

National News

Fascell backs Gorbachov proposal

The Reagan administration should "take a more aggressive and assertive posture" in the Geneva arms talks, said House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Dante Fascell (D-Fla.). Fascell urged a major effort to work out a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

In a House speech on Feb. 6, Fascell announced that House leaders have cleared floor action later this month on a resolution backing such a treaty—which, of course, is a key feature of Mikhail Gorbachov's Jan. 15 arms-control ploy. Fascell also urged the administration to reaffirm its adherence to SALT II and "the longstanding interpretation" of the ABM treaty and reject Pentagon recommendations that the United States abandon compliance with treaties that the Soviets have grossly violated.

'Lowered expectations' in the United States

The age of "upward mobility" in the United States is over, according to the London *Daily Telegraph* on Feb. 10. The article was based on statements recently released by New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D) and Texas Rep. Jim Wright (D).

In an article entitled, "Yuppies' Living Standards Sliding," the *Telegraph* cites Moynihan saying that the younger generation must come to grips with the realization that they were entering an era of "lowered expectations," and that, for the first time in American history, an emerging generation's living standards would fall short of those enjoyed by the preceding one.

Wright is quoted: "Most of America's young adults are not upwardly mobile. For as long as anyone can remember, the heart of the American experience has been upward mobility. What we now see is something alien and unacceptable: a general downward mobility, a slippage in living standards, from parents to children."

He said the past three years' so-called

economic growth in the United States was actually "something of a bust for baby-boomers of average income."

CBS sued for Bulgarian story

West German arms-dealer Peter Mulack has filed a \$100 million suit against CBS News over a 1984 report linking him to the "Bulgarian Connection" in the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II.

CBS reported on April 27, 1984, that it had obtained documents showing that Peter Mulack, 64, offered to accept cash and drugs in payment for illegally supplying Bulgaria with sophisticated U.S. electronic equipment. Mulack, who lives on an estate in the exclusive Coral Gables enclave in Miami, told Reuters that he had done business with Bulgaria, buying Soviet-made arms and selling them to South Africa.

"But I have always dealt government to government and never illegally," he added.

The suit names CBS anchorman Dan Rather, two CBS-News producers, and independent Danish TV-reporter Jorgen Petersen.

Union issues weak AIDS guidelines

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) issued very weak guidelines to its health care and correctional facility members at a symposium on AIDS addressed by President Gerald W. McEntee the first week in February, according to *AFL-CIO News* of Feb. 8.

McEntee said: "There is no reason to panic, it is not highly contagious, especially if workers follow the recommended precautions. We have solid grounds to oppose antibody testing on any group of workers, no matter what their occupation"—he didn't say what the grounds were. AFSCME represents 300,000 health care workers and 50,000 correctional officers.

The guidelines do include suggestions

for screening and segregating AIDS patients in prisons, that pregnant women be excused from direct care of AIDS victims, and the use of disposable needles and gloves when handling blood specimens and other body substances.

Carter wraps up Ibero-American tour

On Feb. 10, former President Jimmy Carter concluded the last leg of his five-nation Ibero-America tour to "better appreciate" the impact of the debt on the region.

Gushing about how proud he is of "the many democracies in the region," Carter met for 12 hours with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and other senior Sandinista leaders in Managua, and with El Salvadoran rebel leaders Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora in Mexico about "human rights violations" in their country.

He also met with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid as well as Mexico's finance and interior ministers, although details on those meetings have not been released.

The tour, Carter admitted, is to drum up interest in and, presumably, attendance at the international debt seminar being planned for April by Emory University in Atlanta, where Carter lectures. Peruvian President Alan García has accepted an invitation to attend the debt seminar. So has Peru's former energy and mines minister, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, president of First Boston International in New York, indicted in absentia in Peru for corruption.

Security lapses at U.S. bases

American soldiers who guard the U.S. Army's Pershing-II rockets in West Germany are often doped, drunk, or asleep on the job, the German weekly magazine *Stern* reported Feb. 12.

Stern based its allegation of security lapses on information from a former GI guard at the base at Heilbronn, 60 miles north of

Stuttgart. The guard, for whom *Stern* gave the name "Michael Scott," said the problem is not with the army's security regulations, which he called excellent, but because they are ignored or circumvented, the magazine said.

Scott described how commanders of the guard faked reports of inspection tours they were too lazy to make, how electronic security systems and how poorly trained and motivated guards shirked their duty to remain vigilant against the threat of terrorism. Scott became so concerned about the security problem that he called it to the attention of the Pentagon, his congressman, and finally the governor of Kansas—all to no avail.

U.S. racist Farrakhan not wanted in Lagos

Hitler-admirer Louis Farrakhan's speech, scheduled for Feb. 9 in Lagos, Nigeria, was canceled after the foreign ministry urged him not to be inflammatory. Farrakhan is currently head of the U.S. Black Muslims.

Farrakhan had arrived in Lagos on Feb. 8, to begin a five-day lecture tour after being barred from Britain.

Farrakhan told reporters that he was not told of the cancellation until his arrival, but that he received a letter from the Ministry of Information earlier, asking him not to use his speech as a forum for religious purposes, since Nigeria is a secular state.

Indiana candidate asks Philippine observers

Georgia Irey, a U.S. Senate candidate in Indiana backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee, announced on Feb. 11 that she has sent a telegram to President Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines inviting him to send observers to Indiana for the primary election, where Sen. Richard Lugar (R) has been involved in some questionable elections in the past.

Irey said she took this action to "dramatize the degree to which Senator Lugar

openly and blatantly interfered in the internal affairs of a friendly nation; indeed, our closest ally in Asia. . . . Even if one grants the highly dubious proposition that the U.S. should have sent friendly observers to witness the election, Senator Lugar thoroughly betrayed his trust by blatantly favoring the opposition candidacy of Mrs. Corazon Aquino, and by making prejudicial statements to the press regarding the Philippine national election."

Mrs. Irey telegraphed Philippines President Marcos offering congratulations on his re-election:

"This is genuinely good news for all Americans," said Irey in the telegram. "I wish to apologize for the blatant interference in your national elections conducted by a senator from my state, Richard Lugar. I intend to make this an issue in my State of Indiana. To ensure a fair election in my race for nomination for senate in the Democratic primary on May 6, I would like to invite neutral observers from the official election commission of the Philippines to observe the vote here. This is necessary to ensure a free and fair election in the state of Indiana."

President attacks two-term limit

President Ronald Reagan has expressed his dissatisfaction again with the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting presidential terms of office. Asked by the *Washington Post* whether he's pleased with the presidential succession fight in the GOP, Reagan responded: "See, that's what's wrong with having a 22nd Amendment. Everybody automatically, the minute the '84 election is over, everybody starts saying, 'What are we going to do in '88?' And focusing the spotlight on it."

Reagan went on to say that he's for repeal of the amendment, but not for himself: "No President can ever come out of it with himself in mind. I think it's got to be held for whoever's going to be the next President."

Commenting on Bush's recent performance, including his attack on New York Gov. Mario Cuomo (D), Reagan said he was "very satisfied."

Briefly

● **DRUG LOBBYIST** Les Ledbetter, an editor of *High Times* magazine, has died of AIDS. In July 1984, Ledbetter authored a scurrilous attack on Lyndon H. LaRouche's collaborators in the anti-drug Andean Labor Party. *High Times* is the magazine of the U.S. drug lobby.

● **DONALD RUMSFELD**, reportedly a 1988 presidential hopeful, is slated to become chairman of the board of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington. The Ethics and Public Policy Center was founded in 1976 to "clarify and reinforce the bond between the Judeo-Christian moral tradition and domestic and foreign policy issues."

● **THE SHUTTLE** tragedy investigation will be headed by Alton G. Keel, Jr., a well-known defense budget hatchetman. Keel is currently associate director for National Security and International Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget, which handles Defense and State Department budgets.

● **NEW YORK CITY** has lost 30,000 manufacturing jobs in the last 18 months. The city's largest loss was in the textile industry, formerly its largest manufacturing sector. The city lost 87,000 jobs in the last five years.

● **JACK MATLOCK, SR.**, Soviet specialist at the National Security Council and a principal advocate of the "crumbling Soviet empire" myth, is expected to be named U.S. ambassador to Moscow later this year. Matlock's mythology states that the West has nothing to fear from the Soviets, despite their unprecedentedly massive military buildup.

● **OVER \$11 MILLION** in cash, 250 pounds of cocaine, Americans were seized in the break-up of a nationwide money-laundering and drug ring by undercover agents in separate raids in Los Angeles, Miami, and New York on Feb. 7.