

Congressional Closeup by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

So who asked?

Self-defined "pro-labor" Democrat David Bonior of Michigan took the floor of the House of Representatives on May 28 to deliver a one-hour attack on Teamster president Roy Lee Williams, demanding that Williams relinquish his bid for the presidency of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. In announcing opposition to Williams, Bonior added his name to a list that includes only one other member of Congress—the "new John McClellan," Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.).

Bonior motivated his opposition by noting that "these will not be easy times for our labor unions under the Reagan administration, a Republican Senate, and a more conservative House." Bonior did not explain how attacking the only international union that is pro-Reagan would help make things easier. He did, however, praise UAW president Doug Fraser for also attacking Williams and for calling for the AFL-CIO to set up its own "internal policy body to root out the internal corruption" in the labor movement. Said Bonior, "Labor cannot wait for the Congress or the executive or the courts to police itself. . . . Labor should certainly get its house in order."

Bonior cited the recent indictment of Williams by a Chicago federal grand jury, the continuing civil litigation of the Labor Department against the Central States Pension Fund (for which Williams was a trustee), and Sam Nunn's hearsay allegations about Williams's connections to the "Kansas City mob" as reasons for his opposition.

When asked about the over-

whelming support by the rank and file for Williams at the Las Vegas convention, a Bonior spokesman nervously noted that "the dissidents weren't received very well either." Asked if Bonior still stood by opposition to Williams, despite the unequivocal show of support for him by his union members, the spokesman said, "yes."

Kemp: whole U.S. should be free enterprise zone

Introducing his long-awaited Free Enterprise and Job Opportunity Act at a crowded press conference on June 3, Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) enthused, "I think the whole United States should be a free enterprise zone." Apparently the Reagan administration does not agree. Instead of sending hoped-for spokesmen and endorsements to the press conference, Reagan sent a message through Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige supporting the "free enterprise concept" and hoping for some free enterprise legislation to pass this session. Kemp acknowledged that the administration would prefer a much scaled-down version to what he has introduced.

Flanked by South Bronx Rep. Bob Garcia (D-N.Y.), Senators John Chafee (R-R.I.) and Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.), and Urban League President Vernon Jordan, Kemp unveiled a bill that relies almost totally on tax incentives, payroll tax cuts, and the like to try to lure "labor-intensive" industries into inner cities in need of employment. In the audience at the press conference was a beaming Stuart Butler of the Heritage Foundation, co-author of the legislative con-

cept, along with Sir Peter Vickers-Hall of the British Fabian Society.

Kemp and Garcia plan to take their show on the road before finalizing their legislative push, in an effort to draw as many local political figures in behind the legislation as possible. Chafee announced hearings in the Senate for mid-July.

Kemp closed by announcing that he was flying to Israel that night to examine their free enterprise zones. Observers wondered if Lebanon was to be included in the junket.

Subcommittee focuses on U.S.-West European tensions

The European and Middle East Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee focused one of its regular reviews of U.S.-West European relations solely on military strategic affairs, a point of some tension at present. Ignoring the fact that German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had put interest rates near the top of his list of bilateral concerns in his meeting with the committee one week earlier, every member instead keyed in on the sensitive and potentially destabilizing issues of European commitments to increased defense spending and the extension of NATO outside of Europe.

Subcommittee Chairman Lee Hamilton quizzed Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleberger on the growing gap between European and U.S. defense spending, noting, "The different perceptions of the Soviet threat [between the U.S. and Europe] has a startling impact on defense spending and burden sharing."

Eagleberger attempted to "defend" Europe by stating that Europe only views the Soviets from a "regional" perspective, rather than taking the global responsibilities that the U.S. does.

Bailey introduces 'reindustrialization' bill

One week after *EIR* analyzed the pitfalls embodied in much of the so-called "targeted" tax cut legislation, Rep. Don Bailey (D-Pa.) introduced the "American Basic Industrialization National Defense Act (Abinda). According to Bailey, Abinda (introduced on June 2) "presumes a primary industrial and transportation capacity [which is necessary] to protect the U.S. against any combination of economic and/or military challenges from abroad. The basic industries are as follows: steel, mining, railroads, automobiles, airlines and paper."

Unlike other "targeted" tax cut legislation, such as the "refundability" bill associated with Sen. David Durenberger (R-Minn.), the Bailey bill seeks to ensure that tax credits or incentives accruing to industry would have to be reinvested in "the original industry." That is, U.S. Steel could not use the funds to diversify into microchips, a problem embodied in Durenberger-style legislation. However, the legislation does nothing to ensure that investment will take place in expansion of existing capacity and new research and development or technological innovations, rather than, for example, in converting to biomass or downsizing automobiles.

Bailey is often referred to as the

"congressman from Carnegie-Mellon," representative of an industrial grouping which understands that a certain defense industrial base must be maintained, but is not particularly committed to a major capital-intensive export boom to the Third World, nor the wholesale expansion and technological upgrading of the U.S. economy that that would entail. Bailey's emphasis on defense is indicative of this bias, "These industries form our nation's industrial heart. From them or through them flow practically every fundamental production need upon which this nation's economic and military stability depends."

Support for NASA urged at hearings

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Agencies convened hearings on June 2 to hear testimony from public witnesses in support of an augmented NASA budget. Unfortunately, subcommittee chairman Jake Garn (R-Utah) had pressing business elsewhere, leaving a staff person to chair the hearings and listen to some of the most important testimony delivered to date on the national security implications of David Stockman's budget cuts.

John Benson, Director of the Washington office of the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics, citing the heavy emphasis that the Soviet Union places on "fusing science and technology with the Soviet economic system," quoted Leonid Brezhnev before the 26th Party Congress last February: "The condition in which the national economy will be developing

in the eighties make the acceleration of scientific and technological progress ever more pressing. There is no need to persuade anyone of the great importance of science. . . . The cornerstone of scientific and technological progress is the advance of science. But it is engineering above all that can fling open the doors to the new."

In comparison to this approach, Benson warned that in the United States "aviation could be beginning a slide into industrial oblivion like our shipbuilding, steel, electronics, and automotive industries," unless Congress restores the NASA and other budget cuts. "If you wish to preserve and improve American industry and therefore the economy, as well as enhancing the national defense, cutting NASA's budget and manpower is not the place to do it," he concluded.

Benson was followed by a representative from the National Democratic Policy Committee, who underscored his point about industrial oblivion, noting that "David Stockman's budget cuts have more to do with his adherence to a postindustrial society than with restoring the health of the American economy." Referring to Benson's comments about Soviet emphasis, the spokesman continued that the next quantum leap in strategic capabilities will be the development of particle-beam antiballistic missile capabilities and that the so-called pure research done by NASA in such missions as the Saturn flyby and the International Solar Polar Mission (cut from Stockman's budget) has direct relevance to the breakthroughs in plasma physics that will underlie such military capabilities.