

are relying on new long-term contracts between utilities and suppliers to stimulate the opening of new mines and reopening of old ones; however, a possible coal strike next fall, when United Mine Workers' contracts come up for renegotiation, could foul the picture considerably.

Another major provision of the act is the long-anticipated postponement of strict auto emission standards. The 1975 interim standards for carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons will be extended to 1976, with exceptions allowed to 1977. Deadlines for limits on nitrogen oxides are being pushed back from 1976 to 1978.

In addition to extending timetables for pollution standards, the anticipated bill also curbs the EPA's powers to require transportation controls. When state plans for reducing auto emissions are deemed inadequate, EPA has told them to take additional measures, in the form of parking surcharges, creation of fast bus and car-pool lanes, and permits for the location of new parking lots—all of which serve to reduce automobile use and stimulate mass transit. When EPA imposed these demands on a number of cities last summer, it generated a good deal of ill will, especially in California where there are virtually no alternatives to the automobile. In response to these complaints, the House committee decided to prohibit EPA from requiring parking surcharges, and put the parking-lot permit issue on ice for a year.

The bill also settles an issue that Muskie was getting very hot under the collar about, relating to EPA's relationship to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Representative Jamie L. Whitten (D-Miss.) of the House Appropriations Committee believes that EPA's actions should be subject to the NEPA provisions that require all federal agencies seeking to institute major actions affecting the environment to file environmental impact statements. EPA head Russell Train, presumably in order not to jeopardize EPA's funding, has been tooling up the organization to comply with Whitten's suggestion. This infuriated Muskie, who said the NEPA environmental review procedures "were intended to apply to mission agencies . . . and not environmental protection agencies." The application of NEPA to EPA could indeed result in endless delays and subject the agency's decisions to interminable tie-ups in court. On the other hand, there are some

observers who see no reason why NEPA shouldn't cut both ways. They say, for example, that if a statement had been filed on the impact of the Clean Air Act, problems of oil shortages resulting from past conversions by utilities to oil (in order to abide by effluent limitations) might have been anticipated. At any rate, Muskie won this one—the current bill specifically exempts EPA actions under the Clean Air Act from the NEPA provisions.

Whither the Clean Air Act as a whole? Some environmentalists were despairing over its future last winter, but now things look brighter. The act was supposed to be up for reauthorization this year, but the new act, which comes in the form of amendments to the Clean Air Act, gives the Clean Air Act a 1-year extension, delaying the real challenges by a year. A Senate staffer explains that the delay is appropriate in light of uncertainties about impeachment. Others observe that the act could stand a better chance later of escaping weakening amendments. And Congress can avoid thinking about the Clean Air Act amendments submitted by the Administration in April, which include extension of auto emission control deadlines for up to 10 years in some cases and suspensions and extensions of air quality standards going beyond anything yet suggested on Capitol Hill.

Currently, the most potent threat to the Clean Air Act is coming from utilities and heavy industries such as steel, copper, and chemicals. They complain about the unavailability of clean fuel and assert that current abatement technology is unwieldy, unreliable, energy-wasting, and expensive. These enterprises are pushing for intermittent control strategies, otherwise known as "pollution by dilution," which would involve building tall stacks to disseminate pollutants, switching back and forth between clean and dirty fuels depending on what the atmosphere can stand, and other methods to hold effluents under prevailing limits.

On the other hand, according to congressional staff members, state agencies responsible for promulgation and enforcement of air quality standards find the basic act workable and oppose any attempts to weaken it. In fact, some states like the primary standards so much that they are moving ahead to set deadlines for secondary standards, which are designed to protect property, vegetation, and esthetic things such as

visibility. (The federal government has only said these standards should be put into effect as soon as possible.)

It is probably well that the grab bag of proposals called the Energy Emergency Act was scotched last winter. The current act is considerably more modest in intent and more carefully thought out—even if no more prescient.—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

RECENT DEATHS

Joseph R. Bailer II, 70; professor emeritus of education, Western Maryland College; 7 January.

Satyendra N. Bose, 80; professor emeritus of physics, Calcutta University; 4 February.

Frank D. Enck, 47; professor of physics, Franklin and Marshall College; 16 December.

Edwin R. Erickson, 73; professor emeritus of chemistry, Augustana College; 16 January.

Gerald W. Fox, 73; former head, physics department, Iowa State University, Ames; 12 January.

Glenn Gentry, 78; retired chief of fish management, Tennessee Game and Fish Commission; 15 December.

Ralph W. Gerard, 73; professor emeritus of biology, University of California, Irvine; 17 February.

Albert H. Hegnauer, 73; former research program director, U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine; 25 December.

William P. Hurley, 78; former professor of physics, Fordham University; 7 January.

R. Russell Murphy, 74; professor emeritus of poultry science, Pennsylvania State University; 3 February.

Theodore T. Odell, 77; professor emeritus of biology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges; 8 February.

Leland W. Parr, 81; professor emeritus of bacteriology, hygiene, and preventive medicine, George Washington University; 15 December.

Rudolph D. Radeleff, 55; director, Veterinary Toxicology and Entomology Research Laboratory, U.S. Department of Agriculture; 7 January.

Marvin J. Stern, 38; former professor of chemistry, Belfer Graduate School of Science, Yeshiva University; 29 January.

Lewis L. Strauss, former chairman, Atomic Energy Commission; 21 January.