

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Kramer introduces ABM legislation

Taking a bold public move to usher in President Reagan's program of directed energy strategic defense, Rep. Ken Kramer (R-Col.) May 20 introduced legislation called the "People Protection Act" which, he said, will "provide the organizational framework to protect the American people and our allies from nuclear war and to eventually make nuclear weapons obsolete."

The "congressional findings" section of the legislation states that "present strategic and arms control policies . . . have proven inadequate in addressing the Soviet strategic threat that has developed since the early 1960s and in protecting the strategic position of the United States and its allies."

The legislation adds as findings of the Congress that "the United States should promote arms control arrangements that A) seek to significantly reduce, in an equitable, verifiable, and enforceable manner, strategic offensive forces, and B) encourage the development of comprehensive strategic defenses in order to guarantee such reductions."

Kramer received bipartisan support from 11 other original co-sponsors, including Reps. Sonny Montgomery (D-Miss.), William Whitehurst (R-Va.), Robert Badham (R-Cal.), Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), Tom Corcoran (R-Ill.), Robert Davis (R-Mich.), Dan Crane (R-Ill.), Duncan Hunter (R-Cal.), Roy Dyson (D-Md.), Tom Hartnett (R-S.C.), and Joe Skeen (R-N.M.). Kramer announced that he has already received assurances from the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Investigations that hearings

will be held on this legislation.

"Like President Kennedy's 1961 commitment to send a man to the moon in a decade," Kramer said in motivating the bill, "President Reagan has set forth a vision for the future. The United States has relied too long on an offensive policy of nuclear retaliation. To make the world safe and our people secure, the time has come to turn to space for defense of our nation."

The proposed legislation has five major initiatives. It would create a directed-energy systems agency dedicated to the research and development of lasers, particle beam, and microwave technologies. No such agency exists today, and current R&D efforts are "fragmented, uncoordinated, and underfunded," said Kramer. The bill also provides for "restructuring of the new air force space command into a multi-service unified space command that would ultimately be responsible for the deployment and operation of all strategic defensive systems."

The bill would create a new army command, under the unified space command, responsible for the ground-based air defense and missile defense tier. Those Shuttles required for national security missions would be transferred to the Defense Department, and NASA would be mandated to immediately develop a manned space station.

The process of making strategic policy, space policy, and arms control policy, would be overhauled.

Senate passes Simpson-Mazzoli

By a 76-18 vote, the Senate on May 18 passed the Simpson-Mazzoli im-

migration restriction legislation. The bill has yet to be scheduled for debate in the House, and its sponsors are far from confident about its quick passage there.

The slightly amended 1983 version of the bill retains its features modeled on the 1930s Nazi labor programs. It would facilitate the establishment of the kind of work-card system the Nazis used to police both the German and foreign labor forces, and impose restrictive immigration quotas like the racist immigration laws passed in the 1920s, which were drafted by the American eugenics lobby led by the Harriman family.

The immigration restrictions would be enforced by a system of employer sanctions which could allow Gestapo-like raids on work places. At the same time, the Mexican-American border would be virtually militarized.

In a rare moment of truthfulness, Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Cal.) denounced the bill on the floor of the Senate, terming it "a major step toward a police state. . . . [It] would require every person in the U.S. to have some form of authorization by his or her government in order to work."

The bill is backed by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and underlings in the AFL-CIO bureaucracy precisely because it would give them police-state powers over the work force, sources report. The official AFL-CIO position is one of "conditional support"—the AFL-CIO wants the U.S.-Mexican border closed more tightly, a federation spokesman stated the week of May 23.

Spokesmen for Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), the House Judiciary Committee chairman and one of the bill's

prime sponsors, said May 24 that they were still concerned about passage in the House. Last year, House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.), under pressure from Hispanic groups and from organization such as the Club of Life, allowed the bill's opponents to talk it to death in the lame duck session after it had passed the Senate easily. An aide to Rodino said that "O'Neill may just refuse to move the bill."

Harrimanites repackage post-industrial policy

Led by Rep. Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.), the Harriman faction in Congress has put together a legislative package of economic and social policy taken from the 1975 Initiatives Committee for National Economic Planning (ICNEP), which coined the notorious slogan, "fascism with a human face."

Right on the heels of the early May Democratic National Committee Strategy Council meeting, which called for a variety of corporatist planning boards and Rohatyn-style de-industrialization banks (euphemistically called Development Banks), Global 2000 supporter Ottinger unveiled at a March 24 press conference a "High Production Strategy to Rebuild America."

Ottinger announced that 148 House Democrats had agreed to form a number of task forces to flesh out an "industrial recovery strategy."

Ottinger's High Production Strategy includes: 1) a Rohatyn-style National Development Bank to restructure American industry; 2) Federal Capital Budgeting, a method of prioritizing and triaging necessary infra-

structure spending; 3) Federal Reserve reform, ostensibly mandating credit allocation for "productive" purposes and disincentives for "nonproductive" purposes, all determined by the Fed; 4) corporatist worker-participation and profit-sharing schemes; 5) an inflation-fighting strategy which includes cutting off energy for the U.S. economy: oil import fees, a "crash program for energy conservation," and solar-based industries; 6) an incomes policy, to be enforced by tripartite "business-labor-government" efforts; and 7) a number of environmentalist proposals and attacks on the Reagan tax and defense programs.

A spokesman for O'Neill said that the Speaker will "listen to opponents very carefully" before making a decision on scheduling the bill for debate. No decision will be made before June 27.

The bill's sponsors are also wary about the position of House Majority leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.). Wright has stated that he will not openly oppose the bill, but he played a pivotal role in allowing its opponents to tie the legislation in knots last year. "Wright and O'Neill both screwed us last time," said the Rodino aide. "They could do it again."

Meanwhile the bill will be debated by the House Education and Labor Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and Ways and Means Committee. The Judiciary Committee has already approved a version similar to that passed by the Senate.

Last year, the Mexican legislature lobbied strongly against the legislation, with the Mexican Senate passing a resolution condemning it and urging their American colleagues in the House to vote against it. "Those goddam

Mexicans have no right to interfere in our politics," said a House Judiciary staff member. "They are not even a real country, since they went begging with their debt problems. They should keep their mouths shut."

Senate committee hits FBI malfeasance

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), issued a report in mid-May attacking the FBI's handling of the investigation into Labor Secretary Ray Donovan. The confirmation of acting Drug Enforcement Administration head Francis Mullen, who was the Executive Director of the FBI during the Donovan investigation, has been held up by the Senate Judiciary Committee pending resolution of the Senate Labor Committee's charges.

The Labor Committee report stresses that its purpose is not to examine the truth or falseness of the charges against Mr. Donovan, who was cleared by a special prosecutor after an investigation during which some of the charges were actually recanted.

Rather, the report charges, "The FBI supplied information that was inaccurate, unclear, and too late. Worse, while the FBI told the committee that there was nothing else to know, it withheld 'pertinent,' 'significant,' and 'important' information. . . . The FBI's inaccuracies, lack of clarity, and untimely production compromised the Senate's ability to inform itself. The FBI usurped the Senate's constitutional responsibility; it guaranteed that no senator's consent would be adequately informed."