

Eye on Washington by Nicholas F. Benton

Shultz blows kisses back at Kissinger

When I asked Secretary of State George Shultz on May 14 what he thought of Henry Kissinger's latest syndicated column calling for a redeployment of U.S. troops and F-111s out of Europe, Shultz waxed effusive in praise for Henry's "thoughtful and comprehensive treatment of the problems of out-of-area NATO deployment, which he has raised and deserves to be discussed."

Shultz's remarks, made after a speech to the Overseas Writers Association, were almost as noxious as the sugary praise Kissinger heaped on Shultz in the column itself, referring to his "several thoughtful and eloquent speeches" on the subject of terrorism.

One wonders if these two shouldn't think of some way to carry on this flowering relationship other than working at digging the grave of the Western alliance.

Noose tightens around administration

Former Reagan special adviser Michael K. Deaver has coughed up his White House pass, and former Teamster President and FBI informant Jackie Presser now faces indictment following a scandal over the FBI's role in protecting him from a Grand Jury investigation.

The two cases add up to the fact that the Reagan administration is under an escalated siege aimed at doing what many have thought impossible—tainting it with a stain of corruption recalling Watergate.

The design: not only to make the President feel he is even more at the mercy of the "Establishment" wing of his cabinet (Don Regan and George Shultz), but also to shape the succession fight to ensure the Strategic Defense Initiative is buried by the end of 1988.

Dr. Teller: Manhattan Project method crucial

Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 9, Dr. Edward Teller gave an alarming assessment of Soviet superiority in the development of a strategic defense capability using "new physical principles" such as lasers.

His concern was in particular with the x-ray laser. Soviet research into this technology was published until the early 1970s and then abruptly stopped. Does this mean the Soviets are on to something? Dr. Teller asks this ominous question every chance he gets.

In an exclusive interview with *EIR* after his testimony, Teller said the x-ray laser is key because, of all the programs under study in the SDI, it is the only one that is novel from the standpoint of basic physics. Therefore, in his view, it holds the greatest potential for fundamental new breakthroughs.

Dr. Teller recounted his experience in the Manhattan Project, the crash effort to build an atomic bomb during World War II. He said that it was a breakthrough by Emilio Segre in late 1943, in fundamental scientific research into the atom, demonstrating the nature of "spontaneous fission-emitting neutrons," which led to an

overhaul of the method of assembling what they were then working on for a bomb. This breakthrough in basic physics research, he said, then enabled himself in collaboration with the late John von Neumann to propose a new, more efficient assembly, requiring less plutonium, and the bomb became a physical possibility.

The lesson concerns the indispensable role of free, flexible basic research in achieving rapid, crucial breakthroughs. This, he indicated, must proceed through exploration of the potentials in the x-ray laser, some of which the Soviets may have already struck upon.

Funding constraints which have narrowed options in the U.S. SDI program are a great hazard from this standpoint, he said.

Garn: Let's get back on track for Mars

An angry Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah), the first Congressman to ride into space aboard the Shuttle, made an appeal for getting the U.S. space program back on track swiftly, despite the last four launch mishaps.

He called for President Reagan to get off the dime and push for the additional funding to build a new orbiter to replace the *Challenger*. "We've already gone three months with no decision," he said. "We must have a replacement to be able to service the space station that we must build. And once we get the shackles off, we must get back on the track to go to Mars."

He said that despite his "fiscal conservative from Utah" profile, he was "personally embarrassed that we didn't have a probe up to study Halley's Comet," and that the science that will come out of the space program makes its rapid recovery "indispensable for our nation."