

National News

Amicus brief filed in nuclear power suit

The Fusion Energy Foundation filed a brief *amicus curiae* in the U.S. Supreme Court Sept. 2 in a suit expected to be a landmark judgment on the power of a state to contravene the "constitutional mandate of scientific, technological, and industrial progress" as elaborated in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

The case, *Pacific Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison vs. California State Energy Resources Commission*, arises from a law enacted under the California Gov. Jerry Brown administration forbidding construction of additional nuclear power plants. According to the brief, Congress has not delegated such power to the states, and could not constitutionally do so.

The Supreme Court will hear in the same term an appeal by the Department of Justice of a Pennsylvania ruling requiring an assessment of psychological stress before the Three Mile Island I nuclear power plant can be restarted. This suit is also crucial in testing the nation's constitutional commitment to progress under natural law, according to the Fusion Energy Foundation.

FEF holds seminar on polarized fusion

The Fusion Energy Foundation held a seminar in Baltimore Sept. 2, on the new technique to double the reaction rate in existing fusion energy reactors and accelerate the commercial development of fusion energy by 8 to 10 years as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conference was held in the city.

Dr. Steven Bardwell, editor of the FEF's *Fusion* magazine, discussed the new technique, known as polarized fusion, before a group of 60 persons, including the head of the European fusion program, several prominent international plasma physicists from Europe, the Mideast, and the United States, a representative of the U.S. Department of Energy, and area scientists and Foundation members.

Dr. Bardwell explained that new theoretical calculations done by physicists at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory showed that specially polarized fusion fuel could enhance the rate of fusion reactions occurring in a reactor by a factor of 1.5 to 2.5. By using polarized fuels, temperature and energy densities already attained in experimental reactors would be sufficient to drive commercial fusion reactors.

"At the IAEA conferences in 1974 and 1976, only a small group of people was saying that fusion could be demonstrated by the turn of the century. . . . Today there is one delegation planning to demonstrate fusion feasibility by 1995, and has the government funding . . . to do it, and that is the Japanese delegation," Bardwell said. Although the pull-back in the U.S. fusion timetable over the past 18 months has led to doubts that this nation will demonstrate fusion feasibility by the end of the century, the polarized fuel breakthrough could "give us a second chance."

Edwin Kintner, the former director of the Department of Energy's magnetic fusion program, who resigned this January because he considered the Reagan administration's fusion policy would turn the program into a "science and research" project, spoke next. Kintner stressed that science and engineering breakthroughs, such as polarized fuels, are not predictable, and "obstacles" are not absolute, and reviewed a series of breakthroughs in the development of both fission and fusion energy made during his career since the late 1940s.

Terrorist support groups target LaRouche

Terrorist supporters from the National Committee to Defend the New Afrikan Freedom Fighters and the May 19th Communist Organization made statements at a Sept. 3 press conference in New York City that confirm that *EIR* founder and internationally noted economist Lyndon H. LaRouche may be the target of terrorist attacks.

The two cited organizations run support operations for the terrorist Black Liberation Army, the Republic of New Africa, and the Weatherunderground. At the press conference, Dr. Barbara Zeller of the May 19th

Organization charged that the National Caucus of Labor Committees, the political intelligence organization founded by LaRouche, had led armed attacks against the Lincoln Hospital Detoxification Center in the South Bronx, New York, in 1974. In fact, the Labor Committees mounted a non-violent demonstration against the center at the time, in which one NCLC member was shot by a Lincoln staff member.

Security specialists believe that Zeller's charge may be the pretext for possible violent attacks by terrorist groups against the NCLC and LaRouche.

The NCLC had determined in 1974 that Lincoln Detox, a methadone maintenance center forced to close in 1978, was a brainwashing "training center" for the BLA, FALN, and the Maoist Revolutionary Union, among other groups. Law-enforcement officials have evidence that the Black Acupuncture Association of North America, the group that took up the terrorist training function when Lincoln Detox was closed, was used as a command center for the BLA robbery attempt on a Brinks armored truck in Nyack, New York last October.

AFL boots politics out of New York's Labor Day

New York City's Central Labor Council, controlled by the Lane Kirkland leadership of the AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C. organized a 400,000-person parade in New York Sept. 6 on the 100th anniversary of Labor Day. Labor leaders assembled in the reviewing stand at 42nd Street termed the rally "a great show of force and the strength of the American labor movement." But an *EIR* journalist found that most of the participants knew otherwise. "This is worse than a waste of time," a local New York building trades leader stated. "We are in the middle of a depression, and we put more than a quarter of a million people in the street. But we have nothing to say except the same tired garbage we have been saying for years."

According to participants, the New York Labor Council had told unionists to keep the rally an "unpolitical celebration" with only approved, innocuous slogans on the placards. Most unionists carried no signs at all.

"Last year we were all mobilized," an

Ironworkers shop steward stated. "We were ready to kick Volcker out. But then we never got any marching orders. We were never told by Washington to be anything but anti-Reagan."

Federal court upholds Abscam convictions

Ignoring the unconstitutional use of entrapment by the Department of Justice to secure convictions against members of the U.S. legislature, the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 3 upheld the convictions of four former Congressmen and three others during the Abscam inquisition.

Claiming that there was nothing in the investigation that violated the rights of the defendants, who were arbitrarily selected for entrapment, Judge Jon O. Newman said, "The four Congressmen were caught on videotape in the very act of committing federal crimes. . . . The conduct of the investigation, though subject to some criticism, affords no basis for rejecting the convictions."

The court reaffirmed the convictions of Democratic Reps. Frank Thompson (N.J.), Raymond Lederer (Pa.), Michael Myers (Pa.), and John Murphy (N.Y.).

Reagan tinkering with Constitution

In a move that was ridiculed privately by liberal White House reporters for its very "un-conservative" approach to the U.S. Constitution, President Reagan has made public his support for no less than three separate constitutional amendments.

Having already jumped onto the bandwagon for the "Balanced Budget Amendment," at the beginning of September, the President invited to the White House 20 Congressmen who had co-sponsored the legislation but not yet joined the fight to force it to a vote (it is currently bottled up in a House Judiciary subcommittee). He announced that despite Justice Department misgivings about its constitutionality, the White House would not oppose the proposed constitutional amendment to allow prayer in public schools—a move read by

supporters and opponents alike as tacit approval.

And finally, the President for the first time the same week took a public stand in support of specific anti-abortion legislation—in fact conferring presidential endorsement on both the controversial anti-abortion measures under consideration on the Hill: the Helms Amendment attached to vital legislation for raising the federal government debt ceiling, and the Hatch Amendment. Each would limit accessibility of abortion. Despite Reagan's excellent statement that "We must never become a society in which an individual has the right to do away with an inconvenient life," included in his letter of support for the Helms Amendment, his sudden visibility on "social issues" was universally viewed as an attempt to appease his traditional conservative base, which has been clamoring for presidential action on these fronts. However, at the same briefing where Reagan's support for the anti-abortion measures was announced with fanfare, the administration was forced to state with rather less gusto, its support for once more hiking the national debt ceiling.

Mondale to keynote 'gay' political dinner

Former Vice-President Walter Mondale will keynote a Sept. 29 dinner to be held, according to the invitation mailed to 10,000 citizens, as a forum for homosexual New Yorkers to mount "for the first time . . . an extraordinary display of political and economic strength which will transform our community and transfix the entire city."

Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman and Meade H. Esposito, leader of the Brooklyn Democratic organization, are also scheduled to be on the dais. Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Alan Cranston of California are members of the honorary dinner committee.

After the dinner, for which guests will pay \$150 per person, the celebration will continue at Studio 54, the New York discotheque whose owners were given jail terms for tax evasion. Mob lawyer Roy Cohn, a frequent patron of Studio 54, was a top lawyer for the defense in the case.

Briefly

● **FLORIDA** law enforcement authorities sprayed a 100,000-plant marijuana crop near the town of Red Bay Aug. 28 and 29 with the herbicide paraquat. This was the first time that this highly effective weed killer, which wiped out the Mexican marijuana crop in the mid-1970s, has been used for drug eradication in the United States. The Federal District Court in Washington, D.C. had dismissed a suit by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) to prevent the state from using paraquat on marijuana crops Aug. 17.

● **CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI** (D-Wis.), the old-line moderate Democrat who chairs the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and has used his position to hold in check the pro-"national liberation" movement subcommittee chairmen under him, may be greatly weakened politically by a primary challenge he faces in his newly redrawn Milwaukee district. Washington sources first said months ago that Foreign Affairs "Third World" subcommittee chairmen Solarz (D-N.Y.), Wolpe (D-Mich.), Barnes (D-Md.), and Bonker (D-Wash.) hoped to see Zablocki defeated for reelection or replaced as Foreign Affairs Committee chairman after a close primary fight that discredits his standing among Democrats. Were this to happen, the crucial Foreign Affairs chairmanship would pass to liberal Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.).

● **MICHAEL J. PUPENTHAL**, an employee of the Federal Election Commission, bilked the agency out of \$546,000 in a "checkwriting plot," according to an Associated Press wire Sept. 9. Pupenthal, a financial assistant, is accused of preparing fraudulent vouchers and mailing them to an address in his home town. The FEC has sanctimoniously harassed political candidates and campaigns for even the most picayune accounting discrepancies.