

## Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

### Denton blasts Senate vote on Philippines

Senator Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.) possesses a rare quality for a U.S. senator—he has the ability to stand alone. After all, he survived many years in solitary confinement in a North Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp. Surviving in the Senate may prove more difficult.

On Feb. 26, he was the only senator who did not disgrace himself by voting for a resolution praising the process by which Corazon Aquino took power in the Philippines.

In his remarks the following day on the Senate floor, Denton gave two reasons for his vote: "I do not believe . . . that we have seen enough yet to conclude that what has and will take place in the Philippines has or will necessarily justify the faith of the Filipino people in democracy, as the resolution stated. The process by which their legal President was forced to resign and flee the country, the process by which the new President came to power, bore no resemblance to any democratic process that I am familiar with. I cannot image such a process taking place in any genuinely democratic nation, including the United States, and God forbid that it shall."

Denton also decried the method by which the resolution was brought to the Senate floor, noting that he was given only minutes to digest a detailed resolution concerning foreign policy and to pass judgment on it.

Denton then made a truly radical suggestion in view of the present climate of the Congress. Senators must "deliberate" if they are to carry out their responsibility to provide "advice and consent" to the President. Instead, he warned that the last four Presidents have been undermined by the "tenden-

cy of Congress, led by a powerful liberal media, to seize the initiative in an untimely manner to 'devise and dissent.'"

As if to prove Denton's point, House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) announced on Feb. 28, that he will invite Corazon Aquino to address a joint session of Congress. Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), one of the top agents of the conspiracy to oust President Marcos, is traveling to Manila on March 3 to hand deliver the invitation. Solarz said that Aquino's personal appearance before the Congress would be important to insure passage of additional aid for the Philippines.

### House would ban nuclear testing

By a vote of 268 to 148, the House of Representatives passed House Joint Resolution 3, urging the President to immediately resume negotiations with the U.S.S.R. for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. While the resolution is non-binding, it will give both the Congress and the Soviet Union another weapon in the propaganda wars against the U.S. strategic arsenal. Soviet General Secretary Gorbachov recently tied the timing of the next U.S.-Soviet summit meeting to progress on the test-ban treaty. Opponents of the resolution, such as Rep. Robert Walker (R-Pa.), challenged its supporters to show how their proposal was different from the Soviets'.

Were the resolution to be implemented by the President, it would bring to a standstill efforts to develop any kind of nuclear-based driver for the Strategic Defense Initiative, a technology associated particularly with the x-ray laser.

The administration tried to head off HJR 3 with an amendment offered by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.). The Hyde amendment urged resumption of the test-ban talks, only after completion of negotiations on arms reductions. Singling out one of the major complaints of the Reagan administration, that there is no way to ensure Soviet compliance, the resolution also called for efforts to improve verification measures. The Hyde amendment lost by a vote of 158 to 258.

### Of strange bedfellows

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) issued the following statement in praise of President Reagan's handling of the Philippines crisis: "The President deserves credit for his recent and decisive action in a new direction. He reversed a failing policy. He discarded his own preconceptions and he acted on the basis of reality, not right-wing assumptions."

For those not familiar with congressional jargon, it should be explained that right-wing assumptions in this case means being loyal to and defending U.S. allies. Certainly from Kennedy's point of view, after his recent service as errand boy for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov, such an attitude might be considered "right-wing."

### Melcher proposes emergency farm credit

Senator John Melcher (D-Mont.) introduced S. 2116, the Federal Reserve Credit for Agricultural Purposes Act, on Feb. 27. The legislation represents

a significant break from previous farm legislation, in that it seeks to force the Federal Reserve Board to open up its discount window and issue \$36 billion in credit to the agriculture sector, at 8-9% interest rates—significantly below market rates of 13-14%.

Melcher said: "My bill directs the 12 Federal Reserve banks, under supervision of the Federal Reserve Board, to provide commercial banks, production credit associations, and the Farmers Home Administration at least \$36 billion in agricultural loans over the next 36 months at the Fed's discount rate, which is currently 7.5%. The banks and PCAs will have to add 1-1.5% to that and the Farmers Home Administration a slight amount."

Melcher points out that the Federal Reserve System has the authority to meet this kind of emergency and provide needed credit through its discount window at below market rates. While he does not refer to the World War II experience, during which Franklin Roosevelt took over and used the Fed in just such a way, *EIR* founding editor Lyndon H. LaRouche has made that occasion a well-known example.

Melcher and his co-sponsors, Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.) and Wendell Ford (D-Ky.), point out that the lack of cheap credit will mean a food disaster in the United States. Burdick said, "I hear from farmers in my State who do not have enough money to put their crops in this spring. They cannot get the money." Burdick added that the revision of the Farm Credit System, which the Congress passed last year, shored up the system, but little assistance trickled down to the farmers.

In related developments, the Congress is engaged in partisan maneuvering to ameliorate the impact of the

1985 farm bill and the Gramm-Rudman act. House Majority Whip Bill Alexander (D-Ark.) detailed the two factors which will hit farm income. First, the farm bill contains a new formula for calculating farm yield, which reduces yield by 10 to 20 bushels per acre. Some have lost as much as 45 bushels. This yield reduction means a loss in deficiency payments and a reduction in farm income. Second, under Gramm-Rudman, the Department of Agriculture will reduce loan payments and deficiency payments to farmers by 4.3% for the 1986 crop year.

Republicans, representing dairy interests, have responded by proposing an increase in the production tax paid by every dairy farmer, instead of a drop in the level of price supports. Despite efforts to pass that legislation by March 1, when the Gramm-Rudman bill forces the price support cut, partisan maneuvering in the Congress has stalled the effort.

### **Jack Chump fumbles again**

The good news is that Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) has attacked the administration for its appointment of William H. Draper III to head the United Nations Development Program. The bad news, is that, as usual, it is for the wrong reasons. Kemp attacks Draper because Draper is a George Bush supporter and because, in his capacity as chairman of the Export-Import Bank, he approved export loans to the pro-Marxist government of Angola.

It does not seem to bother Kemp that Draper represents an unbroken family tradition of Malthusianism and global genocide. Draper's father was

an activist in the Harriman-family-funded eugenics movement and a participant in the notorious 1932 New York City Eugenics Conference, which featured speakers who were later to write the Nazi race laws. Draper himself has remained active in the latter-day versions of the same policy, under the guise of calls for "population control" and "appropriate, or labor-intensive technology" for the developing sector. Draper worked hard to destroy the Eximbank as an agency for capital-intensive development.

It is understandable that Kemp would miss these crucial points in Draper's outlook, since his own proposals for Free Enterprise Zones in America's inner cities are the domestic equivalent of the "appropriate technologies" policies for the Third World.

### **House Dems move to cut off aid to Savimbi**

The eight Democratic members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence introduced a bill on Feb. 27 to stop the Reagan administration's efforts to covertly aid the military effort of Angolan rebel-leader Jonas Savimbi.

Authored by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), committee chairman, the bill would allow aid to Savimbi's forces "only if the provision of that support is the openly acknowledged policy of the United States" and is approved by a joint resolution of Congress. The administration is seeking \$10-15 million in covert aid to Savimbi's UNITA forces.

The Hamilton bill is the first shot in what is expected to be a Democratic effort to gain control of the aid flow and force it into the open, or to kill it altogether.