

National News

Southern governors jolted by farm crisis

The next 60 days will bring a "severe institutional rattling of the agricultural productive system of the South," warned Georgia American Agriculture Movement leader George Harris to the Southern Governors Conference Sept. 15. Unless action is taken immediately to save Southern agriculture, Harris forecast "a future Southern economy that is stripped of family farms, and that has no future." At the Southern Growth Policy plenary session Harris declared that the cause of the agricultural crisis was not the current drought, although that has had tremendous negative effects.

The real problem, he said, has been the Carter administration's policies that don't allow farmers parity prices or adequate loans. "Hundreds of farmers per county in Georgia are receiving letters of intent to liquidate from the Farmers Home Loan Administration because of the debt crisis."

A press release by the Virginia American Agriculture Movement circulated at the conference declared that "the drought this year is a hammer blow, but it is not

policy had allowed us to earn a fair living for our efforts, we could be financially strong enough to ride out a tough year."

Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture Bob Odom also spoke about the disasters facing American farmers. Odom, a farmer himself, estimated crop value losses in the southern U.S. due to the drought as over \$4 billion, warning that farmers had no equity base to fall back on.

The immediate response of the governors was stunned silence. Governor Riley of South Carolina, a Carter administration point man in the South, attempted to placate the farm spokesmen by announcing that he was submitting a resolution, passed by the Sept. 17 plenary session, calling on federal and state agencies to implement a case by case debt forgiveness for farmers. Asked why he

did not put forward a comprehensive program for agriculture, including a 100 percent parity for farmers, Riley said, "There is a tendency especially in the agriculture movement to shoot for the moon. We have to accept what we cannot accomplish."

London Times identifies Billy's Sicilian connection

Last week the *Times* of London added another dimension to the scandal around Billy Carter's Libyan dealings by identifying Michele Papa, Billy's contact man with the Libyans, as connected to organized crime networks in Sicily. The article, based upon information from Mario Leanza, who served as an intermediary between Billy and Papa, describes Papa as "a heavyset lawyer who was active in Evis, the Mafia-infiltrated Sicilian independence movement."

In our copyrighted story last week, the *EIR* showed that Papa's organized crime connections include a number of fronts such as the Lelio Basso Foundation, which has financed both right- and left-wing terrorism.

The *Times* also reveals that Billy Carter was in close contact in Libya with Frank Terpil, a former CIA agent and weapons dealer. According to the *Times*, after the Libya trip, Terpil met with Carter in Americus, Georgia to discuss a deal for machine guns. Shortly thereafter, Terpil was arrested in New York for an alleged illegal weapons deal. Informed sources believe that this was an attempt to keep Terpil quiet about Billy Carter's Libya dealings. Terpil disappeared last week shortly before a scheduled court appearance.

Carter administration unveils 'coal OPEC'

In his acceptance speech before the Democratic convention, Jimmy Carter declared that his administration would work to have the United States replace,

through coal exports, Saudi Arabia as the world's prime energy raw material exporter to the OECD. On Sept. 17, testifying before the Senate Energy Committee, John Sawhill, just appointed by Carter to head the Synfuels Corp., spelled out the policy.

Sawhill said that major expansion of rail and highway transportation and port terminal expansion was being considered to allow large-scale U.S. coal exports to Europe and Japan.

Sawhill predicated the plan on "oil production cutbacks by OPEC" through the 1980s, with a corresponding shift by Europe and Japan from oil to coal. In addition, Carter and Sawhill are projecting no expansion of nuclear, and have not ruled out a phaseout of nuclear altogether.

Sawhill asserted that trade delegations exploring U.S. coal export possibilities have recently arrived from France, Spain, Japan and Korea. This fall delegations will arrive from Germany, Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Muskie and Brown support PD 59

Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and Defense Secretary Harold Brown appeared for two and one-half hours last week at a closed door session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to reaffirm their support for the administration's new strategic doctrine contained in Presidential Directive 59.

In a controlled leak on the testimony appearing in yesterday's *Washington Post*, Muskie states his categorical denial that PD 59 is a first strike doctrine: "It does not signify a shift to a war fighting strategy or to a first strike doctrine."

Foreign Relations Committee chairman Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) chimed in with support for Muskie and Brown's contentions: "Both emphasized to the committee that neither they nor President Carter believe it likely that nuclear war, once begun, can stay limited. Nor do they believe that there is such a

thing as a winnable nuclear exchange between superpowers."

Muskie is further quoted as saying that he "doesn't want anyone to wrongly conclude that we have suddenly become confident about our ability to orchestrate nuclear exchanges and control nuclear escalation or that we have become complacent about the use of nuclear weapons."

Despite these assurances, the carefully constructed leak leaves open the use of PD 59 to involve the United States in theater or limited nuclear war. Says Muskie: "PD 59 underscores—and I believe strengthens—the credibility of our capability to retaliate against a nuclear attack, under any circumstances, be it a massive strike against the United States or a more limited one against our forces or our allies."

Apparently, the administration intends to create maximum confusion around the doctrine.

Republican adviser backs MacKinder's geopolitics

Leading Republican Party adviser Lou Tambs, who works closely with Reagan advisers at the Council for Inter-American Security, declared at the Southern Governors Conference Sept. 16 that British geopolitician Harold MacKinder's policies were exactly correct and must be followed today. It was MacKinder who at the turn of the century called the France-Germany-Russia alliance for mutual economic development the major threat to the British Empire. MacKinder warned that this "land power," as he called it, must be destroyed at all costs.

Tambs told the governors that the Soviet Union today is a "land power" whose activities in Europe threaten the "sea people," i.e., Britain. Tambs showed maps of the emerging land's power and declared that MacKinder had finally succeeded in containing it with World War I.

Tambs also attacked the Soviets for "trying to surround Red China, a potential ally."

Civiletti announces plan to hamper police

In a speech before 5,000 police officers at the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti announced a series of measures that taken together could spell the destruction of U.S. law enforcement capability. Prior to the speech, leaflets were circulating among IACP members calling for them to "effect the impeachment of Attorney General Civiletti."

Civiletti attempted to present his speech in a pro-police posture; but he emphasized that the Department of Justice is planning to take measures to deal with police brutality and the use of "deadly force."

These measures include the setting up of a civil rights unit in every U.S. attorney's office made up of prosecutors responsible for speeding up onsite resolution of police brutality cases, and to examine existing laws governing police brutality to see where there is potential for reform. In addition, a task force is to be formed to establish national guidelines on the use of deadly force by police. This would include research projects by the Urban League and the La Raza Unida party, and a University of California study on the philosophic, social and psychological implications of the use of deadly force. Finally, Civiletti announced an expanded role for the Community Relations Service of the Justice Department, including the establishment of such programs as "intergroup communications" and "increasing cultural understanding between police and the community."

Critics of Civiletti's measures say that if they are implemented, every action local police take will be subject to the constant scrutiny of the DOJ, making police officers more reluctant to take any potentially controversial action for fear of being hit with a civil rights suit.

The response by the IACP to Civiletti's speech was at best lukewarm.

Briefly

● **WASHINGTON POST** publisher Katharine Graham was seen cooing up to her late husband's half brother, Florida Gov. Bob Graham, at the Southern Governors Conference Sept. 15. Can you deliver Florida for my boy Jimmy? she was demanding.

● **WILL MUSKIE** stay on as Secretary of State if Jimmy Carter wins the election? Word was circulating at the Foreign Policy Association luncheon in New York Sept. 18 that the guest speaker, U.S. Ambassador to Italy Richard Gardner is now vying for the post.

● **THE SYNFUELS** program will mean a great new energy boom for the U.S., according to Roger W. Sant, director of the Energy Productivity Center of the Mellon Institute. "We could save more oil, for less money than we will get from synfuel plants by giving away small cars," Sant said. The Mellon Institute has done some of the major studies on synfuels, somehow showing them to be cost-efficient.

● **HARRY GRAY**, chairman of United Technologies, warned in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee Sept. 17 that "if there were a national emergency today, I seriously doubt that our nation could mobilize its industrial base in time to make an appreciable difference in sustaining a war effort. It might take as much as two years before we'd see any real increase of war materiel."

● **STROM THURMOND** told Zbigniew Brzezinski he was "not sure" Brzezinski was "telling the truth" when the national security adviser claimed he hadn't handled the Billy Carter affair in a "political manner." Thurmond made the remark during hearings of the Senate Select Committee investigating Billy Carter's Libyan dealings.