

Eye on Washington by Stanley Ezrol

Tipping the budget vote

This is what we see behind the well-publicized flap between Speaker Tip O'Neill and Rep. Jim Jones over the Democratic response to Reagan's budget. (O'Neill announced in an April 26 press conference that House Democratic efforts to press an alternative budget and tax proposal would fail for lack of votes.) Sources in the office of a key House Democratic leader speculate that Tip may be just a little bit more anxious to defeat moderate Democrats like Jones than to beat the Republicans. "It's either that, or a case of open mouth, insert foot," my source said, adding, "I know for a fact that Tip didn't poll the caucus" before he claimed that Jones's budget proposal would be defeated.

O'Neill's "stab in the back" move was prompted by the gradual accrual of power that the moderate Democrats had been accomplishing in the tax and budget fight. A victory for them on the vote would have certainly assured their ascendancy over O'Neill in the fight for House influence, and simultaneously demonstrated to Reagan that they could retain a critical margin of conservative Democratic votes on all issues.

The fear is, however, that the Democratic budget alternative has been undercut. In spite of this, the caucus is not, I repeat, not sanctioning any action to curb Tip. Note, however, that Chuck Manatt, the Democratic National Committee chairman, and Sen. Alan Cranston are meeting quietly about something.

Russell Hemenway, head of the liberal Committee for an Effective Congress, says he's urging Tip not

to retire (a possibility as early as 1982), because "we don't want Jim Wright to take over—he's too moderate," read "too progrowth." Hemenway complains that there are only 80 to 90 "humanist liberals" in the House. His group, which includes New York Episcopalian Bishop Paul Moore on its board, has an interesting history *EIR* will soon reveal.

Questions and secrets

Why are the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for international security affairs being divided between designate Francis West and Richard Perle, designate for the newly created office of assistant secretary for international security policy? We see that Perle will run the desks for Western Europe and the NATO countries, and West will have the remainder, but we can't say which one of the two keeps in touch with Steve Bryan, who was fired from his last job on the Hill for passing security-sensitive information to the Israeli Mossad.

Do Senator Proxmire's constituents get their money's worth? Jake Garn apologized for the late start of Senate Banking Committee hearings. Proxmire, whom we see jogging up the Hill many mornings, responded that he thought the 10:00 a.m. opening was much more civilized than the scheduled 9:30. Garn replied that Proxmire should be on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee: "We start those hearings at 8:00 a.m." "Mr. Chairman, I am on that subcommittee," Proxmire confessed.

A congressional source claims that the Carter people still call the shots at the Department of Justice. After Reagan's legislative affairs assistant, Max Friedersdorf, assured a Republican senator that the

DOJ had been ordered to tone down testimony against his bill, the senator was shocked to hear the same hard-line testimony the Carter administration gave last year. I would like to see the following memo posted at DOJ: "Carter lost, Reagan won."

U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick wanted to keep a big secret. Jeane is going to address the Bilderberg Conference this month. She's very excited about the invitation to what she calls "private, supersecret, inner, inner-elite group," but she wasn't supposed to say anything about it. She told us that she will "blast the Brandt Commission, the whole multilateral approach. The whole North-South approach is wrong. You can't deal with these things as a global situation. You have to handle these things in the disaggregate, on a case-by-case basis."

Jeane is part of a tight-knit family circle that currently runs this administration's relations with international organizations. She was prominent in the conservative Coalition for a Democratic Majority grouping, founded by Norman Podhoretz of *Commentary* magazine, and his wife Midge Decter. Norm and Midge's son-in-law Elliot Abrams is designated head of the State Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs. Elliot is traveling to Oxford, England, in a threesome with Ed Feulner, a leader of the right-wing Fabian Heritage Foundation, and Sven Kraemer of the National Security Council, son of Fritz Kraemer, the shadowy Pentagon official behind Henry Kissinger's remarkable success.

Sven will among other things attend the Institute for European Studies conference on "European Change."