

(4) The U.S. must establish a “credible force in the Persian Gulf,” Komer said. The “European allies must accept a division of labor and responsibilities by doing more in Western Europe,” he declared.

(5) “Immediate military readiness is more important than longer term modernization,” with procurement and modernization to be sacrificed for “readiness.” Komer concluded, “It is impossible to do both at this time.”

Under the Carter-Komer posture, the larger body of the Armed Forces are cannibalized through slashing of modernization programs and force levels, to prop the “Rapid Deployment Forces” up at “high readiness.”

Bluff and confrontation

As the RDF military commanders now publicly admit, actual functioning of the forces’ deployment is to act as the nuclear tripwire in the Persian Gulf.

Army General Volney F. Warner, Commander of the U.S. Readiness Command headquartered at McGill Air Force Base, Fla., stated this week, “And if somebody says we’ve got to commit the 82nd [Airborne Division] or that Marine brigade right now—it’s in the national interest—that’s not too big a force to lose.”

The emphasis by the Carter Pentagon on confrontation in the near term is equally documented. “I would be more inclined to do it now than later,” General Warner said. The RDF troops’ deployment would “say to the Soviets” in Warner’s words, “Okay guys, if you do, that’s going to be a big bump, because we’re in the area, and all that implies when you bump up against the United States.”

Komer’s remarks on SALT II have been seconded by Defense Secretary Harold Brown in campaign speeches. Brown has gone further to quantify the amount he “projects” can be shifted to “readiness” and creation of confrontation/trip wire-purpose conventional forces, at “from \$30 to a \$100 billion” over the coming decade. At the same time outlays in strategic forces would be reduced.

The third point of Komer’s address, the military development of China, is the false axiom upon which the “slash force levels and modernization” premise of point five is based. China is incompetently—and with potentially fatal consequences for us all—developing as “the prime surrogate [non-NATO] land power.”

The Chinese army, in this projection, forms an ostensible “substitution” for what U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Edward C. Meyer has aptly termed “our hollow Army.”

The obvious problem with Komer, Brown, et al., is that the more their “readiness” or cannibalization posture is implemented, the more their “surrogate” policy forces them to move deeper into Peking’s embrace. The United States is becoming ever more dependent on Communist China.

Brilab acquittals: a turning point?

by Scott Thompson

A federal jury Oct. 22 acquitted Texas Speaker of the House Billy Clayton and his two codefendants, Austin law partners Randall Wood and Donald Ray, of all the charges the Justice Department brought against them for its Brilab “sting.”

At a press conference held right after their not guilty verdict was read, Wood and Ray said that they would work to assure a full congressional review of the Justice Department’s gross misconduct and total disregard for the constitutional rights of its targets in Brilab-Abscam.

“I am going to pull every wire,” said Ray, “to have a U.S. Senate investigation to probe the FBI’s actions in Brilab. There is a great deal that must be said about the FBI’s actions to avoid the travesties of justice that have occurred here.”

With these strong statements Wood and Ray have joined a growing number of victims of Justice Department “stings” who have spoken out about departmental abuses.

Among them are: Cong. Michael Myers (D-Pa.) who has scheduled appearances on the three major networks after the unprecedented showing of FBI videotapes of his entrapment on nationwide TV; Cong. John Jenrette (D-S.C.) who is reportedly preparing a call for a full congressional review of Brilab-Abscam; and, Rep. John Murphy (D-N.Y.) who this month filed separate suits against NBC and the *New York Times* for reporting unverified “leaks” from the Justice Department’s Abscam team.

It is not only the victims of Brilab-Abscam who are speaking out. A key force mobilizing the mounting anger at Brilab-Abscam abuses is the Committee Against Brilab and Abscam whose advisory board includes many leading trade unionists, entrepreneurs, and regional political leaders.

In Texas, the extent of the anger at the Justice Department’s unconstitutional methods was shown in events which followed the day after Speaker Clayton’s acquittal. Both Texas governor Clements and Houston Mayor McConn called upon the department to cease its use of Brilab-Abscam tactics. And, a poll taken by a leading Houston radio station showed two-thirds of the

local citizens opposed to the department's entrapment tactics, while a leading regional paper compared Clayton's indictment to the Moscow Purge Trials.

Battle for the Constitution

The blatantly unconstitutional entrapment methods that the Justice Department has used in Brilab-Abscam were clearly uppermost in the minds of the Brilab jurors who acquitted Speaker Clayton in Texas this week.

In press coverage of Speaker Clayton's acquittal in the *Houston Chronicle* and *Houston Post* on Oct. 23, jurors are quoted as saying:

"I listened to all the evidence, but it became clear at the end of the government's case . . . that these men were not predisposed to crime."

* * *

"I'm proud to have a man like him [Clayton] in Austin representing us. All along I wondered when the government would get to something solid. I wish the U.S. government ran like our Texas government does."

* * *

"This is not Russia. I hate to think of living in a country that is so much like Russia that they send people out to entrap people."

* * *

One of the most significant facts about Speaker Clayton's acquittal is that this is the first time in Brilab-Abscam that "due process" and other constitutional issues have been heard by a jury.

In the Abscam "convictions" of Congressmen John Jenrette (D-S.C.) and Michael Myers (D-Pa.), these crucial questions were separated off for hearing after the jury trial by a federal judge. Two dissenting members of the House Committee on Official Standards of Conduct, which moved to expel Myers from Congress, noted that until this constitutional issue was settled: "In no meaningful sense can it be said that Representative Myers has been 'convicted.' On the contrary, he has reached only the first milestone along a road of many junctions that might or might not lead to a conviction."

What the Clayton Brilab case demonstrated is that when a jury is given the opportunity to review these questions, along with that of guilt or innocence on particular charges, they weigh them carefully.

According to the report of *EIR* investigators in Texas, the Brilab jurors wanted to know why the Justice Department had chosen to "target" Speaker Clayton for a "sting," and they clearly disagreed with the department that he was "predisposed to any crime." As the above quotes indicate, many jurors felt proud to be represented by such men as Speaker Clayton, and they told *EIR* investigators that they were convinced the Justice Department was playing politics in its move to indict him.

Most jurors also objected strongly to entrapment

techniques which they viewed as unconstitutional and un-American, though they saw some possible use for the "sting" tactic in dealing with well-known drug pushers. And the jurors were disturbed that the federal government had artificially created jurisdiction over bribery cases which have always been a state legal matter.

The assessment of legal experts consulted by *EIR* on Speaker Clayton's acquittal in no significant way differs from that of the Brilab jurors. This fact again demonstrates the importance of presenting "due process" and other constitutional issues to a jury of peers and not simply to a federal judge as happened in the Abscam cases.

'A full-scale war'

The Committee Against Brilab and Abscam (CABA), a national action group formed one month ago in the midst of the Brilab case, has carried on an educational campaign about these and other issues involved in Brilab-Abscam.

Press conferences to announce the creation of a new advisory board in Houston and New Orleans on Oct. 16 received wide media coverage. At the New Orleans conference which was attended by all the major television, radio, and newspapers for the region, committee spokesman Tim Richardson and advisory board member Ernest Colbert, president of the Southeast District of the Louisiana Laborers International, outlined the committee's goals.

"Brilab-Abscam," said Richardson, "represents a full-scale war against organized labor and its business and political allies. The committee will conduct an educational campaign on the entrapment methods of the Justice Department in conducting Brilab-Abscam. We will show that the Justice Department, using the cover of combatting white collar crime and labor racketeering, is engaged in a conspiracy to destroy regional machines by *creating* the crimes it claims to be combatting.

"We will show how the Justice Department has maintained a stable of real gangsters—at taxpayers' expense—to set up these crimes. We are fundraising for the defense of regional leaders charged by the Justice Department, organizing and retaining top-flight attorneys, and working with local investigators to collect evidentiary defense materials."

At the conference, according to the *Times-Picayune* in an article entitled "Brilab Opponent Says U.S. at War Against Labor," Richardson circulated a roster of 14 individuals who have joined CABA's advisory board. Many of these, like Colbert who served on former Louisiana governor Edwin Edward's Commerce Commission, are leading figures in local Democratic machines dedicated to maintaining the "delivery system"

for high-technology growth and jobs that is under attack in Brilab-Abscam.

Both the Teamsters and the Laborers Union, two of the principal trade union targets of the Justice Department, are heavily represented on CABA's board. Among these labor leaders are: Bill Bounds, president, Illinois Conference of Teamsters and president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Joint Council 65; and Rolland McMaster, general organizer, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Throughout the Texas Brilab case, committee members carried out a high-profile campaign of press conferences and educational. According to the *Dallas Morning News* Oct. 17 in an article entitled "Anti-Brilab Committee Wants Prosecutors in Case Disbarred," CABA members have filed a complaint with the Texas Bar Association against U.S. Attorney "Tony" Canales who brought charges against Speaker Clayton. At the press conference, committee spokesman Richard Leebove charged that Canales had "browbeaten" witnesses in "flagrant violation of the canon of ethics."

One of the chief vehicles used by the committee was a pamphlet entitled, "Brilab-Abscam: Union-Busting in America," which was prepared by *Investigative Leads*, a subdivision of *EIR*. For the first time outside the *EIR* itself this mass-distributed pamphlet lays out the full scope of Brilab-Abscam: "There is a war going on this very moment on U.S. soil. . . . The casualties in this war already number well over 100,000. . . . Brilab-Abscam already exceeds the Palmer Raids of the 1920s and Stalin's Moscow Purge Trials." From this hard-hitting introduction, the pamphlet details the economics, constitutional questions, and outrageous tactics of the Justice Department in Brilab-Abscam.

In addition to Texas and Louisiana, the center of the Justice Department's Brilab "sting," committee members have intervened on behalf of other congressmen and labor leaders targeted by the department across the U.S. Richard Leebove, for example, toured Cong. John Jenrette's South Carolina congressional district last week where he held three press conferences attended by 10 local newspapers and five radio and television stations.

The committee's rapid growth confirms that the tide is beginning to turn against the Brilab-Abscam witch-hunters since the first sensational "leaks" to the media last February. And Speaker Clayton's acquittal is a benchmark in this process. According to a statement carried by the Texas state radio network and other Houston radio and TV networks Oct. 25, Dave Samuelson, Travis County commissioner and an advisory board member of the committee, the acquittal represents a "sound defeat":

"This decision confirms my faith in the American System of justice. It is the greatest system ever created. The wisdom of the average American proved superior

to the devices of outside manipulators.

"In this case, the forces of the international monied interests, that are out to enslave the American productive system, have been dealt a sound defeat."

More Brilab indictments

Despite this mounting outcry at the injustice of Brilab-Abscam, the Justice Department has announced it will seek further Brilab indictments.

U.S. Attorney "Tony" Canales, the same man who said on Sept. 2 that he would use Brilab to "drive a stake through Billy Clayton's heart," has already announced that there will be further indictments in Texas. Grand juries in both Texas and Louisiana, where five people stand indicted on Brilab, are said to be preparing indictments against lesser figures caught in the Brilab net.

But, Speaker Clayton's total exoneration will cause serious problems. One case that it will immediately effect is that of L. G. Moore, head of the International Operating Engineers for a five-state region that includes Texas, who goes on trial in December. As Moore was alleged to be part of a conspiracy and his coconspirators were found not guilty, it is likely that this charge will be dropped.

Speaker Clayton's acquittal has also seriously undermined the credibility of Joseph Hauser, the twice-convicted insurance fraud artist used to set Brilab up, which was already much in doubt. Even the Justice Department had been forced to admit in a case in Los Angeles that it could not trust Hauser's unsubstantiated statements.

According to Linda Breakstone of the Los Angeles *Herald-Examiner*, a high-level department official told her: "This guy is really a flake. You can't trust anything he says unless it's backed up with a tape recorder."

The Brilab jurors certainly agreed with this unofficial department assessment. One juror told the *Houston Chronicle*: "It was a case of two different worlds colliding. One was the honest world of Mr. Clayton and the other was the one of . . . Hauser where everything was devious."

Yet, it is on the basis of Hauser's unsubstantiated statements that the department has "leaked" the fact through journalists with *Mother Jones* magazine, that it may seek to indict 20 leaders of the International Laborers Union. Each of these men is in fact a victim of Hauser, who plundered over \$30 million from Laborers' local pension funds in insurance fraud schemes from 1973 to 1976.

The fact that the department would seek indictments for these half-decade old incidents based upon the testimony of a notorious swindler such as Joseph Hauser, is clear proof of its intentions to smash the Laborers and other trade unions that have aggressively pursued the interests of their members.