

Carter's oil plan snags

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a test vote Tuesday, House Democrats expressed nearly two-to-one opposition to Pres. Carter's plan to lift price controls from domestically produced oil.

Meanwhile, administration officials said refineries are being asked to boost their gasoline production to ease lines at the pump. But these officials insisted that the move would not threaten heating oil supplies for next winter.

On a 153-82 vote, the House Democratic Caucus rejected an attempt to sidetrack a resolution expressing opposition to Carter's oil deregulation move.

"This is a complete repudiation of the president's position," said Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., after the vote. "The Democratic Party has put the president on notice that the litmus test of the 1980 elections will be how he comes to grips with energy problems."

A vote by the House Democratic Caucus — com-

posed of all 276 House Democrats — on the anti-decontrol resolution had been scheduled for Tuesday. But after the vote to reject a motion to kill the resolution, the caucus was forced to recess for lack of time, delaying final action until Wednesday.

Markey and other supporters of the resolution predicted a similar margin of victory when the caucus votes on the anti-decontrol resolution itself.

Although the resolution is non-binding, backers called it an important symbolic gesture against higher oil and gasoline prices.

Rep. Toby Moffett, D-Conn., prime sponsor of the resolution, said Tuesday's test vote shows that the president lacks the support of his own party on the controversial oil-pricing issue.

"I'd like to help him rise from the political dead and come back to the party position on energy prices," Moffett said.

In the effort to ease gasoline lines, refineries are

being urged to reduce their existing inventories of gasoline and oil to counter the present shortages, Energy Department representative Jim Bishop said.

"Refineries have been somewhat conservative in using their available stocks of both crude oil and gasoline," he said.

But both Bishop and White House aide Rex Granum denied that this means less heating oil will be available for next winter.

The administration is still committed to making sure refineries produce and set aside enough heating oil to keep homes and businesses warm this winter, Granum said.

"That remains our priority," he said. "We have not altered it one iota."

In testimony Monday, Deputy Energy Secretary John O'Leary said federal officials have asked refineries to "help ease the immediate shortage by increasing the rate of use of available crude oil and gasoline stocks."

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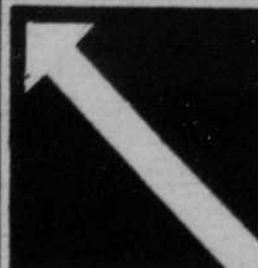
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Sanctuary (Continued from Page 1A)

The church offers conventional rites of matrimony for men and women as well as a "rite of holy union" for members of the same sex. The holy union rite, says Pelletier, is conducted for "two people defining their relationship and making a public statement of their love — and asking God's blessing to live as one flesh."

He won't approve a marriage or union unless a couple has dated or lived together for six months and has agreed that "sexual fidelity is something they want to do."

But homosexuality isn't MCC's only focus; the church discourages sexual discrimination of any kind. Says Pelletier, "You'll never hear 'Faith of Our Father' sung at our church." MCC stands on the belief that the biblical subjugation of women was a "misrepresentation of what God intended," and that "God is both mother and father." References to the deity avoid any titles that suggest a certain sex.

"Sex is a swine spot for the institution," Pelletier admits, and he laments the fact that,

"although I'm reluctant to judge other people, I'm judged all the time."

Some churches "who think we're really needed in the community" support MCC, says Pelletier, who declined to give specific names of his supporters. Pastors who openly accept gays "might find themselves out of a job," he says.

The Rev. Alice Morrison, pastor of the United Methodist Church which runs the Wesley Center, says her church's provision of a place of worship for MCC does not constitute an endorsement of its beliefs. She says MCC meets the criteria of the center's building use policy, but won't comment on any conflicts in doctrine between the churches.

Maureen Gieber, a director of the Volunteer Organization Involved in Community Enactments (VOICE) is more skeptical about MCC. "How can they really call themselves a church?" she asks.

"Simply by getting together with other people who feel the way you do, you aren't necessarily benefiting by it," she says. Gieber's

chief complaint is that "once they put their orientation into action, they are affecting society. I don't care if it's an orientation toward robbery, alcoholism, whatever."

The Metropolitan Community Church has been putting its "orientation" into action for 10 years, since it was founded in Los Angeles by Troy Perry. It now includes about 140 churches across the country and in 11 foreign countries.

MCC's success comes partly because "a lot of churches have turned the gospel into a new set of rules and regulations. We exist because we don't look at the gospel that way," Pelletier says.

He adds that MCC is involved in "opening closed questions . . . in letting God be God." To deny Christ's sexuality, he says, is to deny his humanity and therefore deny his full divinity.

It's not the kind of approach most churches take.

At MCC, says Pelletier, "We're letting God out of the stained glass boxes that we have so ingeniously invented."

nuclear waste (Continued from Page 1A)

solved have been made before, but it never has been solved.

"Thus, 35 years and 5,616 studies later, the problem of high level radioactive waste management remains unsolved. The federal government told us in the sixties that we'd have nuclear repositories in the seventies. In January of 1978, the Federal Department of Energy told us permanent facilities would be es-

tablished by 1984-85. In March of that year, the task force searching for permanent waste dumping grounds reported that a facility was not possible until 1988. Then, just nine months later, it said a permanent site would not be ready until 1992-4."

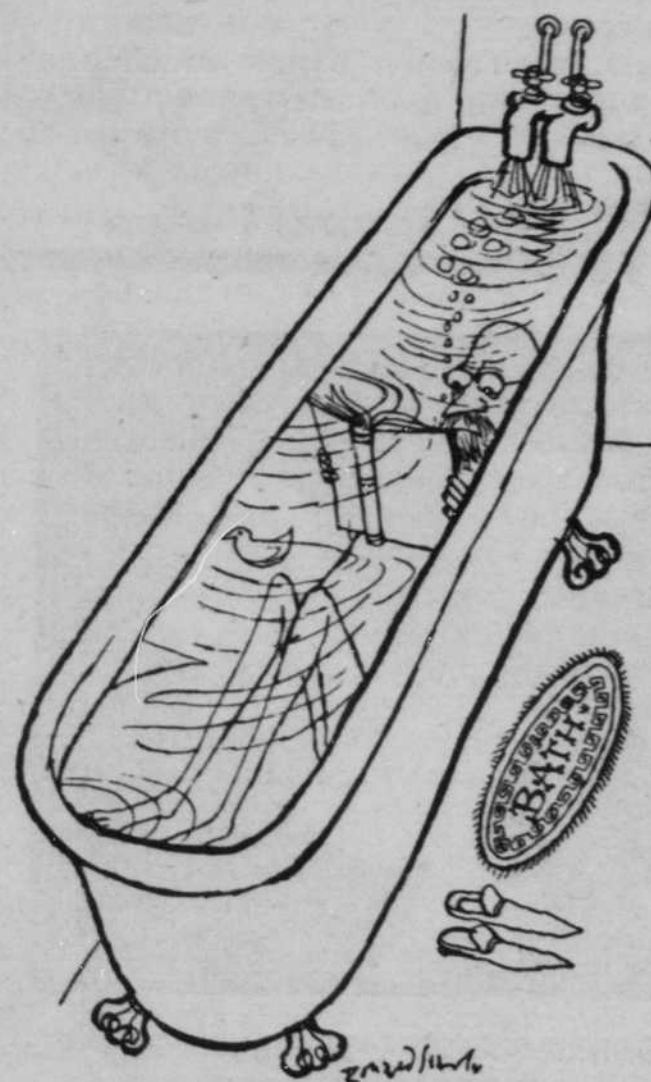
According to Throop, waste has been accumulating for 30 years and the first pound of it has "yet to be put into permanent storage."

Rep. Joyce Cohen, D-

Lake Oswego, predicted that a commitment to solar power would mean more jobs than a commitment to atomic energy. Rep. Rick Bauman, D-Portland, main sponsor of the original bill requiring a repository to be built and operating before further plans could be licensed, said the nuclear industry is dying.

"This is not being done because of safety factors or a great consciousness, this is being done because of dollars and cents."

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