

National News

DNC chief Manatt behind union-busting

Democratic National Committee chairman Charles Manatt and former DNC chairman Robert Strauss have been implicated in the union-busting operation being run by Continental Airlines chief executive officer Francisco Lorenzo. Lorenzo filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy Sept. 24, laying off 8,000 of his 12,000 employees and demanding 50 percent pay cuts for those who remain.

Legal counsel for Lorenzo in his battle with the Airline Pilots Association has been provided by the law firms of Manatt, Phelps and Rothenberg, and Robert Strauss's law firm Aiken and Gump.

In 1981 Lorenzo proposed to merge his Texas International Airlines with Continental. The pilots' union attempted to resist this rationalization scheme by proposing a stock-option plan that would permit some cost-cutting while maintaining union work rules. The union managed to get this plan tacked on as an amendment to the 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act.

The amendment passed the Senate, but when it came before the House, Lorenzo successfully commissioned Manatt, Phelps and Rothenberg to get the amendment knocked off the bill.

Trilateral Commission attacks MX

The Trilateral Commission's defense task force issued a report Oct. 10 attacking the Reagan MX missile program, and urging NATO countries and Japan to adopt a strategy that relies on conventional forces rather than nuclear weapons to deter Soviet aggression.

The report argues that the proposed 100 MXs with 10 warheads each would be "inviting, vulnerable targets" for the Soviets, and claims that an equal number of warheads on small, single-warhead missiles would force the Soviets to cover 1,000 targets. The report's authors doubted that the MX would be a significant addition to the

U.S. nuclear force, and unlikely to make Moscow more willing to accept U.S. arms control proposals.

Instead, the Trilateral Commission says, conventional military forces should be expanded in order to "reduce the chance that nuclear weapons would ever have to be used." Such a build-up would take years, so in the meantime NATO should keep open the option of first use of nuclear weapons.

The principal author of the Trilateral report is Gerard C. Smith, chief negotiator of the 1972 SALT agreement. Smith was a co-signer with Robert McNamara of a 1982 *Foreign Affairs* article which urged the West to declare it would not be the first to use nuclear weapons. Smith declares his personal view had not changed. At a press conference Oct. 7, Smith said, "One of my main motivations in pushing for a conventional build-up is to be able to negotiate more freely about a nuclear reduction."

Others participating in the preparation of the report were Paolo Vittorelli, chairman of the Italian Institute of Defense Studies and Kiichi Saeki, chairman of the Nomura Research Institute of Japan.

Doctors acquitted in euthanasia case

The California Court of Appeals has acquitted two physicians of Kaiser Permanente Hospital charged in August 1982 with first degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, for the death of 55-year old Clarence Herbert. Herbert was a patient who was taken off life-support systems and starved for six days until he died, after falling into a post-surgery coma. The decision was made Oct. 13.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that, in a 24-page opinion, appellate panel Justices Lynn D. Compton, Lester W. Roth and Edwin F. Beach said physicians have no obligation to provide their patients with "ineffective treatment—including, in some cases, food and water by mechanical means." They also stated that the benefits and burdens of using mechanical devices to provide comatose, brain-damaged patients with food and water should be "evaluated in the same manner as any other medical procedure."

The decision said that doctors should decide "whether the proposed treatment is proportionate or disproportionate in terms of the benefits to be gained versus the burdens caused."

This astounding decision then stated: "... We conclude that the [doctors'] omission to continue treatment under the circumstances, *though intentional and with knowledge that the patient would die*, was not an unlawful failure to perform a legal duty."

Los Angeles District Attorney Robert Philbosian decided not to appeal the Kaiser case to the California Supreme Court. His chances for victory there would have been slim, given the Malthusian prejudices of the justices.

California Club of Life executive board member Mariana Wertz has issued a call to Californians who are appalled by this decision, to join the Club of Life's efforts and to run for office to replace the state legislators who have passed S.B. 762, dubbed by the Club of Life the Accelerated Inheritance Act of 1983, which legalized euthanasia by family consent in California.

Hans Bethe opposes ABM development

Cornell University physicist Hans Bethe gave a speech opposing the development of directed-energy ABM defense systems at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland Oct. 5.

Bethe's central argument was that because the United States is ahead of the Soviet Union in electronics and space technology, the United States could develop beam weapons first—but should not because this would destabilize the world.

Bethe argued that 1) the United States is not inferior to the Soviets militarily, and should support the nuclear freeze; 2) the Soviets are not engaged in a massive arms buildup relative to the United States; and 3) President Reagan's ABM policy is impractical because any such defense system could be countered by the Soviets, but could destabilize any arms-control negotiations.

Bethe showed that the Soviets have a greater number of warheads and greater me-

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gatonnage but concluded that "U.S. forces are better positioned to survive a first strike since so many more of our missiles are submarine-launched." He endorsed the Scrowcroft Commission and attacked the MX missile.

Bethe claimed that the Soviet arms buildup occurred in response to a U.S. arms buildup. "We made a fatal invention, the MIRV, and what the Soviets did was to imitate us."

Mutually Assured Destruction "may be uncomfortable," Bethe stated, "but its the best we've got."

NDPC's Max Dean challenges Levin

Flint, Michigan lawyer Max Dean has declared his candidacy for the Democratic nomination to the U.S. Senate, challenging incumbent Carl Levin. Dean promises to focus his campaign on the world depression, which he calls "totally unnecessary."

Dean notes that he had unsuccessfully advised Senator Levin not to vote for the reconfirmation of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, "the man who has contributed the most to decimating American businesses and farms." Levin has taken the wrong stand on every crucial issue affecting the United States in recent years, Dean charges.

Dean heads the National Democratic Policy Committee in Michigan, a political action committee whose national advisory chairman is Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. Dean is a long-time civil rights worker and an official of the NAACP, a member of the executive board of the Genessee County Democratic Party, and has served as president of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association.

American Legion passes beam resolution

The National American Legion Convention's Security Committee and National Executive Committee have officially approved a resolution calling on the President and

Congress to immediately accelerate the Defense Department's high-energy laser program, with the goal of achieving a defensive capability within the next five years. The statement requests the government to immediately accelerate short-wavelength laser and particle beam programs, with the goal of determining the optimum research and development path for immediate and successive generations of beam weapons to provide complete protection against nuclear war by the mid-nineties. It also calls for a complete and thorough study of off-the-shelf technology in Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham's High Frontier program to determine the possible applications for a short-term ABM defense.

New book on beam weaponry released

A 176-page book on beam weapons, *Beam Defense: An Alternative to Nuclear Destruction*, will be released by the Fusion Energy Foundation Oct. 26 at a press conference and breakfast at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The book was written by the scientific staff of the Fusion Energy Foundation and published by Aero Publishers, Inc., the world's largest aviation publisher since 1939.

"*Beam Defense* is aimed at the lay reader, to show in detail the immediate feasibility of implementing President Reagan's plan to end the era of Mutually Assured Destruction by developing directed energy beam technologies for defensive weapon systems," said Paul Gallagher, executive director of the foundation.

"New beam technologies make possible the development of defensive weapons that can knock out nuclear missiles in the first few minutes of their launch. This book describes what these technologies are, how they work, how fast we could have them, and what their economic impact will be in the civilian economy. We show how the United States could have a total defense against nuclear attack by the end of this decade," Gallagher said.

Beam Defense is a paperback, profusely illustrated with a 16-page color section. It will sell for \$7.95.

● **THE RASH** of optimistic rumors that spread through Washington after Judge Clark was moved from NSC to Interior was described by one pundit as "like the man who comes home from shopping and tells his wife, 'You're going to be sorry to hear this but instead of sirloin steak I brought home a bag of horse manure. It may not be good for dinner, but it works well in the garden.'"

● **ED KOCH** collapsed from "overeating" at an exclusive New York restaurant on Oct. 9. Prior to his misfortune, Koch had addressed the Second Annual Convention of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. A second complicating factor is that the mayor collapsed in the men's room, in the arms of Colt Industries chairman David Margolis, rather than at the table. Earlier this year, Koch choked on a piece of watercress at a Chinese restaurant and was only saved by a quick maneuver by Margolis.

● **NICK BENTON**, running for mayor of Houston, was termed "The only political candidate with the courage to support the Continental Airline employees," in an endorsement by the 12,000-member Pilots' Wives Association.

● **DICK GREGORY**, the comedian and political activist, issued a statement Oct. 13 denouncing the exclusion of declared Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. from a televised candidates' debate on nuclear arms control held at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government in Boston. Nuclear freeze advocate Rep. Ed Markey rigged the format so he could exclude LaRouche after Mike Gelber, the LaRouche-backed candidate in the recent Boston mayoral election, had shaken up that race by his participation in the candidates' debates.