

National News

Michigan court: nuclear a national question

The Michigan Supreme Court, which two months ago lifted the stay environmentalist Michigan Attorney General Kelley had placed on the nuclear construction bonds of Detroit Edison and Consumer Power plants, has issued its formal decision in the matter: state agencies have no right to interfere with the construction of nuclear plants.

The Supreme Court in its late-January decision went beyond the position of the utilities that the Michigan Public Service Commission was the only agency that had discretion in the area of energy facilities, and modeled its decision following the argument outlined in the *amicus curiae* brief submitted by Fusion Energy Foundation Attorney Max Dean—that energy development is a national question.

The court ruled that Michigan Public Service Commission had no discretion in the area of whether energy facilities are needed, or what type of power facilities should be built, and that no other state agency had such discretion either.

Behind the Greenpeace nuclear plant attack

The international ecology group Greenpeace ran a mock attack on the Zion nuclear power plant of Commonwealth Edison north of Chicago Jan. 27, setting off flares and launching a small rocket into the plant grounds. The Vancouver, Canada- and British-based Greenpeace operation, known for staging confrontations in the name of protecting wildlife, sent taped threats to media in the Chicago area after the incident, threatening to “attack for real next time.”

The most elite and intelligence-connected of the U.S. anti-nuclear organizations, the Union of Concerned Scientists (spawned by MIT and Rand Cor-

poration), organized “peace demonstrations” on several American campuses in September. UCS was attempting to feed the European “pacifist direct action” model, a thin cover for terrorist attacks and mob violence, into U.S. campuses and revive the moribund environmentalist movement here. The tiny but very well-funded Greenpeace group is closely deployed by the World Wildlife Fund.

Nuclear industry makes credit proposal

Representatives of the nation’s nuclear industry met in Washington Feb. 3 with Vice-President Bush, Energy Secretary Edwards, and Commerce Secretary Baldrige. Led by TVA Chairman Charles H. Dean, Jr., the eight utility representatives and three nuclear-construction firms proposed a \$50 billion pool of low-interest loans for nuclear construction, to be raised by a National Nuclear Energy Pool, backed by a Federal Nuclear Financing Bank.

The proposal envisions “assuring the supply of capital needed to complete plants now started and past some specified stage of construction,” totaling 20 gigawatts, or in other words, *less than a third* of the capacity currently planned or under construction. This 20 gigawatts under National Nuclear Energy Pool control would “form a reliable source of power . . . and be available in a national emergency.”

Contrary to the impression given by the Washington press, industry sources told *EIR* that the meeting was one of several on nuclear policy arranged by the Reagan administration through Science Adviser George Keyworth, rather than an industry “visit” to the administration. Other companies represented included Duke Power, North Carolina Power and Light, Commonwealth Edison (Chicago), Edison Electric Institute, GE, Westinghouse, Combustion Engineering, and “two Wall Street investment firms.”

A spokesman for the Fusion Energy Foundation commented: “The difference

between 150 gigawatts of new nuclear capacity, and 20 gigawatts, between now and 1990, is the difference between economic recovery, and economic collapse. The principle of low-interest productive credit for nuclear construction, now recognized by the industry, must *not* be selective—it should be applied to productive industry and agriculture across the board.”

NDPC Fact-Finders press for Berkeley probe

National Democratic Policy Committee Fact-Finding Division spokesmen Khushro Gandhi and Brian Lantz presented an NDPC call for re-opening the mid-1970s probe into the University of California at Berkeley Criminology Department to 10 media at two press conferences in Oakland and Sacramento on Feb. 1, and subsequently met with an Assistant District Attorney for Alameda County.

The assistant to Attorney General Deukmejian and reporters in attendance were also presented with a 50-page dossier documenting evidence of the connections of the university’s Criminology Department to international terrorism, drug, and gun-running. The *Oakland Tribune* and the Oakland CBS-TV affiliate covered the story on Feb. 2.

Most notably, Giovanni Senzani, Italian “criminologist” and terrorist collaborator whose recent arrest by Italian authorities helped lead to NATO General James Dozier’s rescue, is a product of the Berkeley program, the NDPC documents. Probes by federal and state agencies in the 1970s led to the formal dismantling of the Criminology Department, but for all intents and purposes, it was merely merged with the university’s Sociology Department.

The Oakland assistant DA asked the NDPC spokesmen for information on Berkeley faculty member Tony Platt, discussed in the NDPC dossier. Sacramento press representatives anxiously queried if either the U.S. or Italian governments or

intelligence agencies had requested the NDPC to press for this investigation.

\$3 billion in water projects de-authorized

Ten Army Corps of Engineers water projects worth \$3 billion were summarily de-authorized by Congress in the closing days of the last session. The de-authorization bill, signed by President Reagan on Dec. 29, was pushed through the House by Rep. Floyd Fithian (D-Ind.) and through the Senate by cosponsors Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and James Abnor (R-S.D.). Environmentalist and water-resource-development opponent Brent Blackwelder of the Environmental Policy Center in Washington was instrumental in drafting the legislation.

The largest of the killed projects is a dam higher than Egypt's Aswan which was to have been built on the St. John River in northern Maine. Illinois will lose two reservoirs and a duplicate lock on the Illinois River Waterway, a waterway critical for Midwestern industry and agriculture. The Illinois projects were authorized in 1962.

Water conferences slated for eight cities

The National Democratic Policy Committee will hold eight regional conferences on bringing water from Alaska in the Southwest United States, culminating in a national conference to be held in Houston, Texas Feb. 27, where NDPC Advisory Committee Chairman Lyndon LaRouche will give the keynote. The NDPC's calling for combining this project with the crash production of a nuclear power plant grid as the most efficient form of energy.

LaRouche said, "Every dollar so wisely spent will increase the production of wealth in our Western states many times over in the coming decades. Similar

flows of credit to high technology investments in agriculture and goods-producing industry can easily generate 5 to 8 million goods-producing work places, while expanding the nation's tax revenue base sufficiently to bring the federal expenditures back into balance with revenues."

The conferences will be held in Dallas, Texas Feb. 8; in Phoenix, Arizona Feb. 9; Albuquerque, New Mexico, Feb. 11; San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 16; Austin, Texas Feb. 17; Oklahoma City Feb. 18; Amarillo, Texas, Feb. 22; Lubbock, Texas Feb. 23; and Houston Feb. 27.

Congressmen balk on defense increases

The prospect of a \$100 billion-plus budget deficit has produced a charge against the defense budget on Capitol Hill, especially among Republican incumbents in the House. David Stockman and White House Chief of Staff James Baker III are encouraging the groundswell; the two have reportedly assured Senate Budget Committee Chairman Peter Domenici, who supports a cut in the fiscal 1983 defense budget, that the President will go along with it. Mr. Reagan, however, has made no such promise.

On Feb. 4, Defense Secretary Weinberger appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee to declare that "large budget deficits should not derail rearmament." At the hearings Weinberger asked for \$255 billion in defense spending for fiscal '83, a sum which alarmed the committee members. In addition, Republicans in the linchpin House Defense appropriations Committee unanimously spurned Weinberger's request, urging that defense outlays be cut by at least 10 percent.

This congressional uproar has led to a containment campaign headed by Reagan intimate Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada and Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona to reorient congressional attention toward DOD cost overruns and irresponsible defense contractors.

Briefly

● **HERNAN PADILLA**, Mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico, has severely criticized U.S. Secretary of Transportation Drew Lewis for failing to restore budget cuts and reinstate Coast Guard protection for the island. Padilla warned that his administration lacks the financial resources to provide the cut Coast Guard protection which is being eliminated, and that Puerto Rico could become a bastion for drug-running and a launching pad for terrorist operations against the United States.

● **TWO LAROCHE** Democrats have recently announced their candidacies. Mel Klenetsky is challenging Sen. Pat Moynihan for the New York Democratic senatorial nomination. Sheila Jones is running against liberal Sidney Yates in the 9th Congressional District of Chicago on the Anti-Drug Party ticket. Jones stated that she is forced to run as an independent because the Chicago Democratic machine under Jane Byrne has been corrupted by drug interests.

● **TEAMSTERS** in upstate New York have launched a statewide boycott of the Rite-Aid drugstore chain owned by GOP gubernatorial candidate Lewis Lehrman, chief spokesman on gold for anti-labor Heritage Foundation circles, following a six-month lockout against the IBT in Rome, New York and other towns. The NLRB has issued three unfair practice complaints against Lehrman's company.

● **WALTER ORR ROBERTS**, trustee of the Aspen Institute and head of the National Atmospheric Research center, told *EIR* Feb. 5 that in 50 years the Great Plains will be a dustbowl, if present trends continue. He recommends an immediate "adaptive strategy" of planting prairie grass and trees, where sheep and goats will be raised instead of wheat.