

Congressional Closeup by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

Clinch River Breeder under fire

A group of Congressmen took to the House floor June 16 to announce that they have joined forces with a group of organizations outside Congress to defeat the Clinch River Breeder reactor. Speaking on behalf of the group, Rep. Claudine Schneider (R-R.I.) declared, "This morning we met with the Taxpayer's Coalition Against Clinch River, an umbrella organization of public interest groups that have banded together in a common cause fighting for an end to federal investment in the Clinch River Breeder reactor. We pledged to the coalition that we would represent their cause in Congress. Underneath the opposition to Clinch River, Rep. Schneider made clear, stands a basic zero-growth ideology, the idea that new technology for energy production is not necessary because there will be no economic growth. "This year we won't be changing our basic argument—that the Clinch River project is an overpriced investment in an irrelevant technology that is based on outdated assumptions about our need for new electrical generating capacity."

The development of Clinch River is intimately tied to development of a reprocessing facility, since the plutonium needed to trigger Clinch River's breeder process is only available as a product of reprocessing. Reprocessing and breeding would increase uranium fuel supplies approximately 60-fold from present uranium available and would eliminate the problem of storing nuclear wastes since it would make all but 4 percent of

high-level radioactive matter reusable.

The coalition that has allied with the near-dozen Congressmen against Clinch River includes most of the major environmentalist groups, and unions including the Mineworkers, the Steelworkers, United Auto Workers, and the International Association of Machinists, along with the "conservative" national Taxpayers Union, which is reportedly fighting it as a cost-cutting measure.

Freeze resolution passes House committee

The resolution to freeze production of nuclear weapons won its first important Congressional test June 23 when it passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee by a 26 to 9 vote.

Sources at the Members of Congress for Peace Through Law group in Congress, an organization controlled by the liberal Averell Harriman networks, were surprised by the wide majority of the vote on the resolution, which was sponsored by Jonathan Bingham (D-N.Y.), a protégé of former New York Gov. Averell Harriman. "We were surprised by the number of Republicans [seven] who voted with us," said one spokesman for the group.

The Peace Through Law group particularly singled out for praise the work of freshman Republican John LeBoutillier (R-N.Y.), who poses as a conservative in the mold of William Buckley. LeBoutillier attended the recent invitation-only Brasserie meeting in Washington arranged by organized-crime lawyer Roy Cohn. The meeting in-

cluded a number of "conservatives" such as Cohn's friend Richard Viguerie, whose attacks on Secretary of State Haig appeared to be part of the pattern of manipulating the President into defending the worst elements in his administration.

Hotel union investigated by Senate subcommittee

The Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee surfaced a year-long investigation of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, with two days of public hearings on June 22 and 23. The hearings, under the direction of Sen. William Roth (R-Del.) and Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), grabbed news headlines with the "revelation" by federally protected witness Charlie Allen that Jimmy Hoffa had been ground up and used as fertilizer in a Florida swamp in retaliation for mob-related activities. But the subcommittee has a longer-range goal in mind—that of adding another international union to the subcommittee's witchhunt list. In his June 22 testimony, subcommittee investigator David Faulkner noted that the subcommittee's rationale for investigating the hotel workers union came from a still secret 1977 Department of Justice report entitled, "Organized Crime and the Labor Unions," which identified the Teamsters, Laborers, International Longshoremen's Association, and the Hotel Employees as the major unions infiltrated by organized crime. The subcommittee staff was able to obtain copies of it, according to Faulkner, from "media persons who had obtained

their own copies unofficially."

The two days of hearings, complete with protected witnesses behind screens, concentrated on locals in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and in Honolulu. The subcommittee plans to go after other Hotel locals in the fall. The international leadership of the union is expected to be brought in for questioning by the end of the year.

Hatch protects Kennedy's bioethics

With encouragement from Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the Senate Committee unanimously went on record in favor of S.2311, a funding bill which contains financing for a two-year extension of the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems to Bio-Medical and Behavioral Research. The pro-infanticide Bioethics Commission was created in 1974 by Sen. Edward Kennedy, who has extended its existence every two years for the past eight years. The Senate vote took place in April, under the pretext that the administration had sent confusing signals over whether to fund the Commission.

But on June 23, a House subcommittee demolished that excuse by voting to end such funding, under very clear direction from the White House, according to sources in the Subcommittee of Health and Environment of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee. The same sources report that they expect the House position to be upheld with support from other Senate Republicans.

While many Republicans have

expressed concern about the commission, including a group in Congress who sent a letter to President Reagan in February warning that the commission may have a "bias in favor of the destruction of newborn children," Senator Hatch's chief health adviser on the Senate Labor Committee, Dr. David Sundwall, assured a caller that there was no serious concern about the Commission. In an earlier discussion, Sundwall declared the he was concerned about the "terrible things" modern technology can do in prolonging terminal illnesses.

Pell and Mathias hail 'global modeling'

The International Economic Policy Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings on June 23 to promote a new implementation phase of the *Global 2000 Report*, which looks forward to reducing world population by 2 billion as of the end of the century. Chaired by Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.) and attended by Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and Claiborne Pell (R-R.I.), the subcommittee heard from Dr. John Gibbons, the director of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, which has just released a new report entitled "Global Modeling, the World Future." Also testifying were former director of the Council on Environmental Quality Gus Speth (author of the *Global 2000 Report*), and Committee for the Year 2000 member Elliot Richardson. The emphasis on global modeling was stressed previously by the Club of Rome and by Cyrus Vance's Committee for the Year 2000 as the vehicle for propelling

brutal population-reduction policies within the Reagan administration.

Pell boasted of his membership in the Club of Rome, saying that nations become like people—at a certain age, they should concentrate on "quality of life."

All the witnesses and Senators agreed that both the administration and the Congress should use global modeling.

House subcommittee bans wilderness drilling

The House Subcommittee on Public Lands voted June 18 to ban all oil and gas drilling in areas designated as federal wilderness areas and those areas under consideration for such designation. Approximately 32 million acres would be affected by this legislation, H.R. 6542, which was introduced by Rep. Manuel Lujan (R-N.M.).

Last year Interior Secretary Watt was strongly attacked by the environmentalists and their allies in Congress for wanting to allow oil drilling in a number of wilderness areas. Watt agreed to a moratorium on selling drilling rights until the end of 1982 so that Congress could act. But the House subcommittee, under pressure from the rabid environmentalists, was not satisfied with this and after hearings on the Watt bill, Lujan introduced new legislation which would close the areas in perpetuity, unless the President, citing "overwhelming national need" decides to open them. Congressional sources expect the House to approve the measure overwhelmingly in late July or August.