

National News

Iowa coalition formed against budget cuts

A farmer-labor coalition was formed in Iowa's predominantly Republican 1st Congressional District to oppose the Reagan budget cuts. Led by Scott County Democratic executive committee member Elmer Goetsch, a farmer, the group is also calling for 100 percent parity and lower interest rates.

The coalition was initiated several weeks ago by Goetsch and the president of the 1st C.D.'s AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE). Representatives of the Iowa-Illinois "Quad Cities" Federation of Labor, the Iowa Union Retirees Organization, several Meatcutters shop stewards, members of the American Agriculture Movement, and the Iowa director of the National Democratic Policy Committee attended.

Explaining the economic impact of cuts in agriculture supports, Goetsch said, "In things like steel or forestry every dollar multiplies seven times. A year ago corn was at \$2.35. The parity price on that, at 100 percent, is \$4.35. So you've lost \$2. Multiply that by 7, and for every bushel of corn sold the economy lost \$14 in its growth factor. There's only one way to get to people on salary," he continued. "Just ask them, would you like to pay 73 percent of your wages on food? We've just got to get the people educated."

Democratic chairman forms 'strategy council'

Newly elected Democratic Party national chairman Charles Manatt has put forward a proposal to Washington, D.C. Democrats to form a "strategy council" to rebuild the party as an alternative to the Reagan administration.

In a memorandum circulated since early April, Manatt calls for a central council of no more than 30 leading Democrats to include House Speaker Tip O'Neill, Senate Minority Leader Robert

C. Byrd, and Manatt that would become the basis for a new party infrastructure.

From 1953 to 1955, party chairman Paul Butler created a similar council that met stiff opposition from southern Democrats, including Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn. Because of this previous fiasco and the significant opposition within the party to "parliamentary" party organization, the Democratic National Committee is saying the council is "just an idea right now."

The DNC is also insisting that this is a "strategy," not a "policy" council. DNC policy director Ann Lewis insists that the central policy of the party is to defeat Reagan's budget and replace it with the Democrats' version of the same cuts.

At the December 1980 conference of the Socialist International in Washington a social democratic takeover of the Democratic Party through just such a council was elaborated. The strategy included driving conservative Democrats out of the party. Michigan Democratic Party chairman Morley Winograd has predicted that Tip O'Neill would become the "parliamentary faction leader" of a social democratic party.

The science press on the science cuts

What do the major science publications say about the administration's proposed budget cuts? A review of the science press reveals little indication that the major scientific institutions will fight to save American science.

Writing in *Science*, the magazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Philip Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences, excuses the Reagan administration's hatchet job on science in the spirit of fairness: "Certainly managers of the federal budget, seeking to reduce total expenditures by tens of billions of dollars, cannot be expected to treat science as a sacred cow," Handler wrote in a March 20 editorial.

Handler's greatest worry appears to

be that the social sciences took a greater beating than the physical sciences: the cutting should have been more even-handed. "Patently, our knowledge of the natural world and our technology have outrun our wisdom in their use—witness the need for the very effort in which OMB is currently engaged."

Writing in the March 23 issue of *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, editor-in-chief William H. Gregory applauds the fact that the defense budget is slated for a hefty increase. He notes, however, "relatively little research and development funding is included in the Reagan defense budget amendment" and "the lack of big research and development add-ons or new program initiatives does not translate into a shift toward proved rather than new technology."

The weekly *Science News* expressed no editorial opinion, except for that implied by the cover of the March 14 issue, headlined "Carving the Science Budget."

As of its April issue, *Scientific American* had yet to comment on the budget situation. A telephone call to the editorial secretary elicited that she is unaware of any future article on the budget up through the July issue.

The March issue of *Physics Today*, published by the American Institute of Physics, reports the bare facts of the budget cuts titled "1982 Budget: Carter Giveth and Reagan Taketh Away."

Cuts in DEA budget criticized

At April 21 hearings before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee, the crippling budget cuts proposed for the Drug Enforcement Administration came under attack by the National Democratic Policy Committee. The NDPC, the only group at the hearing to testify on the DEA budget, called for restoration of the cuts proposed by the Reagan administration. Rather, the NDPC called for increasing the DEA's budget to wage an effective war against "the infrastructure of crime known as 'Dope, Inc.'"

The NDPC representative pointed

out that the Reagan administration had proposed to do away with the planned Southwest Asian task force that would deal with the influx of heroin from the Golden Crescent. In addition, the administration wants to eliminate funds for 50 percent of the crucial federal-state-local task forces which provide the only interface between federal and local drug enforcement efforts.

These proposed cuts come on top of four years of cutbacks in international drug enforcement capabilities by the Carter administration. "We could not carry out a 'French connection' bust even if we wanted to," said the NDPC representative. "We have disarmed ourselves in the war against the international drug traffic."

Congressman works on pro-industry tax bill

Rep. Don Bailey (D-Pa.) is working with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.) to draft the party's tax bill. In an April 21 interview with *EIR's* Kathy Burdman, Representative Bailey stated, "I've made the key issue in the tax program the question of targeting, and within targeting, the number-one issue is refundability. We need a tax cut in particular geared to tax credits to refund unused tax incentives to our basic heavy industries which are already operating in the red. The Kemp-Roth tax program and the corporate tax program that goes with it are . . . primarily for the retail and service sectors. . . . But companies in research and development, or in heavy capital-intensive industry, get very little advantage . . . when they're already in the red."

Stated Bailey: "I also believe we can do something about the skilled labor shortage. We have a shortage of 65,000 skilled machinists in this country, to name only one area. We're not turning out enough engineers either." He proposes tax credits for vocational training schools and corporate apprenticeship programs. "This can be done in partnership with the unions. We did this back

when everyone got upset about Sputnik.

"I also believe we need to tie water resource management into this idea. We will need to greatly expand water consumption in the future. We'll need to vastly increase our agricultural capacity . . . that requires a huge amount of water. Our utilities will need a tremendous amount of water for their nuclear cooling systems. . . . We need tax and other incentives for large new programs to capture new sources of surface water."

Bailey concluded, "Many of these things I'm calling for might smack of planning—that's a frightful word to some people. But it must be done, and one of the best ways to do all this through the free market is to make these things profitable in the market." He added, "High interest rates are not good for economic growth and I'd like to see them come down."

NASA's budget still up in the air

Despite the capitulation of the Democratic-controlled House Space Science Committee, which agreed to a minor rewrite of NASA's budget within the limitations imposed by OMB Director David Stockman, there is still a possibility to restore a portion of NASA's cut funds.

According to staffers on the Senate Science, Technology and Space subcommittee, the full committee had actually voted March 15 to restore \$178 million of the \$600 million sliced off the original \$6.7 billion NASA budget.

Committee staffers also told *EIR* that it was problematical how much of the restoration of funds will be kept by the full committee when it marks up its budget request at the beginning of May. Staffers said that various options would be presented to subcommittee chairman Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.), who in turn will present his recommendations to the other members of the full committee for their approval. Once the committee's budget request is passed, it will go to the Senate Commerce and Appropriations Committee for final approval.

Briefly

● **SIERRA CLUB** Executive Director Michael McCloskey has denounced Interior Secretary James Watt for being in favor of economic growth. "Watt's a prodevelopment extremist," McCloskey said at an April 16 San Francisco press conference to announce a hate campaign against Watt. "People are chomping at the bit to get rid of him."

● **ED MEESE**, White House chief of staff, told 250 prosecutors from around the U.S. that the Reagan administration is going to combat international drug smuggling in "a more massive and extensive way than has ever been tried before." The counselor to the President made his remarks in an April 22 speech to a Washington, D.C. conference sponsored by the Institute for Law and Social Research.

● **DR. EVERETT KOOP**, President Reagan's nominee for surgeon general, is still under fire for his "prolife" views. A congressional challenge to Koop's nomination has been prepared by California Democrat Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House subcommittee on Health and the Environment. Citing Koop's "intolerant views," Waxman reportedly will parade an array of women's libbers and gay rights activists to testify against Koop because of his opposition to the "right to die" policies that were boosted under the Carter administration.

● **ED KOCH**, mayor of New York City, has affronted lovers of great music everywhere by giving New York's highest cultural award, the Georg Friedrich Handel award, to Yoko Ono in honor of her late husband, John Lennon. Koch has also signed a law renaming a portion of New York City's Central Park "Strawberry Fields," after Lennon's song that describes an LSD hallucination.