

plentiful. Information was mailed to members of Congress by Fusion Power Associates, an industry trade association located in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Paying members of the association include McDonnell-Douglas, KMS Fusion Inc., General Atomic, and Westinghouse. Its head is Steven Dean, formerly the director of fusion magnetic confinement systems at DOE. Somewhat propitiously, Dean left DOE to form the association several months before McCormack's bill was first introduced.

The General Atomic Company, which receives about \$18 million annually in DOE fusion grants, assigned Kathryn Brunner, a lobbyist, to work on the bill full time. "Opposition was limited, because fusion is viewed as fairly benign; it's like motherhood and apple pie right now," Brunner says. "Congress needed to vote for an energy *thing*, particularly one with the potential to save the world. Also, no extra money would be spent at first." Brunner arranged for Harold Furth of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, Ken Fowler of Lawrence Livermore and several industry officials to visit Washington in an attempt to increase the number of cosponsors. Brunner also arranged for the corporate lobbyist for TRW, Inc., to contact Barry M. Goldwater, Jr., who has a TRW office in his California district. Additional corporate lobbying support was provided by Grumman.

Vigorous lobbying and letter writing was undertaken at the 30 or so universities where fusion research is now under way. Each stands to double its federal fusion receipts under the accelerated development program, according to a House staff aide. Princeton scientists contacted Senator William Bradley (D-N.J.), University of Wisconsin scientists contacted Representative Robert Kastenmeier (D-Wis.), University of Texas scientists contacted Representative J. J. Pickle (D-Texas), and so on, with the result that virtually all congressmen with fusion research in their districts were urged to sign on as a cosponsor, and did.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which receives about \$12 million annually from DOE for fusion research, was particularly helpful. Because of a dispute between the staff aides to McCormack and Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), chairman of the energy committee, McCormack was unable to persuade Jackson to introduce his bill. Eventually he settled on Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, who agreed to the task after hearing from three MIT fusion researchers, Ronald Davidson, Bruno Coppi, and David Rose.

Finally, congressmen from key states were contacted by constituents and senior scientists from DOE's national laboratories. Employees of the labs are technically prohibited from lobbying. Nonetheless, as McCormack himself says, "the national labs helped a great deal." Lawrence Livermore and Lawrence Berkeley scientists (both affiliated with the University of California) contacted Senator Alan Cranston of California, the majority whip. Oak Ridge scientists contacted Senator Howard Baker, the minority leader, and Senator Jim Sasser, both of Tennessee. Los Alamos scientists contacted Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico. Each congressman agreed to be a cosponsor.

With this show of strength, McCormack and Tsongas had little difficulty persuading the House and Senate leadership to bring the bills up for a quick vote, despite the crowded calendar just before the recess. (House Majority Leader Tip O'Neill had been contacted

by MIT as well.) Opposition appeared to arise only from a few liberals opposed to all nuclear power plans and from those conservatives opposed to more federal spending. Supporters brandished a new report by DOE's own advisory committee, containing recommendations consistent with the bill.

As Brunner notes, the real test of strength for fusion will occur next year, when the appropriations committees must be persuaded to accept the actual budget increases necessary to meet the newly imposed construction deadlines. A staff aide says some of the members might conclude that fusion is an expensive fad with only long-term potential. But McCormack is confident that he will prevail, and also that the federal Office of Management and Budget will support the higher figure, "no matter which Administration is in power, Carter's or Reagan's." Few would belittle his determination to see that it comes true.

—R. JEFFREY SMITH

Charges of Piracy Follow Alsabti

Charged with pirating seven of his 60 published papers, Elias A. K. Alsabti, 26, who quit a medical residency program at the University of Virginia in July as administrators there were convening a panel to investigate the plagiarism charges and whose whereabouts were unknown, has turned up in a residency program at a hospital affiliated with Boston University. Administrators are preparing to confront Alsabti with the charges, which they learned about in only the past few days.

Alsabti for the past 3 years has zig-zagged his way across the United States and the Caribbean, going from one school and hospital to another (*Science*, 27 June, 11 July, 22 August). On 2 July he quit the University of Virginia program after failing to answer tentative questions put forward by administrators concerning the charges. He put up his \$70,000 house for sale and was said to have left for England. This was not the case.

He instead apparently flew directly to Boston, where he enrolled in an internal medicine residency program at Carney Hospital in Dorchester, Massachusetts. According to Carney's executive vice president John Logue, Alsabti was at work by the second week of July. Alsabti told Carney officials that he had experienced "personal" problems in Virginia, but he mentioned nothing about the charges of piracy. Alsabti had applied to Carney earlier in the year, around February, Logue recalls, and "his credentials had already been authenticated" by the time of his arrival.

To confront Alsabti with the charges of plagiarism, which administrators at Carney first learned about in a September article in *Forum on Medicine*, they have scheduled a meeting for Monday 6 October. As of this writing, the results of that meeting are not known. It is also not known whether Alsabti claimed on his résumé the seven papers he is charged with having pirated. Attempts to contact Alsabti have not been successful.

Pending the outcome of the scheduled meeting with administrators at Carney, Alsabti's fate is up in the air. But possibly not for long. "He did not tell us that there were any allegations or accusations or anything that would raise questions regarding his character or competence or ethics," says Logue. "In any application there is a presumption of honesty. If we hire an employee for a dishwashing job and they lie on the application, we consider that grounds for dismissal." —WILLIAM J. BROAD