

Congressional Calendar by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

House committee rakes Army Secretary over the coals

The House Armed Services Committee began their hearings on the state of the U.S. Army June 11 by raking the Secretary of the Army over the coals. The Armed Services Committee lambasted the Army Secretary for allowing the U.S. Army to degenerate to such a low point that barely one-third of U.S. Army recruits are high school graduates. The mood at the hearings was utter disdain for the President's military men.

Testifying at the committee were Army Secretary Clifford Alexander and Army Chief of Staff General Meyer. Sitting in the audience were 14 enlisted men and officers who were supposed to testify the following day, also on the issue of the state of the Army. They were not supposed to be in the audience while the Army secretary testified, because their testimony was a check on the military brass. Congressmen at the hearings were outraged at their appearance. One Congressman demanded of Alexander why they were present. Before he could reply Congressman Stratton (D-NY) answered for him, "You ordered them here to find out what the party line is." Stratton, one of the most powerful men on the committee, then got up and walked out in disgust.

Congressmen also attacked the All-Volunteer Force, calling it a fiasco when less than 37 percent of the Army are high school graduates. Out of 340,000 first term enlisted men, only 276 are college graduates. After revealing these shocking statistics, the Congressmen demanded that the Army sec-

retary admit the failure of the all-volunteer army and reimpose the draft. But Alexander argued there were many benefits from having an army of non-high school graduates.

Proxmire covers for Dope, Inc. of Florida

Senate Banking Committee chairman William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) opened hearings on June 5 on the role of Florida banks in facilitating the massive illegal narcotics traffic swamping the state. Proxmire's stated aim is to force bank regulators, including the Controller of the Currency and the Federal Reserve Board to toughen their policing and prosecution of banks who do business with narcotics traffickers.

But in reality, this apparently admirable effort is a cover for a large-scale reorganization of Florida banking to facilitate Dope, Inc.'s takeover of Florida. Unmentioned in Proxmire's hearings were the 11 internationally-based banks which do not merely do business with narcotics traffickers, but who *are* narcotics traffickers and who have moved into Florida in the past two years.

In 1978, the Florida State Legislature passed legislation allowing internationally-based banks to open branches in the state. Since then, major Dope, Inc. connected banks such as Bank Leumi, Standard and Chartered and the Bank of Nova Scotia have opened up shop in Florida.

Proxmire and his train of witnesses left no doubt that their target in the hearings was the domestic Florida bank. Several local bankers and a former Assistant U.S. Attor-

ney for Miami testified, declaring that narcotics-related money transactions were easily recognizable and no banker had to do business with drug dealers if they didn't want to. Assistant Treasury Secretary Richard Davis reported that the appropriate bank regulatory agencies were not rigorous in pursuing and prosecuting bankers who were involved in regulatory infractions stemming from such transactions.

Proxmire has ordered a two month study of the situation and is clearly gearing up to force the regulatory agencies to crack down on the domestic banks. Such a crack-down will have the ultimate effect of turning more of Florida banking directly over to the top layers of Dope, Inc. itself, such as Standard and Chartered and Bank Leumi.

Congressmen demand prosecution of Ramsey Clark

Angry Senators have demanded that the Carter administration prosecute former Attorney General Ramsey Clark for violating Carter's ban on travel to Iran. Clark went to Iran last week and participated in a conference denouncing the U.S. As detailed by this publication, Clark was one of the leading figures who actually put Ayatollah Khomeini into power, meeting with him often while he was in exile in Paris.

The government should prosecute Clark for his trip since it prosecuted former Attorney General John Mitchell, declared Senator Howard Baker (R-Tenn.). "If you are going to prosecute people for things like Watergate, where the crime was far less clear, you should

prosecute for this," he declared. "The violation here was just as clear."

Baker demanded prosecution under the Logan Act, which prohibits American citizens from having unauthorized dealings with foreign governments that are in disputes with the United States.

Senator Robert Dole (R-Kan.) joined Baker. Dole said that he would actively pursue action against Clark and other Americans who attended the anti-American conference in Iran. On Friday June 6, Dole introduced a resolution calling on President Carter to prosecute those Americans under the Logan Act.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), while not going as far as the Republicans, said he too disapproved of Clark's trip. Byrd however deferred to the Justice Department for any prosecution.

Trucking dereg bill caught in Congressional quagmire

The House version of trucking deregulation has been caught in the entropy settling over Congress, and the delay in its passage may spell trouble for the legislation. Industry sources report that House Majority Leader Tip O'Neill dropped the legislation from consideration during the week of June 9, because he does not want any major legislation considered until the budget deadlock is resolved. If that deadlock prevents the deregulation bill from reaching the floor until July, the paper-thin compromise which holds the bill together may fall apart.

Already, the Teamsters are re-

portedly asking for a major amendment to the bill which would afford them a labor protection clause similar to the one enacted in the airline deregulation case. While the administration is not particularly adverse to that demand, it recognizes that acceptance of any amendments could open the doors to all the disparate interest groups who want changes in the bill. Since the legislation was only passed through the House Committee through a combination of arm-twisting and railroading, a free for all on the floor of the House could finish the bill off.

While chances are still better than even that the legislation will pass, Capitol Hill observers note that with Congress out for two weeks in July and a good part of August, and looking for an early fall recess, the longer the deregulation bill waits for floor action, the more likely it will falter.

Oil import fee killed in Congress

The Senate voted 68 to 10 to kill President Carter's oil import fee June 6, overriding a Presidential veto. The Senate action came a day after the House voted 335 to 34 to also override the veto. The defeat was a stinging rebuke to President Carter, who had imposed the fee several weeks ago as a centerpiece to his energy austerity program. The fee would have added 10 cents a gallon on gasoline rates and taken \$10 billion out of the U.S. economy yearly.

The Congressional override of the Carter veto was the first such override of a President by any Congress of the same party since June

1952, when Harry Truman tried to block the McCarren-Walter immigration bill. The Congress rejected the oil import fee, fearing the objections of the American population in an election year. They also criticized it as inflationary.

Filibuster on draft registration ends:

The Senate voted June 10 to end the days-old filibuster on draft registration which had held up Senate consideration of other important pending legislation. The vote was 62 to 32 to invoke cloture, thus ending the filibuster, but allowing for 100 more hours of debate on the matter. The filibuster had been led by Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) who opposed draft registration.

The Senate vote appeared to assure passage of the bill shortly. Carter had asked for \$13.3 million to register 19 and 20-year-olds. The House has already passed the legislation. The House passage occurred after the House leaders assured members that President Carter had no intention of actually reinstating the draft.

Once the vote on cloture was completed, the Senate began to amend the registration bill. The Appropriations Committee submitted an amendment that would allow youth to list themselves as conscientious objectors on their registration forms. After much haggling between the Senate and the presiding officer on this amendment, Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) added another amendment which carried. It transfers the conscientious objector status to a classification process that still has to be created.