Carter and Congress: Feuding and Fighting

By William Lasser

Jimmy Carter received strong messages from friends and enemies alike last week. The Soviet Union early rejected his arms limitation proposals and then the Secretary of State Cyrus Vance dismissed Stone's home-grown, empty-handed. The Senate has been noticeably uncooperative. And the Democratic National Committee (DNC) publically criticized the President for failing to consult with state party chairs on certain relatively unimportant appointments.

Significantly, the Russians and the DNC used the same techniques that Carter has been using so successfully — public relations, an appeal to the Congress, and then only, with the proper techniques, to go over Congress' head. But Carter apparently for lack of a majority.

The Senate, the House, and the White House have been simply to inform them after the fact. His short honeymoon that Carter has been using so successfully — public relations, an appeal to foreign journalists in an attempt to score points, a new attempt to pressure the President by appealing to the people, in this case Democrats.

The most urgent question of the present session of Congress is not due in the form of a specific action. Typical of the Upper House, it telegraphed its disapprobation and reject to do absolutely nothing.

Over 50 Carter nominees, most of them of the rubber-stamp variety, await confirmation. The President's proposed Energy Department, which nobody opposes, wait to be born while both houses debate and decide; latest estimates show project that the department will not be created until the end of the Congress. Carter in is many cases ignoring the President's budget proposals.

The most indicative show of legislative sentiment is the $50 tax rebate plan. A Carter campaign promise which the President has backed down on the full prestige of his office.

The Senate's Republican minority is wildly against the stimulus package, and a substantial number of Democrats seem to be waiting it out — Carter, the wreckage of a legislative relationship as simple as just bad politics. Majority Leader Robert Byrd was forced to postpone a Senate vote on the bill until after the Easter recess.

For lack of a majority, Carter can blame only himself, and his inexperience in Washington politics, for the Congressional impasse. He has seemingly been preparing from the beginning to go over Congress head, directly to the people. In effect, he has brought about the split — and perhaps the end of his presidency. He has failed to consult with Congressional leaders has been simply to inform them after the fact; his cancellation of 19 federal water projects, the action which prevented a continuing resolution, was announced, then reversed.

The President — the Washington outsider — is out to the public instead of to Congress and the Senate. American legislators derive on pleasing their constituents. An executive action which hurts a congressmen's community will be blotted on the whole interstate legislature.

Lacking the political know-how of Lyndon Johnson. and thankful, during the academic year 1979, Parton '79. Leonard Tower Jr.

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**Puzzling questions of survival**

To the editor:

Re: [Gordon] Haff's article on Burton House, [The Tech, March 15]

You used the term, "subdued pride in survival," to describe a prevailing attitude not only in old Burton, but also at MIT in general. This column can go on:

If you are surviving, it means that something is trying to kill you off. Now, if I walked up to you and stuck a knife in your side, would you grin and bear it while I slowly pushed it in? Not likely; not as long as you could stop me, or run the other way. So, if MIT is killing you, why sit there and just accept your group of people; you and me; a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." For me, it is a "subdued pride in survival." 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