

from his subcommittee which will be designed to coordinate with Green's lobbying activities, and will set the stage for a subsequent comprehensive "Watergating" of numerous corporations and their executives.

In addition, several new pieces of legislation are planned which will further strengthen Nader's minions.

1. The SEC is sponsoring a bill which will give them the authority to attach the assets of foreign corporations which refuse to answer SEC subpoenas demanding the appearance of foreign executives. An SEC staff member indicated he hoped that this authority could be used to force the appearance of foreign political figures as well.

2. Senator Ribicoff (D-Conn) is sponsoring a bill to establish an Agency for Consumer Advocacy, a super Watergating authority. The agency, which will bring Nader's brand of industrial sabotage into the government officially, will be authorized to intervene before any federal agency in the name of "the public interest" if the ACA chiefs decide that the agency is not fulfilling its mandated obligations. A similar proposal passed the House and Senate in differing forms last session, but the differences were never resolved in committee and the

proposal died. One prominent counterinsurgent attorney who has worked in the "consumer" field for many years has called the ACA "one of the most important pieces of legislation which will be introduced this Congress."

3. The Federal Trade Commission Improvements Act of 1977, sponsored by Congressmen Eckhart (D-Tex) and Koch (D-NY), on which hearings are presently in progress, will permit "consumers" to sue as a class for violations of FTC rules, with counsel fees to be paid for by the U.S. Government. This nasty bit of legislation will permit the FTC to draft various "environmentalist" and other zero-growth rules and then turn over the enforcement to the vast array of National Lawyers Guild attorneys who will be paid by the Government to pursue extended harrassment law suits against industry in the name of "consumers."

4. Another proposal will reverse the Supreme Court's *Eisen* decision which limited the availability of class actions. This, coupled with the proposed doubling of the funding for the Legal Services Corporation, will provide radically increased leveraging capability to the "legal" dismantling of American technological and industrial capacity.

Gold Up But Weak Currencies Get Hit

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Last week's foreign exchange markets continued to be characterized by extreme uncertainty, and the ultimate fate of the U.S. dollar is still hanging in the balance. Although the run into gold appears to have abated since Monday, when a new record of \$150 an ounce was reached in London, the prospect of double-digit inflation in the U.S. and the reported insolvency of several leading New York-based international banks continue to plague the dollar.

Over the past several weeks, the dollar has managed to retain an apparent stability as a result of Wall Street-inspired speculative operations against selected "weak" currencies; thus, only the run into gold has indicated the dollar's actual, overvalued position. A prime example is the collapse of the Canadian dollar to a seven-year low of \$0.9485 on March 10. Prior to the Quebec elections, the Canadian currency had stood at \$1.03.

According to Toronto Dominion Bank's foreign exchange department in New York, Canada was recently shut off the Eurodollar loan markets by the New York-based international banks, and this provoked the latest drop in the Canadian dollar. The reason given for the credit-cutoff is the threat which Quebec separatism poses to foreign investment in Canada. On closer analysis, therefore, the Canadian dollar's weakness proves to be part of a larger destabilization operation against the Canadian government and an attempt to force greater austerity.

The 1 percent decline of the Swiss franc — one of the world's strongest currencies — over the past two weeks is another phenomenon which cannot be entirely ex-

plained by objective economic factors. There have been numerous press reports that the Swiss National Bank is itself selling off Swiss francs for dollars in order to boost the country's export-competitiveness. Others attribute the Swiss franc drop to the run into gold and into high interest-bearing British gilts (government securities). A recent statement by Swiss National Bank head Leutwiler contradicts the thesis that Swiss central bank dumping is causing the currency's weakness. Leutwiler declared that while the Swiss franc is not overvalued, the dollar definitely *is*, citing the record U.S. trade deficit in January and flight into gold as evidence.

An Arab Dinar?

British and Italian negotiations with the Soviet Union concerning the use of the gold-backed transfer ruble as an international reserve currency appear to be temporarily stalled. But a spokesman for a leading British merchant revealed this week that the bank is playing a key role in formulating plans for a common gold-backed Arab dinar. The Kuwaiti oil sheiks, this source revealed, have been stockpiling gold and providing gold-collateralized loans to the Soviet Union for "special reasons" of their own.

According to the Yugoslav press, Soviet, Eastern European, British, French and Arab government officials met in Cairo March 1 to discuss the creation of an Arab bank and a common Arab dinar. In the meantime, rumors abound that the EEC countries plan to establishing a gold clearing system among themselves — a move which could destroy the credibility of the dollar.