

National News

Baker pledges not to 'bait' labor

The "biggest surprise" from the Reagan White House and the new Republican majority will be the degree to which they will work to "protect the legitimate rights of labor" declared Senate Minority leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.).

Baker promised that neither the Senate nor the White House would adopt "labor-baiting or antilabor policies" and that the new Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) will be a fair friend of labor. Hatch has been an active supporter of right-to-work laws and other antilabor legislation.

Baker said he himself supports the proposal by Senator Jake Garn (R-Utah) to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act, which establishes minimum wages for federal projects, but that it was unlikely the new Senate would do more than modify it.

Senator Hatch was seen by *EIR* meeting with AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland on Nov. 13.

Reagan appoints his science advisory panel

President-elect Ronald Reagan has appointed a 15-member panel to advise him on national science policy that draws heavily from high-technology industry.

The group includes Simon Ramo of TRW and Arthur Bueche of General Electric as cochairmen; Edward David of Exxon Research; Frederick Seitz of the National Academy of Sciences and Rockefeller University; H. Guyford Stever of the National Science Foundation; Edward Teller; William Baker of Bell Labs; Gen. Bernard Schriever of Air Force Systems Command; Harold Agnew of General Atomic; and William Nierenberg, the director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

According to the *New York Times*, the members of the panel are unanimous in their view that science is vital for the

preservation of American military power and industrial competitiveness.

The advisers also unanimously rejected Milton Friedman's proposal for ending federal support to basic research by universities, and said they considered it very unlikely that the Reagan administration would implement any such policy. "It is naive to contemplate reconstructing U.S. society to make possible the removal of government involvement in science and technology," panel co-chairman Ramo said. Dr. Nierenberg of Scripps was also emphatic in urging strong government intervention to reverse what he called "the growing scientific illiteracy" of Americans.

Conservatives try to tip O'Neill

Rep. Bill Archer, a Texas Republican, is meeting with some Democratic counterparts to explore the idea of forming a coalition to topple House Speaker Tip O'Neill from his post. The meetings are also exploring possible collaboration between conservative and moderate Democrats and the GOP on policy questions.

Archer has stated that O'Neill, linked to both Carter and the liberals, does not represent the policies of the Republicans and moderate Democrats who form the House majority. Echoing this sentiment, Rep. C. V. Montgomery of Mississippi, a Democrat, told the *New York Times* Nov. 7: "We've been trying to tell the leadership to take a good hard look at the mood of the nation."

O'Neill's ouster is not very likely, but policy collaboration, especially on specific issues affecting economic growth, is far from unprecedented. If only 26 Democrats bloc with the GOP, that grouping will gain a majority.

Moderate Democrats' prominence in the new House is a key; Gillis Long of Louisiana, a moderate, is on the inside track to become chairman of the House Democratic caucus, edging out arch-liberal Charles Rose of North Carolina. This is the fourth most powerful leadership post in the House.

Conservative group targets interest rates

The National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC), which helped unseat several liberal senators on Nov. 4, plans to broaden its list of political targets to include members of Congress who support "bad economic policies that lead to inflation, high interest rates, and unemployment," according to Terry Dolan, the group's director.

Dolan made the announcement at a Washington, D.C. press conference Nov. 11, where he also revealed that NCPAC will attempt to defeat 20 incumbent senators up for re-election in 1982, including Democrats Edward Kennedy, Henry Jackson, Daniel Moynihan, Howard Metzenbaum, and Republicans Robert T. Stafford, John H. Chafee and Lowell P. Weicker.

The NCPAC will also become involved in both Democratic and Republican primary races, Dolan said.

Warnke forms new arms control committee

Former arms control negotiator Paul Warnke has formed a new group, the Committee for National Security (CNS), announced at a press conference in Washington Nov. 12. Initiating members include such liberals as Harrison Salisbury of the *New York Times*, Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith, Richard Barnet of the Institute for Policy Studies, and former State Department spokesman Hodding Carter.

According to the CNS's founding document, the real threat to U.S. national security is that the instability caused by an uncontrolled arms race could trigger a nuclear war.

A CNS spokesman, asked if the current movement toward a U.S.-Peking alliance might pose a threat to peace, said, "I don't think so. We need a militarily strong China on the Soviet's southern

frontier. . . . Of course, [Cambodian dictator] Pol Pot was tragic, and I suppose sooner or later you *do* have to make a choice, or *do* you?"

The CNS spokesman also said the key to U.S. national security lies not so much in improving its military capabilities, but in good North-South relations. "I think that the Brandt Commission and the Global 2000 report point out the problems we will have to deal with," he said. The Global 2000 report, issued last spring and supported by the State Department, advocates reduction of the world population.

Legislation mooted to abolish the FEC

Senator Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.) announced this week his intention to introduce legislation to abolish the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Humphrey stated his belief that the FEC was clearly unconstitutional, and that in any case no one has ever run for office who has not of necessity violated many of the FEC's complicated provisions. This makes enforcement of FEC guidelines totally selective in their enforcement, Humphrey said, and thus more of a vehicle for political harassment than one of law.

According to Humphrey's aide Morton Blackwell, the senator believes that the support definitely exists for abolishing the FEC during the incoming Congress, but that the senator is contemplating introducing his legislation immediately, during the current lame-duck session "in order to let the idea percolate around a bit." Blackwell described the legislation as not only a blow on behalf of constitutional democracy, but also fully in accord with the new administration's commitment to doing away with useless bureaucracy. If the FEC is abolished under Humphrey's legislation, there will no longer be any individual limit on individual contributions to political candidates, and all federal subsidies to political campaigns will end.

The NCPAC (see above) is also lobbying to dismantle the FEC.

Democratic chairman claims he'll stay

The fight for control of the Democratic Party sharpened last week as party chairman John White made clear that he intended to remain in office despite the disaster he had helped to lead the party into. Dismissing those calling for his removal as "out-of-work staffers who wouldn't know a DNC [Democratic National Committee] member if he walked in the door," White insisted he had the votes to hold the chairmanship come what may.

An aide to Senator Kennedy was quick to disagree: "I think there is a general sentiment that White must go, given the outcome of the election." House Speaker Tip O'Neill was emphatic in demanding White's resignation, saying, "I don't intend to be Speaker of the House and allow my party to go down the drain."

White's hopes received a blow when outgoing President Jimmy Carter, formerly his staunchest supporter, adopted an apathetic attitude to White's continued tenure: "I don't think it matters what the identity of the chairman might be."

Air Force general plugs Connally for State

General George Keegan, retired head of Air Force Intelligence, is lobbying President-elect Reagan to appoint John Connally to a high government post.

Keegan said that his first choice for State would be the former Navy secretary. "Connally is tough; he knows how the Russians work. He was alive during World War II and the Chamberlain farce." If he can't get State, said Keegan, "Connally would make a helluva defense secretary." Keegan also confided that he would like to see Richard Allen named national security adviser, "because he's the best friend Israel has in the U.S."

Briefly

● **THE SENATE** voted Nov. 13 to restore \$1.7 million to the domestic budget of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. The amendment introduced by John Heinz (R-Pa.) will reinstate full DEA operations in Philadelphia; Reno, Nevada; and El Paso, Texas.

● **HOWARD BAKER** said this week that his goal as Senate Majority Leader will be to restore the Senate as "the premier forum for policy debate in the nation. The Senate has become an aggregation of elected bureaucrats who are engaged in administration and operational details rather than policy." Baker said he wants to cut the number of roll-call votes by about half, noting that "legislating by physical endurance might give you a clear slate, but it will not give you good legislation."

● **HENRY KISSINGER**, persistent rumors in Washington have it, will be appointed by Reagan to replace Sol Linowitz as special U.S. envoy to the Middle East.

● **PUERTO RICO'S** election for the gubernatorial post is still too close to call, and a full recount could take up to two months. The close vote nixes a plebiscite on the island's future for the foreseeable future.

● **REP. JIM JONES**, an Oklahoma Democrat, has committed himself to work with the GOP for a capital gains tax and accelerated depreciation program. According to an aide, "Jones wants to continue the American dream for everyone, and he feels the way to do that is to expand the economic base." The accelerated depreciation proposal, made jointly with Barber Conable (R-N.Y.), will be incorporated as part of the next tax bill, he said. As of December, Jones will chair the Democratic Research Organization, a congressional policy group he intends to turn into a rallying point for moderate and conservative Democrats.