

afraid that the use of nuclear power will stagnate, if it hasn't already.

...Good public education efforts and political awareness could have prevented this problem which now threatens the viability of our total national nuclear program.

Unless the total nuclear science, engineering and

governmental community gets its education and political act together, and does so in reasonable and honest ways, your political friends are going to gradually disappear. We are fighting an uphill battle against the legacy of 30 years of secrecy, myth, misunderstanding and fear. In the final analysis, if we don't win this battle, we may be the country that is left hanging in the wind.

## Administration Divided Over Hyperinflationary 'Urban Policy'

Even while the Carter Administration's "comprehensive energy plan" is stalled in a Congressional conference committee, a team of Carter cabinet renegades led by Vice-President Mondale is preparing the national stage for another battle: The Administration's proposed "national urban policy." The Mondale plan for the nation's cities — a hyperinflationary scheme full of slave-labor provisions and measures that would militarize the U.S. economy completely complements Energy Secretary Schlesinger's WEEP program.

Mondale and his prime collaborators, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Pat Harris and Labor Secretary Ray Marshall, have been touring the country ostensibly to discuss the contents of a 154-page draft of their inter-cabinet Urban and Regional Policy Group report. The plan, which some economists say could cost over \$32 billion, calls for massive spending in older cities for the "rehabilitation" of decrepit housing through various forms of "sweat equity" and other labor-intensive methods, and restructuring the nation's banking system.

The plan also complements the Administration's welfare-workfare package (H.R. 9030) and a jobs program still being debated to fill out the Humphrey-Hawkins bill.

Although the urban policy drive is barely off the ground, a split among Administration officials has already emerged. The *Washington Post* reported Dec. 3 a dispute between Acting OMB Director James McIntyre and Harris over her proposed HUD budget for \$54 billion in 1979. According to the *Post*, at a Nov. 18 meeting between Carter and the two department heads, Harris was told to cut her budget projection to \$30 billion. Indications are that the debate which eventually led to the resignation of former OMB Director Bert Lance — one between "fiscal conservatives" and outright hyperinflationists — has surfaced once again within the Administration in this context. Harris is distributing the draft proposal among labor, civil rights groups, and local politicians in an effort to gain support and force Carter's hand in favor of her program.

Additional evidence of dissension in the cabinet's ranks was seen at this week's League of Cities conference in

San Francisco, where the "urban policy" plan was backed up by a RAND study urging the triage of "wasteful" suburbs in an effort to "revive" older, "distressed cities." Also circulated at the meeting was a report prepared by the Commerce Department and presented by Assistant Secretary Anne Wexler, which was critical of HUD's proposal.

### *Mondale, Marshall, and Labor*

While Harris has personally been the butt of attacks from within the Administration, the Vice-President has been moving ahead the campaign, particularly targeting the labor movement. Mondale, whose top White House collaborator — Stu Eisenstat, Bruce Carp, and Orrin Cramer — worked as Harris' liaison in preparing the "urban policy" statement, spoke on the subject before the national AFSCME convention. Mondale is the keynote speaker at this week's AFL-CIO convention in Los Angeles, where he is slated to receive their "Murray-Green Award". Ray Marshall, also scheduled to speak in Los Angeles along with Harris and Energy Secretary Schlesinger, has become a featured columnist in the pages of the AFL-CIO newspaper, pushing the Mondale-Harris hyperinflationary program.

While Mondale is busy stumping the country, he gives full credit to Carter for enabling him to do so, even if it means making Carter look bad. At Mondale's weekly briefing to the nation's editors, he lauded the President for allowing him, as Vice-President, to lead the chorus of "dissent" within the Administration.

Overall, the urban policy debate may seriously stall Carter in his goal of initiating legislation in early January, following his expected urban message. Not helping his situation is the newly released Congressional Budget Office report on "Five-Year Budget Projects: FY 1979-83," presented by former Brookings Institution staffer Alice Rivlin at Congressional subcommittee hearing. The report uses a 4.5 percent unemployment target as the basis for its projections, completely bypassing Carter's promise to the Black Congressional Caucus and other Humphrey-Hawkins supporters of a 4.0 percent target. This could significantly tie up both the urban policy and the related jobs and welfare legislation, already behind schedule in committee hearings.