

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

MX hearings ignore strategic reality

At hearings of the Senate Armed Services Committee on April 20, Democratic and Republican senators hailed the just-released MX Commission report as a symbol of "a real bipartisan consensus." The senators, like the report they are supporting, ignored the reality of President Reagan's March 23 call for a new strategic doctrine to end the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction and instead focused on the commission's recommendations to deploy MX missiles in hardened silos and to develop "Midgetman" single-warhead missiles.

While President Reagan has endorsed the specific proposals of the commission as a way of solving the MX basing problem, he continues to locate the longer-term option of deploying the Midgetman as a possibility to be determined by future research and development and continues to stress the change in U.S. policy from reliance on strategic offense to one of strategic defense.

Senators instead focused on the MX Commission as, in the words of committee chairman John Tower (R-Tex.), a "cornerstone of a new national consensus in defense." Scoop Jackson (D-Wash.) praised the Commission as a "genuine bipartisan body reaching out across party lines." Secretary of State George Shultz, a known opponent of the President's new policy of strategic defense, was only too glad to echo these praises for the commission (many of whose staff are intimates of Shultz adviser Kissinger), saying that its "recommendations are a historic decision which will now shape our strategic relations for a time to come."

Only Sen. Dan Quayle (R-Ind.) attempted to interject reality into the hearing, asking if the President's en-

dorsement of the Commission report, which does not mention "the so-called Star Wars approach," and whose members have expressed skepticism of that approach, diminished the President's emphasis on the new strategic doctrine. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger eagerly jumped at the questions, saying, "I'm glad you asked that and glad that you said 'so-called Star Wars,' because the President's enthusiasm for this remains very strong."

Anti-immigration bill gains in Senate

Immigration legislation backed by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland that would establish a Nazi-modelled identification and policing of the American workforce gained in the Senate the week of April 13.

Backers of the legislation sponsored by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) defeated a series of amendments sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The full committee then voted 13 to 4 to send the legislation to the Senate floor.

Aides working on the legislation said that Kennedy was interested in protecting his liberal image by opposing parts of the bill for civil liberties reasons. "If Teddy wanted to stop the bill," said one aide, "he could have done so easily. He is going to let it pass. It was all for show. . . ." Kennedy had in fact served on the commission that helped recommend portions of the legislation, including its proposal to create a worker I.D.-card system.

A Senate vote is expected on the legislation, which is co-sponsored in the House by Rep. Roman Mazzoli (D-Ky.), by May 1. With backing from Kirkland and the Justice Department,

the bill is expected to pass by a wide margin. Almost identical legislation passed the Senate by an 80 to 19 margin last session, only to die in the lame duck session in December.

The bill is modelled on the racist immigration restriction legislation rammed through the Congress in the 1920s by networks associated with the family of Averell Harriman. It is vigorously opposed by Hispanic political organizations and by the Mexican government, which have correctly charged that it would militarize the U.S.-Mexican border.

Spokesmen for the House Judiciary Committee say that hearings will be scheduled on the legislation in early May. Supporters in the House are worried that House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.) might be willing to let the bill stall on the floor, as he did in the lame-duck session. They are counting on the AFL-CIO to pressure House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) to move the legislation. "We could have this thing passed by the summer," said a House Judiciary Committee spokesman, "or it could sit for a long time. He might let those dumb Hispanics screw things up for us all."

Arms control negotiator confirmed by Senate

Efforts by the Kissinger Republicans and Harriman Democrats in the U.S. Senate to cripple President Reagan's ability to conduct strategic and foreign policy failed on April 14, when the Senate voted 57 to 42 to accept the nomination of Kenneth Adelman as director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. The Adelman nomination had been used by the "arms control" crowd in the Senate as a bludgeon to attempt to force the administration to alter its arms control stance.

An unusual number of moderate and conservative Democrats, such as Sam Nunn (Ga.), David Boren (Okla.) and James Exon (Neb.) voted against the Adelman confirmation, indicating that a Democratic party line was in force.

A number of senators did address the substantive issues facing the Congress. Sen. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.), surpassing his previous outrageous stance, made clear where the opposition to Adelman originated by calling for the rejection of Adelman and the appointment of a special arms control envoy in the person of either Gerald Ford or Henry Kissinger!

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) approached the question of space-based weapons from the standpoint of President Reagan's March 23 speech, arguing that if Adelman takes advantage of this, he can achieve real arms control, "Technology can provide new and different arguments. The prerequisite is the existence of American space-based laser ABM stations. No one should doubt that the Soviets are working on them as hard as they can. True arms control would not be served if the U.S. were to decide not to take advantage of the technology of the 1980s."

Mathias proposes weakening Senate

Senator Charles Mathias (R-Md.), one of Congress's most outspoken advocates of the *Global 2000 Report*, the IMF, and the replacement of the U.S. Constitution by a British parliamentary structure, is the originator of a special Senate study which calls for major institutional changes in the U.S. Senate.

As chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, Mathias sponsored a resolution over a year ago calling for a

special study committee to be set up to examine the workings of the Senate. The resolution was passed and the study group established under the co-chairmanship of former senators James B. Pearson (R-Kan.) and Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.), both liberals. With the release of the recommendations in mid-April, the Rules Committee will now proceed to hearings in May.

Majority Leader Howard Baker is quoted as saying about the recommendations that they will "scare some people to death." And the authors conceded that "a cursory glance at the recommendations could cause one to judge the report to be quite radical, to place new and additional restraints and limitations on the Senate membership and to change the role played by single individuals or small groups of senators in the overall proceedings of the Senate."

While the report assured one that "this is not the case," the proposals themselves indicate that they indeed would undercut the unique role of individuals to retard the precipitous actions of "episodic majorities" in the upper chamber. The recommendations: streamlining the Senate agenda, making it more rigid; putting restraints on individual senators' ability to delay proceedings; placing restrictions on debate to shorten, and possibly eliminate the unique Senate filibuster; streamlining the committee structure; and televising Senate debates.

House ready to move on IMF quota increase

The House Banking Subcommittee on International Trade, Investment, and Monetary Policy has scheduled hearings on April 26-28 and May 3-4 on

the issue of increasing the U.S. commitment to the International Monetary Fund quota, and is expected to vote approval of the over \$8 billion increase on May 4. While very few members have declared themselves "for" the IMF, the quota increase legislation is expected to "move very quickly" through the international financial community dominated House Banking Committee, and be passed by the full committee by their May 15 budget deadline.

In the Senate Banking Committee a vote on the IMF was delayed from the week of April 11 until the week of April 25 in order to give all sides time to study proposals by banking regulatory institutions for increased regulation and supervision of lending by large U.S. banks. This "regulate the banks," anti-big bank line is being used as the cover to sell greater power to the Federal Reserve and the IMF.

Witnesses for the committee hearings in the House have all the ingredients for a staged debate. Bankers will be represented by the American Bankers Association and the Bank of America. Philadelphia's Wharton School, which openly advocates genocide as an economic policy, will have two witnesses.

The May 4 hearings will be entirely on H.R. 1083, which opposes loans to South Africa because of apartheid. Witnesses will include Rep. Julian Dixon (D-Cal.), the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Trans-Africa, and the American Council on Nationalities Service.

One of the few congressmen to openly tout the IMF was Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), vice-chairman of the Joint Economic Committee. Hamilton argued in the April 20 OpEd pages of the *Washington Post* that the IMF was crucial to "global economic recovery" and for U.S. exports.