

## Congressional Closeup by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

### Senate Labor Committee subpoenas DOL files

The Senate Labor Committee voted April 8 to subpoena 37 items from the Labor Department relating to the department's investigations of union corruption and organized crime. The items requested included material on the Teamsters Central States Pension Funds and the Southwest and Southeast Pension Funds. The committee indicated that they wanted to ensure that the Labor Department is pursuing its investigations with the proper speed. Rumors are flying, fueled by those who want to force a witch-hunt against labor, that DOL has covered up labor corruption and has even shredded many incriminating documents.

Aides to Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), who has targeted the Teamsters for many years in the tradition of his brother Robert, are gloating that they have boxed the GOP into actions which will in fact hurt Republicans. "The Republicans don't know what they are doing," said one aide. "Hatch will get into areas of investigations of the IBT, ILA, the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, which will hurt the Republicans, not the Democrats. . . . [Labor Secretary] Ray Donovan is viewed as a corrupt man in the committee." He happily predicted that Hatch would end up "investigating himself . . . his Republican associates are most implicated with the Teamsters. Just think of William French Smith, Reagan, Frank Fitzsimmons, Sinatra, Nixon, Jackie Presser, Hatch, Governor Rhodes of Ohio, Paul Laxalt."

And the Heritage Foundation, which purports to be a friend of the administration, is also happy

over the committee's actions. "Even though the FBI did everything they could to find criminal evidence against Labor Secretary Donovan and failed, I'm convinced that Donovan is probably a criminal," declared a Heritage Foundation researcher. He said it did not matter if the Reagan administration was damaged by scandal, because "there is no infrastructure there which is yet capable of conservative governance."

### Heflin declares NASA investment in America

Senator Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) detailed in a statement on the Senate floor April 8 the enormous benefits from the NASA space program over the years: "It might be instructive to examine an institution which exemplifies what a government, industry, academic partnership can mean to this country in terms of productivity, economic growth, technological superiority, jobs, new industries, better methods and goods and perhaps even more important, national pride and prestige.

"It would in my judgment be difficult to find an R&D team which has made more significant contributions to our country's well-being than the National Aeronautics and Space Administration." Heflin reported that a study by the Midwest Research Institute in 1971 calculated a 7-to-1 return over 18 years from new technology stimulated by NASA's R&D. In 1975, he noted, Mathematica, Inc. measured potential gains to the economy of \$7 billion over 10 years from the introduction of just four technologies developed by NASA.

"In my judgment we must unleash the creativity, the imagination, and the technology innovation of these superb teams of scientists and our space programs and provide them with the funds necessary to move these daring programs forward. We must, for our own sake, provide new marks for challengers to aim toward, not watch as they surpass the old ones.

"I am convinced NASA is the best hope for retaining aerospace leadership and markets. I am convinced that far greater support is needed. In a larger sense I am convinced that research and development is essential to our growth and productivity and to our spirit—the spirit that is recognized everywhere as 'American.' "

### Foreign takeovers arouse concern

Two congressmen, Dan Marriott (R-Utah) and Manuel Lujan (R-N.M.), have sent letters to Interior Secretary James Watt urging that he report to Congress, under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, about the now dropped attempt by the Canadian Seagram firm to take over St. Joe Minerals and other takeovers. The congressmen point out that under that act the question of reciprocity can be brought into play on the takeovers involving Canadian firms such as Seagram, because Canada has restrictive provisions on attempted U.S. takeovers of Canadian firms. The Marriott letter was signed by 14 other congressmen. It says in part that "we view your review of whether and how the United States might be vulnerable to manipulation of domestic mineral resources devel-

oped by foreign corporations as of great importance.”

A move by two Missouri congressmen to cool off foreign bids was partially credited with Seagram's retreat.

## **G**lobal 2000 hearings tentatively set

The Census and Population Subcommittee of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, chaired by Robert Garcia (D-N.Y.), has tentatively scheduled hearings on the Global 2000 report of the Carter administration for May 12 and 14. The hearings had been expected earlier, but sources reported that opposition to the report forced a delay.

This first round of hearings is a prelude to subcommittee review of legislation H. R. 907 submitted by Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.). Ottinger's legislation would establish an Office of Population Policy in the executive to oversee enforcement of zero population growth domestically.

## **N**ational water policy board proposed

James Abdnor (R-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Water Resources, introduced draft legislation on April 9 for new national entities to administer and set administration water policy.

In introducing the legislation, Abdnor stated, “My proposal would create an office of water policy in the Department of Interior which would undertake factual assessment of the nation's water

outlook. The office would operate state program grants, which will gradually be reduced until the states can manage their own, and it would operate a research program. . . . My proposal would create an interagency national board of water policy to be responsible for establishing the administration's position on water policy and to report to Congress on needed changes in policy.”

In addition, the Abdnor proposal would set up a state advisory committee to strengthen the relationship between the states and the federal government in the area of water policy.

Abdnor, who stresses that his proposal is a discussion draft, made his suggestions in the wake of Interior Secretary James Watt's decision to abolish the Office of Water Research and Technology in the Interior Department and the Water Resources Council, the current interagency water policy board. The WRC, in particular, has been a nest of zero-growth sentiment. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, however, reacted strongly to Watt's proposal not to fund the two offices, and voted 11 to 1 on March 14 to maintain a small amount of funding for both entities. The committee believed, and Abdnor concurred, that states would be left in the lurch with inadequate planning coordination on the national level. The committee concluded that a one-year phaseout would be more acceptable.

Abdnor's Water Resources Subcommittee will hold hearings the week of April 20 to discuss the overall issue of national water policy. Following the first round of hearings, Abdnor hopes to have a

better sense of what is needed in national water policy and will then revise his legislation if necessary.

## **H**ouse Democrats issue policy statement

House Democrats approved a “Statement of Democratic Principles” April 8, containing policy statements on energy, technological innovation, interest rates, “investment in human capital,” incomes policy, and labor-management relations.

The energy section stressed conservation and development of alternate fuels and coal, but did not mention nuclear energy. The technological innovation section stressed the necessary government role in promoting research and development, while the investment in human capital section talked about the need for a well-educated and healthy workforce. The statement also criticized current high interest rates as inflationary.

However, some moderate Democrats are known to be concerned about the statement's call for “a new area of cooperation between labor and management and [exploration of] new management techniques like worker democracy.” Such liberal coparticipation programs have traditionally been used to enforce austerity policies on labor.

Criticism has also been heard of the statement's proposal that “our nation needs an incomes policy—a flexible set of methods for combatting inflationary wage and price trends. Built-in wage and price increases affect today's inflation rate.” Wage and price controls are not widely liked.