

# Will Congress Allow Energy Dictatorship To Slip Through

The Carter Administration rammed its legislation for the creation of an energy department through the Senate this week by a vote of 74-10 with cosmetic modifications which will only slightly limit the dictatorial powers granted to the cabinet member who will head the department. The Senate adopted the Government Operations committee version of the bill with virtually no discussion, prompting Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho) to declare that "I have never seen a bill of such importance passed so fast without adequate Congressional scrutiny."

The swift passage of the bill underscores the fact that Congressional opponents of the Carter anti-energy program have still not consolidated their strategy to ensure the future growth of the nation's energy resources. On the same day that the bill slid across the floor of the Senate, two other Congressional committees heard — and made — attacks on several aspects of Carter's "comprehensive energy plan," and it is clear that some of the Administration's plans will be scrapped. However, even if Congress guts the *entire* plan, yet allows the proposed

## Congress On Mideast War Danger: It Can't Happen Here

The U.S. Congress has reacted to the Likud electoral victory in Israel and the glaring danger of global conflict between the superpowers with the fantasy-ridden incantation, "It can't happen here." Expressing "grave concern" about the rapidly deteriorating Mideast situation, a number of Congressmen talked directly to U. S. Labor Party representatives last week and agreed that Carter's provocative policies set the stage for a Likud victory and brought the world to the brink of a new Mideast war.

Without a single exception, however, the august gentlemen on Capitol Hill declined to take action to derail Carter's singleminded drive for war. "Don't worry, the Congress will do something," one Midwest Republican apologized. "I don't know what, but we'll think of something." Clucking worriedly, Senator after Senator conceded the present dangers and limply said, "Call my appointments secretary." Representative after Representative regurgitated State Department pabulum, "We have to wait and see. The Israeli Cabinet has yet to be formed. It may turn out to be a force for stability in the Middle East."

Senator Jake Javits (R-NY) went even further, after a meeting with Carter at the White House. "The Likud victory," he said, makes me optimistic. It increases the likelihood of a negotiated settlement."

Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Az), by contrast,

warned that the present situation is characterized by "global conflict in gestation, irrespective of Soviet intent." Accusing his colleagues of having an "out-dated" view of history, Goldwater inserted in the Congressional Record statements by Air Force General Keegan on the imminent danger of war as a result of serious "miscalculations," a war which the United States is ill-equipped to fight. A number of Senators volunteered that Keegan's dramatic evidence of Soviet technological breakthroughs and their military implications is circulating widely on Capitol Hill.

Despite the perception in Congress that war is imminent, not one Congressman has publicly addressed the danger. An opportunity was provided at Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on the Middle East May 20 where a spokesman for the conservative think tank, the American Enterprise Institute, warned that an outbreak of hostilities in the area would lead to a nuclear confrontation between the U.S. and USSR.

Dale Tahtinen told the Committee that while Israel has a solid military edge, it would not forestall the Arabs from declaring war. "They won't suffer a total loss," he said, "because the Soviets will back them up all the way." Israel has nuclear weapons, he continued, but will not use them because it would lead to their nuclear annihilation. Tahtinen's testimony was ignored by the Committee, which failed to ask him any questions.