

National News

'Enterprise zone' panned in Boston

The Heritage Foundation's traveling series of conferences to promote "free enterprise zones" stumbled into Boston on Feb. 9, and failed to pull off any credible display of support. The attending bankers, realtors, and radical "community" groups of nearly 100 people sat through a series of speeches that defensively held to a bottom line that the proposed low-wage "free enterprise" shops might not be much, but, as Baltimore Mayor Schaeffer said, "We'll take anything at this point."

The speakers were already on the defensive, since *EIR* had circulated statements by banker Richard Hill of First Boston that ghetto populations were "economically unviable," which had produced outrage among local political and union groups. Conference participants who had earlier attended a private meeting on enterprise zones sat in fearful silence at the public event, though both Schaeffer and New York Rep. Robert Garcia weakly defended the plans.

A small businessman from Toledo pointed out that the program could only produce nonunion sweatshops, while First National's James Howell repeatedly avoided the labor issue.

U.S. support for credit 'disarmament'

Former Rep. Henry Helstoski of New Jersey was one of several signers to a telegram supporting West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's initiation of a call for a four-power interest-rate "disarmament" conference.

The telegram pledged that Americans who had campaigned for lower interest rates will "escalate our campaign immediately. . . . Your initiatives are critical to strengthen our mobilization for pending legislation in the U.S. Congress, modeled after proposals of Lyndon

LaRouche of the National Democratic Policy Committee, to dump Volcker and to end his monetary policy. A selective credit policy, assuring affordable credit to productive economic sectors and penalizing speculative, inflation-causing investors, must be adopted. . . ."

Other signers of the telegram, the first from U.S. citizens to Schmidt, include: 1980 Democratic National Committee platform committee member Alice Riley; the president of UAW Local 1038 (Woodbridge, N.J.), Grace Salata; and the business manager of Plumbers Local 9, Thomas Sperling.

Budget cuts to cripple NASA, space programs

The Office of Management and Budget is proposing to cut \$629 million from the fiscal year 1982 NASA budget, according to NASA sources. The cuts are 9 percent of the budget request.

Projects that would be junked include the Galileo mission to Jupiter, the Venus mission, a fourth vehicle for the Space Shuttle, and other space science programs.

Most immediately effected will be the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, which is responsible for NASA's planetary projects. During the Carter administration, JPL was forced into soft-technology research for the Department of Energy, to avoid having to lay off its scientific staff. The current proposed cuts will finish off the laboratory.

Former astronaut Senator Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.) has withheld a statement pending the formal announcement of the cuts, but his office, as well as that of the Fusion Energy Foundation in New York, has received calls protesting against the cuts.

Congress has the power to restore cuts, but, NASA officials worry, moves to override will be blocked by Rep. Ed Boland (D-Mass.), whose Independent Agencies on Appropriations Committee has to approve NASA funding. Boland stated that, since Jupiter will still be there in 20 years, the cuts may as well proceed.

'Technetronic' future proposed for Detroit

A blue-ribbon commission of high-technology growth experts recently appointed by Michigan Gov. William Milliken is recommending a virtually total overhaul of the state's industrial economy. Comprised of such corporate luminaries as former Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal and Republican Party influential Max Fisher, the commission is emphasizing the quick enactment of legislation to facilitate attracting electronics, computer, and other high-technology firms into the state. This is seen as the centerpiece in "diversifying" the economy away from reliance on depressed heavy industry.

A parallel drive has intensified to permit foreign bank operations in Michigan and to create "free enterprise zones" throughout the state, including international banking facilities and expanded free-trade zones. Hearings on the enabling legislation are scheduled in about two weeks, with top state leaders lined up to introduce the bill.

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young has appointed a blue-ribbon "Budget Stabilization Committee" chaired by Fred Secrest, a retired executive vice-president of Ford. "Our job," said Secrest, "is to tell the mayor which unpleasant actions he has to take" to eliminate the huge \$130 million deficit the city faces at the end of this fiscal year. Young has also just hired Lazard Frères as consultant to the city.

NDPC holds meeting 'to hang Volcker'

The National Democratic Policy Committee hosted a meeting of 150 to "hang Paul Volcker" for his interest-rate damage to the American economy, in Huntsville, Ala. on Feb. 9. As TV cameras and newsmen covered, leaders from the local American Agriculture Movement, and local political, business, and labor leaders demanded a swift end to Volcker's

austerity regime.

The speakers' panel was led by Alabama State Sen. Bobby Denton, the sponsor of State Senate Resolution 3, calling for Volcker's removal and lower interest rates. Volcker's interest rates prohibit not only agriculture and industry, but also stifle American ingenuity, he said. With credit so costly, no profit margins are available for reinvestment in expansion of the country's technological potential.

Other speakers included Sam Darwin, a state board member of the Alabama Farm Bureau; Alvin Jenkins, a founding member of the American Agriculture Movement; and Nancy Spannaus, editor-in-chief of *New Solidarity* and contributing editor to *EIR*.

Press blacks out picket-line crossing

At 11:55 a.m. on Jan. 26, New York City Mayor Ed Koch became the first city mayor to cross a picket line in 50 years. The crossing came in full view of AP, the *New York Post*, and the *New York Daily News*, all of whom blacked out the incident.

Although Koch publicly disclaims any union-busting intentions, the facts of the incident speak for themselves.

Koch had been invited to speak on the Barry Gray radio program at WMCA radio, which was being struck by the AFL-CIO's National Association of Broadcast Employees Local 11. Local 11 executive board member Arthur Kent informed the mayor's office that his appearance on the program would require his crossing a picket line.

When Koch's office refused to promise that the mayor would honor the picketers, Kent called a press conference, to take place just before the mayor's arrival.

After the press conference broke up, reporters were invited to City Hall by mayoral press aides. AP and UPI have sent out wires on Koch's actions, but the wires were not run in any press. The liberal *Village Voice* has also refused to touch the story.

WMCA's president, Peter Straus, is formerly with the U.N.'s International Labor Organization, Voice of America, and still a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has refused to recognize Local 11 as the bargaining representative of WMCA employees.

Ramsey Clark: 'patriotism is refuge of scoundrels'

In a Jan. 10 speech before 100 radicals at the Humanities Institute of Columbia, Md., former Attorney General Ramsey Clark praised anarchism and bloodshed in the name of "freedom," and called on his audience to ensure the U.S. supports "national liberation" struggles in the Third World and avoids the "mistake" of another Vietnam in El Salvador and southern Africa. The former attorney general did not mention Iran, where he had participated in a U.S. flag-burning demonstration shortly after the Iranian seizure of the U.S. embassy.

Clark emphasized three themes in his speech: that supranational entities, such as the World Court and United Nations, are leading to a world government; that scientific research must be contained as the premise for disarmament; and that what he termed "freedom" supercedes sovereignty.

"Culture is the lord of everything and freedom means cultural freedom." Clark then quoted 19th-century terrorist Nicolai Bukarin, and elaborated: "When survival becomes the issue, [then] democracy is too slow. . . . Freedom takes blood, as in the Reign of Terror" in the French Revolution.

When asked by a representative of the National Democratic Policy Committee why his actions in Teheran should not be considered treasonous, Clark replied, "I would have been proud to have led the demonstration . . . although I cannot claim to have led it. . . . The Iranian revolution . . . is very nonviolent." Clark's composure ultimately cracked and he shouted out (quoting Tory Samuel Johnson) "Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels!"

Briefly

● **ANTI-VOLCKER** resolutions are expected to be introduced shortly in the state legislatures of Connecticut, Arizona, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin.

● **CHARLES T. MAIN** International, Inc. filed motions in Boston federal court Feb. 6 for a temporary restraining order and permanent injunction against further transfer of assets to Iran. The engineering firm is "challenging the constitutional validity" of the asset move, saying it voids due process and constitutional "equal protection." In a suit brought by H. Ross Perot, the judge ruled that Carter's executive action to unfreeze assets was questionable, since he was not President when the hostages were freed.

● **ROBERT KUPPERMAN**, the head of the Reagan administration's transition team on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is being touted as a likely replacement for Anthony Quainton at the State Department's Office for Combatting Terrorism. Based at Georgetown's Center for Strategic Studies, Kupperman is an expert on terrorist "crisis management."

● **EDWARD KOCH**, New York's mayor, in a meeting with President Reagan Feb. 3, not only supported the idea of a subminimum wage for youth, which labor leaders have warned would lower wage levels overall, but offered New York City as a prime target area for trying out the idea. Koch also suggested it be tried in nine other cities. Los Angeles Mayor Thomas Bradley also volunteered his city for the program. Gary, Indiana Mayor Richard Hatcher, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, opposed the whole idea of lowering wages for youth, warning that it would lead employers to throw adults out of work in favor of youth.