall on the question of vote fraud and its subsequent cover-up were outlined. The Congressman from Minnesota described how Bell had been "unable to answer questions" posed by the Committee regarding the bill and the possibility of it leading to fraud; Bell was told to provide the answers to those questions for the committee. According to Frenzl, that response was not made until "a month later" and only after events in the Senate committee "forced" that response to be made. This, Frenzl further reported, occurred just one day prior to the House Administration Committee's vote on the bill. He declared that since the committee "in all innocence" had voted on the bill without full information, the bill should be reconsidered pending further fact-finding work.

Both Frenzl and Griffin had additionally pointed out that yet another Justice Department memo exists which concerns the bill and both indicated that the appropriate committees must review its contents. The second memo deals with the interrelationship between the proposed Carter legislation and the Voting Rights Act.

What's Being Covered Up?

In testimony presented before the Senate Rules Committee on May 6, Jeffrey Steinberg of the U.S. Labor Party, and retired Col. Thomas McCrary representing the National Committee for Fair and Honest Elections, detailed the reasons for the Justice Department and White House cover-up concerning the memos, and called upon the committee to either defeat or table the bill until a full investigation has been made into the vote fraud

which occurred in the 1976 general elections which resulted in Carter's election. Steinberg presented his expert testimony as a chief investigator of fraud in the state of Ohio after the elections and reported that the use of "easy registration" laws had been used by the Carter campaign to wilfully change the outcome of the election. Steinberg's testimony had been preceded by that of the Ohio Assistant Secretary of State who reported that the Ohio Senate on May 5 passed an on-site registration bill; he stated that its passage would increase the "danger of fraud".

Were the Congress to undertake the measures outlined by Steinberg, Senators Griffin and Allen, and Rep.

Frenzl the magnitude of the resulting investigations would make the Watergate affair small in comparison, making impeachment proceedings virtually inevitable. The fear of many Congressmen who already have thought in terms of "watergating" the Carter Administration, that of being left with Walter Mondale as the next U.S. President is overcome by pursuing the vote fraud issue. Mondale was the prime author of the Universal Voter Registration bill and engineered the campaign to "vote early and often" on November 2; he would thus be subjected to both impeachment and criminal proceedings.

The Impeachment Of Jimmy Carter

The following statement was released May 3, 1977 by U.S. Labor Party National Chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Unless the Carter Administration puts across its fascist "energy policy," which is now improbable, or unless a thermonuclear showdown with the Warsaw Pact erupts this spring or summer, which is still a grave possibility, the impeachment of the Administration of Jimmy Carter should begin no later than the autumn of 1977.

Admittedly, for the moment many of the U.S. congressmen who will be pushing that impeachment would deny such a possibility at this moment. Some of those congressmen are discreetly studying the idea of impeachment. Others, especially among Democratic Party congressmen, simply have not thought through the chain of circumstances which will lead them into the pro-impeachment camp. The Congress is not prepared to begin the impeachment of the Carter Administration at this moment. Under the conditions we have indicated, it will be prepared to undertake impeachment by no later than this fall.

The past weekend's news story reporting Jimmy Carter's claim to have sighted a UFO should be seen as an advance warning of events to come. Some forces in the USA are committed to building an "Impeach Carter" movement. Others are using the growing corridor rumors about impeachment as a threat, attempting to intimidate the Carter Administration into making certain adjustments in its policies and performances. The thought of impeachment is accelerating within the USA. It has not yet reached the "threshold" at which actual impeachment efforts will be launched within the Congress.

The Geometry of the Issue

Imagine David Rockefeller's Carter Administration as like a drunken crowd of revelers driving a rattletrap automobile down a backwoods road in Georgia swamp country. As the party careens forward, mile by mile, it is approaching a place where the road suddenly drops off

into swamp quicksand. As the drive continues, the swamp is closing in on the narrowing strip of dry land on which the crooked road is located.

There is a way in which the party might avoid falling into the swamp. There is one very dangerous side road, running over a broken-down bridge. The weight of the car and its besotted passengers is more than enough to break that bridge. Below the rotting bridge is quicksand. It is barely possible that a skilled driver might negotiate that side road, and might negotiate the bridge also so as to reach the opposite side before the bridge's collapse occurs.

That side road and bridge are thermonuclear confrontation with the Warsaw Pact.

We have the following alternatives to consider. The party might get over the bridge — which is virtually an impossibility. It can run off the end of the road it is traveling, into the quicksand. That is the point it will reach no later than this fall. It might also run off the road into the swamp at the side. The driver is irresponsible, and the party is drunken. The dilapidated vehicle might lose a wheel — the maintenance is horrible — and run off the road into the swamp. The wreck they are driving might simply break down. Chase Manhattan is bankrupt and the IMF is non-functional.

That image emphasizes the point: although no exact predictions can be made, the situation itself determines a range of alternatives, a situation which is predictable as a whole in that way. Every alternative but general war brings an impeachment to the Carter Administration.

There is a formerly famous American tale, "The Deacon's One Shorse Shay, Built to Last for One Hundred Years and a Day..." That miracle of apocryphal, nineteenth century, "value analysis" methods of carriage production engineering — according to the tale — collapsed on schedule. If the deacon had been drunken, or a UFO sighter, a catastrophe might have occurred before the end of the allotted span of time. The allotted span built into the design of the Carter Administration is much, much shorter than the deacon's pride and joy. About nine months, barring earlier abortions, should deliver the U.S. from the Carter misconception.