

## Congressional Closeup by William Jones

### 'LaRouche entitled to protection,' says Specter

On Jan. 26, Sen. Arlen Specter was visited in his office by a delegation from the National Democratic Policy Committee, led by former Democratic candidate for Congress in the 5th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Donald Hadley.

Present with the delegation as a civil rights observer was Mr. O.G. Christian, the former president of the West Philadelphia branch of the NAACP. The Senator's scheduling staff insisted that no personal meeting with the Senator was possible for months in the future. The delegation sat down and began singing, "We Shall Not Be Moved."

After about three minutes, as the delegation was drawing up protest signs and preparing for a long sit-in, Senator Specter appeared in person to greet the visitors, looking as if he had been impatiently waiting to see them all the time. Mr. Christian advised the senator of the threat to Mr. LaRouche's life should he be jailed at his sentencing on Friday, Jan. 27—which he was—and asked him to use his position to prevent any foul play.

Specter was then presented with material related to the LaRouche case, including letters between Henry Kissinger and then-FBI Director William Webster in 1983-84, showing that Kissinger and members of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board demanded action against LaRouche "under the guidelines or otherwise."

"Lyndon LaRouche is entitled to protection," said Specter, "if there's a threat against his life if he is placed in prison." On the question of an investigation of the years-long political persecution against Mr. LaRouche by

government agencies, the senator assured the delegation that his staff will review the documents and report to him within two weeks concerning the request for investigation by the Judiciary Committee.

### Gonzalez: 'Money markets a loose cannon'

In comments made to a Democratic Women in Housing and Finance luncheon, Sen. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) warned of a potential blowout of the money markets, characterizing them as a "loose cannon." "I am concerned," said Gonzalez, "with preserving the viability of the financial system. . . The potential is, in my mind, very great."

He described the spate of leveraged buy-outs (LBOs) as a major problem. "The continuation of feverish trading of equity for debt I consider very insidious."

Gonzalez also dealt with the problem of the S&Ls, which had been a prime subject of Banking Committee hearings during the course of the present congressional session.

The major problem, explained the congressman, was the fact that the chartering function and the insuring function were both in the hands of the same institution, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. Congress must infuse the FSLIC with the resources to "close down and pay out" the failed S&Ls.

At the present moment, the congressman complained, the S&Ls are still allowed to go out and offer sky-high rates to finance their activity.

Gonzalez also pointed to the danger of the tremendous dependence of the U.S. economy on the influx of for-

ign capital. "We are so indebted that if instability sets in, there is a real danger of a 'free fall' of the dollar. . . . The dollar has been supplanted as a reserve currency."

If foreign investors want to do something about the dollar, "not even the Federal Reserve could do anything," stressed Gonzalez.

### Energy committee hears EIR testimony

*EIR's* Washington correspondent, Nicholas F. Benton, testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in hearings on the nomination of Rep. Manuel Lujan to be Secretary of the Interior.

Benton reviewed the crying need to start the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) water projects now, when the nation is being threatened with another drought year.

The NAWAPA project would bring water down from Canada to the Western Plains regions, presently suffering for several years of lack of precipitation. Benton stressed that Lujan should be armed with a mandate to "aggressively pursue this plan."

At the hearings were Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (D-La.), Sen. James McClure (R-Id.), and Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.).

### Others confirmed, but Tower's still pending

Democrats joined with Republicans in a continued show of bipartisanship with President Bush in unanimously confirming James Baker III as Secretary of State, Richard Darman as di-

rector of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Elizabeth Hanford Dole as Secretary of Labor.

The lack of opposition to the nominees seemed to indicate that both parties wanted to avoid conflicts for as long as possible.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Me.) promised to "do my utmost to foster pure bipartisanship," and he called on Bush to make Congress a "full partner in policy formulation." But the nomination of John Tower as Secretary of Defense will not pass without opposition.

Tower was very amiable when questioned by the Congress on Jan. 25. The former Texas senator basically told the Senate Armed Services Committee what they wanted to hear on subjects ranging from cooperation with Congress to reform of Pentagon operations and weapons-buying procedures. Committee members implied that Tower would be confirmed despite some members' misgivings over his earlier support for big defense spending increases.

Tower was clearly on the defensive, stating that he was "not such a mindless hawk" that he would seek large increases that Congress was sure to oppose. Tower also pledged support for implementation of Pentagon management and procurement reforms, about which there has been so much agitation lately.

Tower also vowed to bring better management to the Pentagon, saying that the Pentagon can no longer remain "at war with itself." He also promised to curtail pet projects of lawmakers and the military services that cannot be justified in terms of overall strategy.

With regard to the Soviets, Tower said, "We must not luxuriate in wishful thinking" about Soviet intentions.

He said that he does not consider the Cold War over. "There is a thawing of the relationship, but the fact is the threat still exists. You risk your own safety if you fail to gauge Soviet intentions by Soviet capabilities. We should do nothing unilaterally."

## How many Satanists in the Congress?

On Thursday, Jan. 26, the *Washington Times* published a rather interesting item concerning some of the congressional representatives who were into "psychic" phenomena.

One of the prime believers in the power of the "psyche" is Rhode Island patrician Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.). Pell has urged the National Science Foundation, the Defense Department, and other government agencies to increase "psychic research" funding. He has a full-time staff member, C.B. Scott Jones, whose exclusive job is to monitor reports of psychic activities.

House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Tex.) attends lectures by Washington psychic Anne Gehman. According to the *Washington Times*, Mrs. Gehman says she has discussed psychic phenomena with Mr. Wright and his wife, Betty, and has a friendly relationship with them.

Mrs. Gehman, a board member of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches, says she has many people from Capitol Hill among her clients and claims that she can communicate with "those who have gone through the process of death."

North Carolina Democrat Charlie Rose is the founder of the Congressional Clearing House on the Future, which has met with psychics. Rose

has urged the CIA to initiate a "psychic Manhattan Project" to develop its abilities to monitor Soviet military projects.

## Humphrey mobilizes foes of pay raise

Those in the Congress who want to bloc the much-touted pay raise for lawmakers and others have been on the warpath lately, in a move which has a lot of grassroots support back home, where the congressional pay raise has been met with shock and anger.

Opponents in the House admit, however, that they don't have the votes to force a roll call before the statutory deadline for blocking the raise on Feb. 7.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell has promised that there will be a Senate vote. Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) said that accepting a huge raise at a time of deficits "sends a message of callousness to the American people."

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) called the House "the House of Lords" for its willingness to let the raise become law. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) in a telephone conversation Jan. 23 with Vice President Dan Quayle asked him to urge President Bush to "withdraw this monstrosity."

Republican Senators Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), along with 21 other senators, co-sponsored a bill which would roll back all pay raises for all three branches of government.

The Grassley-Pressler bill would mandate that all future raises require a roll call vote.