

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Adelman nomination held up in Senate

Committee Democrats, led by nuclear freeze advocate Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Cal.), and Eastern Establishment-controlled liberal Republican Sens. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) and Charles Mathias (R-Md.), have blocked together to form a majority on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to oppose the Reagan administration's nomination of Kenneth Adelman as head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. The Adelman nomination is temporarily on hold. Pressler and Mathias are much less interested in the merits or demerits of Mr. Adelman than in the possibility of blackmailing the administration into capitulating to their anti-technology arms-control and conventional-build-up perspective.

Pressler has emerged as the point man for sabotaging the development of directed-energy beam weapons, which hold promise of ending the era of the Kissinger Mutually Assured Destruction doctrine. In the *Congressional Record* of Feb. 17, Pressler came out in the open, explicitly attacking "lasers and particle-beam weapons that could be based on Earth and aimed at satellites in orbit, or, alternatively, based in space and targeted at other space systems."

Pressler made his attacks while introducing S.R.43, which "calls on the President to prepare a proposal and to invite the Soviet Union to negotiate a verifiable ban on anti-satellite weapons as a first step toward prohibiting all space-based and space-directed weaponry." S.R.43 also urges such negotiations to "seek to restrict . . .

the deployment of hazardous objects and materials, such as nuclear materials in outer space," which will be essential for an effective space program. Pressler cites numerous conventional military spending areas which he would prefer including for "any potential lengthy conventional war in Europe," rather than the advanced technological areas.

Henry Reuss: gone but not forgotten

Henry Reuss, the recently retired Congressman from Wisconsin and former chairman of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, is still actively directing some of the more dangerous activities of the JEC. Reuss has been appointed the chairman of a JEC-sponsored National Advisory Board on Infrastructure (NABI), which is currently preparing infrastructure inventories for 20 states. The NABI is receiving funding from the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and other bastions of Malthusian policy.

These inventories, which are being compiled by top think tank and academic specialists in each state, will be formulated to show that the nation's roads, bridges, waterways, and sanitary-systems are in such disrepair that new forms of financing will be needed to maintain them. The traditional form of project-by-project congressional appropriations will have to be superseded, according to a source close to the study.

At the same time Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Dominici

(R-N.M.), also a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, introduced S.532 and S.533 on Feb. 17. Dominici's legislation would authorize the allocation of federal funds to states that establish a bank, or a comparable financial mechanism, to make loans to governmental units for public investment projects. A precondition of such financing would be an agreement by local communities and local users to pay user fees for the construction and use of new facilities.

Other bills, such as H.R.1244, sponsored by Rep. Norman Minetta (D-Cal.) and H.R.1144, by Rep. William Clinger, call for infrastructure inventories or capital budgets, with the effect of reversing the 200-year-old American System policy of funding such projects at the national level out of general revenues because they are in the nation's interest. Each recommends some form of "user fees."

One source commented that the aim of the national inventory was to establish a case that, even with user fees and state infrastructure banks, the need will far outstrip available resources, and that "what it boils down to is learning to manage scarcity in the 1980s and 1990s."

Congress limply supports science programs

In a series of hearings during the week of Feb. 21 in the House Science and Technology Committee to review administration requests for energy and space programs, congressional representatives gave only feeble support to

these vital national efforts.

The new lackluster chairman of the Space Science and Applications Subcommittee, Rep. Harold Volkmer (D-Mo.), questioned NASA witnesses about delays in the space telescope program and a glitch in the Landsat satellite, while scarcely questioning crucial cuts recommended in the technology utilization programs, the analysis of planetary data programs, and other vital areas. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) took a stronger stand, pointing out that planetary budgets have been declining for the past four years, when adjusted for inflation, making NASA's request for \$88.9 million too small. Though berating the NASA witnesses, he pointed to the real culprit by stating that "The OMB should not intimidate NASA" in its research budget.

The advanced nuclear energy programs are in a very weak position after the 217-to-196 vote on Dec. 2, which almost succeeded in stopping work on the Clinch River Breeder Reactor (CRBR). Rep. Marilyn Bouquard (D-Tenn.), Chairman of the Energy Research and Production subcommittee, allowed S. Jacob Scheer, a lawyer for the anti-nuclear Natural Resources Defense Council, to testify, representing the taxpayers Coalition Against Clinch River. As Scheer pointed out, this is a coalition of anti-nuclear environmentalists and "fiscal conservatives," including the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, the Hoover Institute, as well as the Rand Corporation.

While Bouquard, a CRBR supporter, rallied against Scheer and his incompetent assumptions, it was clear that until pro-science congressmen have a positive program to restore

economic growth and advanced research and development to the country, they will continue to be impotent within the confines of the "budget game."

Simpson-Mazzoli bill is re-introduced

The Simpson-Mazzoli immigration restriction legislation was re-introduced in Congress Feb. 21, as the AFL-CIO and other backers prepared for a major lobbying effort to ram the legislation through this year.

The core of the proposal is a scheme for worker identification cards modeled on the Nazi system of the 1930s. It is supported by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland.

The bill, which also contains employer sanctions against firms that hire illegal aliens, died on the floor of the House in the lame-duck congressional session. It passed the Senate by an overwhelming margin. The National Democratic Policy Committee, several Hispanic organizations, and the Mexican Senate mobilized to stop the bill from passing the House.

The bill's sponsors, which include the openly racist Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR), say that since no one would want to touch the bill during the 1984 presidential election campaign, they must mobilize for passage now. Already groups associated with Richard Viguerie's New Right organizations have dispatched fundraising letters on Simpson-Mazzoli, demanding funds for a war chest to keep "the diseased trash" from Mexico and elsewhere out of the United States.

The Reagan administration backed the bill during the last session; the White House is expected to support it once again.

Senator opposed to IMF quota increase

In a letter responding to a request from the National Democratic Policy Committee, Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.) announced that he intends to vote against the IMF quota increase. Melcher stated, "The time has come when we must bring back a little common sense and realism to our international financial activities and to our international trade policies. I think that the IMF is a good place to start. For years they have been following policies that have not been in our best interest, nor do I think the best interest of the developing nations. It is time to send them a message, and I hope that Congress will do just that in the upcoming session."

In particular, Melcher has voiced concern about the IMF's practice of lending to LDCs such as Zaire, specifically so that they can export raw materials below the cost of production, in order to garner foreign-exchange earnings to pay and service their debt.

At a Feb. 21 Senate Energy Committee hearing on the world petroleum picture, Melcher raised the possibility that the collapse in oil prices would further damage countries such as Mexico, and called into question the assertion that the U.S. quota increase to the IMF of \$8.4 billion would be sufficient.