

Congressional Closeup by Kathleen Klenetsky

House calls for Dobrynin's ouster

The House passed a resolution on May 9 calling for the expulsion of Soviet Ambassador Anatolii Dobrynin unless the Soviet Union issues a formal apology for the murder in East Germany of an American military officer.

The resolution, which is non-binding, passed 322-93 as an amendment to the State Department spending bill.

The measure's chief sponsor, Rep. William Broomfield (R-Mich.), told Democratic critics he had not checked with the White House or State Department on his resolution, but that its passage was necessary because "it is time to get tough" with the Soviets.

Broomfield said if Moscow does not apologize by June 30 for the death of Army Maj. Arthur Nicholson on March 24, Dobrynin should be "sent packing" to the Soviet Union.

Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Texas) said the resolution "stinks, literally," and that if the Republicans want to be tough on the Soviet Union, "pass a resolution declaring war. That will really send a message."

"If the only choices America has are absolute impotence or war, then we are indeed in a terribly risky world," Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) said.

A Soviet sentry shot and killed Nicholson near a Soviet military facility in East Germany. U.S. officials said Nicholson was unarmed and was properly observing Soviet military installations.

The administration condemned the shooting and expelled a Soviet deputy military attaché, but the Republicans said the Kremlin should pay a higher price in the possible loss of its highly regarded, veteran ambassador to Washington.

Gingrich said Dobrynin is a valu-

able asset to the Kremlin and it will lose the most if he is ordered out of the United States. Moscow must learn to take the "moral responsibility" for Nicholson's death, as it should the downing of a South Korean airliner with 269 people aboard after it strayed over Soviet airspace, he said.

Rep. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.) called the resolution "terribly destructive," and said Republicans should have consulted the administration beforehand.

Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, cautioned that the United States has an ambassador in Moscow, and the Soviets could expel him.

But Gingrich said the resolution is a "very specific, diplomatic action" that does not break diplomatic relations and gives the Kremlin adequate time to apologize for Nicholson's death.

The resolution was scheduled to be voted on several weeks ago, but was delayed, sources say, by House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.)

Senators front for child pornography

Two key members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have issued an attack on the Justice Department's funding of a \$734,371 study of the portrayal of children in photographs and cartoons in *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, and *Hustler* magazines.

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), chairman of the Judiciary subcommittee on juvenile justice, teamed up with subcommittee member Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) May 8 to ridicule a DOJ-funded project which is attempting to determine whether sex-

ual depictions of children with imaginary figures or with influential adults, and the "use of paraphernalia, including teddy bears, hair bows, bobby sox, and dolls" in sexually-oriented portrayals, increases the incidence of pederasty.

"I have read these magazines myself," said Specter, during hearings on the study. "We've had them at these hearings. I have never seen a picture of a crime being committed on a child."

"Once you have a detailed analysis, what good does that do you? It gives you a body of information . . . that stops short of the only question involved: Does this material cause child molestation? It doesn't seem to me it warrants the expenditure of three-quarters of a million dollars."

Metzenbaum was even more blunt, calling the grant "off the wall" and "a waste of government funding." "I have some difficulty understanding how adults could get turned on by seeing a picture of a child with Santa Claus or Snow White or the Wizard of Oz," he said.

Metzenbaum's lack of imagination is little mystery. It is a documented fact that one of his biggest political backers is mobster Reuben Sturman, who made a fortune purveying hardcore pornography in the United States. Metzenbaum put up a big fight against Ed Meese's appointment as Attorney-General, fearing he would start cracking down on the dope-and-porno networks which have funded Metzenbaum's career.

Weinberger blasts Aspin over military pensions

Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wisc.), chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee, has mounted a ma-

for effort to gut military pensions. Earlier this month, the Armed Services subcommittee on military personnel endorsed Aspin's proposal to slash the military retirement fund by \$4 billion in 1986.

The panel okay'd Aspin's amendment despite a strongly worded warning from Secretary of Defense Weinberger that this would be "ill-advised" and "devastating" to the armed forces' morale and recruiting prospects. "Unless one is willing to accept an unspecified reduction in our national security posture," Weinberger said in a letter to Aspin, "changes to the military retirement system of the magnitude required by this bill would be ill-advised."

Although reduced pensions would apply only to new recruits, "the negative impacts on recruiting and retention would be felt almost immediately," Weinberger wrote. "This devastating effect would build over time because of the loss of future income combined with a perception of an unstable retirement system."

Harkin advocates Malthusian farm program

Senator Tom Harkin, a liberal Democrat from Iowa linked to the grain cartel's Cowles family, unveiled an agriculture bill on May 7 which proposes to "solve" the current U.S. agriculture crisis by limiting farm production and sending food prices skyrocketing.

Harkin is trying to sell his proposal, whose co-sponsors include Rep. Bill Alexander (D-Ark.) and approximately 10 other Congressmen and Senators, as a program to help American "dirt farmers" escape bankruptcy. But its populist rhetoric can't hide

the fact that it proposes to increase farm profits through the tried-and-true Malthusian method of limiting agriculture production and hiking food costs.

If enacted, the proposal would raise food costs by 0.5% each year for the next four years—meaning that consumers would pay \$13 billion extra to feed themselves. The bill's sponsors claim that this would be offset by savings to taxpayers of \$20 billion—achieved through the elimination of direct subsidies and government purchases of surplus commodities.

In place of subsidies, the bill would impose mandatory limits on agriculture production and sharply higher minimum prices. Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), a sponsor of the bill, defended the increase in consumer costs, telling reporters that a "fair price" on farm products would stimulate the economy and create jobs.

The proposal has been enthusiastically endorsed by the environmentalist Sierra Club and the American Agriculture Movement, as well as by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, who touted it as "straight from the countryside, percolating up from the grassroots."

Proxmire flips wig over Schiller Institute

Testimony by Dr. Debra Freeman, a spokesman for the Schiller Institute, before the Senate Appropriations labor and health subcommittee May 7, provoked strong interest—and some intriguing reactions—from the senators present.

Dr. Freeman testified on the public health implications of the current economic crisis, warning that the ap-

plication of IMF austerity in the United States will lawfully result in the outbreak of pandemic diseases, like those now sweeping Africa.

Although her discussion of the AIDS epidemic drew strong interest—committee chairman Lowell Weicker (D-Conn.) asked her to repeat herself every time she cited a statistic on the spread of the disease—it was her attack on current abysmal nutritional standards set by the Department of Agriculture that provoked the greatest uproar.

Dr. Freeman charged that the standards, which urge the substitution of grains and nuts for animal protein, would ultimately result in malnutrition, especially among children. This outraged Sen. Bill Proxmire (D-Wisc.): "Young lady, do you have any idea how old I am?" he asked. "No," responded Freeman. "Would you like to know?" "Not particularly."

With that, Proxmire launched into a long monologue about his "health regimen," declaring that he ate what the witness had referred to as "the nuts among the berries," deemphasized red meat in his diet, and ran seven days a week.

He insisted that if people ate what Dr. Freeman recommended, they would die of cholesterol poisoning, and then asked her to respond.

"It's obvious that you are indeed getting on in years and I commend you for exercising at your age," said Freeman. "However, regardless of how much meat you eat now, during your development years, you were treated to high quality protein. If you had lived on this crazy diet your whole life, chances are you'd be dead already, and this whole discussion would be somewhat irrelevant." The packed audience started tittering. Proxmire changed the subject.