

# Civil service bill to be amended

## Carter administration says 'whistle blowers' to get protection

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Carter administration, responding to congressional criticism, has agreed to add more protection for "whistleblowers" to the president's civil service bill, several officials say.

Protection will be included for dissident employees who make allegations of non-criminal waste, mismanagement or impropriety, provided they do so confidentially within the government.

This will be added to the protection against firing, demotion or transfer which Pres. Carter proposed three months ago for civil servants who go to the news media or Congress to allege criminal acts or rule violations by their colleagues or bosses.

One of the most noted whistleblowers of recent years was A. Earnest Fitzgerald, a Pentagon analyst who disclosed to a congressional committee a \$2 billion cost overrun on the C-5A transport plane in the late 1960's. He was fired from his Air Force job, then ordered reinstated as a deputy for production management after a seven-year legal battle which he said cost him \$400,000.

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., said the treatment of Fitzgerald by the Air Force amounted to a cover-up of criminal behavior.

The administration also intends to push for passage of a bill to create strong inspector-general offices inside federal agencies to investigate the substance of complaints by whistleblowers and others. One version of the bill already has passed the House.

The new investigative arms would be in addition to a special counsel pro-

posed to investigate personnel grievances, including those by employees who say they are being punished for disclosing illegal activities.

The White House is continuing to negotiate with congressional critics of the plan who want to give wider powers to the special counsel and to protect those who make allegations of non-criminal improprieties to Congress and perhaps to the media.

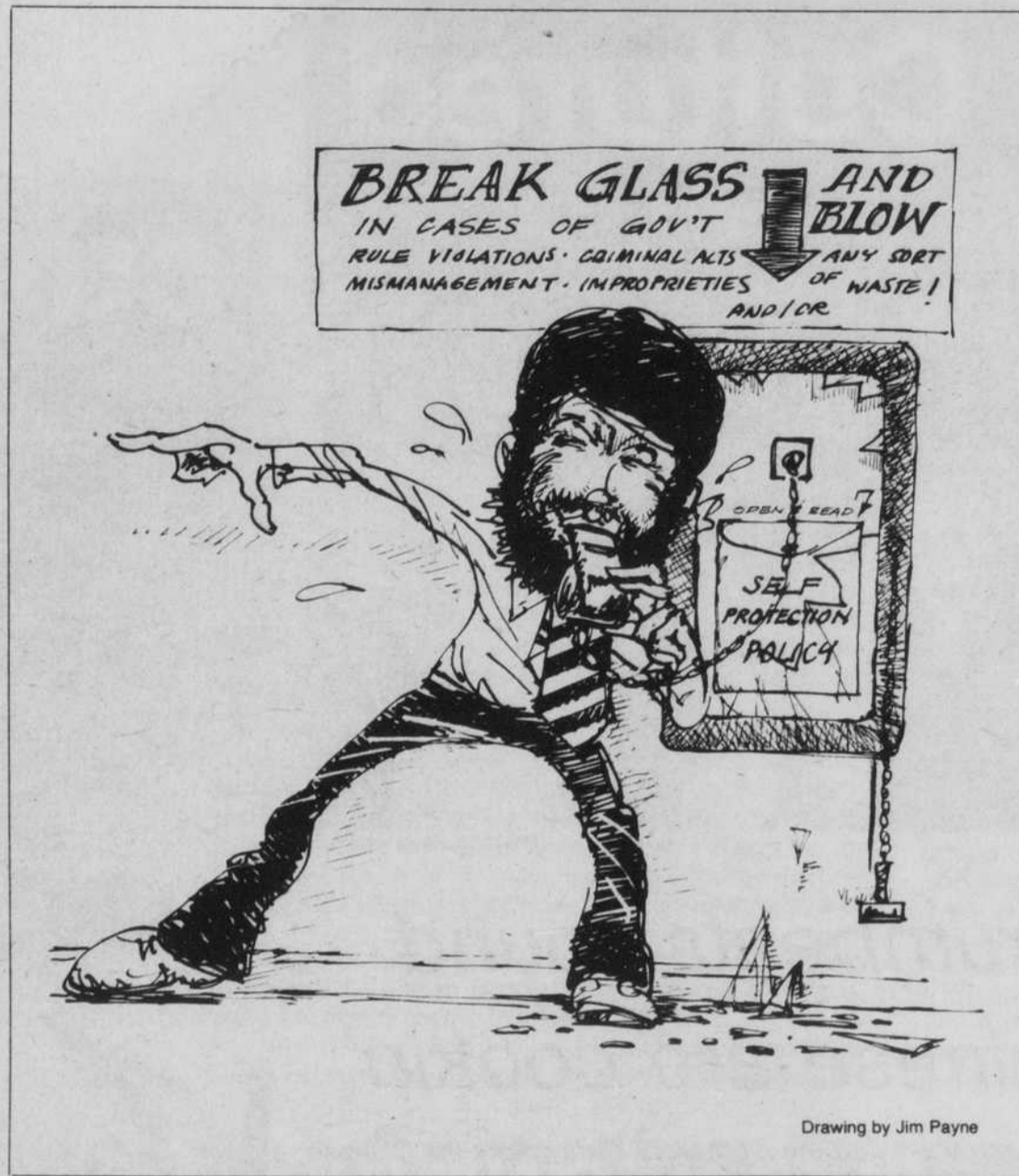
White House domestic policy aide Fred Lazarus III and three Senate aides who asked not to be named said agreement might be reached this week which would avert a House fight over the whistleblower issue, one of the most controversial aspects of the civil service plan.

Senate aides are continuing to press for protection for those who make allegations of non-criminal matters to the Congress but seem ready to drop proposals to protect those to take such allegations to the public or the news media.

Also apparently shelved are measures to allow the proposed special counsel to investigate and overrule other federal agencies on the basis of whistleblower complaints.

The Senate aides continue to object to a provision in Carter's plan that would allow a president to lift whistleblower protection from any employee he determines part of the intelligence committee.

And the White House remains opposed to granting iron-clad immunity against discipline for civil servants who campaign publicly against the policies of their superiors or who make public allegations about matters which they feel are improper but not necessarily illegal.



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