

## Congressional Closeup by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

### Garn: 'U.S. business should stay out of Siberia'

If Senate Banking Committee Chairman Jake Garn (R-Utah) has his way, no U.S. companies will participate in the West European-Siberian natural gas pipeline. On Oct. 7 Garn introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 41 which would have the President exercise authority to prevent any U.S. corporation from involvement with the pipeline; President would also be instructed to urge European nations to stay out of financing and construction of the project. The resolution further calls for the development of a firm U.S. policy with respect to the general "promotion of the development of Soviet energy sources."

In his statements on the resolution Garn claimed that the pipeline would increase the "possibility for economic and political black-mail" by Moscow against Western Europe, particularly West Germany, which is a major participant in the project, although the Europeans, especially West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, see the pipeline as a major contributor to world peace. In 1978, when Leonid Brezhnev visited Bonn, Schmidt and the Soviet President signed a 25-year economic agreement and re-emphasized collaboration on the Siberian pipeline, declaring that economic collaboration would lay the basis for peace.

In introducing his resolution, the "conservative" Garn is putting himself in league with Fritz Kraemer, the mentor of Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig. Kraemer's group, the Institute for Strategic Trade, has been waging a public campaign in the U.S.

against the pipeline and works with Christian Social Union leader and Hapsburg ally Franz-Josef Strauss in Germany against it.

Garn, who purports to question much of what Wall Street does, asked that an article be put into the *Congressional Record* backing his resolution and detailing the European participation in the pipeline. The article was written by two vice-presidents of David Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank.

A companion resolution was introduced into the House by LeBoutillier (R-N.Y.) and James Nelligan (R-Pa.). Garn intends to hold hearings on the issue of U.S. export policy toward the Soviet Union shortly.

### Global 2000 backers urge end to Tenn-Tom

Led by Claudine Schneider (R-R.I.) and Robert Edgar (D-Pa.), 25 congressmen sent a letter Oct. 5 to Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) urging that he drop his support for the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, a project vital for the economic growth of major areas in the Southeast, and the Clinch River Breeder, a program important for the development of nuclear energy in this country. They claimed the projects are too costly in a period of budget austerity. Both Congressmen are also major supporters of the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*, which calls for the reduction of the world's population by 2 billion by the end of the century. Recently these two members of the House and three other signers of the letter to Baker co-signed a

statement to President Reagan urging him to implement the *Global 2000 Report*.

Schneider, who was the key force behind the letter according to her aides, works closely with the Sierra Club in an effort to stop these two development programs. Schneider led the fight in the House against them and hopes to have another chance at eliminating their funding when the House takes up the issue of the administration's request for an additional 12 percent across-the-board budget cut.

### Justice Assistance Act passes House committee

The House Judiciary Committee on Sept. 22 passed H.R. 4481, the Justice Assistance Act, by a vote of 22 to 5. Sponsored by Criminal Justice Subcommittee Chairman William Hughes (D-N.J.), the legislation fills part of the void in federal support to state and local law enforcement efforts that was left by the dismantling of the Law Enforcement Assistance Agency (LEAA). H.R. 4481 would authorize \$179 million in federal matching funds for state and local governments to implement anti-crime programs in areas such as arson prevention, white collar crime, undercover "sting" operations, juvenile crime prevention, and career criminal prosecution. The bill also provides for an expedited federal response to local areas that are struck with a major crime problem, such as the Atlanta child murders or the narcotics plague infesting southern Florida.

Observers noted, however, that while federal aid to budget-

squeezed state and local authorities remains necessary, the continued practice of channeling that aid into areas such as white collar crime and certain kinds of political sting operations only serves to maintain the current federal imbalance in favor of Abscam-style operations and against, for example, a major war on drugs.

House floor action is expected during this session of the 97th Congress, but Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) is not expected to move any companion legislation until the administration position on the bill is known.

## **F**oreign language study promotion urged

Just before adjourning for the Columbus Day recess, the House Post-Secondary Education Subcommittee unanimously passed out legislation designed to promote the teaching of foreign languages in the nation's elementary, secondary, and college-level schools.

The legislation, H.R. 3231, introduced by the Subcommittee Chairman Paul Simon (D-Ill.), would provide \$10 million to states for model foreign language programs in local school districts, \$4 million for junior and community college language programs, \$13 million for universities to encourage enrollment in language programs, and \$60 million for colleges with foreign language requirements for admission or graduation.

The bill calls for assistance to encourage foreign language study on the grounds that "the economic

and security interests of this nation require significant improvement in the foreign language instruction offered." Hearings were held in the Subcommittee last July which stressed this point. Among those testifying was Adm. Bobby Inman, Deputy Director of the CIA. Inman told the Subcommittee that the nation's "rapidly deteriorating foreign language capabilities were having "an adverse impact" on U.S. intelligence gathering and evaluation. "We are especially vulnerable when it comes to the more exotic languages such as Urdu, Arabic, and Farsi." Education Secretary Terrel Bell sent the Subcommittee a letter opposing the bill because of the cost involved. He also told the Congressmen that the administration opposed creating new programs, preferring instead the block grant approach.

## **H**earings held on major nuclear waste initiative

Senate Energy Committee Chairman James A. McClure (R-Ida.) joined with Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Robert Stafford (R-Vt.), and Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) and Steve Symms (R-Ida.), to introduce S. 1662, the National Nuclear Waste Policy Act 1981. The legislation provides an expedited and permanent solution to nuclear waste disposal, the uncertainty of which is used by environmentalist extremists to fan popular fears and misconceptions about the safety of nuclear power.

S. 1662 calls for a streamlined regulatory process by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in all

areas of licensing and environmental review. It also provides for federal management of interim spent-fuel storage until permanent facilities are developed. The permanent solution, according to the Sept. 24 floor statement McClure made in introducing the bill, will be a "much accelerated program for the ultimate disposal of commercial high-level waste and spent-fuel elements in mined geologic repositories. The objective of this program would be to bring on line, in the 1988 timeframe, this nation's first commercial repository for high-level waste." While the federal government would manage both temporary and permanent storage facilities, the legislation also provides for full cost recovery to the government in the form of a one mill per kilowatt-hour users fee on nuclear-generated electricity.

Department of Energy spokesman and Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Shelby Brewer, testifying before a joint hearing of the Energy and Environment Committees on Oct. 6, stated, "Although not totally consistent with current administration policy, we acknowledge that the bill would provide a quantum step forward in providing program and policy stability." Shelby Brewer added, however, that "we feel that this is a service more appropriately provided by the private sector."

Supporting the administration view was the liberal Union of Concerned Scientists spokesman Eric Van Loon, who testified, "We agree with the position taken by the administration . . . that interim storage of a spent fuel should remain the responsibility of the utilities, rather than being assumed by the federal government."