

National News

Reopen TMI says business, labor

On March 28, the second anniversary of the Three Mile Island nuclear incident, Pennsylvania Building Trades Council President Tom Miller issued a public statement calling for TMI's reopening. Miller cited estimates that the loss of power from the shutdown of Unit 1 is costing Pennsylvanians \$14 million per month in higher utility costs.

Miller's statement was issued as a rally by environmentalists to keep the unit closed fizzled, largely because of strong pronuclear stands by labor and business representatives. Earlier in the week, the head of the building trades division of the AFL-CIO, Robert Georgine, had said that the antinuclear rally had no labor backing. Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce head Robert Hibbard reported that continued closure of Unit 1, which was uninvolved in the accident two years ago, may "result in the bankruptcy of Metropolitan Edison," and cause "dramatic increases in the cost of electricity" for Pennsylvania and New Jersey residents dependent on Met Ed's power grid.

Mineworkers reject negotiated pact

Striking members of the United Mine-workers (UMW) voted by a two-to-one margin this week to reject a tentative pact with Bituminous Coal Operators Association. Union officials warned that the strike, which began March 27, could become the longest in U.S. history because the coal-owning oil multinationals see no interest in settling.

Only a week ago, UMW officials were optimistic about passage of the pact. They underestimated the ability of the media and various agitators to create a stampede against the contract. When UMW president Sam Church went to the coal fields to sell the pact, he was greeted

by suspiciously well orchestrated demonstrations, which were in turn prominently covered by the media. According to sources, Church and his backers were destabilized by this hostile environment and placed on the defensive.

The agitators, many linked to networks associated with the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies, focused on the volatile issue of the security of union pension funds and the mining of non-union coal.

Union officials say they are worried that coal-owning oil multinationals, acting through Bobby Brown of Continental Oil's Consolidation Coal, will now try to pin the strike on the union. From the beginning, they have sought to shut down the mines to break the union, one UMW leader said.

McPherson endorses Global 2000

M. Peter McPherson, the Reagan administration's choice for AID director, has endorsed the Global 2000 report which calls for reduction of the world's population by 2 billion by the year 2000. McPherson went on to stress his support for AID population reduction programs, which, he said, are "essential" to meeting the goals of that report.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 1 McPherson said, "In the past year public awareness of our interdependence has been highlighted by the President's Hunger Commission, the Brandt Commission, and the Global 2000 study. The Global 2000 report in particular presents a sobering picture of large-scale interrelated problems caused by population growth, energy scarcity, forest destruction with attendant soil and atmospheric effects, and pressure on food production capacity."

McPherson went on to discuss the problems the energy price rise has caused the Third World. "AID is therefore giving increased emphasis to the development and diffusion of alternative rural energy sources," he said, "such as biogas

and minihydro as well as more efficient energy conversion devices, such as wood-burning stoves.

"Rapid population growth in developing countries exacerbates food, environment, and energy problems. As the largest donor for international population programs, the United States has played an important role in bringing decreased population growth rates."

FEC goes after Iran hostages

Citing a provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act that is designed to curb congressional bribery, the Federal Election Commission announced March 26 that the former American hostages must report income accrued from publishing their Iranian experiences, and could be subjected to FEC ceilings.

The former hostages have already been unconditionally barred, through the agreement the Carter administration negotiated with the Khomeini government for their release, from suing the Iranians for damages. Since the Carter administration's complicity in the hostage seizure is already widespread knowledge, the FEC's further crimp on the hostages' ability to publicly discuss their experiences represents a heavy-handed effort to shut them up.

According to the FEC, since the hostages are government employees, FEC provisions apply to them.

Birchers in dirty tricks against EIR?

Victims of a possibly illegal operation by the John Birch Society have come forward with evidence that the society may have targeted *Executive Intelligence Review* with slander, attempts to disrupt business, and encouragement of credit card scams. A spokesman for victims of the Birchers' activities revealed, "What we've found is that our customers are being told by representatives of the soci-

ety to cancel legitimate credit card purchases. We think that's illegal and in restraint of trade, and we're looking to see what other businesses might be victims." According to the source, Gary Handy of the Birch national headquarters in Belmont, Mass. told an *EIR* subscriber "The editor of our magazine, the *Review of the News*, referred to [*EIR* founder] LaRouche people as a communist sect. . . .

"What I would do is I would drop a letter to Master Charge telling them that you don't want to pay, that you feel there was misrepresentation on the part of the people who solicited the funds, and send a copy of the letter to the *Executive Intelligence* people. Just tell them you are cancelling your subscription."

A spokesman for *EIR*, informed of Handy's remarks, said, "This kind of thing goes further than their usual under-the-bed propaganda. We view this as possible suggestion for misrepresentation by credit card users. The Birchers are even more suspicious than loony," the spokesman continued. "After all, they got their start by attacking Eisenhower as a communist. In a word, this is a British intelligence-run, anti-American operation."

Wanniski turns supply-side up

Jude Wanniski, supply-sider and brave crusader against the Trilateral Commission, responded to criticism from Hobart Rowan in the *Washington Post* with a letter to the editor.

Mr. Wanniski says, "Mr. Rowan misunderstands my position and thus unwittingly misrepresents it. I am not only an internationalist, but also a believer in eventual world government. . . .

"Mr. Rowan suggests that I have an irrational fear of the Trilateral Commission, which I have wrapped around my 'conspiracy theory.' Actually, I have the highest regard for the members of the Trilateral Commission, but I believe that they jointly become a destructive force simply because their common ideas have

developed in a demand-side framework. If David Rockefeller continues to shift his views to the supply-side, a process under way for a year or so, the Trilateralists can become a powerful force for global prosperity."

Regan grilled on FBI failures

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, under whose jurisdiction the Secret Service falls, testified before the House Appropriations subcommittee April 2 that he didn't "know why" the FBI failed to inform the Secret Service that John Hinckley, Jr. had been arrested while trying to carry .22 caliber guns onto a plane from Nashville, Tennessee to New York last year at the same time President Carter was also going from Nashville to New York. "On hindsight," said Regan "it looks like it should have been [reported]. The FBI apparently thought it wasn't necessary. We still don't have a complete answer as to why Mr. Hinckley's previous arrest was not known to the Secret Service. We have to wait for a more complete answer."

Eldon Rudd (R-Ariz.), a former FBI agent, expressed his concern about the domestic security guidelines established by former Attorney General Edward Levi, stating that the federal government has been restricted in its ability to monitor groups who pose potential security threats. Rudd stressed that the Secret Service depends on the FBI for its intelligence. Regan replied that he intends to review the guidelines with Attorney General Smith.

Regan assured subcommittee chairman Edward Roybal (D-Calif.) that he is ordering a total departmental review of everyone involved in the incident.

According to the Warren Commission report on the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy, the FBI's lack of such protective cooperation is a known quantity. The Bureau had 18 years ago neglected to inform the Secret Service of their knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities.

Briefly

● **JIM BAKER**, White House chief of staff reportedly has requested that his staff do a review of "who did what when" in the administration during the period immediately following the attempted assassination of President Reagan.

● **PERHAPS** the lesson of Monday's assassination attempt will provoke the Congress and Department of Justice to bend the branch back in the proper direction. Persons and organizations who advocate terrorism or toleration for terrorist groups ought to be defined as providing probable cause for surveillance of their activities and associations by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies," writes *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche in the latest bulletin of the National Democratic Policy Committee.

● **DONALD REGAN** told House Appropriations subcommittee April 2 that he does not expect U.S. interest rates to really come down before 1982.

● **GLOBAL 2000** reports are being planned for 20 to 30 states. The idea, said one person associated with the effort, is to "think globally but act locally."

● **JEAN CHRETIEN**, Canadian Justice minister, reportedly approves of the decriminalization of drugs, threatening the U.S. with a massive flow of illegal drugs from the north.

● **DEEP GOAT**, a Washington source, tells *EIR* that after Alexander Haig was assigned to Henry Kissinger in 1973 the secretary of state had to post an armed guard at his desk every time he felt the call of nature. Otherwise, said Deep Goat, "by the time he got back, he would find Haig there holding a press conference to announce that he was 'in control.'"