

National News

Phil Gramm demands drug testing in Mexico

Senator Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), who headed the U.S. delegation to the U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary meeting in Colorado Springs at the beginning of June, gave a press conference urging the Mexican government to institute measures for detecting drug usage among public officials. Among the measures he suggested were medical examinations, lie-detector tests, and investigation of officials' bank accounts.

No one asked him what U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz would say to implementing those measures in Washington, D.C.

The interparliamentary meeting, for the first time in 26 years, issued no joint communiqué, reflecting the recent clash between Mexican officials and the U.S. State Department and lawmakers, over politically motivated U.S. charges of Mexican "corruption."

The meeting did conclude, however, with announcement of a joint \$250 million drug-interdiction program. Said Gramm: "We are committed to using \$250 million in Department of Defense equipment to concentrate on an air interdiction program across the border. In addition, we are discussing the possibility of using joint American-Mexican crews to man aircraft to detect drug smugglers along the border."

Weinberger nixes plan to extend ABM treaty

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said that a Soviet proposal to extend the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty for 20 years was "terribly wrong," in an interview on CBS's "Nightwatch" June 4.

He accused the Soviets of trying to kill the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative through "a side door": "The Soviets know you can't

get funding for a program if you've said you're not going to use it for 10 years." An agreement to extend the treaty, he said, would cause SDI research "to lose a great deal of momentum" and cause "a loss of all public support or the possibility of ever deploying a strategic defense."

In an interview June 1 on CBS's "Fact the Nation," Weinberger emphasized the priority that President Reagan places on the SDI program: "Our program is to see if we can develop a thoroughly effective system and then to deploy it. . . . Keep in mind that the Soviets have been working on this for 17 years. They are way ahead in certain areas of strategic defense research." He insisted that the best hope for mankind was the U.S. development of a defense against Soviet missiles, "to regain for this country the security it needs." The new Soviet proposals are intended to prevent this: "They have modernized, they have been working on the SDI, they violate treaties and we don't."

Senate upholds Reagan on Saudi arms deal

President Reagan avoided a major foreign policy setback on June 5, when the Senate voted to allow the sale of \$269 million in advanced defensive weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Foes of the sale failed by one vote to override the President's veto of resolutions disapproving the sale which both houses of Congress had passed earlier this year.

The outcome of the vote was in question up until the last minute, and the rhetoric on the floor of the Senate reflected the controversy that has surrounded the proposed sale. At one point, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), rose to charge that the Senate had come under intense financial and political pressure from "other countries to persuade us to vote against our Commander in Chief and our President" and block the missile sale.

water said sternly, "we put our hands on the Bible and promised to defend the Constitution of the United States, not the Constitution of Israel. . . ."

The President and other administration officials had lobbied hard to save the deal, which was threatened by a coalition led by Sen. Alan Cranston and Rep. Mel Levine, both ultraliberal California Democrats. They claimed that Saudi Arabia has impeded the Mideast peace process by refusing to recognize Israel, and has lent its backing to terrorists. The administration flatly rejected those charges, asserting that Saudi Arabia has been of major help to the U.S. fight against Mideast terrorism, and arguing that assisting the Saudis and other moderate Arab states, was a national security priority.

Two days before the Senate vote, the President met with Republican Senate leaders to deliver what he called an "impassioned plea" to sustain his veto. "I'd like to stress once again how important it is for you to sustain my veto," Reagan said. "I want you to understand this vote will have a profound effect upon our relations with the Arab world, not just Saudi Arabia. If the veto isn't sustained, it will seriously undermine our foreign policy objectives throughout the region. The sale is clearly and without question of interest to the United States."

Greens denounce U.S. marijuana eradication

Randy Toler, a spokesman for the International Green Party, on May 30 gave a press conference in Chicago to denounce the state of Illinois for launching a program to use the herbicide glyphosate to eradicate marijuana in the state.

Toler claimed that the herbicide was a threat to the safety of Illinois citizens. This is a ruse, since it is already being widely used by farmers for weed removal.

Glyphosate, which is sold commercially under the brand name "Round Up," is used mostly on wild plots of immature marijuana

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tions, said William Doster, state police superintendent of the Division of Criminal Investigations. Illinois uses the herbicide to stop marijuana growth in the central part of the state.

Toler cited a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration report that glyphosate releases a "cyanide-like gas," and claimed the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has said the herbicide is as much a danger to the public as paraquat, one of the components found in the agent orange defoliant. He declined to mention, however, that paraquat has been found not to be dangerous to humans—unless the drug is illegally consumed.

It is not surprising that the Green Party is defending drugs. Its U.S. base, among the Yippies, is noted for its violent defense of drugs, as well as assassination threats against President Reagan and Vice-President George Bush. In Europe, the Green Party recently adopted a plank against marijuana laws at its national conference in West Germany.

The International Green Party is headquartered in Marengo, Illinois, and maintains connections with the Washington Peace Center, where European Greens come to work with U.S. Greens in a formal internship program.

William Graham named as science adviser

The White House announced on June 2 that William R. Graham, the former NASA administrator, will be nominated presidential science adviser, to replace George Keyworth, who resigned in December. Graham has come under heavy criticism for his incompetence at NASA, which contributed to the tragic accident of the Space Shuttle Challenger. The appointment has to be approved by Congress.

Graham, whose past experience was with the Rand Corporation and arms control, was appointed deputy administrator of NASA in November 1985 by the White House patron-

age machine, despite strong NASA opposition, which contended that there were more qualified candidates for the job. Within days of the Graham appointment, NASA administrator James Beggs was forced to take a leave of absence, and Graham was catapulted into the number-one position. Graham is considered an expert on questions regarding the effect of electromagnetic pulses on missile launches.

Graham is an advocate of increasing the role of private companies in developing commercial uses of space. According to an interview with George Keyworth quoted in the *Washington Times* June 4, Keyworth expects Graham to be a strong supporter of the Packard Commission's recommendations for cutting the military budget. Keyworth added that Graham's appointment was a "promotion because it gives him equal rank" with current NASA administrator James Fletcher.

Sam Nunn may revive troop-pullout bill

Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, says he might reintroduce a 1984 amendment to force a U.S. troop withdrawal from Europe if NATO member countries do not increase defense spending. In an interview with Reuter published June 5, Nunn also rapped President Reagan's decision to repudiate the SALT II treaty, saying: "I think it will be counterproductive from the point of view of America's relationship with the allies. I think it will give the Soviets a field day in terms of propaganda."

Nunn said he backed vigorous U.S. research into defense systems, but criticized Reagan for over-emphasizing strategic programs. "Here we are beginning to take a good bit of money from crucial research in the conventional arena where we had our greatest deficiencies, and put it in the strategic arena where I think almost everyone agrees we have a pretty strong deterrent."

Nunn will become chairman of the Armed Services Committee if the Democrats retain control of the Senate this year.

● **VETERANS' GROUPS** have tried to place ads in military-related papers attacking the Gramm-Rudman budget-cutting bill for its savage cutback of veteran's pensions, but have been turned down, according to Pentagon sources. The *Army*, *Navy*, and *Air Force Times* have all rejected the veterans' ads as "too political."

● **NBC'S PHIL DONAHUE** and Soviet propagandist Vladimir Posner are co-hosting a series of "citizen summits" between residents of U.S. and Soviet cities, to be televised in both countries. Posner is on tour of the United States, and was hosted on June 3 at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. Said AEI's Judith Kipper, who arranged the event, "To the extent he works for state-controlled organizations, yes, he is a propagandist; but he is not a wind-up toy."

● **DAN ROSTENKOWSKI** (D-Ill.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, was arrested the weekend of May 31 on charges of driving while intoxicated. Rostenkowski posted \$500 bail, after refusing to take a breath test. The arresting officer said he noticed a strong odor of intoxicants in the vehicle, but Rostenkowski denied being drunk; he later withdrew the denial.

● **RICHARD BURT** and Richard Perle have declared a "sort of armistice" in their (alleged) political conflict, the *New York Times* reported on June 4. The former, U.S. ambassador to West Germany, hosted the latter, assistant secretary of defense, at his diplomatic residence on the Rhine recently, and the two attended a convention of Social Democratic Party leaders in Bonn. What the *Times* does not report, is that both Richards are opponents of the Strategic Defense Initiative and advocates of "decoupling" the United States from Western Europe.