

Editorial

'Soviet dupes' in Congress?

In an interview with the *Washington Times* in late September, President Reagan made certain remarks which strongly suggested that he believes that numerous congressmen act under considerable Soviet influence. The following day, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, asked by the press to confirm whether the President really believes this to be the case, answered emphatically: "Absolutely!"

Two issues are involved here. First, the allegation against Congress; second, the President's own complaint.

That such allegations should be made against Congress, both House of Representatives and Senate, is quite understandable. In fact, given the behavior of the majority of congressional members, these allegations are probably true. However, given his own record in supporting an Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty and a summit with Gorbachov, President Reagan is not the right person to complain about this.

The Senate as well as the House have voted a number of measures which, if not rescinded or vetoed by the President, will seriously jeopardize the existence of this republic and of the Western world.

Such measures include a resolution calling for withdrawal of the naval forces of the United States from the Persian Gulf; an action to terminate all United States aid to Pakistan at a time when that nation is under threat of dismemberment from the Soviet Union; one treasonous amendment requiring the U.S.A. to return to the strategic arms limits of the unratified, expired, invalid, and discarded SALT Treaty, and another treasonous amendment imposing the so-called "narrow," i.e., Soviet interpretation of the 1972 ABM Treaty.

And a defense budget which, though inadequate, is also targeted for further future "automatic reductions," according to the Gramm-Rudman legislation.

The height of treachery was reached when the United States Senate voted these last three measures on the same day during which the Soviet military command engaged in one of its most provocative actions in the

entire postwar era: On that day, Thursday, Oct. 1, the Soviet Union test fired an intercontinental ballistic missile over United States territory, specifically over the state of Hawaii. The fact that this was the first time ever in history that one superpower fired one of its intercontinental missiles over the territory of the other, was provocation number-one; the fact that it was a brand-new type of intercontinental missile, dubbed TT-09, not allowed by the SALT agreement, is provocation number-two.

Then, we have a third, more astounding fact which constitutes provocation number-three: A Soviet ship, near the area of the missile's splashdown, flashed a laser weapon against the pilot and the telemetry equipment of a U.S. Air Force aircraft that was monitoring the Soviet missile's test flight.

The pilot was temporarily blinded and the telemetry equipment, presumably failed to monitor the Soviet test—also in violation of the SALT Treaty.

Under ordinary circumstances, these Soviet acts would have caused the American President to go on national television, inform the American people of the gravity of the Soviet provocations, and suspend all contacts with Russia, cancelling also all arms control negotiations. Instead, the Reagan White House announced that it issued new instructions to its negotiating team in Geneva, to expedite the drafting of the final text of the INF Treaty, aiming at completion before Secretary of State Shultz arrives in Moscow Oct. 22. The previous target date for completing the draft was "before the Reagan-Gorbachov summit in late November."

No amount of righteous indignation from the Reagan administration will conceal the fact that these Senate votes have been made possible only after President Reagan, with his "agreement-in-principle" to abandon the alliance with Europe over the INF Treaty, demonstrated to Congress that he, too, can out-bid them in selling out our strategic interests for the sake of cheap popularity, a Nobel Peace Prize, and a chance of perceived Republican electoral gains.