

## Congressional Closeup by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

### Space command group proposed

Declaring that "we need a fundamental new national commitment to develop such space defense systems" as directed energy weapons, Rep. Ken Kramer (R-Colo.) called on the House Armed Services Committee to back his legislation, H.R.5130, to establish an Air Force Space Command.

The proposed Command will coordinate all work on space programs in the Air Force and ultimately act as the coordinating center for the 29 fragmented government departments now dealing with space questions.

Kramer made his plea May 19 in testimony before the Committee's Investigations subcommittee which was reviewing the legislation first introduced on Dec. 7. Others who testified in support of the bill included Gen. James J. Hill, former head of NORAD, and Dr. Barry Smernoff, a consultant on space strategy for the GAO. Kramer developed his proposal after extensive discussion at the Air Force Academy and with officials at NORAD in Colorado and specialists in allied space technologies.

In his testimony Kramer called for the Command to have "behind it the full organizational resources and organizational power of a four-star billet" which could thus become a "powerful advocacy for space." Kramer motivated the need for such a high-level group to promote space defense systems with a declaration that the development of space-based defense weapons systems would have a revolutionary effect on military doctrine. As *EIR* founder Lyndon

LaRouche has stated, development of space-based anti-ICBM beam weaponry would end the threat of nuclear terror and thus would be a critical development for both the U.S. and Soviets.

"Doctrine is of such importance in determining the operational requirements for, and the ultimate funding paths toward, new space capabilities that we dare not let it evolve willy-nilly."

### Undercover FBI operations tripled over four years

Making a preliminary report to the Senate Select Committee investigating Abscam on May 26, committee counsel James Neal told the stunned Senators that FBI undercover operations between 1978 and 1981 totaled 1,192. Neal described the growth over the four-year period as follows: 176 operations in 1978; 239 in 1979; 314 in 1980; and 463 in 1981. Committee chairman Charles Mathias commented, "if you had told us that there were 500 or 600 operations of that period, it might have been expected. But neither the growth in population or in crime seems to justify that expansion."

Neal noted that there were two levels of undercover operations—those approved by the Director of the FBI, which go through an undercover operations review committee, and those approved by the Special Agent in Charge of an operation. The first category comprised 327 of the 1,192 undercover operations. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) mused that it was questionable whether the Director would

be able to stay on top of so many operations.

### 'Psychological stress' not valid bloc to nuclear plant

Senate Energy Committee Chairman James A. McClure (R-Ida.) announced May 21 that he intends to pursue the adoption of an amendment to the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) which would prohibit the consideration of "psychological stress" as a factor in environmental decision-making. McClure's action comes as a response to a May 19 U.S. Court of Appeals decision in January which ordered the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to prepare an environmental assessment of the effects of restart of the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor on the "psychological health of neighboring residents and on the well-being of the surrounding communities." The unprecedented decision ignored court rulings in similar cases that psychological factors could not be taken into account in such matters.

McClure pointed out that the "psychological environmental impact statement" mandate under an incorrect reading of NEPA, could add as much as a year and a half to the start-up of the Three Mile Island reactor. In addition, he warned, "[This] could very likely lead to a flood of psychological-stress contentions in other pending and future NRC proceedings. If the courts decision extends to other agencies as well, virtually every major construction or development project requiring federal ap-

proval—from airports, to bridges and roads to military installations—would become targets.”

## **Pell pushes 'paper tiger' drug reorganization**

Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), Congress' only card-carrying Club of Rome member, introduced the "International Narcotics Control Board Act of 1982" (S.2571) on May 25. According to Pell, his bill "will remedy the greatest single impediment to an effective international narcotics-control strategy—the lack of a single entity in the executive branch with the authority to coordinate overseas drug-enforcement activities, and to marshal the resources of agencies within four executive departments with responsibility for controlling the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States."

Pell's reorganization will create an international narcotics control board, consisting of the heads of the six agencies principally concerned with drug enforcement: the Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters, the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Director of the FBI, the Commission of the U.S. Customs Service, the commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Commission of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Board would operate on a tiny budget of \$500,000.

Sources familiar with behind-the-scenes battles in the narcotics-enforcement arena pointed out that several weeks earlier, an inter-

nationally respected former DEA agent sent a letter to members of Congress denouncing the FBI-DEA merger of last year as an abysmal failure, and calling for the creation of a de facto "drug czar" to give the United States a real war on drugs. The proposal has reportedly caused substantial commotion, and the Pell initiative is probably an attempt to blunt the "drug czar" proposals with a paper reorganization.

## **Reciprocity removed from trade bill**

The "reciprocity" concept has effectively been taken out of S.8094, the trade bill sponsored by Sen. John Danforth (R-Mo.).

Congressional sources told *EIR* that the bill no longer contains language that would have added denial of "substantially equivalent market access" by foreign countries as a basis for U.S. retaliation under Section 301 of the 1974 trade bill.

The substitute language arrived at in negotiations between the Senate and the administration now refers only to lack of "fair and equitable market opportunities." Denial of substantially equivalent market access is only in the bill's statement of purpose.

U.S. Trade Office officials told *EIR* they feared "equivalence" language could lead to interpretations that lack of sector-by-sector trade balances constituted unfair trade practices, and that this interpretation could set off a cycle of retaliatory trade restrictions.

With "reciprocity" removed,

the major effect of the bill would be to add services, investment, and high-technology goods to the 1974 Trade Act provisions. Alleged "trade-distorting" requirements of other countries toward foreign investment, such as local content provisions, could not be considered in violation of U.S. law.

## **Defense Department to aid NASA**

Senator Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.), one of the staunchest supporters of NASA, succeeded in adding a proposal onto the FY 1983 NASA authorization bill which may become the means to save many of NASA's programs from extinction. The Schmitt plan is to have the Defense Department pay the full cost of using the Space Shuttle to orbit its payloads.

"The Department of Defense should not be subsidized at the expense of our nation's civil aeronautics and space programs, which have contributed enormously to our country's leadership in technology and space, its economic strength, prestige, and quality of life," declared Schmitt.

The proposal was endorsed by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation when it passed the NASA FY1983 authorization bill May 11. The total authorized for NASA was \$6.612 billion, the amount requested by the administration, a figure which puts a number of important NASA programs in jeopardy. The Schmitt proposal is expected to add approximately \$409 million to the NASA budget in FY1983.