

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Environmentalists seek to export zero-growth

A long-simmering effort by environmentalists and anthropologists to shut down technologically-vectored lending by the multilateral lending agencies has begun to pick up momentum. Hearings were held in two House subcommittees on Sept. 11, 12, and 13, during which the Congress was urged to use its influence in the World Bank and other development banks to ensure that future lending take into account and "protect endangered peoples and native environments."

As was revealed at a spring Washington, D.C., conference on this topic, supporters of such a policy are working with terrorist groups such as Peru's Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*) to halt the economic development of various Third World countries. A leading proponent of such policies declared at that conference: "It is a human rights violation to cut down a tree," and declared capital-intensive economic development to be a form of fascist genocide.

The Sept. 11 and 13 hearings were held before the International Development Institutions Subcommittee of the House Banking Committee, chaired by Rep. Jerry Patterson (D-Cal.). On Sept. 12, the Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations, under the chairmanship of Rep. Gus Yatron (D-Penn.), held nearly identical hearings. The Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Policy Institute, and the National Wildlife Federation were among those that testified.

Gus Speth, a leading environmental advisor in the Carter administration,

reported on the results of a recent conference conducted by his current employer, the World Resources Institute. At that conference, leading Soviet scientists joined Western environmentalists in a call for a genocidal slowdown in both population and economic growth in the developing sector. Speth added that he is working with a congressional environmental caucus to draft legislative guidelines for next year's congressional deliberations on multilateral lending institutions.

Senator demands more grain to Russia

Senator Larry Pressler (R-S.Dak.), the man who began lobbying against beam weapons before President Reagan's March 23, 1983 speech, requested on Sept. 10 that President Reagan lift the quota on Soviet grain purchases for the market year 1984-85, from 12 million metric tons to 20 million metric tons—immediately instead of waiting for the normal consultative meetings in November. The next day, President Reagan announced that he had done just that, and also announced that he was meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

The question is raised: Is Pressler's agitation to get the grain to the Soviet war machine a signal that the Kremlin has advanced the Soviet confrontation timetable?

Speaking from the Senate floor on Sept. 10, Pressler informed his colleagues, "I have formally requested the administration to increase the amount of grain that the Soviet Union may purchase without prior consultations. . . . The Soviets have been purchasing U.S. grain at a near record pace. These heavy purchases have put

the Soviets at their limit of 8 million metric tons for corn. . . . Never before have the Soviets reached the ceiling so early. . . . If we fail to increase the ceiling until the regular consultation meeting in November, the American farmer might well lose some export sales. . . ."

In the letter sent to President Reagan, he adds: "As you know, we are constantly working to reverse the damage done by the 1980 grain embargo—both internationally and domestically. We must do everything possible to put this problem behind us, and raising the grain export limit would be an important step in that direction."

S.Res. 440, sponsored by Oklahoma Democrat David Boren and cosponsored by various other senators from wheat producing states, such as Quentin Burdick (D-N.Dak.), James Exon (D-Nebr.), and Ed Zorinsky (D-Nebr.), also called on the President to raise the ceiling. It garnered support from several senators less interested in wheat farmers and more interested in appeasing the Soviets. Both Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), along with Pressler, are leading opponents of an American beam-weapon program.

Conference action on defense, immigration

The defense authorization bill and an immigration bill, both of which have been caught in a deadlock between the two houses of Congress, showed some signs of activity during the second week of the fall legislative session. The news was not good in either case.

Conferees met for the first time on Sept. 13 to discuss the Simpson-Mazuzi or immigration reform bill. The

conference immediately accepted the stiff, regressive employer sanctions which were part of the Senate bill. Those sanctions include criminal penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens, and have been attacked by Hispanic groups on the grounds that it will create a discriminatory climate in the hiring of Hispanics. The House version had exempted employers who hired three or fewer employees and had set only civil fines. However, despite the apparent motion of the conferees, final action on the bill is unlikely. The legislation had passed the House of Representatives by only 4 votes, and the accession by the conferees to the Senate version means that it cannot, in all likelihood, now pass the House.

Meanwhile, press reports of Sept. 12 and 13 indicate that the Administration has ceded to the House on the issue of the MX, agreeing to delay new production until next April when both Houses will have to vote again to allow production to continue. Reports also indicate that the administration will accept a defense bill figure of \$295 billion, down from the Rose Garden compromise of \$299 and down from the July conference committee compromise of \$297. The House figure, which forms the lower end of the bargaining, is \$292 billion.

Hill maneuvering on East-West issues

On Sept. 13, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings on a joint resolution, put forward by Sens. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), and other associates of Soviet collaborator Carol Rosin, to "enhance East-West coopera-

tion in outer space." Rosin, the head of the Institute for Security and Cooperation in Outer Space, was exposed by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in a national television broadcast, as working directly with the Soviet embassy in Washington, D.C. to draft anti-space-weapon legislation. Her efforts to stop U.S. beam-weapon development are being conducted under the label, recommended to her by Russian officials, of "cooperation" in space.

The Matsunaga resolution has been languishing for over a year now. The sudden Foreign Relations Committee hearings featured Carl Sagan, fresh from testifying on behalf of the Soviet propaganda scare campaign about a nuclear winter, and the head of the Planetary Society.

At the same time, the administration announced that it would not release the General Advisory Committee (GAC) report documenting Soviet arms control violations until after President Reagan has met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. The unclassified version of the report had been expected to go to Capitol Hill sometime during the week of Sept. 17. Sens. Steve Symms (R-Idaho) and John East (R-N.C.), both of whom played a role in forcing the writing of the report, have warned that if the report is not released, they will introduce legislation releasing the United States from having to abide by the SALT I and II treaties, since the Soviets are violating them.

House passes tougher anti-drug legislation

By a series of voice votes on Sept. 10 and 11, the House passed several

pieces of legislation designed to toughen the nation's power to combat the drug problem. The legislation included H.R. 4091 the "Comprehensive Drug Penalty Act of 1984," H.R. 4028 the "Drug Enforcement Coordination Act of 1984," and H.R. 6031 the "Money Laundering Penalties Act of 1984."

The drug enforcement coordination bill establishes within the Executive Office of the President a Director of Drug Enforcement Coordination who is charged with developing a comprehensive strategy that spells out the role of the 17 anti-drug enforcement agencies, oversees their performance, and makes recommendations to the President to improve the anti-drug effort. Referred to as the creation of a "drug czar," Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.) pointed out that the increased coordination is already taking place under Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees, now in each of the 94 U.S. attorney's districts, under NNBIS, and through an inter-agency working group under the Cabinet Council on Legal Policy. Noting the attack by the bill's sponsor Rep. William Hughes (D-N.J.) on NNBIS, some observers believe that a political turf battle between the FBI and other agencies may be at the heart of this reorganization.

The Comprehensive Drug Penalty Act would increase tenfold and more the fines for major drug trafficking offenses and empower the courts to impose an alternative fine of up to twice the gross profits of the criminal enterprise. The measure would also create a presumption that all property acquired by major traffickers during the period of criminal enterprise are the product of drug related crime unless proven otherwise.