

National News

Joe Rauh wants Haig ratified

Joseph Rauh, Jr., cochairman of the Americans for Democratic Action, recently told an interviewer that while the ADA will raise a protest against the nomination of Alexander Haig as Secretary of State, they do not want him defeated.

Said Rauh, "We want to keep him there wounded, as a permanent liability for Reagan." Rauh sees in Haig "a lightning rod for controversy swirling around the Reagan administration. That is fine for us."

Rauh, mentor of Teamster and other union dissidents, says he hopes that "a paralyzed Reagan administration will be destroyed by an economic collapse."

Report sets stage for postindustrial consensus

Private and public commentary on the recently leaked report of the President's Commission for the National Agenda for the 1980s confirms that the operative principle of the report is not to secure implementation of its specific proposals, but to establish as a baseline assumption throughout the country the idea that the U.S. has entered the postindustrial era.

The commission's report itself states that "The passage into postindustrial society is marked by . . . concentrated poverty, dependence, unemployment, fiscal imbalances, tax-base erosion, and deterioration of physical plants and public-service infrastructures. . . . Throughout this report, however, the panel has sought to understand these conditions in the context of our passage into a postindustrial era and to consider how that passage may be made with a minimal amount of stress." The particular recommendation that follows is large-scale population relocation from the Northeast and Midwest to the Sunbelt.

The commission was organized by

Hedley Donovan of Time-Life, and is now headed by William McGill, former president of Columbia University. Its board includes John Gardner of Common Cause, Mrs. Ruth Hinerfeld of the League of Women Voters, and Glenn Watts, head of the Communication Workers of America and an Aspen Institute and Trilateral Commission member. The urban policy task force is dominated by former NATO policy planners and think tank operatives who in the 1970s engineered the Club of Rome's Limits to Growth initiative by orchestrating extreme and moderate versions of zero-growth, antiscience policy proposals.

Commenting on the 1980s report, Stuart Butler of the Heritage Foundation, who looks to the British Fabian Society for his orientation as the inspiration for the foundation's promotion of the free-enterprise zones said Dec. 30 "even if our enterprise zone proposal is implemented, the cities will continue to undergo depopulation," serving merely as centers for "consumer items such as toys, china goods, and pottery. . . . Of course, this will mean cities will have to rethink very carefully the amount of services they attempt to provide."

Socialist International liaison Gar Alperovitz, a Washington think tanker, stressed computers and robotics as opposed to handicrafts, but concluded that "America must make the difficult choice to move away from the heavy industrial urban-based economy."

Roy Cohn link to JFK assassination raised

The connection of the New York City-based attorney Roy Marcus Cohn to the November 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy has once again become a subject of investigation by law-enforcement agencies in the United States and Western Europe. The renewed interest in Cohn and his association with the Permindex organization has been triggered as a byproduct of a series of investigations into terrorist actions by the Armenian Secret Army, including a

recent assassination in Paris.

During the 1960s, Cohn, operating through the Lionel Corporation of New York City, was a significant minority shareholder in a Montreal-based permanent trade expositions company called Permindex. Permindex was identified by both the French government and a grand jury in New Orleans as the principal financial conduit and operations control for a series of aborted assassination attempts against French President Charles de Gaulle and the successful assassination of U.S. President Kennedy.

The Permindex apparatus, including the Lionel subsidiary, has been retained intact since the 1960s under the effective control of the same agencies that commissioned and executed the Kennedy hit. As a result, the investigation into the Kennedy assassination, including the involvement of complicit agencies within the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice, has immediate bearing on currently operational terrorist deployments.

The current interest in Roy Cohn's role in the Kennedy assassination has already drawn investigators into a pro-Khomeini network intersecting the Armenian assassination in Paris. All these operations involve friends of Cohn.

Chicago: setting up the \$1.00 fare

Considerable effort was involved in setting the Chicago transit fare on course for a dollar a ride by Aug. 15, 1981—and setting the stage for a transit strike somewhere along the line.

The Illinois Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and its subsidiary Chicago Transportation Authority (CTA) have set the basic bus and subway fare at 80 cents after Jan. 1, 1981, 95 cents after April 1, and the full dollar on Aug. 15.

The nation's highest fare was born in November 1979 in an emergency package between the real-estate lobby's newly elected mayor, Jane Byrne, and Rockefeller protégé Jim Thompson, the governor of Illinois. They reorganized the RTA revenue base, eliminating the state

subsidy, the gasoline tax, and existing sales tax for a new sales tax that subsequently produced a nearly \$40 million revenue shortfall from what the new tax had been expected to raise—and probably as much as \$100 million below what the former taxes might have raised. To this was added a different schedule of taxable items between old and new sales taxes which produced massive collection problems and leakage.

Labor is being blamed, even though the unions gave up two-thirds of their cost-of-living allowances in the emergency deal. At any time, the city can abolish remaining 24-hour service, change work rules, and introduce part-time drivers. Chicago is therefore on the express track toward a transit strike.

Baltimore harbor dredging approved

Environmentalists, led by Maryland Congressman Clarence Long (D), suffered a major defeat when Federal Judge Herbert F. Murray ruled on Dec. 24 that the dredging of the Baltimore Channel could proceed according to the plan of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Richard A. Linsky, Jr., director of national port affairs for the Maryland Port Administration, said that engineering plans for the dredging and a landfill site had been moving right ahead before the court issues were resolved, and that actual construction work could begin as soon as July 1, 1981. Federal funding is available for funding dredging, and Linsky speculated that the decision might expedite it. The Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Maryland have proposed to deepen the Baltimore Harbor Channel from its current 42 feet to 50 feet.

At the center of the court action was whether the dredged material could be dumped on Hart and Miller Islands, 13 miles east of Baltimore. Long and the environmentalists filed a suit to block the dumping on the Hart-Miller site. Two years ago, Judge Murray ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers had processed

the state's application illegally, and stated that congressional approval was necessary. However, last May, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond reversed him, and last month the Supreme Court refused to hear that part of the case, thus letting the Fourth Circuit Court decision stand.

In his new 45-page opinion, released on Dec. 24, 1980, Judge Murray wrote that the "Supreme Court has clearly held that . . . the court's role in cases like this one at bar is limited and narrow. The court has neither the expertise, the power nor the responsibility to review the merits of the corps's conclusions, but only the sufficiency under NEPA of the procedures followed in reaching them."

EIR is sponsoring a seminar on Rebuilding the Port of Baltimore on Jan. 26, at the Convention Center of the Baltimore Harbor.

London Economist offers Reagan advice

The latest issue of the London *Economist*, dated Dec. 27, includes predictions and proposals for the incoming U.S. administration. In a section titled "Deindustrialising is fun," *The Economist* comments that capitalism is outdated, and continues: "America is moving rapidly but quietly from an industrial society (which means capitalist, bossed-about, partly horny-handed) to an information society, and this means the heyday of small entrepreneurial businesses." Another section points to "the maybe 5 million illegal immigrants . . . who do not draw welfare money or unemployment pay but take illegally untaxed jobs at 50 cents an hour . . . but are not dying of starvation at every street corner. They are becoming increasingly entrepreneurial. . . . The most useful private economic research in America now would be into how far illegal immigrants have been able to prosper more dynamically precisely because particular welfare rights (such as the legal minimum wage) do not apply to them."

Briefly

● **REAGAN'S** nonproliferation/nuclear export transition team proposes that the now-dispersed nuclear export review structure of the U.S. government be consolidated into one new office within the State Department on an assistant secretary level. Presently, export and nonproliferation review is spread among the State and Energy departments, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Arms Control Disarmament Agency. The proposal is being praised by U.S. nuclear industry sources.

● **THE LATEST** official industry count of active oil and gas drilling rigs reached 3,303, marking a new historic record and the 20th straight week over 3,000. The previous record had been reached in 1955. It declined over the following two decades as multinational companies opened Middle East production and de-emphasized domestic exploration and production.

● **THE ACADEMY** for Contemporary Studies is functioning as chief adviser to congressmen who oppose shifting population to the Sunbelt. The academy is headed by Ralph Widener, who coined the term "deindustrialization" in the 1960s, and is financed by the German Marshall Fund, currently planning the phaseout of heavy industry from the Ruhr. ACS's Patrick Henry said Dec. 30, "This debate on America's postindustrial future is key; there will be lots of controversy, but that's fine. It will give people time to come to grips with the new reality." ACS advises Congress to keep people in the Northeast and Midwest through free-enterprise zones.

● **LANE KIRKLAND** endorses Ronald Reagan's choice of Alexander Haig for Secretary of State. When asked about Haig's nomination, the AFL-CIO president told the *Wall Street Journal* Dec. 30 that "Both in personal terms and in a policy sense, I have the highest regard for General Haig."