

Congressional Closeup by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

NATO conventional restructuring pushed in House

In the wake of the May 13 Senate passage of an amendment calling for NATO industrial and defense integration, a number of parallel proposals have begun in the House. Their underlying premise is that such integration is necessary to make a NATO conventional buildup cost-effective. Representatives William Broomfield (R-Mich.) and William Whitehurst (R-Va.) have introduced two separate resolutions which would put the House on record as supporting the rationalization, standardization, and inter-operationability of Western European and North American weapons systems. The Whitehurst resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 335, a direct companion to the Senate amendment (authored by Trilateral Commission member William Roth), calls on the President to propose at the NATO summit June 6 that the Allies "begin in earnest to pool their vast financial, technological, and human resources to provide for our common defense at acceptable costs."

On May 26, Broomfield, the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, introduced another resolution, which mirrors the Roth-Whitehurst approach, but puts greater emphasis on the integration of conventional forces. The Broomfield resolution states: "be it resolved that . . . the NATO allies of the U.S. join the United States in agreeing to enhance their defense efforts and resources to improve, at acceptable costs, collective conventional

forces for the defense of the North Atlantic area. . . ."

House Committee defends national labs

The House Science and Technology Subcommittees on Energy Development and Applications and Energy Research and Production held hearings June 2 to investigate the "Impacts of Budget Uncertainty on the DOE National Laboratories." Rep. Marilyn Bouquard (D-Tenn.) charged that our "national laboratories as a resource are being threatened . . . these hearings are pointing up a national disaster." Our labs are "managed by men and women of excellence," Bouquard added, and "we are telling our young people that we need scientists, [yet] the example we are setting by turning our back on them at this time is a disaster."

Energy Department laboratory managers from around the country who appeared at the hearings presented an alarming picture of loss of laboratory personnel due to budget cuts.

Questioned by committee members, Acting Deputy Undersecretary of DOE Jan Mares testified that there was verbal guidance from DOE to laboratory managers to "take action based on what is prudent to believe will take place" on their final budgets, but admitted that DOE based its expectations on the administration's FY 83 budget request submitted in February 1982 of \$4.25 billion. Under questioning from Bouquard, however, Mares further admitted that President Reagan had also endorsed the Senate-passed budget

which allocated \$5.3 billion for these programs. "We're talking about a billion dollars in difference here," Bouquard said. "Don't you think the Congress should act first before the labs have to take premature and disruptive steps?"

Bouquard also confronted the nervous Mares with a DOE-produced chart, showing that 1983 personnel levels will be reduced compared to 1982, and an "Operations Office Staffing Study" undertaken by DOE. "You made the decision to reduce our national laboratory personnel and then you did the study *afterward* to see what the impact would be," Bouquard charged, "didn't you?" Mares admitted that the assessment study was still not completed.

Herman Postma, Director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, pointed up the need for "research and development programs that have importance, breadth, depth, and stability."

Prosecutors slam Abscam betrayal of law enforcement

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights continued its hearings on the FBI undercover operations known as Abscam June 2, taking testimony from two witnesses, Robert A. Weir, Assistant U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, and Edward Plaza, former Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, who had been involved in prosecuting Abscam and who had complained to superiors.

Plaza charged that "Abscam represents the selective use of technology to create the illusion of

criminality. It is and was tantamount to prosecuting the actors in a play for following the script.

"I emphasize that I am not speaking of entrapment, a violation of separation of powers or any legal technical defense. I am saying that Abscam is a perversion of truth."

The "rules [of law enforcement] were totally different" in Abscam compared to any other prosecution, Plaza said, adding that he would not have complained about the conduct of the case if he had "felt a true picture was being presented to the courts." Plaza cited numerous examples of misrepresentations including a [former U.S. Deputy Attorney General Irving] Nathan memorandum which "in and of itself is a deception of the courts." Plaza also cited the "creation of 302s [FBI internal reports]" and "302s that had incidents, which, when we got the transcripts, did not take place." "A handful of men involved in the prosecutions not only violated their oaths, but betrayed their colleagues in law enforcement as well," he said.

Robert Weir, who unlike Plaza is still employed in the U.S. Attorney's office, received clearance only on June 1 from the Department of Justice to testify and was instructed by the DOJ to constrain his testimony to factual material. Weir outlined "many exchanges" that he had had with Nathan, where Nathan "would suggest that someone be prosecuted and I would say the facts don't warrant this." Weir concluded that "there is a strong possibility that the [prosecutorial] procedures were elimi-

nated in this case so that it is questionable whether we are simply watching the creation of crime."

Senate Committee passes anti-immigrant bill

By a vote of 16 to 1 May 28, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed the bill introduced by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) and Walter Huddleston (D-Ky.) to restrict the admission of immigrants into the United States. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) cast the only opposing vote.

Prior to the committee vote Kennedy had the bill softened slightly by extending its amnesty provisions for illegal aliens already in the United States up to Jan. 31, 1982, from the original Jan. 31, 1980. However, the bill's provisions for regulating the entire U.S. workforce with Nazi-type workcards within three years and for fines and criminal penalties against employers who hire undocumented immigrants remained intact.

The Simpson-Huddleston bill was drawn up by associates of United Brands (formerly United Fruit) agronomist and Zero Population Growth co-founder William Paddock, whose Paddock Plan to reduce the population of Mexico by half proposed "sealing the border and watching [30 million Mexicans] scream." The bill is also supported by the Lane Kirkland leadership of the AFL-CIO.

The Mexican delegation to the U.S.-Mexican Intraparliamentary meeting in Santa Barbara, California on May 29-30, which included leaders of both houses of the Mexican Congress, called the bill very

harmful to U.S.-Mexican relations.

UAW may scrap 'domestic content' bill

United Auto Workers (UAW) President Douglas Fraser stunned attendees of House Foreign Relations subcommittee hearings June 2 when he said the UAW was prepared to abandon the "domestic content auto bill" if Japanese auto firms would commit themselves to build manufacturing facilities in the United States.

Under prodding from the UAW, 208 Congressmen agreed to co-sponsor Richard Ottinger's (D-N.Y.) H.R.5133. Under the bill, by model year 1985 and thereafter, foreign makers selling 100,000 to 150,000 units would have to include American-made parts at a minimum of 25 percent of the car's value; 150,000-200,000 units would require 50 percent local content; 200,000-500,000, 75 percent; and more than 500,000, 90 percent. The administration opposes the bill.

Fraser told hearings sponsored by Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) that Japanese firms such as Toyota and Nissan had been conducting talks on setting up U.S. manufacturing facilities, but nothing concrete had been decided. He said that if the Japanese made a firm commitment, the UAW would be happy to abandon the bill.

A Washington lawyer who represents Japanese companies told *EIR* that one reason for Fraser's sudden change is that many auto analysts believe the local content bill constitutes a disincentive for the Japanese to set up full manufacturing facilities.