

man Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.), has called the McCormack act "a lot of baloney on a piece of paper" (see below). "Just because they authorized the money doesn't mean we have to ask for it if we don't want to," Khedouri muttered.

It would be ironic if President Reagan, who in his April 28 speech before Congress pointed to the Shuttle as an inspiration "to reach beyond the commonplace and not fall short for lack of creativity or courage," should allow his science policy to continue to be determined by voices such as these.

*The following interview with Fred Khedouri, the Assistant Director of OMB for Energy, Science, & Technology, was made available to EIR by an investigative reporter.*

**Q:** I understand that the purpose of the budget cuts is to stimulate the economy. The other day Senator Heflin [D-Ala.] quoted Chase Econometrics as saying that every dollar spent on NASA has produced a \$7 return in economic growth. Wouldn't it be more consistent with the recovery goal to expand NASA's funding, instead of cutting it?

**A:** Using that logic, you might as well put the whole budget into NASA. There is a limit.

**Q:** But in light of the success of the Shuttle, hasn't there been any move to reconsider and restore the NASA cuts?

**A:** The Shuttle is adequately funded. We didn't cut anything from that.

**Q:** Not from development, perhaps, but how about for operations? There are many people who want to use the Shuttle to build space stations, and other missions.

**A:** Look, the fact that the Shuttle flew once and landed is meaningless. Working once is one thing, but the real test will be when we see if the Shuttle works thirty, forty or fifty times. You have to get a sense of what the refurbishment costs will be, which can only come after many, many test missions, before we start any big projects using the Shuttle. So we'll just have to wait.

**Q:** What about the cuts you've made in future energy supplies like fusion?

**A:** We only did minor reductions in fusion.

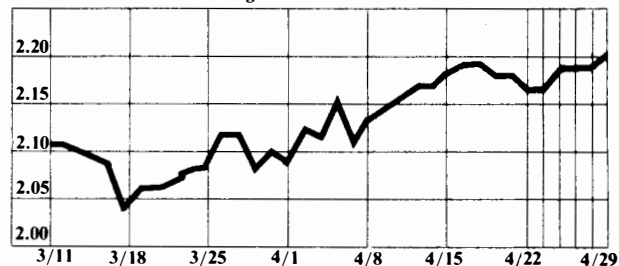
**Q:** But wasn't there a bill passed last year that mandated an increase in fusion funding?

**A:** You mean that McCormack bill? Well just because they authorized the money doesn't mean we have to ask for it if we don't want to. That bill was one of these Mike McCormack things where you put a lot of baloney on a piece of paper and expect it to translate into breakthroughs. That bill was useless. It didn't add a thing to our knowledge.

## Currency Rates

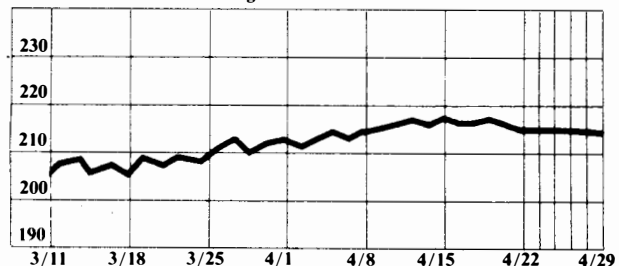
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



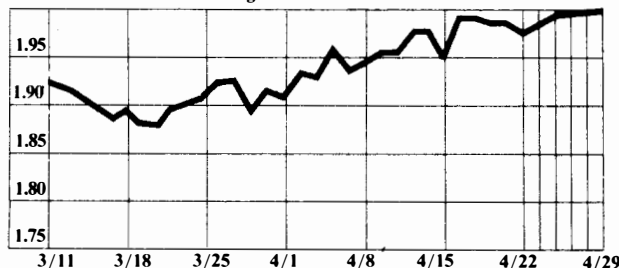
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

