

National News

Pennsylvania legislature passes anti-Volcker resolution

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives April 8 passed a special resolution 135-38, calling for "re-evaluation" of Federal Reserve high-interest rate policies. The action passed despite an intense opposition effort mounted by Republican Governor Dick Thornburgh—an austerity advocate—and certain collaborators in the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, including former Speaker of the House Leroy Irvis (D-Allegheny). The passing vote today was a repeat floor vote, after the House leadership declared an earlier ballot of 170-3 unreliable because the electronic tabulation machinery allegedly "malfunctioned."

The Bill—H.R. 154—was introduced on November 14, 1979 by Representative Joseph Zeller (D-Lehigh), who is a long-time member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Zeller helped form a national blue-ribbon commission to investigate last year's Three Mile Island incident, and published definitive scientific data showing sabotage was committed to smear nuclear power.

The original version of the Zeller bill cited Paul Volcker by name, and questioned the sense of the high-interest Federal Reserve policies, introduced last October to deliberately promote national economic contraction. When assigned to the Federal-State Relations Committee, the bill was watered down, and Volcker's name removed by a faction of austerity advocates led by Committee Chairman Jeff Piccola (R-Dauphin). Piccola then maneuvered to try to bury the measure in his committee. In March, however, Zeller countermaneuvered to release the bill through use of a special "discharge" rule.

When the bill hit the House floor for a vote April 8, the fireworks were out in the open. After the bill first passed, and Thornburgh managed to have the vote

nullified through the "mechanical failure" of the tabulation, Thornburgh's cohort in the Democratic Party Leroy Irvis addressed the House calling for all Democrats to vote against the resolution and support Carter and his policies. Zeller then challenged Irvis, a black leader from Pittsburgh, and for years part of the state's black caucus, to respond to Paul Volcker's contention that Americans had to "lower their living standards." Zeller's resolution, though watered down, passed again.

Is your Congressman being brainwashed?

For over three years, more than 150 Representatives and Senators have been quietly convinced to believe that the era of progress is over. Who's doing the convincing? Futurologist science fiction writers and anti-science academics brought together by the Congressional Clearinghouse for the Future. The Clearinghouse, set up with congressional funds almost 4 years ago, is run by the Club of Rome, the antiprogress organization which authored the Limits to Growth project. The director of the Clearinghouse, Ann Cheatham, is a member of the Club of Rome as are a number of the advisors to the Clearinghouse. The group sponsors meetings for Congressmen and publishes a number of newsletters on "the future."

This is the "science fiction wing of Congress," declared one of the congressional members of the Clearinghouse. Indeed, the Clearinghouse has sponsored dinners and seminars featuring the major science fiction writers such as Isaac Asimov and Ray Bradbury. Since January, the group has heard from Alvin Toffler, author of *Future Shock*, a stinging indictment of progress, and Barbara Tuchman, author of *Distant Mirror*, an account of the black plague and the dark ages that followed. On April 16, Citibank President Walter Wriston will detail for these congressmen the "Future of American Banking" in the current crisis.

At one of their more memorable meetings, the Congressmen were asked to "harpuscate with science fiction" by George Chatham, a space research policy specialist. The word "harpuscate" derives from the name for ancient Roman sages who predicted the future by looking at the entrails of sacrificial animals.

As to the effect such meetings are having on U.S. Congressmen, Representative Charles Rose, founder of the group, declared: "It is impossible to measure what has happened to the more than 125 members of the House and Senate who have attended these monthly dinners, but surely we are not the same as we were before we heard them."

Entropy advocates conspire at Glassboro

On April 8, a conference was held at Glassboro State College in New Jersey to discuss "Entropy as the New Economic Paradigm." The conference, which was dominated by environmentalists from the Institute for Policy Studies front called the Peoples Business Commission (PBC), attempted to assert the physical law of "entropy," that all organized and concentrated forms of energy tend to disperse, as a proof that all resources are inevitably running out, and that we must therefore cut consumption and population, and deindustrialize and disperse human society.

According to one Peoples Business Commission source; "Entropy is the only way to go. A lot of people haven't gotten the word yet, but they soon will. Entropy will soon become the umbrella concept for the whole environmentalist movement. A lot of things will happen to bring this about. The Club of Rome is doing a lot of work on it. ... For example, from the entropy standpoint, New York City doesn't make any sense, it's too big. That's why the transit strike is so interesting. People see they can get along with less, that they can cope without transportation. The transit strike could be seen as the first step in the

process of realizing that New York no longer makes any sense."

Speakers at the Glassboro conference (which is the first in a national series organized by PBS) included well known economist Kenneth Boulding, Dr. Nicolas Georgescu-Roegen of the Club of Rome, and Jeremy Rifkin of IPS and PBS. In attendance were representatives of the management of Edison Electric, South Jersey Gas, N.J. State and County officials.

A number of the key conference participants were reached for comment. Ben Hitchner, conference organizer and Glassboro professor, said, "It has now been recognized that entropy is one of the two basic principles of economics, alongside that of scarcity. Factors of disorder must be incorporated into all economic decisions. ... Entropic factors must be priced into the market system; thus current users of coal should be made to pay for the negative impact of the greenhouse effect upon the atmosphere."

The Club of Rome's Georgescu-Roegen was even more explicit about the anti-rational cult-like nature of the entropists. Georgescu, who is a personal friend of Milton Friedman, said that what was needed was "a new religion. I have written two new Commandments to add to those of Moses. The first is to honor thy species as thyself. The second is to love thy future neighbor. ... I have also written a Fourth Law of Thermodynamics, soon to be published in *Physics Today*. It states that all matter tends to disintegrate and disperse, just as energy does."

He became nearly hysterical when asked if he thought it possible for man to create new energy sources. "The only way it is even permissible to think about that is in the way described by the great French Catholic priest and paleontologist Teilhard De Chardin. He understood that through the tangential energy of the spirit, the World Soul had no limit, but he certainly understood that the energy of the universe is finite. His *New Jerusalem* was no material one, but a spiritual one."

Georgescu—like Chardin's Jesuits—

advocates putting all the world's resources under UN control ("Worldization") to enforce zero growth.

FEMA ran New York transit shutdown

"Emergency" crisis management and financing from the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been systematically deployed over the last year and a half to provide New York's Mayor Koch with the capability to close the nation's largest urban transportation system, shutdown by a transit workers' strike until April 12.

FEMA provided \$750,000 to fully staff and upgrade the city's Office of Civil Preparedness (OCP). Along with the Mayor's operations center, the OCP constitutes Koch's emergency coordinating council, which was bunkered under tight security conditions on the 14th floor of New York City's police headquarters. From this bunker Koch made Goebbels-like appeals to the population to remain cheerful in the face of the pain, suffering and cost of the strike, and occasionally made well-publicized forays over to the Brooklyn Bridge to be filmed chatting with what one police officer termed "the flakes" who came biking, jogging and roller-skating across into Manhattan's business district every day.

According to FEMA regional officials, Mayor Koch's OCP chief, Lt. Hogan, "has done an excellent job over there; it should be a model. He's gone way beyond what FEMA has provided for him." Lt. Hogan, whose salary is covered 50 percent by FEMA, was on the scene during the recent Chicago firefighters' strike, and prepared plans for dealing with fire, police and sanitation strikes there this summer.

A consultant to the National Funeral Directors Association has been hired to study means to acclimatize "survivors" to the casualties and mortalities that can be expected from future FEMA "emergencies."

Briefly

● **MAJOR GENERAL** George Keegan, a top adviser on Middle East policy to Ronald Reagan, will keynote a fundraising dinner for the Tehiya (Hebrew for Renaissance) Party of Israeli nuclear-bomb architect Yuval Neeman. This event, scheduled for April 22 in New York, indicates momentum within the Reagan camp in the direction of the most unyielding and unstable elements within the Israeli military-intelligence establishment. Neeman, it should be noted, though called "the father of Israel's atomic bomb," is not a scientist, although he holds the relevant degrees. With the help of figures like Air Force intelligence's Keegan, Neeman was a leading figure in those Israel intelligence circles that smuggled the materials and the "secrets" required for atom bomb production to Israel. As a "scientist," in fact, Yuval Neeman's principal recent activity has been as a promoter of "psychic research" or "parapsychology" of the mystical anti-scientific "extrasensory perception" varieties in the United States and Europe.

● **JAMES CAVANAUGH** (D-Nb.) called for "the establishment of a new structure which could coordinate, first of all, current account and adjustment financing which the International Monetary Fund now has, with the developmental lending goals of the World Bank," during House Banking Committee hearings on a bill that would expand the U.S. quota of payments to the IMF. Cavanaugh's proposal reflects the thinking of the Trilateral Commission, which has proposed either a merger of the IMF and World Bank with enlarged capital, or an altogether new World Development Fund, as proposed by the so-called Brandt Commission, to take dictatorial control of Third World finances, and even those of the United States.