

## Congressional Closeup by Kathleen Klenetsky

### Experts testify on biological holocaust

The grim reality that the world now faces an outbreak of deadly diseases like the Black Death which devastated Europe in the 14th century, was brought before a key congressional panel on April 24 by representatives of the Schiller Institute and the Fusion Energy Foundation.

"I am coming before you today to sound the alarm about the disease consequences of the worsening world food shortages," FEF spokesman John Grauerholz, M.D., told the House Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Matters.

The cholera epidemic sweeping Africa, and the escalation of the AIDS epidemic, are not passing disasters, he warned, but "mark the onset of nothing less than biological holocaust, unless we take emergency measures now to mobilize the food, medical, and infrastructure supplies to reverse the collapse."

A forensic pathologist, Grauerholz has been conducting an investigation on behalf of FEF into the connection between economic collapse and the spread of cholera, AIDS, and other deadly diseases now devastating Africa (see page 9).

Grauerholz testified that 20-30 million Americans are subsisting on diets "approximately equivalent to those of the World War II Nazi concentration camps." Many of them are living in "crowded, filthy conditions in our decaying inner cities, with collapsing sanitation and medical care," and now, "cases of marasmus and kwashiorkor, calorie- and protein-deficiency diseases classically associated with the extreme starvation in famine-ridden Africa, are appearing in hospitals and pediatric clinics from Al-

buquerque to Chicago."

In order to avert a biological holocaust, said Grauerholz, Congress "should initiate the kind of mobilization of credit and resources necessary to vastly expand high-nutrition meat, cereals, and dairy output in the nation, and end the deadly policies of food reduction programs."

Speaking for the Schiller Institute, Nick Benton drew the connection between IMF conditionalities and the outbreak of disease, and called on Congress to follow the lead of the Alabama state legislature, which unanimously voted a resolution against the IMF and in favor of mobilizing for massive emergency food output.

### Stevens hails IMF surveillance of economy

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), the Senate majority whip, endorsed IMF surveillance of the U.S. economy, in an April 24 interview with *EIR*.

Stevens was asked whether he thought the IMF Interim Committee's recent declaration, approved by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker III, that it will extend its surveillance to the American economy, represented a threat to U.S. national sovereignty.

Stevens replied: "The IMF has the right to have surveillance of our economy. The only question is whether we would have the same kinds of conditions imposed on us as on other countries. . . . That would mean more stringent cutbacks than the deficit reduction package" now being debated by Congress. "I doubt we would reach that point, because if our economic situation ever became that bad, the President would take action."

Stevens said that IMF surveillance

would spur efforts to cut the U.S. deficit, stating that the threat of IMF conditionalities "warrants the kind of action we are starting to take on the budget."

Stevens made his comments at a press conference at which Business Roundtable head Robert Beck and *Readers Digest* representative Lynn Mapes unveiled a campaign to mobilize popular pressure on Congress to slash the federal budget—one of the prime demands the IMF is now making on the United States.

### Soviet assets mount assault on SDI, ASATs

A gang of liberal Democrats associated with the Space Policy Working Group, an informal Capitol Hill caucus known to be directly influenced by the Soviet embassy, has introduced a resolution to hamstring U.S. space-defense efforts.

Reps. George E. Brown, Jr. (Calif.), Joe Moakley (Mass.), and Norm Dicks (Wash.) teamed up April 24 to co-sponsor a bill that, in Brown's words, "calls on the President to negotiate a treaty providing for strict limitations on space weapons . . . to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to the ABM Treaty, including restraint on programs which could undermine the treaty [Brown wrongly implies the Strategic Defense Initiative—ed.], and to seek an agreement with the Soviet Union for a mutual anti-satellite (ASAT) moratorium on tests against objects in space."

Dicks and Brown testified in favor of the legislation at hearings on "Arms Control in Space," held by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Arms Control, International Security,

and Science. Dicks laid out a set of recommendations for the Strategic Defense Initiative, including: restructuring it to deemphasize near-term testing; limiting this year's funding increase to 35% (the administration is requesting a three-fold increase), and much less in future years; and setting up an "independent oversight board" to ensure that the strategic defense program would be carried out "in strict compliance with the ABM Treaty."

Dicks announced that while attending the recent conference at the Carter Center at Emory University (see *EIR*, April 30), he had been personally informed by Soviet Ambassador Anatolii Dobrynin just how the Soviets would respond were the United States to pursue the Strategic Defense Initiative.

The only note of reality came from Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), who pointed out that given the massive Soviet strategic defense program, the SDI "would be better called the SDR—Strategic Defense Response. . . . We must proceed with a sense of urgency. We would do a great disservice to the American people if we refused to even consider researching the prospects to defend them against nuclear attack."

## **P**roxmire demands slave labor in America

Senator William Proxmire, the self-styled Democrat from Wisconsin who garnered headlines a few years back when he underwent a series of hair transplants, has come out demanding that welfare recipients be required to work for their benefits.

Proxmire introduced a bill into the Senate April 17 mandating that all heads of households in two-parent

families be put to work as a condition for their welfare grant from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program.

"I have long believed that a mandatory work requirement—often referred to as 'workfare'—should exist across the board in our welfare programs," Proxmire declared in a statement announcing the bill, noting that he had introduced similar legislation in 1981 and again in 1983.

Built into Proxmire's Mandatory Workfare Requirement measure (S. 924) is an enforcement provision, under which a welfare family's grant would be cut if its head of household refused to participate. "This creates a real financial incentive to participate" in the program, Proxmire says.

Proponents of workfare claim that it doesn't take jobs away from already-employed workers, and that it provides job experience for the chronically unemployed. But these claims are simply not true. In New York, where this slave-labor scheme was pioneered, workfare has been deliberately used to depress wage rates by "recycling" the work force.

Through this process, workers who lose their jobs because of budget cuts, are replaced by welfare recipients, whose benefits are tiny in comparison to what the position had previously paid. In an increasing number of cases, laid-off workers forced onto welfare because of the collapse of U.S. industry and agriculture, find themselves taking the same job they had previously held—but at sharply reduced wage levels and with no prospects of advancement.

Until 1981, states were generally prohibited from requiring workfare as a condition of receiving an AFDC grant. But the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 eliminated that pro-

hibition, and it is now estimated that half of the states have adopted some form of workfare requirement.

## **G**ary Hart: The same old 'new ideas'

Senator Gary Hart (D-Colo.) is running for the 1988 presidential nomination on the same "post-industrial" platform which flopped in 1984. Maybe he's hoping that the destruction of the U.S. industrial base will be so total by that time, that he will emerge by default as the undisputed choice of a deindustrialized America.

In his latest publicity grab, Hart went before the National Press Club April 23 to talk about a "Foundation for an American Renewal." His basic message: "America needs a national strategy to inspire . . . our transition into the post-industrial age."

For starters, Gary suggests that labor should cut its own wages to assist the national move from steel-production to burger-making.

What happens to national security if the U.S. doesn't have an industrial base? "We are currently the victims of technology," and rather than focus on developing the most technologically advanced military equipment, the U.S. should instead build a lot of "less sophisticated weapons."

Just in case these weapons don't do the trick, Hart has another suggestion: The U.S. should pursue moratoria on "deployment of destabilizing land-based missiles, on anti-satellite weapons, and on offensive weapons in space." Why? "Only by breaking the technology-driven cycle of testing, production, deployment—then negotiation—will we ever achieve true stability and security."