

National News

NASA head calls for renewed space effort

Speaking Oct. 21 before the New York Patent Lawyers Association in New York, NASA Administrator James Beggs outlined what the space program in the U.S. could look like with "will and determination."

Beggs recalled the program proposed by former NASA Administrator Tom Paine in the late 1960s. Paine had outlined an ordered development from the Shuttle, Spacelab, and a manned space station orbiting around it, to a lunar orbiter in 1978, a first Moon base at the beginning of the 1980s and a Mars base by 1988.

In discussion with the press after his presentation, Beggs assured everyone that the Galileo mission had not been scrapped by NASA, and stated that even in the post-Apollo pullback of the space program in 1971, the space budget was \$3.3 billion.

Beggs himself has been caught between the demand to be a "team player" in the administration going along with cuts, and his commitment to the space science and aeronautics community.

Harrison Williams gains Jersey labor support

The New Jersey Industrial Union Council of the AFL-CIO has called on its 225,000 members to support Sen. Harrison Williams (D-N.J.). At its Oct. 17 convention, a resolution called Williams "the victim of an entrapment scheme concocted by the U.S. Department of Justice, which is of dubious legality and propriety."

While Williams sat at the dais, the delegates to the New Jersey Industrial Union Council (IUC) unanimously supported a resolution praising the Senator's legislative record and deploring "entrapment" as "a dangerous weapon in the hands of politicians."

Senator Williams had been found guilty on Abscam charges in May 1981. In August, the Senate Ethics Committee voted to recommend that the Senate expel Williams. That full Senate vote, in which Williams will need 34 votes to survive, is currently scheduled for early November.

The IUC resolution praised Williams's record in "pioneering crucial legislation" such as the improvement of Social Security, aid to the aged, and his work in labor, education, and housing. The resolution also noted that "even during [Sen. Williams's] trial, FBI reports favorable to the Senator have been withheld as evidence," and that Williams "is appealing the constitutionality of his case" and "is in turn suing the government for its role in his Abscam conviction."

Mondale launches his Bilderberg campaign

Walter Mondale made what amounted to the opening speech of his bid for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination Oct. 19 at the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) in New York.

At the head table with Mondale was Richard Gardner, Jimmy Carter's ambassador to Italy, the British-trained husband of Daniele Luzzato of the Italian oligarchic Luzzato family, and a supporter of the Italian Socialist Party. Next to Gardner was Gianni Agnelli, a Trilateral Commission member, as is Mondale.

In his remarks, the former Vice-President made special mention of his closeness to another member of the audience, Orville Freeman, head of Business International and a prominent member of the population reduction institute, the Draper Fund. Freeman told an interviewer there that his association with Mondale goes back to 1947, during one of Hubert Humphrey's campaigns: "In 1960 I launched Mondale on his career by appointing him Attorney General," Freeman recalled.

Mondale's bid for the White House

was crafted at last May's meeting of the Bilderberg Society, where, as he privately boasted to FPA attendees, he had been an active participant in the discussions of arms negotiations and dissolution of NATO.

State Department cuts capital-intensive aid

The Agency for International Development (AID) is no longer engaged in providing assistance for large-scale development projects such as railways, roads, and electrification, according to the agency's Administrator, Peter McPherson. AID is a part of the State Department.

McPherson spoke at a joint congressional hearing in Washington where he discussed the agency's newly created Bureau for Private Enterprise. AID will send "reconnaissance" missions to the developing sector composed of business, financial, and investment experts.

The first team left in late October for Indonesia; similar teams are scheduled to go to Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Thailand before the end of the year. Egypt, Pakistan, the Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, and Costa Rica have also been selected.

Philadelphia strike a national pace-setter?

The Philadelphia teachers' strike, which began Sept. 7, is being used to float alternatives to public education.

The strike was provoked midway into a two-year contract when the school district, which was facing a \$236 million deficit, revoked a 10 percent pay increase and virtually eliminated language courses, science lab assistants, and library staff, while increasing class size by 10 percent.

The Common Court proceeded to hand down a bizarre back-to-work order in mid-October, terming the teachers'

Briefly

● **THE TREASURY** will pay \$100 billion for interest payments in fiscal year 1982, it is now estimated. OMB estimates reveal that the federal government will spend more in the first six months of 1982 on interest payments than it will for all space, energy, housing, transportation, and environmental programs combined.

● **DEFENSE** Committee of the House of Commons invited a House Armed Services Committee delegation to London Oct. 15-29 for talks on U.S. Purchases of British military equipment. The British are interested in ensuring greater NATO weapons standardization and inter-operability, especially using British weaponry.

● **THE DITCHLEY** Foundation, the elite group of Anglo-American policy-makers, held their annual, and very private, dinner Oct. 21 in New York City. The main speaker was Lord Thompson of Britain, speaking on how much Ronald Reagan is a carbon copy of Britain's Margaret Thatcher. The Ditchley family, as they call themselves, includes Cyrus Vance; Thornton Bradshaw, President of Atlantic Richfield; and Frank Altschul, senior partner at Lazard Frères.

● **WILLIAM POLLIN**, director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), revealed in testimony before the Senate Labor subcommittee, the results of a recent survey, which found that out of a sampling of teen-age marijuana users, 73 percent went on to use cocaine and 33 percent went on to use heroin. Coverage in the *Washington Post* on Oct. 22 featured the survey's results that marijuana use has declined slightly. Dr. Pollin attributed the decline to a greater decline in the teenage population and stressed that marijuana use by young people is higher in the U.S. than in any other developed country.

contract illegal because it unbalanced the budget! Having knocked out the contract, the court then found the union liable to \$15,000 per day fines for striking without attempting to renegotiate the contract.

Liberal Mayor Green is intent on prolonging the confrontation. And on Oct. 18, a hundred labor leaders from the East and Midwest gathered in Philadelphia for a strike-support rally and a general one-day strike has been set for Oct. 28.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* has opened its op-ed pages to a flood of scenarios for replacing the American system of public education. Examples include a "magnet" school in Massachusetts where the students receive nothing but vocational education; promotion of tax tuition credits and voucher systems; and death sentences for universal schooling.

Texas Democrats vote against Volcker

The Texas State Democratic Executive Committee passed two strongly worded resolutions against high interest rates with "overwhelming support" at its Austin meeting on Oct. 17.

The resolution, introduced by Bill Duncan, an auto dealer from Lufkin, Texas, charges that "the Federal Reserve Board has engineered the highest interest rates in our history and has brought on a senseless, unnecessary and crippling recession." It further charges that "the existence within our Republic of an omnipotent appointed agency such as the Federal Reserve Board which wields more power over the lives and welfare of our people than does our elected President and Congress is intolerably inconsistent with the principles of democracy and that powers of this magnitude should be vested only in our elected representatives."

A "drastic and immediate reduction in interest rates is necessary to end the recession and to restore vitality to our economy," the resolution states, propos-

ing that the Congress "initiate immediate emergency legislation to hurl back interest rates to pre-1978 levels and to require prior congressional approval of all actions and activities of the Federal Reserve Board which will, could, or might affect interest rates."

Finally, it requires the Chairman of the Texas Democratic Party "be required to introduce this or a substantially similar resolution at the next meeting of the Democratic National Committee" and calls "upon all Democrats in Congress to sponsor, co-sponsor, support, and work for the legislation prayed for in this resolution."

The second resolution, calling on Congress not to lift state usury ceilings, was introduced by Carrin Patman, wife of Rep. Bill Patman, the son of the former head of the House Banking Committee, Wright Patman.

Melcher Bill returns to Senate floor

Senator John Melcher (D-Mont.) will re-introduce his binding legislation urging President Reagan to bring down high interest rates (Senate Joint Resolution 104) the week of Oct. 26-30, Capitol Hill sources report. The re-introduction is expected to occur as an amendment to the Small Business Administration bill before the U.S. Senate.

the same sources believe that Senate Joint Resolution 104 now has 40 or more votes. Support is expected from farm state Republicans Pressler (S.Dak.), Andrews (N.Dak.), and Democrats Long (La.), Bentsen (Tex.) and Glenn (Oh.). Senators Pressler, Andrews, and Long opposed the measure's first introduction Sept. 30 because of their promises to the administration not to add any amendments to the debt-ceiling legislation at that time.

Four other Senate Republicans are perceived as highly vulnerable to constituency pressure to support this bill: Senators Durenberger and Boschwitz, both of Minnesota, Jepsen of Iowa, and Specter of Pennsylvania.