

National News

Teller decries official know-nothings

Dr. Edward Teller, the nuclear physicist who played a leading role in World War II's Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb and led the subsequent development of the hydrogen bomb by the United States, denounced the widespread "ignorance" among federal officials of the potential for anti-missile beam-weapons systems in a Chicago speech Nov. 30.

Teller had described at length both the feasibility, and tremendous strategic importance of beam weapons, which could destroy the triggering mechanisms of nuclear missiles in flight and prevent their detonation, in a speech to the National Press Club Oct. 27.

"We are now in the most uneasy period of our history," said Teller, who was addressing a conference commemorating physicist James Franck at the University of Chicago. He decried the fact that vital decisions on defense-science policy were made by ignorant "bureaucrats," both currently and during the Manhattan Project. "The only way to have a strong defense against nuclear war," said the eminent physicist, "is to think correctly. James Franck did not believe in disarmament." The only person knowledgeable on beam weapons in Washington D.C. is Presidential Science Adviser George Keyworth, he said.

Teller also denounced the Defense Department's classification policy in his remarks.

Successful Space Shuttle mineral-mapping test

NASA investigators have confirmed that the Shuttle multispectral infrared radiometer experiment, performed on the second test flight of the Space Shuttle in November 1981, detected clay and carbonite-bearing minerals on earth while in orbit.

For the first time minerals other than limonite (a common group of iron-bearing minerals) were identified remotely by an or-

biting spacecraft sensor. The identification was done on the basis of a super-refined reading of the infrared spectrum reflected by the target territory under the spacecraft.

Passing over Egypt, the instruments on board the Columbia were able to locate limestone and deposits of aluminum-bearing silicates, using the infrared spectrum given off by the clays associated with these deposits as a clue.

These results, whose findings were afterwards confirmed by ground investigators, indicate that it is now possible to distinguish different types of clay minerals from space, and potentially possible to map the abundance of these minerals, especially in arid environments. Previously, clay mineral identification was possible only using laboratory-sampling techniques.

The same Shuttle mission, STS-2, also demonstrated the use of revolutionary new types of space-borne radar to map the territory beneath the Sahara desert, revealing dried riverbeds and ruined pre-historic towns.

Simpson-Mazzoli not yet out of the woods

One version of the Simpson-Mazzoli "immigration reform" bill, H.R. 6514, was passed by House Education and Labor Committee Dec. 1. But because this committee had substantially amended the version of the bill already passed earlier by the House Judiciary Committee, and other alterations are under consideration by two other House committees, it is unlikely that the full House will have any time to take up the immigration reform question during this lame-duck session.

If the bill is not passed this session, it will die and will have to be re-introduced next session.

The Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means Committees, to which the bill was also referred for consideration, have all requested an additional day for mark-up of their own versions.

Capitol Hill sources say that House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) had informally promised advocates of the bill over

the Thanksgiving holiday that efforts to reach a consensus on the bill and bring it to the floor would be speeded up. But opponents of the measure think that there is a common understanding among House Democratic leadership that unless the bill can be substantially amended before it comes to the floor, it will not be brought up this session.

Editorial support from the *New York Times* and demands for "quick action" from AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland have been insufficient to guarantee passage of Simpson-Mazzoli, the primary feature of which is a national identification-card system for workers modeled on the Nazi work card system of the 1930s.

Hodel supports Third World development

Donald Hodel, President Reagan's newly appointed Energy Secretary, singled out the impact of U.S. energy policy on the Third World as the critical issue during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy Committee Dec. 1. Hodel reiterated his support for nuclear energy development, the Clinch River breeder reactor, and advanced energy technologies.

He emphasized the issue that had infuriated environmentalists when he debated them during his tenure as head of the Bonneville Power Administration—that their opposition of nuclear energy was having devastating consequences in the Third World. "What Congress and the administration do about energy has global implications, for although what we do in the United States may cause only ripples on the energy shores of our society, it may cause tidal waves on the energy shores of other nations, especially the developing countries," Hodel told the committee.

Hodel then attacked Malthusianism directly. "History teaches us that as a dominant fuel or technology is discovered, flourishes, prevails, and then wanes, another is discovered." Testifying before the committee, Fusion Energy Foundation representative Charles Stevens described the responsibilities of the new Energy Secretary from the standpoint of the strategic necessity of

developing anti-nuclear-missile beam weapons.

Stevens called on Hodel to heed the plea of Dr. Edward Teller that classification wraps on beam weapons be lifted, to inform the American population of the tremendous importance of developing the beam weapon capability, both to end nuclear terror and to serve as the high-technology driver that could pull the U.S. economy out of the current disastrous depression.

Cannon rebukes frameup of Teamsters union leader

Senator Howard Cannon (D-Nev.) told a federal jury Nov. 29 that he was never offered—and therefore did not accept—a bribe from Teamsters union officials in 1979. Cannon was testifying in the government's case against Teamsters union president Roy Williams for bribery of a federal official.

Since Cannon is not accused of wrongdoing in the government's case against Williams, and since the Senator's career was brought to an end in the November election (largely as a result of a press smear campaign linking him to Teamsters union bribery), the prosecution had hoped that Cannon would be willing to provide evidence against Williams.

Instead, Cannon said he had "absolutely not" accepted or been offered a bribe by Williams to scuttle the Carter administration's trucking deregulation bill, and that he had never even met Williams. "I wouldn't know him from a bale of hay," Cannon said.

To back up his testimony, Cannon produced a letter from President Carter praising his role in securing passage of the deregulation bill. Comparing this evidence to the inuendo the prosecution had based its case on, defense attorney Thomas Wadden said that the Cannon testimony had finally allowed the court to "cut out the sliced baloney and dill pickles and get to the nitty-gritty of this case."

Regardless of the outcome, however, observers have noted that the case is already having the effect of tying up the attention of the Teamsters' leadership at a time when they desperately need to be thinking about

economic policy and protecting their membership from the depression. Similar court tactics were used against Teamster president Jimmy Hoffa.

Massachusetts court supports right to die

A Massachusetts jury awarded in mid-November \$2.58 million in damages to the widow of Earle Spring, who died of kidney failure in early 1980, after delivering a "guilty" verdict against a geriatric center and a nurse for their efforts to keep Spring alive. Mrs. Spring claimed that the nursing home had violated her husband's "privacy" by allowing medical professionals and others engaged in a court battle for Spring's life to question him at the geriatric facility.

The 78-year-old Spring, who told a doctor and a nurse that he wanted to live, was pulled from his kidney dialysis machine by court order in January 1980 to allow him to "die with dignity." At that time, medical professionals had determined that Spring had a life expectancy of at least another five years.

The jury also awarded Spring's widow damages against nurse Joan Wolohan, who had allowed a Boston physician and a nurse, who were associates of Democratic Party leader Lyndon LaRouche, to interview Spring in the geriatric center. Spring asserted in the interview that he did not want to die.

LaRouche, a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for President in 1980, led a campaign to pressure both President Carter and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) to save Spring's life.

At issue was the entire "right-to-die" movement, epitomized by the January 1980 decision of the Hampden County Supreme Court to remove Spring's life support in response to an action brought by his family and physician to "allow" him to die. The LaRouche campaign forced a reversal of the decision when Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Judge Frances Quirico ordered Spring placed back on dialysis. Spring, weakened by lack of proper treatment during the court case, died several months later.

Briefly

● **GEORGETOWN** University's Interculture Center, which houses sections of the university's School of Foreign Service, is inscribed with the following quotation from Jesuit cultist Teilhard de Chardin: "The Age of Nations is past. It remains for us now, if we do not wish for us to perish, to set aside ancient prejudices and build the earth." The school trains more career officers of the U.S. Foreign Service than any other institution.

● **NICHOLAS BENTON** announced his candidacy for Mayor of Houston, Texas Nov. 29. Benton, who ran an unusually successful write-in campaign against incumbent Republican Rep. Ron Paul in November, will be opposing incumbent Mayor Kathy Whitmire in the non-partisan election October 1983. Benton has been endorsed by the National Democratic Policy Committee.

● **MAX RABB**, the U.S. ambassador to Italy, may soon be out of a job, the Thanksgiving Day edition of the *Washington Post* reiterates.

● **THE NATIONAL** League of Cities convention, meeting in Los Angeles Nov. 29-Dec. 1, rejected even voting on a nuclear freeze resolution promoted by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and other Democrats linked to Democratic National Committee Chairman Charles Manatt. A delegation from the National Democratic Policy Committee had polarized the meeting over the issue of the freeze versus defensive beam weapons. Mayor Bissell of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who had signed the NDPC petition to the U.S. Congress for beam-weapons development, led the successful opposition.