

National News

How to liberally ax Social Security

Jack Ossofsky, executive director of the liberal National Council on the Aging told a Washington, D.C. press breakfast May 28 that the administration's Social Security cuts "would cut benefits too deeply, too quickly, and for too many Americans. We do not believe that every benefit should be preserved exactly as it now stands, for every beneficiary actual or potential," he stated.

Asked what specific cuts he thought should be made instead of the Stockman program, Ossofsky suggested that the Social Security benefits cost-of-living escalator could be tied to wage increases rather than the Consumer Price Index. Currently wage boosts lag 25 percent behind price rises, and are falling continuously further behind. If present inflation and wage conditions continue, Ossofsky's plan to index Social Security to wages could cut benefits by 25 percent in four years—far more than even Stockman's cuts announced May 12.

Ossofsky was formerly the research director of the social-democratic District 65 of the retail workers union in New York City.

Building Trades: keep Davis-Bacon

Robert Georgine, AFL-CIO Building Trades Council president, has published statements in several newspapers to emphasize the importance of keeping the Davis-Bacon Act intact. The legislation, which mandates that federal construction projects pay the prevailing wage, is now under attack by congressmen and a faction of the Reagan administration.

In a *Baltimore Sun* op-ed, Georgine declared that before Davis-Bacon, conditions "allowed unscrupulous contractors to pit worker against worker." He emphasized that the law not only protects workers, but also "contractors who are

committed to upholding the labor standards of the local community. Davis-Bacon gives these local fair contractors an equal chance to compete for government contracts," he said.

Georgine denied that Davis-Bacon had inflated construction costs and noted that workers' wages have risen only 6 percent per year while materials and interest rates have gone up much more.

In a letter to the *New York Times*, Georgine emphasized that the Davis-Bacon Act is important for maintaining craftsmanship. "While it might cost the taxpayer a bit more to hire a skilled union craftsman," quality is assured, where a cheaper wage may result in sloppy workmanship, at the expense of later problems developing in the building itself.

Defense journal supports fusion development

The *Defense and Foreign Affairs Daily*, a newspaper widely read in defense and industrial circles, devoted a full page May 20 to a discussion of fusion power development in the United States featuring the Fusion Energy Foundation research director, Uwe Parpart, and nuclear physicist Dr. Edward Teller. The article, written by John Sanders, focused on the efforts by the FEF and by Teller to ensure that the Reagan administration's budget cuts do not impinge on fusion power development.

"One criticism being directed at the administration," Sanders writes, "is that the proposed cuts will reduce government support for a number of high-technology programs which have the potential to ease U.S. energy and national security problems, as well as strategic resource shortages."

Fusion proponents such as Uwe Parpart, Sanders continues, "argue that this technology is more than just a more complicated way of producing electricity; by producing extremely high temperatures very cheaply, fusion can improve the entire industrial base."

The article also discusses Teller's argument that fusion will have major mili-

tary implications as well, and warns that the Reagan budget does not live up to the funding mandated by the 1980 McCormack fusion bill.

Haig going to China to seal alliance

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will visit Peking this July to put the finishing touches on a long-sought plan to forge an alliance between the U.S. and Communist China. The State Department has been unable to realize the Carter administration's proposal for a direct military alliance with Peking, due to opposition from President Reagan. Instead, it has settled for a Global 2000 alliance based on mutual support for Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, and the dictatorship of Gen. Ziaul Haq in Pakistan.

On June 12, State Department adviser James Buckley will go to Pakistan to work out the details of the \$2.5 billion military and economic aid package promised by the U.S. In coordination with Buckley's efforts, an exchange of military delegations between Pakistan and China has been capped by the recent visit of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang to Pakistan, where he pledged his full support for Zia's dictatorship.

Haig, during his July visit to the Far East, will also stop over in Manila to pressure ASEAN foreign ministers meeting there to support the Chinese-U.S. State Department scheme to bring Pol Pot back into power in Cambodia under the guise of a "united front." In preparation for this, China and her ASEAN asset, Thailand, have held a series of military consultations. In addition, Thailand is threatening to close her borders to Cambodian refugees fleeing the remnants of Pol Pot troops that still roam the countryside, looting and burning.

As was made clear at the Trilateral Commission's meeting in Peking in May, the Chinese and their State Department allies are intent on overcoming President Reagan's aversion to any alliance with Peking. The Chinese recently invited presidential advisers Edwin Meese,

James Baker, Richard Allen and Michael Deaver to dinner to try to win them over. They have also used the recent death of Sun Yat-sen's widow, Soong Ching-ling, to make a public show of extending the olive branch to the Nationalist government on Taiwan.

Further, the Chinese have deliberately leaked the existence of a factional dispute inside the politburo pitting the "pro-American" Dengists against the faction that favors balancing relations with both the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The German daily *Die Zeit* reported June 3 that the Chinese have made it known that unless the Dengist faction prevails, their power could be weakened in favor of the less anti-Soviet faction.

N.Y. Times exposed in another fraud

The *New York Times* has been caught lying again—this time in the syndication of a scam story on Poland that is being denounced internationally as a lie.

Harley Lippman, the director of the Jewish Labor Committee in Boston, Mass., took a lengthy trip to Poland earlier this year, posing as a freelance journalist. He came back to write an unbelievable story—syndicated by the *Times*—about his days with Lech Walesa, claiming that he spent every waking hour with the Solidarity leader and stayed in Walesa's house. Lippman also related that he was taken blindfolded to a barn outside Warsaw where Polish paratroopers told him that they would fight the Russians to their death if they invaded Poland.

Solidarity spokesmen have denied Lippman's story altogether.

Just as the *New York Times* denied that Adolf Hitler once worked for them, the *Times* now claims that Lippman acted on his own, that their editorial board did not read the story they published, and that the newspapers that had originally published it (including the *Times* of London) put a *New York Times* copy-right on the story by mistake.

Boston getting set up for Big MAC treatment

With Proposition 2½ taking effect in July to cause a 15 percent reduction in city property-tax revenues, Boston is being set up for crippling service cuts, layoffs and possible social chaos. Mayor Kevin White has announced that the city will end the fiscal year June 30 with at least a \$65-\$75 million deficit, largely due to a court ruling forcing the city to reimburse several real-estate operators over \$100 million in "overpaid" taxes.

Thus, police and fire departments slated for a 25 percent cutback will now be reduced by 40 percent, as dictated to Mayor White by "The Vault," an elite group of Boston's businessmen. In addition, White has come out with a proposal to establish a "volunteer" force of non-union city workers who will work an unpaid sixth day to "serve the community"—a precedent for union busting and "payless paydays."

As Prop 2½ cuts local revenues by \$500 million, Boston and the rest of the state are squabbling over the dwindling revenue pie. If the state budget passes in its current form, there will be almost no new state aid or revenue sharing to take up the slack. State Rep. William Galvin, a liberal, among others, is pushing for an emergency finance board modeled on New York's MAC to dictate budget cuts for Boston—and to enforce them.

With the resulting austerity and economic dislocation, the possibility of racial tension is increased. But the austerity-mongers have an answer for that, too. The Boston Committee, an organization of business and community leaders ostensibly concerned with reducing racial tensions, has been set up, headed by Frank Jones, who chaired the President's commission that investigated the Miami riots.

The Committee is connected to the Justice Department's Community Relations Service, which, as *EIR* has reported, has been instrumental in fomenting racial tension in U.S. cities, rather than defusing it.

Briefly

● **ROBERT MCNAMARA**, outgoing president of the World Bank, wrote an obituary for Barbara Ward, Lady Jackson, the international environmentalist/economist who died last week. Wrote the "body count" Kennedy-Johnson defense secretary, "She was always deeply concerned about the consequences of the population explosion, and when I consulted her in my early days at the World Bank, she urged me, against a lot of contrary advice, to speak publicly about the issue."

● **THE NUCLEAR** Regulatory Commission and the Mexican National Commission for Nuclear Safety and Safeguards (CNSNS) have agreed to an exchange of technical information and the NRC has agreed to train, on request, CNSNS personnel.

● **DAVID SAWYER**, campaign consultant for Ted Kennedy, is now advising Israeli Labour Party candidate Shimon Peres. Sawyer was introduced to Peres through Edgar Bronfman. Menachem Begin's campaign man is David Garth, veteran puffer of John Anderson, Hugh Carey, and Ed Koch.

● **FRANK RIZZO** of Philadelphia is rumored to be planning to run for his old mayoral job, this time, as a Republican.

● **JACK KEMP** was a little startled last week when *EIR* Capitol Hill correspondent Susan Kokinda showed him the cover of the June 2 *EIR* featuring an analysis of his tax bill. "Look at this," he shouted outside his press conference announcing introduction of his enterprise zone legislation, "LaRouche tackles Kemp-Roth." The picture shows the old quarterback being trampled by an opposing lineman. Then he became annoyed: "You can always tell a man by his enemies." "No, Jack," said Mrs. Kokinda, "you can always tell a man by his friends."