

## Richard Burt politically wounded in Senate vote

by Warren J. Hamerman

Richard Burt, after barely surviving one of the messiest Senate confirmation processes on record, which both “anti” and “pro” Burt Senators alike acknowledged on the Senate floor as having catalyzed the most “unprecedented” transatlantic telephone campaign in Senate history against the candidate, is now off to Bonn, West Germany. Since the West German news media widely reported the repeated delays in the Burt nomination and the tidal wave of opposition to the candidate, Burt arrives in West Germany as the only U.S. ambassador to a major ally in history, who begins his assignment wearing the dubious mantle of the ambassador whom all the principal senior defense spokesmen and patriotic senators of both U.S. political parties voted against.

In the mid-afternoon of July 16, ten U.S. senators, including all of the U.S. Senate’s “wise old men” from both the Republican and Democratic parties on defense and alliance questions, cast their vote against the Burt appointment, two voted merely “present” and 88 senators voted for Burt. The senators from President Reagan’s party who voted against the George Shultz appointment of Burt were Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), John East (R-N.C.), James McClure (R-Idaho), Steve Symms (R-Idaho), Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), and Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.). The three senior Democrats who voted against Burt were Edward Zorinsky (D-Nebr.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who dramatically reversed his previous committee vote for Burt to vote against the candidate before the full Senate body, the distinguished John Stennis (D-Miss.), and Howell Heflin (D-Ala.).

As the documents contained in this package detail, de-

spite the capitulation and cowardice of the 88 senators who voted for a *self-imposed Pearl Harbor*, many of whom had received urgent appeals to reject Burt from dozens of high-ranking military and political figures in West Germany and other European countries as well as from around the United States, a significant bipartisan resistance of ten senators to Burt emerged. The ten patriotic senators voted against Burt despite massive and repeated pressures from Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) to drop all opposition and acclaim Burt ambassador through a “unanimous consent voice vote.”

The Burt hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee already had raised significant questions about Burt’s history in compromising U.S. national security interests. In his Senate speech against Burt, Jesse Helms made the very accurate assessment that Burt adhered to the foreign policy and “arms control philosophy of the Carter administration.” Indeed, it is widely believed in the intelligence community, in fact, that the only reason Burt had not been prosecuted for leaking U.S. security secrets on “Project Chalet” when he was a *New York Times* reporter was because the source of the leaks was none other than his mentor and protector, then Jimmy Carter’s National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski. During the hearings, the CIA was caught red-handed in a clumsy attempt to prepare Burt’s alibis to certain sensitive questions.

In late June, Burt, frustrated over the repeated delays in



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*A citizens' mobilization in Washington and a transatlantic telephone campaign dealt an unexpected setback to the promoters of Richard Burt.*

his nomination, had to cancel what was intended to be a high-profile European inaugural tour at the side of Vice-President Bush. After several days of frantic delays, Burt was assured that his nomination was "guaranteed" before the Fourth of July recess, so an over-confident Burt flew off to Brussels the last day before the recess, to be announced as new ambassador by NATO Secretary Lord Carrington the next morning.

Burt had massively miscalculated the opposition. While his plane was in the air over the Atlantic, nine Senators (Helms, McClure, Symms, Hawkins (R-Fla.), McConnell (R-Ky.), Hecht (R-Nev.), Gramm (R-Tex.), Thurmond (R-S.C.), and Hatch (R-Utah) placed a formal "hold" on the nomination until after the recess. A stunned Burt had to land in Europe quietly and slither back to the United States.

When the Senate reconvened on July 15, an overconfident Bob Dole tried to railroad through the Burt nomination in a special Senate procedure known as "executive session," a maneuver which would make Joe Stalin blush. With the huge Senate amphitheatre, capable of seating hundreds, totally empty, but for three men—a token Senator at the front of the room "presiding," and Senator Lugar (a former high-ranking military intelligence briefing officer) representing the entire Republican Party, and Claiborne Pell (a top Anglophile member of the Royal Institute for International Affairs and the Ditchley Group) speaking for the Democrats—the Burt nomination was again "guaranteed" to be rammed through. In a shocking procedure the executive session introduced and called for voice vote "unanimous consent" for all four State Department nominees then pending, and dared any opposition to come out onto the floor and stop their maneuver.

Their deed done, they brazenly left the chamber. At least twice over the next three hours a new team of the "executive session" marched into the otherwise still chamber. Another token Senator was propped at the front of the room "presiding," while Majority Leader Dole and Minority Leader Byrd (D-W.Va.) strutted into the amphitheater. Their message each time was the same: Dole announced that it was his understanding that certain Senators wished to make statements against Burt or other nominees and he demanded that they do so quickly, so that the Senate could then bury their mere protests under a "unanimous consent voice vote."

In fact, highly reliable sources report that Vice-President George Bush was giving the orders to avoid a "roll call vote" at all costs because then it would be evident that all of the senior defense spokesmen of both parties refused to vote for Burt on national security grounds. Even senior staff of Senators were stunned that the opposition led by Senators Goldwater and Helms came onto the Senate floor at 4:30 in the afternoon and successfully resisted the "executive session" unanimous consent railroad and forced a delay until the July 16 full roll-call vote.

What was the force behind the derailment of the July 15 executive session? Goldwater dramatically stated: "I have received, and this is something that has never happened to me in the 30-odd years I have served in this body, as of maybe a half hour ago, 26 telephone calls from Germany saying that they oppose the appointment of Mr. Burt to be ambassador. As I say, that has never happened before."

The next day, when the badly tarnished Burt was finally handed his pyrrhic victory, Senator Lugar himself, the tacti-

cal operations officer for the pro-Burt forces, acknowledged at the beginning of the official roll call vote: "I would be remiss, Mr. President [of the Senate], if I did not make mention of a concerted telephone campaign undertaken recently to oppose Mr. Burt's nomination. . . ." Lugar defensively tried to dismiss the campaign as coming from individuals with "questionable" motives and credibility. Avoiding the documented charges against Burt and unable to deal with the fact that he knew that an unprecedented bipartisan group

of senior senators was about to vote against Burt, Lugar tried to explain away the embarrassment to Burt with words once used by the defenders of Benedict Arnold: "Unsubstantiated innuendo has no place in our deliberative process."

U.S. senators are not supposed to acknowledge that the pressure is becoming intolerable on them. But, then again, neither are U.S. ambassadors supposed to be sent off to assignment to an ally at the cost of publicly impeaching the man's loyalties.

## LaRouche hails patriotic senators who rejected Burt

*Former Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in a new release issued on July 16, praised the actions of the 10 patriotic Republican and Democratic senators, who refused to endorse Richard Burt's appointment as U.S. ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany:*

Although the Burt nomination was rammed through the Senate, the condemnation of Burt by these 10 concerned senators will serve as a check on Burt's efforts to collaborate with his Social Democratic cronies. Had these 10 senators not fought this terrible nomination, Burt could have

tage the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), and to assist in toppling the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Now, both Burt and his sponsor, Secretary George Shultz, must watch their steps.

The second, more general accomplishment of those who resisted the Burt appointment, is that for the first time since 1981, a cross-aisle coalition of pro-defense Republicans and Democrats has been established. Equally important, these senators have reactivated renewed and close cooperation among the leading patriots within the Atlantic Alliance. This reflects the fact that the majority of U.S. citizens have been dismayed by the U.S. government's concessions to the Soviet and Syrian authors of the TWA skyjacking. The Senate opposition to Burt reflects the fact that Burt himself typifies the "Neville Chamberlain" tendency in our diplomatic service responsible for the back-down to Moscow and Damascus. By resisting Burt as they did, and because both Republican and Democratic senators joined in resisting Burt, more and more U.S. citizens have found a rallying-point around which to organize the growing mood of hostility to the pattern of U.S. strategic retreats before Soviet-steered aggression.

Had there been no vigorous resistance to the Burt appointment, our allies in Europe would have been totally demoralized. It would have been an easy matter, then, to topple the Kohl government, and to bring Soviet-leaning Willy Brandt's Social Democrats to power in that country. If that had occurred, without vigorous resistance from within the Senate, a Social Democratic government in Germany would have more or less easily proceeded to pull Germany out of its U.S. alliance, as Burt's Social Democratic cronies have promised to do. The vigorous resistance within the Senate has substantially ruined Burt's credibility as Bonn ambassador, to a degree which may enable us to save the U.S. alliance with Germany.

It is true, that the patriots of the United States and Germany have suffered a defeat. The important thing, is that we patriots have not been routed. At last, we have begun to fight back. Now, where 10 patriots fought boldly this week, there will be more who rally to the cause over the coming weeks and months.

Senator Lugar, whose background in intelligence services removes all excuses for his behavior today, said that there was no substance to the charges against Burt. Lugar's assertion was completely false; the evidence of Burt's leaking of U.S. strategic secrets, his cronyism with Soviet-leaning Social Democrats, and his commitments to sabotage the Strategic Defense Initiative, are all a matter of public record. Lugar will now be watched closely, as a man who has conspicuously discredited himself before his colleagues.

The most important features of the resistance to the Burt appointment, were: 1) that the facts on which the resistance was based, were completely accurate; 2) that those opponents of Burt showed firmness and courage in face of massive pressures; and 3) that the resistance came jointly from patriotic Republicans and Democrats, in the tradition of bipartisanship on principled issues of national defense. By these actions, a new rallying-point has been established both within the United States and the Atlantic Alliance. We may now begin to hope, that the time in which the policies of "Neville Chamberlain" rule our government may be near its end.