

Congressional Closeup by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

House subcommittee ups fusion budget

The House Research and Development subcommittee of the Science and Technology Committee on March 25 added \$14 million to the Reagan administration's requested budget for magnetic fusion research. The fusion budget had been drastically cut by the administration to \$460 million, even less than the Carter administration request for fiscal year 1982.

The Magnetic Fusion Energy Engineering Act of 1980, the McCormack bill, if adhered to, mandates an expenditure of \$525 million for fiscal 1982. Thus, the magnetic fusion bill will be sent to the full committee with far less money than required by the current law.

In a Senate subcommittee hearing March 24, Sen. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) reiterated his strong support for the fusion program but noted that "in this budget-cutting mania, I don't think it will be possible to fulfill the mandate of the McCormack bill at \$525 million." Johnston was responding to the testimony of Fusion Energy Foundation representative Marsha Freeman, who underscored the deep concern of our European and Japanese allies over Stockman's cuts in the fusion and space research budgets.

Johnston's Senate Energy and Water subcommittee also heard from a National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) representative March 25, as did the House subcommittee on Energy and Water. The spokesman from NDPC warned, "It would be a

tragedy for the nation and the world if this subcommittee was forced to choose between the fusion program and the breeder program or between the Tennessee-Tombigbee and some Western water project. If that happens, then David Stockman will have succeeded where Ralph Nader has failed."

Begin push for enterprise zones

Spokesmen for Rep. Jack Kemp of Buffalo, N.Y. report that he and Rep. Robert Garcia of the South Bronx will formally introduce legislation to create "urban enterprise zones" in early April.

The legislation, which has been widely criticized as creating "Hong Kong model" economies, will reportedly receive the backing of the Reagan administration. It will be introduced simultaneously by Republican Senators John Chafee of Rhode Island and Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota, who will participate with Kemp and Garcia at a kick-off press conference.

Capitol Hill aides acknowledge the "tremendous job" done by the Heritage Foundation and former British Fabian Society Chairman Peter Hall in developing the enterprise zone concept. "We have made great use in selling the proposal, of the idea that it is popular with both the so-called left and right." Hearings are planned for the House and Senate Banking Committees, the Senate Finance Committee, and regionally. The Newark city council, under advice from the Prudential Insurance

Company, recently endorsed the legislation and said that New York's Mayor Koch has been "extremely helpful."

The enterprise zone is going to be sold as the "answer to the depopulation proposals of Carter administration's Commission for an Agenda on the Eighties" according to aides.

But Kemp and the backers of the enterprise zone share the fundamental premise of the Agenda proposal—that urban policy must aim toward U.S. entry into the postindustrial era. "Jack doesn't disagree with that," sources report. "The enterprise zone bill is geared to help the shift. Our tax policy is designed to give breaks to small, innovative business, the local entrepreneurs. We don't want industry in cities unless it is appropriate. Our proposal to create free trade zones are designed to capture only one type of industry—the kinds of low-wage, labor-intensive assembly jobs that you find in places like Hong Kong. These jobs don't require skills, they don't pay very much. But who cares—they are jobs. That is what the enterprise zone is all about."

Senators: open border with Mexico

Senator Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.) has introduced legislation, S. 47, that would open the border between Mexico and the United States. Specifically, it would allow Mexican citizens to obtain a temporary visa for 240 days during which time they could work at any

job unless the Labor Department certified there are adequate and willing domestic workers. The bill was cosponsored by Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.), President Reagan's liaison to the Senate, as well as Senators Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), and James McClure (R-Idaho).

In a statement to the Senate March 10, Senator Schmitt declared that his bill, the United States/Mexico Good Neighbor Act, counters the proposals of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy set up under the Carter administration which has just completed its recommendations for a very restrictive immigration policy.

"The effect of 'restrictionism,' the policy that underlies the commission's recommendations on undocumented workers from Mexico, will be to seriously hurt an important ally; foster discrimination against our own Hispanic citizens; deprive thousands of small and medium-sized businesses of ready, willing, and able workers; and eliminate many jobs for U.S. citizens which depend on these workers. In short, a policy aimed at closing a border 2,000 miles long, at employer sanctions without discrimination, and at identity cards for workers in a free country, has no relation to domestic or international reality. . . . The President recognizes something that the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy has reportedly decided to ignore. Reagan has noted the fact that seasonal and temporary migration to this country acts as a 'safety valve' for Mexico.

Schmitt has sent copies of his bill to administration officials. The Judiciary Committee will review the entire issue, probably in early May, when the administration is expected to present a comprehensive immigration program.

Another bill the committee will look at was introduced by Sen. Walter Huddleston (D-Ky.) on March 24. Huddleston's bill, cosponsored by Senators Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.) and Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) would limit immigration to 350,000 aliens a year, including refugees and relatives of citizens. Last year's gross immigration figure was 800,000. The bill would also more than double the border patrol, require employers to verify that all the people they hired were either citizens or aliens legally authorized to work, and impose penalties for hiring illegal aliens.

Senate votes to lift grain embargo

The Senate delivered a stinging attack on the Carter administration's grain embargo by voting up March 25 a Sense of the Senate Resolution to lift the embargo. The vote was 58 to 36 with 44 Republicans voting with the majority to end the embargo. Not one rose to defend the position of Secretary of State Alexander Haig that repealing the embargo would send the wrong message to the Soviets.

Originally Sen. Edward Zorinsky (R-Neb.) had proposed an amendment to the cancellation of the dairy price supports that would have required the President to lift

the embargo by April 15 or explain in detail to the Senate why he did not. However, it was felt that such an amendment would not have passed in the House and the administration was eager to pass the dairy support measure without any encumbrances. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) then drafted a Sense of the Senate Resolution introduced by Sen. Roger Jepsen (R-Iowa).

Later in the day, Senator Dole told CBS news that the State Department was to blame for the embargo. In a direct slap at the secretary of state, Dole said that Haig in fact has much less authority for issues like the embargo than the Agriculture Department.

Hearings on Office of Population postponed

Sources at the House subcommittee on Census and Population report that hearings on the Population Policy Act of 1981 sponsored by Rep. Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.) will now not be scheduled until at least mid-May. The hearings had been planned for March or April. Ottinger's legislation would establish an Office of Population Policy within the White House to oversee imposition of zero population growth in the U.S. The bill was drafted as an implementation of the Carter administration's Global 2000 report.

The subcommittee is postponing immediate hearings because of vociferous constituency opposition to the bill. "A great deal of opposition has suddenly come up out of nowhere," declared an aide. "We are getting calls. We weren't ready for this."