

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Close encounters of a congressional kind

On May 19, 500 activists from the National Democratic Policy Committee went to Capitol Hill to confront their congressmen and senators on their assaults on the defense budget and their support for the genocidal International Monetary Fund.

Among the reactions encountered were the following:

- Staff in the office of Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Ia.), who is the "G" in the "KGB" budget proposal to decimate the defense budget, immediately called the police on the NDPC delegation. The activists responded by asking his aides if they understood what was being said to them, since the NDPC members only spoke English and not Russian.

- Staff in the office of MX and SDI opponent Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) called the police within 10 seconds of the NDPC delegation's arrival.

- Staff in the office of Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), who orchestrated each of the recent defense budget debacles, were asked to "Name That Tune." The NDPC delegation then sang the National Anthem. The police were promptly called.

- Aides to Black Caucus member and House Budget Committee Chairman William Gray (D-Pa.), who orchestrated an anti-defense budget onto the House floor and who voted for the IMF, told 75 Philadelphia constituents that there was no "universally accepted" alternative to the IMF. Then, spouting the racist arguments of the cultural relativists, the aide said that large-scale development projects would never work in Africa.

- An aide to Congresswoman Marjorie Holt (R-Md.), whose state was recently engulfed in a banking

panic, claimed that the economy is "doing just fine."

- Rep. Gus Savage (D-Ill.) when confronted by 25 of his Chicago constituents in the hallway could not explain why he voted for the IMF. He then fled down three flights of stairs in an effort to escape his insistent constituents.

- An aide to Rep. Howard Berman (D-Cal.), who is anti-defense and pro-IMF, threw the NDPC delegation out of the office when they told him that the IMF was "100 times worse than Hitler."

Congressman challenges support for infanticide

When the House Foreign Aid authorization, H.R. 1555, reaches the floor on June 10, Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) will offer an amendment which will curtail U.S. population assistance to any organization that provides funds to a country which condones infanticide through official policies. The amendment is directed against organizations which assist the Peoples Republic of China (P.R.C.), whose radical population control policies have led to widespread use of coercive abortions and infanticide. The organizations singled out for a cut-off of State Department Agency for International Development funds because of their activities in the P.R.C. are the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPFF).

On May 20, Rep. John Edward Porter (R-Ill.) placed into the *Congressional Record* a "Dear Colleague" letter by Rep. Jim Moody (D-Wis.) urging a defeat of the Smith amendment. Moody argues that even

though Smith's assertions about China are "probably correct," the cut-off to UNFPA and IPPF would hurt other more "benign" population control efforts in other countries.

Symms, Hollings: Abandon SALT II

A bipartisan effort led by Republican Senator Steven Symms (R-Ida.) and Democratic Senator Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) is seeking to abandon strict adherence to the unratified SALT II arms control treaty. They will seek to deny funding for dismantling any U.S. nuclear strategic forces that pushes the United States over the SALT II limits. A Senate floor vote is expected when the Senate returns on the week of June 3. The Reagan administration is expected to decide its position on adherence to SALT II the same week.

In a "Dear Colleague" letter dated May 17, the Senators suggested their amendment be called the "Save the Poseidons" amendment since these would be the first systems that would be destroyed as new U.S. nuclear submarine missiles come on line. "The subject," said Symms, "is whether or not the United States of America should dismantle perfectly good weapons systems that the taxpayers of the United States have bought and that have been proven throughout their life span to be very good operational systems."

Symms and Hollings stressed in their letter that the Soviets are not adhering to the SALT II treaty. The Reagan administration, they pointed out, has confirmed to the Senate eleven Soviet SALT II violations, nine of which are conclusive.

Symms emphasized the tremendous Soviet buildup and lead over the

United States in strategic nuclear weapons. He noted that the Soviets have a much larger capability, and the U.S. a much smaller one than the Joint Chiefs of Staff estimates of 1978 predicted. "...Soviet strategic delivery vehicles have increased by about one-fourth and the Soviet nuclear warheads will have more than tripled by the end of 1985," Symms said in comparing current Soviet capabilities to 1978 levels. This has resulted in the "Soviets having about 1,000 more intercontinental missiles and bombers than the U.S. carrying about 4,000 more warheads."

Senate rejects attempt to kill ASAT

The Senate rejected on a 35 to 51 roll-call vote May 24, an amendment to the FY 86 Defense Authorization bill sponsored by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) that would have imposed a unilateral U.S. moratorium on testing of Anti-Satellite (ASAT) weapons systems. Minutes later the Senate adopted on a vote of 74 to 9, a Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) and Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) sponsored compromise that allows the Defense Department to conduct three ASAT tests, and to conduct more if the administration certifies to Congress "that the need for additional tests exists."

The Warner amendment language potentially allows the administration to conduct a rapid testing program. However, the amendment actually holds a gun to the head of the administration to force arms control negotiations to ban ASATs where the Soviet Union already has an operational ASAT system, and has no desire to negotiate.

Nunn put conditions on his sup-

port for the amendment. He said he was "disturbed" by a letter from Arms Control and Disarmament Agency director Kenneth Adelman that suggested that the U.S. ASAT testing program was contingent only upon the "technical" pace of developments. Nunn said that he "would emphasize that before the first test of the U.S. ASAT against an object in space can be conducted, the President must certify that the United States is endeavoring in good faith to negotiate the strictest possible ASAT limitations."

Aspin announces policy to gut the SDI

House Armed Services Committee chairman Les Aspin (D-Wis.) told an audience at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Affairs (CSIS) on May 30 that he wants to eliminate all elements of the Strategic Defense Initiative budget which would allow for demonstration projects and prototype development. In his speech, billed as a "Democratic defense budget," Aspin called for defunding those parts of the program which "bump up against the ABM Treaty," parts such as "demonstration projects."

Aspin denied *EIR's* charges that his proposal would ensure that the technological feasibility of the SDI could never be demonstrated. But he did then admit that "I just don't know" whether it was possible to prove the SDI's feasibility without colliding with the ABM treaty.

EIR then asked Aspin if he could "distinguish one iota between your proposals and what the Kremlin requested Congress do to the SDI. Aspin replied, "I think the Kremlin would like to see the Congress cut the SDI a lot more than I would. But how Con-

gress acts on the SDI is independent of what the Soviets do. It depends on whether the SDI is technologically feasible or not." Of course, Aspin had just set up the conditions in which it could never be proven feasible.

Senate ups military role in drug enforcement

By a voice vote on May 21, the U.S. Senate passed an amendment, put forward by Dennis DeConcini (D-Az.), which will give the Air Force Reserve a major peacetime mission in assisting efforts at curtailing international narcotics trafficking. The amendment to the Defense Authorization bill establishes an Air Force Reserve wing which will provide radar drug surveillance for civilian law enforcement. The unit would be stocked with a squadron of at least 16 sophisticated, radar-equipped surveillance aircraft and would fly surveillance missions for the U.S. Customs Service and other drug interdiction agencies.

In his floor statement motivating the amendment, DeConcini said, "There is no question that the Customs Service and the Coast Guard are outmanned, outgunned and outfinanced by the drug smuggler. . . . We are dealing with an enemy that sells nearly \$100 billion of his deadly poison in the United States every year. . . . We are dealing with an enemy that is becoming more and more sophisticated in both his equipment and his smuggling tactics. . . . A vote for this amendment should send a shudder through the drug trafficking families of this world that the United States has rolled up its sleeves and is willing to defend its borders from the drug menace."

The amendment is not expected to run into difficulty on the House floor.