

National News

Mixed results on nuclear referenda

Out of six environmentalist-initiated referenda in five states, two were passed into law on Nov. 4.

In Oregon, Initiative 7, which requires statewide voter approval for a siting certificate on any nuclear power plant, passed 56 percent to 44 percent. The law will prevent future construction, since no company will go through the expense of a site certification if it might be rejected by the electorate. Overwhelmingly defeated, however, were proposals in 12 counties to create a "People's Utility District" to take over the electrical distribution grid from the state's utility companies.

In Washington, Initiative 383 passed 75 percent to 25 percent, preventing the transport of nuclear waste into the state for disposal facilities until a regionwide committee is formed to approve the "dumping."

In Montana, Initiative 84 lost by only 2,000 votes. The proposal would have closed uranium mining in the state by forbidding the disposal of any nuclear waste, including "tailings" from the state's mines. A similar initiative aimed at South Dakota's uranium mining lost by 7,500.

Pronuclear forces won 61 percent to 39 percent in Missouri, which will allow the continued construction of the Callo-way power plant, now three-quarters built.

Daley, Jr. wins fight against Jane Byrne

State Sen. Richard Daley, Jr., son of the late mayor of Chicago, dealt a double-barreled defeat to Mayor Jane Byrne and Cook County state's attorney Bernard Carey in a hotly contested race for Carey's office.

Daley won by about 21,000 votes, or 51 to 48 percent. Media polls had pre-

dicted a victory for Carey, the two-term Republican incumbent.

The real loser, however, Chicagoans say, was Jane Byrne, who was determined that Daley be defeated. Byrne's staff distributed "palm cards" to precinct workers with instructions to Democratic voters to split their ballots to vote for Carey. But Cook County residents, instead, voted Republican tickets—except for Daley.

Daley's campaign television commercials lashed out at Carey, a crony of Sen. Charles Percy, for his failure to prosecute criminals for drug pushing, gang wars, and the destruction of the city of Chicago. Daley organizers distributed antidrug leaflets and decals all over the city. Daley has also issued a seven-point program to fight the drug epidemic, emphasizing law enforcement.

Byrne's support for Carey, charged Daley, was based on a deal that, despite evidence of corruption in her administration, no prosecutions would take place.

What Carter would have done on hostages

The Carter administration was planning to nationalize American claims against Iran in order to force its deal with the Khomeini regime of Iran for the release of 52 American hostages, the columnists Evans and Novak reported Nov. 5. The measure would block American firms or individuals from suing the Iranian government directly for their claims.

According to Evans and Novak, a team of U.S. Treasury officials under Deputy Secretary Carswell had devised an elaborate plan to facilitate the unfreezing of blocked Iranian assets in the United States. Handing over the assets is one of the Khomeini regime's conditions for release of the hostages.

Carswell and his team "dropped hints in the highest banking and financing levels: Carter would give Iran what it wanted on asset freezing, with the U.S. government underwriting private claims against the Iranian government. "Israel's

clandestine shipments to Iran from its own F-4 stockpiles were not hindered by Washington," reported Evans & Novak. "In the U.S., warehoused and newly produced spare parts were moved to embarkation points ready for airfreight to Teheran."

Iran's central bank governor Nobari was in Washington last month for secret negotiations with the Carter administration on the hostage release. Nobari said that Iran was "willing" to pay the claims made against it, but Washington sources are questioning his authority to make such guarantees.

'Prop 13' ballot referenda generally fail

Five of the six Proposition 13-style ballot referenda were voted down on Nov. 4. The measures failed in Michigan, where voters also rejected two other property-tax constitutional amendments, as well as in Nevada, Oregon, Arizona, and South Dakota. In addition, Ohio voters rejected the so-called Ohio Fair Tax measure, which would have forced a steep increase in business taxes.

In Massachusetts, however, Proposition 2½ passed by a margin of 3 to 2, after the legislature's recent enactment of property tax increases that would have tripled local taxes over three years. The measure will cut property taxes in every locality 15 percent each year until they reach a level of only 2½ percent of market value. This would mean a 40 to 75 percent cut in local property tax revenues throughout the state and massive budget curtailments. In Boston alone, \$87 million, or more than 10 percent of the budget, would have to be pared.

Since in Massachusetts, Proposition 2½ is not a constitutional amendment but only a law, the legislature has the power to revise or even reject it. The measure takes effect as it stands in 30 days, unless the legislature takes action. It is expected that a tremendous fight will break out on every level of government

to decide on everything from new compensatory taxes to letting cities cut whole areas of their budgets.

Prop 2½ also includes a provision striking down binding arbitration in state and city negotiations with labor unions, and also rescinds the autonomy of local school committees in making their budgets.

In Montana, a tax indexation initiative was passed, which will immediately slash state tax receipts by 30 percent. These severe consequences were never spelled out to voters by either the media or elected officials prior to the balloting.

Senator vows expansion of export bank

Senator Edwin "Jake" Garn (R-Utah), the incoming chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, plans to "aggressively expand" international trade lending by the U.S. Export-Import Bank, Republican minority staff counsel Paul Freedenberg said Nov. 5.

"The minimum we would find acceptable for Ex-Im total Direct Loan authorization for fiscal year 1981 would be \$8 billion, which is twice the Carter administration's request for \$4.3 billion," the aide stated. "And we would like to do a great deal more."

The new Reagan Senate intends to aggressively expand the U.S. world export share by being "tough on Europe and Japan, not by strongarming them, which is counterproductive, but by matching their credit terms and making credit a given," Mr. Freedenberg continued.

"We are not protectionist," he said. "U.S. corporations, if properly financed, can compete with the best. We need more credit, and on lower terms; instead of the 9 percent range we lend at now, we should go down to the bottom of the OECD's agreed range of 7.75 percent to 8.25 percent for the Third World.

"We have to show Europe and Japan that we're serious on credit. Then we can

sit down and negotiate general agreements on broader trade issues.

"We should expand our nuclear exports, for example, to Taiwan, which wants to order two plants. We must support our nuclear industry instead of attacking it constantly," he added. "Otherwise we're just subsidizing the German and French nuclear industries at our own expense."

"In general, we need to expand exports to the Third World of technology; one of our initiatives will be Senate Bill 2339, which would create a facility within Ex-Im to promote high-risk loans in the Third World. For example, we lost a \$1 billion contract for Western Electric in Egypt this year to Siemens because Ex-Im wouldn't take the risk.

Hazardous waste: EPA numbers game

Estimating the number of hazardous waste disposal sites has become a numbers game for the Environmental Protection Agency. The figure most commonly used, 35,000 to 50,000, is allegedly based on an Environmental Protection Agency study. Yet the EPA's own Steffen Plehn admitted before Congress that there are probably only 1,000 to 2,000 sites that require remedial action.

EPA spokesmen, however, continue to cite the figure of 35,000 to 50,000.

EPA deputy administrator Barbara Blum sent out a memorandum to regional administrators: "All potentially hazardous waste sites or incidents must be listed on the regional logs. This is true regardless of whether the initial identification of a *potential* site or incident comes from government sources, the media, or technically unsophisticated citizens' complaints," her memo read.

"Some regions have adopted a policy of adding sites to their logs only after a determination has been made that a hazardous waste problem actually exists," said the Blum memorandum. "This policy must be changed."

Briefly

● **AN AFL-CIO** spokesman says the labor federation's headquarters is in a state of shock about the election. "We told people to go out and vote the lunch bucket on the gut economic issues," the source added. "They did, and a lot of them voted for Reagan. We really didn't understand how much people hate Jimmy Carter."

● **EDWARD HEATH**, former British prime minister, attacked fellow Conservative Margaret Thatcher's economic policies as "catastrophic" in a BBC interview Nov. 5. Heath accused Thatcher adviser Milton Friedman of wishing to eliminate the U.S. industrial base British-style. "If you [Friedman] persuade Mr. Reagan to accept that, he said, then the future of the American people is really bleak."

● **DIE WELT**, West Germany's leading conservative daily, recalls that "it was Nixon who introduced a 10 percent import tax and decoupled the dollar from gold—a disastrous decision."

● **LIBYAN** intervention into the civil war in Chad is supported by both the U.S.S.R. and Britain against pro-French elements, intelligence specialists say.

● **NEW YORK CITY'S** 6,409 subway cars are out of service by almost one-third every day, a memorandum by the city's Metropolitan Transportation Authority says. One reason is energy conservation; in 1978 the authority reduced voltage on the system to save fuel. But the reduced energy burned out many train motors.

● **WILLIAM CAREY**, publisher of *Science* magazine, writes in the Oct. 24 issue that the American Association for the Advancement of Science policy of boycotting contacts with Soviet scientists is not producing results.