

Congressional Closeup by William Jones

Bush backs dual missile as bargaining chip

President Bush is trying to pull together a consensus on Capitol Hill to gain financial support for the MX missile, not for defense, but to use it as a bargaining chip in the upcoming START negotiations with the Soviet Union.

Bush earlier threatened to propose a ban on all mobile missiles. For the United States, this would mean that both the multi-warhead MX as well as the single-warhead Midgetman would be eliminated.

The Midgetman is a favorite of arms control Democrats like Armed Services Committee Chairmen Sen. Sam Nunn (Ga.) and his House counterpart Rep. Les Aspin (Wisc.). They warned Bush that there would not be enough funds for both missile programs. The Reagan administration, which had focused on developing a Strategic Defense Initiative, had called for a ban on all mobile systems, limitations on which they consider too difficult to verify.

The decision by the Bush administration to abandon the ban encouraged the chairmen in the belief that Bush was putting more emphasis on nuclear deterrence than on SDI, and that he was prepared for a limitation on nuclear weapons. Bush also increased proposed funding for the Midgetman by \$1 billion. Both Nunn and Aspin were pleased, Nunn characterizing the move as "a strong, good step in the right direction."

Congress asks Bush to revoke Chinese trade status

A Senate concurrent resolution submitted by Sen. Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) on June 19 recommended that the Bush administration make the resumption

of normal diplomatic and military relations with China dependent upon the Chinese leadership releasing all those imprisoned for peacefully assembling to express their political beliefs, and entering negotiations with leaders of the country's student democratic movement. It further advised delay of China's 1989 certification of Most Favored Nation status with the United States, until the Chinese authorities restore human rights.

Similar legislation has been introduced into the House by Reps. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) and John Porter (R-Ill.). "It is high time," said Lantos, "that business as usual will not go on as long as they massacre young men and women whose sole crime it is to cry out for freedom and democracy."

On June 20, a group of congressmen marched from the Capitol to the Chinese Embassy to appeal to the Chinese government not to execute the three young men condemned to be shot the following day—an appeal ignored by the Beijing government.

Weapons budget squeaks by subcommittee

With the support of House Armed Services Committee chairman Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wisc.), the \$69 billion weapons procurement budget passed through the Procurement subcommittee by a vote of 10 to 9.

No new projects were added nor were any of the items canceled, because Defense Secretary Richard Cheney had done the cutting before submitting it to Congress. Aspin was described as "exultant" that he had gotten two Democrats and seven Republicans to join with him in protecting the proposal from a wholesale rewrite.

The entire committee is scheduled

to vote on the subcommittee action on June 27, but Aspin is not predicting the outcome. Rep. William Dickinson (R-Ala.), the ranking Republican on the committee, warned that "if this [bill] becomes undone" through a congressional rewrite, "his [Bush's] budget becomes almost meaningless."

Many congressmen, however, want to add special projects of local interest to the bill. According to the *Washington Post*, Aspin is counting on a gentlemen's agreement that any additions be offset by other cuts. The SDI and the B-2 bomber program could then become targets for further reductions.

Does Rep. Bentley back Serbian strongman?

Rep. Helen Bentley (D-Md.) made some disconcerting remarks on the floor of the House on June 20 concerning the situation in Yugoslavia. The daughter of a Yugoslavian immigrant, Bentley commemorated the Battle of Kosovo, where the Serbians succeeded in defeating the Turkish invaders under Sultan Murad in 1389.

Bentley complained that Serbia, the most populous of the nationalities integrated into the Republic of Yugoslavia after the war, is not free and that the Communists had allowed the widespread influx of Albanian Moslems into the "sacred" Kosovo region.

Bentley, who will visit Yugoslavia for the dedication of the new Orthodox cathedral in Belgrade, hopes that the "plight of the Serbian people in their ancestral homeland" will be brought to the attention of the world. The plight of Yugoslavia, on the verge of being pulled apart by ethnic unrest,

fueled by Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic, has become apparent to most people. It is doubtful, however, that many would be happy to see, as Bentley seems to do, a rising Serbia nationalism, which is plunging the area in bloody ethnic and racial turmoil.

Dems are faced with \$1.8 million debt

It has been revealed that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) has accumulated \$1.8 million in debt.

Committee chairman Rep. Beryl Anthony Jr. (D-Ark.) is seeking to put the blame on his predecessor, former Rep. Tony Coelho (D-Calif.). "Tony Coelho was throwing money away like crazy to get elected whip," said Anthony.

Lawyers for Lyndon LaRouche and his associates in Alexandria, Virginia were curious to know how much of the money was in the form of loans, and if mail and wire fraud charges will be brought against the DCCC in order to shut it down.

House rejects efforts to modify S&L bill

The House on June 16 decisively defeated an amendment to the administration's savings and loan bailout bill which would ease capital requirements for S&Ls. In a 362-94 vote, the House defeated the amendment of Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), which would have given more than 240 S&Ls the right to petition regulators for relief from new capital standards that would erase more than \$19 billion in special "goodwill" capital from their books.

President Bush had threatened to veto the bill if the Hyde amendment were accepted.

The President did not get his way in keeping the bailout off-budget. The House voted 280-146 to add \$50 billion in bonds for the bailout to the budget deficit. The Democrats largely supported the President on the S&L legislation, while many Republicans went against him. Many savings and loan institutions would undoubtedly be able to make ends meet if the legislation, as Hyde indicated, would allow more of a case-by-case approach to the closing of the institutions.

As now formulated, the savings and loans which fail to meet the stringent capital requirements will go belly-up as well as the homeowners who are dependent upon them.

Dannemeyer proposes amendment on religion

Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) introduced on June 15 an amendment to the U.S. Constitution entitled the Community Life Amendment. The purpose, he said, is to "successfully correct the impression that a formal recognition of God in our public schools is either irrelevant or harmful, as we have been told through a series of Supreme Court decisions."

The amendment reads: "Section 1. the right of the people to allow voluntary school prayer and the teaching of the Judeo-Christian ethic in public schools shall not be denied or abridged by the United States. Section 2. For the purpose of section 1, the term 'teaching of the Judeo-Christian ethic' shall include the Ten Commandments, and the creation of the Earth as accepted in Judeo-Christian tradition. Section 3. Section 1 shall not force the

people to enact any statute against their will. Section 4. Nothing in this Amendment shall constitute an establishment of religion, nor shall this Amendment permit any governmental or administrative authority to prescribe the form or content of any voluntary prayer."

Dannemeyer denounced the Supreme Court-assisted elimination of all religion except "humanism" from our schools as "a malignancy that is robbing the heart and soul of America." "For the past 25 years the rising generation have been denied a full opportunity to address the most fundamental of life's questions: Who am I? Why am I here? and Where am I going? Any education, in my opinion, that does not fully access all intellectual avenues to sufficiently answer these questions is a mockery to an enlightened people."

Referring to the evil influence of John Dewey in formulating the Humanist Manifesto, Dannemeyer continued, "Humanism cannot fill the substantive void left by the expulsion of religious principles and beliefs from public schools. Man, judging life by his own experience, by what he sees, is incapable of sustaining an ethical system founded on his own authority. The evidence of failure is everywhere. From abused children to juvenile delinquents to unethical business practices to the modern welfare state. . . . America, it seems, has succumbed to perhaps the ultimate delusion of mankind, the highest act of egotism. We have cast our eyes on the world, found it comely, called it our own, and have relinquished the eternities. America now serves at the altar of man. . . . We must regain our heritage through the lives of our children or else continue to suffer the consequences of a failed stewardship."