

## Congressional Calendar by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

### **M**ilitary aid to Pakistan in the hopper

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Clement Zablocki (D-Wis.) and Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D-NY) are preparing legislation for early introduction which would exempt Pakistan from the provisions of the so-called Symington amendment to the 1961 foreign aid act. That amendment prohibits all economic and military aid (except food aid) to a country which diverts nuclear material destined for peaceful uses to the construction of nuclear weapons. Pakistan is such a country, and aid has been cut off.

While Zablocki and Bingham have been considering such legislation for some time now, the Soviet intervention into Afghanistan has, they feel, given them the back-up to now introduce the legislation. According to Capitol Hill sources, the Administration "welcomes" such legislation. Zablocki and Bingham may even introduce the legislation before the actual reconvening of Congress on Jan. 22, during one of the "pro forma" sessions which the House is holding twice a week between now and then. While there is little likelihood of emergency action by the Congress prior to Jan. 22, rapid action is expected soon thereafter. While no definitive Senate sponsor has been identified, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are reported to be actively considering introduction.

When asked how Bingham, one of the most fanatical supporters of the "nuclear nonproliferation"

doctrine, could justify sponsoring the sale of weapons to a country in such obvious violation of the principles of nonproliferation, a spokesman for the congressman said, "Well, maybe if we give them conventional arms they will feel less need to develop nuclear arms."

### **H**ouse hearings on banking deregulation

Hearings will begin as early as the end of January on a number of House bills to deregulate the savings and loan industry by phasing out Regulation Q—the interest rate differential which gives savings and loans a fixed rate of 1/4 percent above what commercial banks can offer for savings accounts. The Senate passed a bill in the fall of last year which also sought to eliminate Regulation Q as part of legislation authorizing the use of Negotiable Order of Withdrawal, or NOW accounts, the savings bank equivalent of a checking account. The House refused to go along with those sweeping changes, saying that it needed time to examine the regulation issue.

The House passed a temporary extension of the NOW accounts before adjournment and will review at least three versions of the more sweeping Senate legislation when it reconvenes. The most extensive reforms have been introduced by Rep. Doug Barnard (D-Ga.), a member of the House Banking Committee. Barnard's bill is essentially the same as the Senate version, except that it would carry out its

reforms over a much shorter period, and on some points, immediately. When asked why Barnard was proposing a more extreme version of the Senate bill, when the House had originally balked on its passage, Barnard's spokesman said, "It wasn't the House that balked, it was Congressman St. Germain."

St Germain (D-R.I.) is chairman of the financial institutions subcommittee of the House Banking Committee; he has introduced his own legislation which would continue to grant the interest rate differential (thereby allowing savings and loans institutions to attract more deposits), provided S & L's continue to extend a certain part of their loans to mortgages and the housing industry. St. Germain's legislation reflects his concern, and that of such Senate opponents of the original legislation as Robert Morgan (D-N.C.), that the deregulation of the industry would eliminate the critical low-interest, long-term mortgage-loan function of the savings and loan institutions.

One other proposal to be offered has been put forward by Rep. Jerry Patterson (D-Cal.) and would set the deregulation process into motion in 1985. Capitol Hill sources report that St. Germain will again be key in determining which legislation is finally enacted.

### **T**o begin oversight probe of FEC

The House Administration Committee has established five task forces to oversee the functioning of

the Federal Elections Commission. The five panels are responsible for: the audit and review functions of the FEC, headed by Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Cal.).

- the enforcement functions of the FEC, headed by Rep. William Ratchford (D-Conn.).

- the information office and public disclosure functioning of the FEC, headed by Congressman Peter Peyser (D-NY.).

- the administration and clearing house functions of the FEC, headed by Mendel Davis (D-S.C.).

- on public financing, headed by Rep. John Burton (D-Cal.).

Capitol Hill sources have reported that the task force on public financing may use recent matching funds decisions to claim that FEC regulations are too lenient. The same sources noted that this was really reflective of a move to tighten up the FEC, preventing aid to any "non-establishment" candidates.

## Hearings on health effects of marijuana

Under enormous pressure from antidrug groups in his state, Maryland Senator Charles Mathias (R) has scheduled hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee for Jan. 16 and 17 on the medical effects of marijuana usage. Reportedly, Mathias will use the results of the hearings to determine whether he will wage a fight on the Senate floor to delete the marijuana "decriminalization" provision from the notorious S.1, the criminal code reform bill.

S.1, in this Congress known as S.1722, has been sponsored and shepherded through committee by Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Edward Kennedy, and entails 2a thorough reorientation of the criminal code of the United States. S.1 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee this fall with support from conservatives who acceded to the marijuana decriminalization position in exchange for "toughening" of other aspects of the bill.

Mathias' hearings will have extensive medical testimony from approximately 20 medical doctors including such well-known researchers on marijuana as Drs. Nahas (Columbia University), Heath (Tulane), Hembrie (Columbia University) and Cohen (UCLA). However, NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) is sending its "house doctor" Greenspoon, who is also scheduled to testify.

Several grass-roots antidrug groups are also on the agenda and have promised to pack the 400-person Senate Caucus Room where the hearings will take place.

## Welfare jobs program being pursued

The House Education and Labor Committee is reviewing two bills that would convert the CETA jobs program into a massive public works program for welfare recipients. One bill, H.R.4425, has been proposed by the Carter administration and would establish a new "title" for CETA that would create

approximately 400,000 new jobs for welfare recipients. The CETA program now is largely used to rehire laid-off municipal workers at lower wages. Of the 250,000 CETA jobs currently in existence, only 25,000 are for welfare recipients.

Other legislation, the Hawkins-Perkins bill, would provide jobs for everyone eligible for public service. This would include low income individuals and couples, whereas the administration bill mandates jobs for families eligible for Aid to Dependent Children funds.

The committee held hearings on these bills in early October; Labor Secretary Ray Marshall testified. They plan to begin mark-up in the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities, headed by Congressman Hawkins (D-Cal), in February.

The subcommittee will also hold hearings on Jan. 18 on the Employment Priorities Act, H.R.5040. This legislation will require that any company planning to close or relocate must first notify its workers. It then allows the Secretary of Labor to investigate the circumstances of these actions and whether any loan program or other activity will keep the plant from relocating or closing, thus in effect authorizing federal control over much of U.S. industry activity.

The subcommittee hearings will be held in Los Angeles and will include testimony from the rubber workers unions which have been faced with plant relocations. The day before the hearings, the committee plans to tour two plants in California.