
Capitol Hill KAL Debate

Senators blast Harrimanite appeasers, congressmen demand a strong defense

by Susan Kokinda in Washington, D.C.

The Senate debate on how to respond to the Soviets' massacre of 269 civilians aboard the Korean Airlines flight 7, a debate which took place on Sept. 15, brought forward three interesting responses. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) tried to "strengthen" the Senate resolution of condemnation with impotent reprisals, but raised important points about Henry Kissinger and Averell Harriman's roles as "appeasers" of the Soviet Union. Fellow conservatives Orrin Hatch and Jeremiah Denton each eloquently disagreed with Helms' s effort to amend the administration's approach, stressing that bipartisan support for the President was the most important signal that could be sent to the Soviets. Hatch had been in Seoul with Helms. Denton, a retired admiral and POW in a Vietnamese prison camp for seven years, carried special weight in his presentation to the Senate.

In the House discussion of the defense authorization bill, Democratic members in particular pointed to the importance of beefing up U.S. defense capabilities in order to send more than a rhetorical message to the Soviets.

Excerpts from both discussions follow:

Sept. 15, 1983, Senate debate on KAL 7 resolution which ultimately passed, unamended, unanimously:

Senator Jesse Helms (D-S.C.): The decade of the 1970s opened with the concept of détente. . . . Détente was Kissinger's instrument to achieve a so-called legitimate international order. Kissinger's paradigm, however, was fundamentally flawed. The Kissinger element is an ethic of a peaceful order which involves more than just an agreement on a set of rules. His system was empty of moral content and therefore is irrelevant to the great issues of our times which center upon values and principles fundamental to the preservation of a way of life basic to our civilization. . . .

Turning to recent months, we find the voices of appeasement rising again to propose another surge toward détente. Innumerable studies and plans and options papers have been drawn up in Washington which call for a summit meeting between President Reagan and Andropov. The agenda of such a summit is no secret. . . . Henry Kissinger called for it in an interview this past April. Mr. Reston of the *New York*

Times wrote about it on May 1 of this year. Averell Harriman called for it after his visit to Moscow this June. . . . New voices are being raised that counsel appeasement which will be symbolized in a summit meeting with Andropov whose bloodstained hands will hardly be dry from the Korean airline massacre. A new Munich indeed is stirring in some minds. Or is it a new Yalta that the President is being counseled to negotiate at a summit? . . . [We must reforge] a real national strategy for our great Republic which will insure our continued existence as a people dedicated to the highest values of Western Christian civilization and worthy of the heritage bequeathed to us by the blood, sweat, and lives of generations of American patriots who fought to defend our precious way of life. . . .

The Soviet empire is fundamentally evil and dedicated to the destruction of all that we believe in. . . . Negotiations with the Kremlin, if undertaken, must only proceed from the principles of reciprocal concession and unimpaired security.

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah): I know there are many more sanctions we could impose unilaterally on the Soviet Union. . . . I certainly support the spirit behind the Helms amendment and I do support some of the provisions of his amendment. However, they do not adequately match the punishment to the crime. The problem with the Helms proposals is not that on balance they are not worthy proposals, but that I believe our best hope for the future is to seek as widespread international condemnation of and sanctions against the Soviet Union as politically possible.

Senator Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.): There has developed in this country and in the world a prevailing confusion about the distinction between the relative efficacy of our American system and that of the Soviet Union. The latest tragedy has done more than anything else in recent memory to bring into focus that very clear distinction.

For that reason, we have been presented with the opportunity, the first in a very long time, for men and women of diverse views to clasp hands to make a definitive, perceptive common statement of unity. I see it as absolutely essential that we seize this moment to draw together those of different political and ideological perspectives who all share a sense

of justice, of patriotism rooted in governments desirous of peace, justice, and freedom. We should not, we must not spoil or lose that historic opportunity. . . .

From my own perspective on foreign policy, I would rather help nurse Congress into a mature bipartisan body than to try to lead my colleagues to adopt my precise point of view, because I fear the possibility of opening a partisan, divisive, nonproductive debate on this issue now. . . . The most appropriate punishment that we can now inflict upon the Soviet leaders is to unite and to reaffirm our resolve to rebuild and maintain our national defense.

Sept. 15, 1983, from the House debate on the defense conference report:

Representative Melvin Price (D-Ill.), chairman, House Armed Services Committee: We cannot rely on the "good will" of the Soviets to help assure a stable world in the future. They look at the world from an entirely different perspective and hold an entirely different set of values. . . .

Who would say—after the events of the last two weeks—that we should take any other stance but dealing from a position of strength? To do anything else would be to say: Trust the Soviets! Trust the Soviets to sign a chemical warfare treaty even when they are achieving a great superiority in that area? Trust the Soviets, who shoot down innocent civilians, to not use a chemical warfare advantage against the Free World? Make no mistake about it: To vote down this conference report because of the provisions for chemical warfare preparedness is to vote to trust the Soviets.

Representative Marvin Leath (D-Tex.) [arguing against opponents of U.S. chemical and biological weapons production who seek to preclude further Soviet production with an arms control agreement]: How do we deal with a human being that is devoid of conscience? How can we stand here and try to sell that argument when the argument went up in smoke when KAL 7 went down? You are not going to shame the Soviets into an agreement. They will be forced into an agreement. . . .

Your way has not worked in 14 years. And we have just had dramatic world proof that it is not about to work today.

Sept. 12, 1983, opening statements:

Representative Carl Perkins (D-Ky.): Our relations with the Soviet Union are at the most dangerous point since the Cuban missile crisis 20 years ago. Faced with this situation, it is imperative that this Congress look to the defenses of this country and to its interests around the world. If that means more funds and more expenditures, we will just have to dig down and come up with the money. And while we are about it, we might as well give the President some standby authority to deal with the economic crisis upon us, as well as with the military and diplomatic crisis. . . . I think we ought to give the President some standby authority to control the interest rates that are crippling our ability to meet the military threat from abroad.

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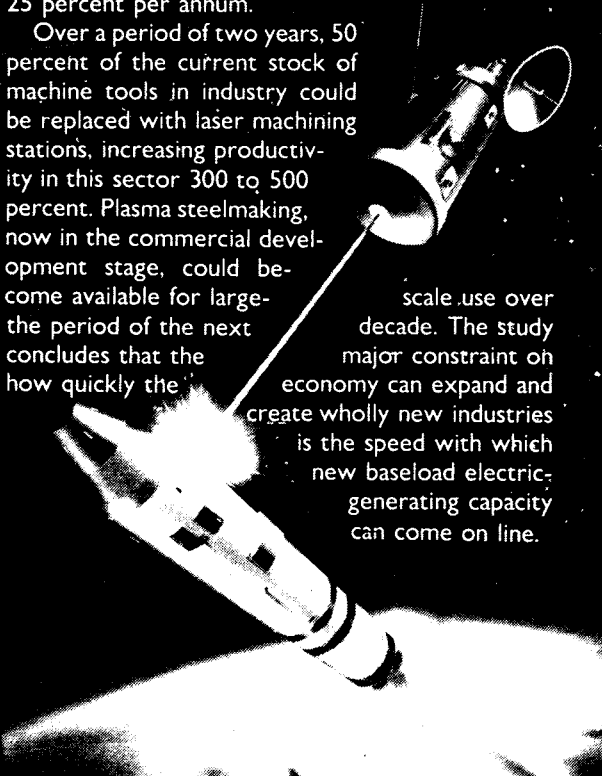
The Economic Impact of the Relativistic Beam Technology

A unique study of the impact of the new defense-related technologies—high power lasers, particle beams, and fusion—which will become available to basic industrial production as the March 23 defensive strategic doctrine proposed by President Reagan is developed. The report is a computer analysis incorporating the LaRouche-Riemann model, which examines the little-discussed revolutionary civilian economic "spinoff" effects of the new beam weapon development program.

The study reveals that with rapid introduction of new laser and related technologies into the civilian economy, the growth of the economy would be so rapid that:

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