

were unable to defend themselves or strike back." Almost all of the teachers in the study had "some psychophysiological manifestations of long-term stress." And of the total group, 134 had documented "extensive medical histories representing two to 10 years of psychophysiological response to continued stress," Bloch reports.

"Factors predisposing to neurosis in military personnel were applicable to these teachers," he says. "Primarily, these centered around an impaired ability to deal effectively with fear or anger." Almost 80 percent of the teachers who succumbed to sustained stress were categorized as passive, rigid and moderately obsessive. Much of their low morale and feeling of helplessness, Bloch suggests,

came from lack of support from their school administrators.

"The teachers said they were usually discouraged [by administrators] from reporting incidents of violence," he says. "Thus, they were denied an important opportunity for obtaining support and reality testing." Many of the teachers were also denied requests to transfer to less stressful schools. "The added stress of no exit from what they viewed as an intolerable situation contributed to the development of symptoms," he says. "Psychophysiological complaints increased until many became disabled." He recommends measures to help teachers prepare for and deal with school violence. The measures include crisis intervention and psychological training for teachers. □

Energy bill passes, many others don't

The Senate and House chambers were a flurry of activity last weekend as legislative brokers worked well into the night settling last-minute deals in the closing hours of the 95th Congress. Debate-weary members frequently crossed party allegiances to strike the compromises that made passage of many important bills possible. Among the most impressive results was a break in the stalemate over President Carter's energy bill. Many other touch-and-go bills fared less well. In fact, of the more than 22,000 pieces of legislation introduced in this Congress, only a little more than four percent made it through both the House and Senate. And of those passing both houses, only about 55 percent became law (this number excludes any currently awaiting Carter's signature). Here's what happened to some of the more important bills that were pending last week.

Unquestionably, one of Carter's strongest victories was the final passage of an energy bill. Although it bears only a faint resemblance to the package that Carter proposed 18 months ago, it does represent the first national policy to come through Congress that accounts (or at least tries to) for the synergistic impacts that use of coal, gas and oil—the nation's three major fuels—has on both the economy and the availability of future energy supplies.

The President would have raised fuel prices with taxes to encourage energy conservation and to avoid energy-providers raking in windfall profits. Instead, Congress chose mainly to "encourage" conservation with regulation and tax subsidies. The only Carter tax that remains is for cars with poor fuel efficiency.

The most controversial part of the energy package—and the one largely responsible for the eight-month House-Senate conferencing—was natural-gas price decontrol. Congress voted to let gas prices increase gradually toward complete decontrol sometime in the mid to late 1980s. While Congress chose not to maintain arti-

ficially low oil prices, it also chose not to raise them; that is left to Carter. Earlier, he pledged to raise oil prices to world levels within two years.

Briefly, the bill also requires most electric power plants to switch to coal from oil or gas; where feasible, industry is asked to do the same. New energy-rate structures would also encourage conservation. And both consumers and industry would qualify for tax credits on insulation and energy-conservation investments. Finally, utilities would be required to provide information and some financing for "winterizing" homes.

On another front environmentalists won a small victory with resolution of whether and how much to continue protecting endangered species. Fearing that the Endangered Species Act endangered some public works projects, Congress wrote a compromise amendment into the Act (SN: 5/13/78, p. 310) and attached it to the Act's funding. Then a snag developed. Although money to fund the Interior Department's Office of Endangered Species was appropriated, it was not authorized. With the start of the new fiscal year on October 1, endangered-species protectors were left unfunded and forbidden to do any endangered-species-related work (SN: 10/7/78, p. 247). One Tennessee congressman had threatened to stall floor action on the Act's FY 1979 authorization bill last week by introducing 600 or more amendments to the Act. But in the end, an 18-month reauthorization passed.

Environmentalists scored another gain with passage of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area bill. It would declare a million acres in Minnesota (on the Canadian border) as a natural wilderness. Logging and mining would be banned; motorboats and snowmobiles would be restricted.

Environmentalists failed to win support, however, for passage of their major campaign this year, the Alaska Lands bill (SN: 5/27/78, p. 343). Called the greatest conservation issue of the century, it would

have set aside millions of acres of new national parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas. It would also have prohibited gas, oil and hard-rock mining on much of the land. Various environmental coalitions around the country have spent whatever they had—in time, money and physical labor—for an all-out lobbying campaign to counter mining-lobby interests. Some now feel that the next time around they will be unable to regain the momentum they strived so hard to develop.

Also dead, at least this time around, is the deep-sea mining bill. It would have specified which minerals (such as copper, manganese and nickel) could be mined on the ocean floor and would have set up a licensing procedure for staking claims. (Backers say they will reintroduce the same bill on the first day of the next Congress.)

Offering to take "compassionate responsibility," the Congress has approved a program to clean up the uranium mill-tailing wastes at 22 abandoned Manhattan-Project (World War II) sites. The cost is estimated to run between \$120 million and \$180 million. In addition, Congress voted to extend the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's licensing authority to cover mill tailings. Although NRC has jurisdiction over active mills, it has no direct authority for wastes at abandoned sites, particularly those abandoned decades before the agency was formed.

Finally, President Carter's dream of a separate, Cabinet-level Department of Education is just that—a dream—unless and until the next Congress approves the founding legislation. □

Skylab now watched full time

The Skylab stakeout was upgraded late last week to a round-the-clock affair. The nearly 100-ton earth-orbiting facility has been of concern ever since it was realized that it might reenter the atmosphere—with chunks perhaps reaching the ground—before a space shuttle mission could boost it to a higher orbit. NASA tracking stations have been monitoring Skylab for about 16 to 20 hours per day, but 24-hour coverage began late on Oct. 14 with the addition of the station at Santiago, Chile, and of new control-room shifts at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The control-room crews have had not only to monitor Skylab's condition, but also to be ready in case some malfunction aboard required corrective commands to be transmitted up from the ground. The last such commands succeeded on July 25 at stabilizing the space station in a position of minimal atmospheric drag, sought in an effort to help keep Skylab aloft as long as possible. Only six days earlier, a problem cost Skylab much of its remaining