

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Congress sells out national security

On May 23, 1985, the U.S. Congress, under the guidance of the KGB and the International

ed to give the Soviet Union the ability to launch a first strike against the United States by no later than 1988. In

House floors, President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, missile program and his overall defense buildup—for which an overwhelming majority of Americans voted in the 1984 presidential elections—were decimated.

The acts of infamy included:

- House passage, by a vote of 258 to 170, of an overall budget resolution which cuts the defense budget by 3 to 5% over last year's budget. Only a tiny minority of several dozen voted for an alternative budget which would have held defense spending to last year's level.

- Senate passage of a "bipartisan sellout" which limits production of MX missiles to 50—one-half the number requested by the White House and one-quarter of the original Carter administration request for 200 missiles. Only 20 Senators voted against this amendment, put forward by Soviet asset Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.). However, at least 5 of those 20 Senators voted against the Nunn amendment because they don't want any MX missiles built.

- Senate and House acceptance of funding levels for the Strategic Defense Initiative

President's original program up to one-third. (At press time, an amendment put forward by Senators Chaffee (R-R.I.)

slash the SDI even further was still pending.)

The opposition to this treason totaled no more than 10% of the House and 15% of the Senate. Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.)

perate minority in the debate on the Nunn amendment on May 23: "This amendment places us directly in harm's way. . . . It

of MX, it is the death knell of the counterforce capability of this country, it is the death knell of our future in missile, and it is coupled with the death knell of SDI by the budget this Senate has already passed."

Wallop did not quite say it, but—unless President Reagan is provoked to break out of his current acquiescence to IMF

Congressional treason—it is also the death knell for this country. As *EIR* founding editor, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., has warned, the Soviet Union will have an operational ability to launch a first strike against the United States by 1988, unless the United States unleashes a Manhattan Project-style mobilization for directed-energy beam weapons in the immediate months ahead.

President Reagan himself pointed, for the first time, to the looming Soviet first-strike threat during his just-completed trip to Western Europe. However, from the moment in mid-April that Treasury Secretary James Baker officially agreed to IMF

over the U.S. economy, the President's words have been hollowed out by his capitulation to the international bankers' demands for more austerity and more defense budget-cutting.

Hence, his May 18 weekly radio address, which vowed to accept no more compromises on the defense budget and to take his case directly to the American people, was quickly followed by his administration's accept-

ance of the Nunn "compromise" the MX. The "compromise" missiles was between Nunn's original amendment calling for a 40-missile cap and the administration's request for 100 MX missiles. Orchestrated by NSC Adviser Robert McFarlane, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.),

Committee member John Warner (R-Va.)

given the stamp of approval of the President who called it "a bipartisan expression of continuing support for our strategic modernization program." In

called the "bipartisan sellout," administration officials conceded that they had not mobilized in time to beat back Nunn.

Senate debate on S. 1160, Defense authorization bill

Sen. James McClure (R-Ida.), 22 floor debate: "The question is whether we are going to take away from the negotiators at Geneva 600 warheads with no compensation at all from the other side. That is unilateral disarmament."

McClure, later in debate: "[Sen. Nunn] indicated that we can respond as the Russians are by building two new systems. . . . [E]verybody in this Hall knows that the [Soviet] SS-24 and the SS-25 are violations of the agreements now in force. . . . [T]o have the same latitude to do what the Russians are. . . . we have to be prepared to violate treaties or political commitments."

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.): "We do not hear the Russians today worrying much about the MX. We are

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taking care of that for them. They are more concerned about SDI. . . . [Sen. Nunn] claims he is driven by concern about vulnerability. But vulnerability is a hogwash issue here, because he and others on his side have voted to limit the SDI. The real things that we could do right now to protect both American missiles and American people. There are technical capabilities we can build into protective weapons now. . . . What has the U.S. Senate done? We have been sitting in here cutting the defense budget down from a needed real growth to a growth only for inflation. Finally we will agree with the House on something less than zero growth. We have done nothing but cut weapons. SDI is going down. Do you want to take care of the vulnerability of our missiles? Build SDI now."

Wallop continues: "This amendment is fraudulent and its backers know it. Nor are this amendment's prepared to accelerate SDI. Rather they are working hard to postpone it. They want to postpone SDI into the mid nineties so some other President at some other time can face some other Congress with as weak a will as this one. . . . But act as if we did not know how to defend against missiles, as if nobody in the world knows whether it can be done—this is bizarre. We are sitting here with the Soviets' own admission that next year they are going to fly a chemical laser in orbit."

Senator McClure, May 23 floor debate: Soviet arms control violations "that relate directly to the MX area are: that the SS-25 is a second Soviet new type ICBM when SALT II allows only one new type ICBM. This is the 'Soviet Midgetman.' to press reports, 200 of these may be deployed in violation of SALT II. And here we are arguing today over wheth-

er we should cap MX at 40 or 50 or 100, when the Soviets have 218 mobile ICBMs similar to our Midgetman, which will not be operational at best until 1991, and the Soviet SS-24 rail-mobile ICBM is better than the Carter racetrack MX and is also about to be deployed.

". . . Since 1979 the number of Soviet strategic nuclear delivery vehicles increased by about one-fourth, and Soviet nuclear warheads more than tripled. . . . U.S. strategic forces are lower today than they were in 1979.

". . . The Soviet ICBM warhead advantage is over 6 to 1. This is a true Soviet first-strike, counterforce capability, and this is the key, most important measure of military power in the world today. This Soviet ICBM first strike counterforce capability cast an ever-deepening shadow over . . . the entire world."

Sen. Dan Quayle (R-Ind.): The Nunn "amendment . . . is the end of MX. It is a killer amendment. It is an amendment that, as leading opponents of the MX have said, is the death knell for MX. It is supported by anti-MX lobbyists like SANE, Common Cause, and Green Peace that have been against MX from day one.

Sen. Symms on Soviet Military Power

Sen. Steve Symms (R-Ida.) on the recently-published book, *Soviet Military Supremacy: The Untold Facts About the New Danger to America*, by Quentin Crommelin, Jr., and David S. Sullivan:

"[Politicians] prefer political safety and inaction rather than action and leadership to see

if we can secure freedom and peace. . . . This is nothing new. This happened prior to World War II.

"While the Soviet Union is engaging in the most massive military buildup in all history, most Western politicians are still insisting on minimizing the significance of these activities.

"The principal thesis in this book . . . that I had the privilege to write an introduction to . . . is that the Reagan defense buildup . . . really has not happened, and [that] congressional actions . . . have forced the Reagan defense spending program substantially below the levels recommended in 1981 by President Carter.

"The authors assert that conditions which existed in Britain in the late 1930s, wherein the public was misinformed about the weakness of British defenses and the extent of the Nazi military buildup, are being repeated today in the United States."

Symms entered the following footnote from the book into the *Congressional Record*: "The Soviets are developing or deploying four new types of ICBMs: the SS-24, the SS-25, the SS-X-26, and the SS-X-27. U.S. analysts estimate that the SS-X-26 will have a 5-ton payload with extreme accuracy to a range of 7000 nautical miles. The SS-X-26 and SS-X-27 will both be larger than the already gigantic Soviet SS-28 which is 7 times larger than the U.S. Minuteman III. The SS-18 force of 308 on-line missiles . . . carries total ready warheads with explosive power greater than the entire U.S. ICBM and SLBM force combined. Meanwhile, Congress has stalled production of the U.S. MX ICBM, which is one-half the size of the SS-18. The first MX cannot be operational until 1987 or later in any event."