

the politically powerful Georgia Wildlife Federation. Derrick also has been a supporter of the project but he recently decided that it should be terminated. "It was a no-win situation for the congressman," says a Derrick aide. "He based his decision on the merits of the project rather than on the politics." Derrick began a study of the project after the President recommended killing it, and finally concluded that the peaking power which the dam would generate would be very high priced, trivial in amount, and, in any case, probably unneeded.

The \$504-million Oahe Irrigation project has gotten into a wretchedly difficult and complicated political snarl. South Dakota's Governor Richard K. Kneip, together with one of the state's U.S. senators (George McGovern) and its two congressmen are still backing the project, but the elected conservancy board, which is responsible for seeing that local financial commitments to the project are met, is now dead opposed to it and Senator James Abourezk is supporting the board.

The Carter Administration is insisting on a sweeping redesign of the project to reduce its size and its environmental and economic costs. As now planned, the project would involve constructing a canal system to move water 100 miles to the east of the Oahe Reservoir on the Missouri River, channelizing and polluting (through a 50 percent increase in dissolved solids) the James River, and eliminating up to 23,800 acres of prairie wetland. The government's investment per farm unit benefited would come to more than \$735,000.

Bevill Does Not Budge

Yet, however vulnerable the projects on the hit list may be to criticism, the leaders on Capitol Hill thus far seem determined to fight out the water projects issue more on the basis of congressional versus executive prerogatives than on the merits of the projects and of the way Congress went about approving them. Representative Bevill has not budged from his position despite the entreaties which President Carter has made to him in face to face meetings at the White House. And, for his part, Representative Mahon tries to dismiss the whole disagreement as a "failure of communications."

The Senate will take up the public works bill once the House acts, but it is not expected to treat the President's recommendations any more kindly than have Mahon and company. In fact, given its club-like atmosphere and tradition of "senatorial courtesy," the Senate may

treat them even less kindly if that is possible.

But, besides his power of veto, President Carter has going for him what seems a widespread recognition on the part of the press, and presumably the public, that there really is a public works pork barrel system at work—and that it is a costly and environmentally damaging indulgence. The terms "pork" and "pork barrel" are as familiar as any in the American idiom, and what they have seemed to convey is a sense of helpless and inevitable institutional abuse.

That the President's campaign against the pork barrel system may have tapped a deep wellspring of support is apparent from a glance at a few of the many newspaper editorials that have appeared in support of the President. "Water Projects & Sacred Cows" (*Wall Street Journal*), "Protecting the Pork" (*Washington Star*), "Pork and Water" (*New York Times*), and "Politics Wins First Round in the Pork Barrel Battle" (*Louisville Courier-Journal*)—such headlines convey a message which can only produce a sense of unease on Capitol Hill.

The congressional leaders are now appealing to the President not to resort to confrontation politics—which is to say, not to use or threaten to use the veto—on either the public works bill or other important measures (such as the farm bill and the Labor-HEW appropriations bill) on which his wishes have been flouted. For him to do so, they suggest, would be to depart from the model of good conduct established by other recent Democratic presidents in their dealings with Democratic congresses. In effect, Carter is asked to mind his manners and not upset senior Democrats in the House and Senate who are unwilling to accept challenges to their way of legislating from a President who is of their own political party.

In view of these appeals from leaders on whom he must depend to get his legislative program enacted, President Carter is in a ticklish position. So as not to rough up and antagonize more senior Democrats than he has to, the President might choose to veto one of the several bills now in contention but let the others go by. But should he veto any of the bills, it may have to be the public works measure—which has received much more press attention than the others—if he is to avoid seeming to back down in a game of chicken. Having dramatized the water projects issue by announcing the hit list, President Carter may find that the only road for him now is the one leading straight up Capitol Hill, to a showdown with dispensers of the pork.

—LUTHER J. CARTER

APPOINTMENTS

Ronald L. Harper, associate director, School of Allied Health Professions, Ohio State University, to dean, School of Allied Health, University of Kansas. . . . **Edna L. Leumann**, chairperson of nursing, Wichita State University, to dean, College of Health Sciences, Lamar University. . . . **R. W. Newburgh**, chairman of biochemistry-biophysics, Oregon State University, to dean, Graduate School at the university. . . . **Paul R. Paslay**, professor of engineering, Oakland University, to dean, College of Engineering, University of Illinois, Chicago Circle. . . . **John E. Norvell**, associate professor of anatomy, Medical College of Virginia, to chairman, anatomy department, Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, Oral Roberts University. . . . **Robert C. Summerfelt**, leader, Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, Oklahoma State University, to chairman, animal ecology department, Iowa State University. . . . **LeRoy Heinrichs**, former professor of gynecology and obstetrics, University of Washington School of Medicine, to chairman, gynecology and obstetrics department, Stanford University School of Medicine. . . . **Lafayette Frederick**, chairman of biology, Atlanta University, to chairman of botany, Howard University. . . . **Roy Hunter, Jr.**, professor of biology, Atlanta University, to chairman, biology department at the university. . . . **Margaret H. Peaslee**, professor of biology, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, to head, zoology department, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston. . . . **Raymond Siever**, professor of geology, Harvard University, to chairman, geological sciences department of the university. . . . **Robert W. Coon**, vice chancellor for health education for West Virginia State Board of Regents, to dean, School of Medicine, Marshall University. . . . **H. David Lipsich**, professor of mathematics and university administration, University of Cincinnati, to dean, College of Arts and Sciences at the university. . . . **Russell R. Monroe**, acting chairman, psychiatry department, University of Maryland School of Medicine, to chairman of the department. . . . **Marvin B. Sussman**, professor of sociology, Case Western Reserve University, to chairman of medical social science and marital health, Wake Forest University. . . . **Richard J. C. Pearson**, associate professor of epidemiology and community medicine, University of Ottawa, to chairman of community medicine, West Virginia University.