

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Senate supports court union busters

Efforts by the House of Representatives to pass legislation negating the labor-busting *NLRB v. Bildisco and Bildisco* Supreme Court decision have been stalled by the Republican-controlled Senate. The Bildisco decision allows any employer who files for bankruptcy to dissolve his labor contract without waiting for any court to rule on his bankruptcy petition.

House legislation H.R. 5174 affirms that an employer is bound by his contractual obligations until a bankruptcy court acts on his petition. The bill provides that labor contracts can only be abrogated if the contract would impede successful reorganization. In addition, H.R. 5174 remedies another recent Supreme Court ruling which declared all bankruptcy courts unconstitutional.

Pressure from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has stalled H.R. 5174 in the Senate. Although Lane Kirkland's AFL-CIO formally supports the measure, sources in the labor federation report that Kirkland, who has supported the principle of "give-back" union contracts, is making no effort to pass the bill.

Fusion budget cut by \$64 million

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Water and Energy recommended a devastating \$64 million cut May 10 in the FY85 magnetic fusion program. The Reagan administration request was for \$483 million, which was only a 3% increase over this year, and would not even have held the budget constant relative to inflation.

Recent reviews by fusion scientists and the Department of Energy

have recommended that the fusion program go ahead with a next-step fusion ignition experiment to produce significant amounts of energy in a self-sustaining reaction. Budget cuts will stop use of this experimental device and force experienced scientists and managers out of the program.

The Senate appropriations committee has not yet marked up the fusion budget, but the heavy House cut may lead to a committee "compromising" on the level of cuts.

KGB congressmen prepare to dump MX

Reports from Capitol Hill indicate that congressmen in both the House and Senate operating under Kremlin policy are prepared to cut the administration request for \$3.1 billion for the production of 40 MX missiles to a level which would allow production of at most 15 of the missiles. Forty missiles already represented a cut of 60% in the "bipartisan compromise" Reagan agreed to under pressure from the Scowcroft's Commission, which proposed a cut in the proposed MX deployment from 200 to 100.

The "bipartisan compromisers' " reason for killing the MX is that since Moscow has withdrawn from all arms control negotiations, it is no longer necessary to build weapons to pressure the Russians. On May 3, Rep. Mike Synar (D-Okla.) said, "Last year's proponents of the MX could put forth only one straight-faced argument for building this \$20 billion weapon: It would serve as the stick needed to ship the Soviets to the bargaining table. . . . With the 'bargaining chip' argument now dead and buried, the absurdity of placing a new and improved ICBM in existing Minute-

man silos is fully apparent."

Days later, Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) said, "One of the major reasons offered by the administration in last year's debate on the MX was that it represented an important bargaining chip in arms control talks with the Soviets. . . . We are now not engaged in any formal arms control talks with the Soviets."

My sources in a Capitol Hill liquor shop report that these KGB mouthpieces recently were shamed into making an outright contribution to the establishment. They came into the shop asking for a \$14 bottle of Stolchinaya vodka. The proprietor of the shop replied, "We don't sell Stolchinaya." As the congressmen turned to leave, the proprietor said, "Gentlemen, hand over the \$14, please. Since we won't sell you the Stolchinaya, you won't be needing it any more." The force of his argument brought immediate compliance.

Senate traitors pull out of arms race

A bipartisan coalition of KGB-controlled senators led by Democrat Edward Kennedy and Republicans Charles Matthias and Mark Hatfield has joined House colleagues James Leach (R-Iowa) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.) in proposing a cutoff in all funding for U.S. weapons development and testing in exchange for a verbal pledge from Moscow that they will reciprocate. This support for "arms race moratorium" legislation proves the dishonesty of the claim made by nuclear freeze advocates Hatfield, Kennedy, Matthias, Leach, and Markey that they would only support a "mutual and verifiable" freeze on nuclear weapons development.

According to Kennedy, "The government of the Soviet Union will have 90 days after the enactment of the bill to communicate to the government of the United States that it intends to implement such a moratorium. If the Soviet Union makes such a commitment, funding will be suspended for all programs covered by the moratorium beginning at the end of the 90-day period." The United States would be unable to flight-test or deploy the MX, Trident II, or other new nuclear ballistic missiles or anti-satellite weapons, or to detonate nuclear explosives underground. In return, the Soviets, who have violated every ratified arms control treaty they have solemnly agreed to, need simply state their intention to abide by a similar moratorium.

The same bipartisan coalition, under the apparent leadership of Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.), is campaigning to kill U.S. development of sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs). Mathias argued in the Senate on May 8 that because the Soviets are on the verge of deploying new long-range, highly accurate nuclear-armed SLCMs, which are difficult to distinguish from non-nuclear SLCMs, the United States should halt its own scheduled deployment of nuclear SLCMs beginning this June.

Parris urges Congress to take steps on debt

On May 8, Rep. Stan Parris (R-Va.) reported to the House that visiting members of the Latin American Parliament had informed the International Trade Subcommittee that "the debt as it exists today cannot be repaid," and "the preservation of democracy in most of the countries of the area may be perilously jeopardized if a negotiated solution is not provided."

Parris added, "This situation is the greatest threat to world stability and world peace that exists on the planet today, and this Congress must concentrate in the near future on the problem before it is too late."

Bumpers wants sacrifice, sweat, and tears

Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), a leading spokesman for the liberal Harriman wing of the Democratic Party, let it be known May 8 what it means to him to be a Democrat. "If you believe the budget deficits can be remedied without a substantial tax increase, then you shouldn't vote Democratic," Bumpers said. "If you eliminate every single dime of social spending, from food stamps to the National Cancer Institute, from school lunches to immunization for children, we will still have a \$60 billion deficit. . . ."

"The only honest promise to America now is for sacrifice, burdens, sweat, and tears. . . . But the equally important promise is that all the burdens must be evenly shared."

Helms: CIA and State bought El Salvador vote

Speaking on the Senate floor May 8, Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) charged that the State Department and CIA had informed congressmen that they had bought the El Salvador elections for José Napoleon Duarte by paying 400 of his precinct organizers, setting up his press operation, providing radio and TV studios, giving him technical advice, and establishing a computerized voter registration system to "disenfranchise 20% of the voters. If the CIA programmed the computers, how

can anyone trust the numbers?" Helms asked.

Helms claimed that this election-buying was not Reagan's policy, but was carried out by the "third-level interagency group on Central America that is supposed to coordinate policy in the executive branch." Helms did not mention that this group is controlled by two flunkies of Henry Kissinger, Luigi Einaudi and Lawrence Eagleburger, but ascribed the responsibility to "a small coterie of bureaucrats with their own agenda and their own policies."

The election-buying, Helms charged, was supplemented by a campaign to smear Duarte's opponent Roberto D'Aubuisson as a leader of "right-wing death squads." Helms said that no officials he was able to reach in the administration could substantiate the charges against D'Aubuisson, which the press attributed to the embassy of U.S. ambassador to El Salvador Thomas Pickering—also a Kissinger protégé.

Helms charged that President Reagan shared some responsibility for the vote-buying operation because "many good friends of the President have tried to warn him that the bureaucracy is out of control; but other advisers of the President have chosen to ignore those warnings."

Helms' charges coincide with reports received by *EIR* that sources close to the White House fear the current attempts of CIA-backed insurgent Eden Pastora to set up a provisional government within Nicaragua will result in a Bay of Pigs-type debacle for U.S. policy in the region.

The State Department responded to Helms's charges by insisting that U.S. assistance was designed to "further the electoral process, not aid any particular side."