

National News

Thatcher in U.S. calls for 'peace in our time'

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher claims to support President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. However, at a press conference on Feb. 21, the last day of her U.S. tour, she insisted that such defensive weaponry are "many, many years, far off in the future. It will be many years before there will be any thought of deployment of these weapons system. Of course, under the ABM treaty, which has no terminal date, there will have to be negotiation before any deployment can take place."

Thatcher next proceeded to endorse the currently favored method of wrecking the program: She insisted on massive "deficit reduction" programs for the United States. She had elaborated on this theme in great detail in an address to a joint session of Congress the day before. She invoked the colonialist notion of a "union of mind and purpose between the English-speaking peoples," to demand that the United States mirror the "adjustment" policies of the International Monetary Fund in Africa and Ibero-America. "We cannot preach economic adjustment to them [the developing countries], and refuse to practice it at home. . . . We support so strongly your efforts to reduce your budget deficit."

One of Mrs. Thatcher's more memorable statements, in concluding her remarks to Congress, was the historical notion that the United States was created out of a "common heritage" with the United Kingdom, which overlooks, among other things, that the American Revolution took place at all.

AFL-CIO embraces defense freeze

It became exceedingly clear in Bal Harbour, Florida in mid-February that the leadership of the AFL-CIO has lost its moorings. It broke with its 30-year history and called for

a freeze on military spending if domestic spending is cut or frozen, and it released a report "accepting" the thesis that the United States is moving into the "post-industrial society."

The AFL-CIO Executive Board described its actions as "historic."

The first clue to the body's disorientation occurred in the opening session, when the 35-member executive council, presided over by plantation-owner Lane Kirkland, rose to give a standing ovation to the man walking through the entrance door. It was Walter Mondale.

The discussion that then ensued was focused around what might have been. William Wynn, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, made the remarkable point that Mondale would have won the election if the whole country had thought like the membership of the AFL-CIO.

To explain its organizing shift to the new "sunset industries," the board released a report on Feb. 22 titled, "The Changing Situations of Workers and Their Unions." The report says that the federation must in the future appeal to the "white collar service sector," since this is the "fastest growing" sector of the economy. Upon releasing the report, Kirkland said: "Now the growth is in services, and we're facing up to that."

A day earlier, the body called for a defense freeze. Kirkland said that organized labor still supports increased defense spending, but "only if it is equitably paid for. . . . We strongly oppose the proposition that the security of this present generation ought to be paid for by future generations or that the security of the affluent classes in our society ought to be paid for by further stripping the neediest classes in our society."

Southern Democrats boycott Kirk meeting

An open revolt is surfacing among southern Democrats against new Democratic National Committee Chairman Paul Kirk, who was muscled into the chairmanship by the same

crowd that gave the party Walter Mondale. Democratic leaders from 13 states were scheduled to meet with Kirk in Atlanta, Georgia on Feb. 16, but at the last minute, key southern Democratic leaders refused to attend.

In declining the invitation, Alabama Gov. George Wallace said: "The party's got to get away from some of the ultraliberal positions that they advocated in the platform during the last election if they ever hope to carry the state of Alabama again." Wallace's assistant, Jimmy Knight, who did attend the meeting, took a swipe at the party's lax attitude toward homosexuality. Mississippi's Democratic leadership boycotted the meeting altogether, while Virginia Gov. Charles Robb sent a delegate but stayed away himself.

Kirk's first policy move was to revive, under a new name, the notorious Democratic Advisory Council (DAC), through which Democratic Party policy would be made *outside* the party structure by Eastern liberal elitists. Hardly had Kirk spoken, however, when Governor Robb announced that he was forming a Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) that would fight to bring the Democratic Party back to the "moderate" mainstream. Robb stressed that this committee would strive to draw its numbers from up-and-coming leaders *within* the party structure. He said he had support for his initiative from Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt and other party moderates.

Farm-state senators stall Meese confirmation

Prompted by the devastation sweeping the nation's agricultural sector, a group of farm-state senators led by Sen. Boren (D-Okla.) launched a filibuster on Feb. 22 against the confirmation of Ed Meese as U.S. Attorney General. The Boren group has vowed to hold up Senate action on Meese until the administration agrees to adopt the major elements of a 12-point program aimed at providing some emergency relief to debt-strapped U.S. farmers.

Briefly

In the main, the program consists of various band-aid measures, including allowing agriculture banks to write off their 1985 losses over 10 years, instead of one, increasing the 90% loan guarantee program from \$650,000 to \$4 billion, etc. An aide to Boren reported that the senator specifically wants an agreement from the administration to back rapid passage of a farm-credit bill incorporating the major elements of the package.

Despite frantic negotiations between Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), who had promised rapid action on Meese's confirmation, and the White House, no satisfactory compromise had been reached as EIR went to press.

The President, still held hostage by economic advisers like David Stockman and by his own belief in the "magic of the marketplace," insisted at his Feb. 21 press conference that the farm problem will be solved once the government starts eliminating farm support programs—a move that will put the final dagger in the heart of the most productive agricultural sector in the world. Reagan didn't help matters at all when he termed the filibuster "nonsense" shortly after it began.

The administration's wrongheadedness on the agriculture issue has created a situation in which the valid concerns of Boren et al. are being deftly manipulated by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) and other drug-mob-linked legislators who want to prevent Meese from taking over the Justice Department at all costs. Unable to muster sufficient forces themselves to veto Meese's confirmation, Metzenbaum and his gang are hoping that the Boren group will provide enough muscle to do the trick.

Skowcroft report warns of 'overpopulation'

Since President Reagan has refused to accept the usual Malthusian line of the genocide lobby, the Eastern Establishment media is trying another approach. The Feb. 17 issue of the *Washington Post* attempts to warm over a 1974 document, written by then-National Security Adviser and current Kis-

singer Associates director Brent Skowcroft, which argued that political stability in the Third World "will require that the President and the Secretary of State treat the subject of population control as a matter of paramount importance." It calls for "urgent" measures to "reduce fertility."

The *Post* article, written by Hobart Rowan, bemoans the fact that "the advice, however sound, is being ignored."

The President must be convinced that "population explosion leads to political instability in the Third World, which, in turn, creates security problems for the United States." Rowan writes. According to him, the Scowcroft report is being revived by the Washington, D.C.-based Population Institute.

Some Washington sources think the real security threat to the United States is that the nation's capital is overpopulated with *Washington Post* reporters.

Cowling announces for Texas farm commissioner

Noel Cowling, National Democratic Policy Committee leader and Texas farmer, announced to press on Feb. 19 that he would campaign to unseat Texas Agricultural Commissioner Jim Hightower.

Cowling told reporters from the *Dallas Morning News*, *Daily Texan*, the Hart-Hanke chain, Austin radio station KVET, and Long News Services that he was announcing his campaign now, more than 15 months before the primary, in order to wage a campaign to save millions of lives in Africa and protect the dwindling numbers of farmers in the United States.

Cowling labeled Hightower a "radical environmentalist," noting that his first act as agriculture commissioner had been to ban the pesticide Mirex against Texas fire ants, which cause serious problems for Texas farmers. He called Hightower a "frontman for the grain companies" who shares Budget Director David Stockman's line on the agricultural question, i.e., the problem is "overinvestment" by farmers.

● **PRESIDENT REAGAN** expressed "sympathy" for debt-ridden farmers on his nationally syndicated radio program on Feb. 23, but warned, "Taxpayers must not be asked to bail out every farmer hopelessly in debt. . . ." He said that the administrations five-year plan to phase out farm supports will mean that "government will stop purchasing commodities, stop trying to manipulate supply and demand, refrain from quick-fixes and extravagant new farm legislation and move aggressively to expand markets for American farm products. . . ."

● **WHAT** was Richard Devereux Hill, just retired chairman of the board of First National Bank of Boston and a former director of United Fruit Company, doing in New York City on the night of Feb. 20?

● **LOUISIANA** sources report a strange pattern of shut-downs and/or redeployment of sugar mills out of Louisiana. One known destination is Haiti. The other is reported to be Cuba.

● **JULIUS HACKETHAL**, the German doctor who killed a female patient with cyanide in the spring of 1984, videotaping the death, is now considering moving to southern California. In Germany, he is faced with the possibility of losing his professional license and being charged with murder. He will "leave the country because there are too many legal problems here."

● **SECURITY** measures were stiffened at the main Pentagon entrances Feb. 19 to thwart terrorist actions. The new restrictions are aimed at making it less likely that an automobile or truck laden with explosives could get close enough to the Pentagon to cause serious damage.