

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Moynihan fans Central American confrontation

In concert with the current Kissinger-directed effort to bog the United States down in Central America while he and his friends give Europe away, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) laid out a scenario for superpower confrontation over Nicaragua in an Aug. 9 Senate floor speech.

Referring to the press conference held by the Reagan administration on the previous day, as part of its Central American propaganda offensive, Moynihan singled out the administration's release of documentation on the Punta Huete airfield in Nicaragua. The airfield, Moynihan warned, is capable of receiving any aircraft from the Soviet Union, "including their strategically capable Backfire bomber."

Referring to his own warnings to the Nicaraguan government during meetings in Managua last December, Moynihan reiterated that "there should be no question that the U.S. Congress, with as near unanimity as it will ever attain, and the American government and the American public, will not accept the presence of Soviet strategic or tactical forces on the mainland of Central America. Should it occur, it will have been done for the simple purpose of creating a political crisis; no serious military objective will have been achieved, as might have been done in 1962. Such a presence would bear the prospect, I repeat, of transforming a regional crisis into a global one."

Moynihan concluded that "the Nicaraguans have chosen to build an airfield at Punta Huete that has the potential of creating that global crisis within hours, simply by the appearance there of strategic Soviet bombers or tactical aircraft."

Moynihan has been a leading spokesman for the right-wing social democrats who make up one side of

the AFL-CIO/Kissinger networks which were reconsolidated around the "Project Democracy" apparatus in Latin America. When congressional opponents of Project Democracy tried to kill funding for it, calling it a rump intelligence operation in Latin America, Moynihan led the charge in defense of Lane Kirkland and his operation.

House floor vote would pass MX missile

Capitol Hill vote-counters on the MX missile report that it would very likely pass on a close floor vote. But that is what MX opponents such as House Speaker Tip O'Neill are trying to avoid. Now embroiled in House-Senate conference on the defense authorization, the key ingredient, sources report, is that the Senate act tough and insist that the MX return to the House for a separate vote.

The House delegation to the conference is more liberal than the House as a whole. The strategy of these MX opponents has now become clear: to hold the defense authorization hostage until the Senate and the administration agree to kill the MX in the conference.

On Aug. 10, the House and Senate recessed for the Republican convention with the conference still deadlocked. MX opponents such as Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) have been demanding that the MX be sacrificed in order to save the "budget process," election-year demagogery designed to press for the capitulation of MX backers.

Nunn pointed out that "the impasse we have reached in the budget conference [is] on primarily the level of military spending," and "that the roadblock is the defense spending level."

up is the MX missile, and the victims are the national security of this coun-

try and the taxpaying citizens who support it."

Senate plays politics while farms disappear

A grouping of Senate Democrats—led by top Soviet asset Dale Bumpers of Arkansas—brought a little of the Democratic convention to the floor of the Senate on Aug. 10. Bumpers and seven other Democratic colleagues introduced an amendment to the Senate supplemental appropriations bill which decreed the destruction of U.S. family farmers and called on the administration to report to Congress by Oct. 2 on the measures that it is taking to improve the status of family farmers in areas of fiscal, credit, and commodity price policy.

Bumpers motivated the resolution with the usual list of statistics which "proves" the extent of the farmers' plight (albeit understating the crisis significantly) and demands that the President report on "generally what he plans to do to ameliorate the severe plight of the farmer." While excoriating Reagan's economic and agricultural policies overall, Bumpers signs onto the major fraud underlying the international grain cartels' farm policy—that the plight of the farmer is caused by overproduction. "The truth of the matter is that our ability to produce is killing us. . . . Our major problem right now is overproduction."

Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), publican's leading spokesman for the cartels' overproduction hoax, responded that Bumpers was merely playing partisan politics. "I want to say that this is pure politics. We ought to include Walter Mondale's name in there, as well. . . . This speech has got everything but a Mondale button on it. Walter Mondale wants to cut agriculture \$10 billion—so he said in the debates." Dole then points out that,

despite the Democrats' vociferously stated concern for the collapse of family farms, a meeting called at the Democratic convention in San Francisco to discuss farm policy drew only nine people.

The Bumpers amendment was defeated on an absolute party-line vote with all Republicans present voting against it and all Democrats voting for it.

In another amendment to the same legislation, the Senate took steps to try to move the so-called sodbuster bill—another bill to curb “overproduction”—out of its legislative deadlock. Passed last December under the sponsorship of Sen. William Armstrong (R-Col.), the legislation denies federal payments for any crops grown on grasslands which have been deemed “fragile” by the government. Portrayed as legislation to preserve underproductive and fragile soils and to prevent the spread of a dustbowl, the legislation's sponsors fall prey to the fixed environmentalist notion of inherently unproductive soils. The bill seeks to curb the incentives to produce on such land.

The Senate passed one version of the bill last year and the House added certain monies for increased government support for soil conservation when it passed the legislation this summer. As a result, the bill has been stalled. In its Aug. 9 action, the Senate voted to toughen up the penalty on “sodbusters,” and passed the amendment again in an effort to push forward a House-Senate conference.

Committee reorganizations proposed in Senate

Proposals which would further the destruction of the Senate as a vehicle in any way representative of the constituencies making up the American population have once again reared their

heads. A Temporary Select Committee to Study the Senate Committee System has been empaneled and must report by Dec. 15 on various reorganization schemes. Chaired by Sen. Dan Quayle (R-Ind.), the committee has begun taking testimony from Senators and other interested parties.

Demands for reorganization of the Senate have arisen in recent years as the institution has ground to a halt in terms of its ability to deliberate and to legislate as a result of the “budget process” imposed in 1974. Under the “systems analysis” approach of the budget process, the Senate and House spend a majority of their time manipulating abstract budget ceilings for categories of federal spending, with no discussion of the positive or negative merits of the actual programs being so determined. Under this regime, the authorization process, during which such merits were formerly debated, has atrophied.

In the last century, the authorizing committees, whose names (Rivers and Harbors, Navy, Commerce) reflected their activities, were the direct vehicle by which constituency desires were expressed. The powers of the authorizing committees were weakened in the last period of congressional reform after the turn of the century, when the appropriations committees were placed between the authorizing committees and the actual expenditure (appropriation) of federal monies. The general direction of the proposals now before the Select Committee is to maintain the budget process abomination and abolish the authorizing committees entirely by merging them into the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Among those testifying at July 31 and Aug. 2 hearings in favor of eliminating the authorizing committees were Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) and Senate Majority Whip Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). They

suggested that the authorizing committees—which today include the Armed Services Committee, the Energy Committee, and the Commerce Committee—be absorbed as subcommittees of a super-appropriations committee.

Advocates of population control regrouping

After being outmaneuvered in the parliamentary arena by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) on Aug. 8, Senate genocide and population-control advocates are trying to reaffirm a U.S. commitment to population control by introducing Senate Concurrent Resolution 135. Sponsored by Sen. Robert Packwood (R-Oreg.), its cosponsors include Sens. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), Charles Percy (R-Ill.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Gary Hart (D-Colo.), Charles Mathias (R-Md.), Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.), Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), and others.

“We are submitting this concurrent resolution in direct response to the position articulated yesterday [Aug. 7] by former Sen. James Buckley, the head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations International Conference on Population in Mexico City,” Packwood said in introducing the Resolution.

“Without consulting Congress, this administration has changed the course of over two decades of foreign policy on international aid for family planning.”

Continuing the theme that economic growth is destroyed by population growth, Packwood said that the “long-standing philosophy underpinning our policy for international family planning has been that continued high rates of population growth significantly place burdens on economies unable to provide sufficient goods and services for the growing population.”