

National News

Iklé: Put nuclear weapons under int'l control

Former Reagan Undersecretary of Defense Fred Iklé called for international regulation of nuclear weapons, even if it involves "troublesome incursions that would challenge the traditional prerogatives of national sovereignty," in an article in the New York Council on Foreign Relations journal *Foreign Affairs*, cited by a Dec. 28, 1995 Press Trust of India wire.

Iklé penned this latest attack on the nation-state, saying that worldwide control over the use of nuclear weapons would require difficult choices and pose new political and military dangers, "but there is no alternative. The status quo will not last. . . . The need for ubiquitous intelligence capabilities will have to balance against the protection of civil liberties."

Iklé stated that a total regime of control over nuclear weapons cannot be avoided, because "whether by accident, because of a terrorist act, or as part of a military campaign, a nuclear bomb might explode some day, unleashing forces that would transform the international system far more profoundly than did the collapse of the Soviet empire. Before that calamity occurs, the United States must lead the great powers in planning for the international control of nuclear weapons."

Date set in Billington habeas corpus hearing

A May 20 date has been set by federal Judge Richard Williams, for a hearing to review the claims of Lyndon LaRouche associate Michael Billington that he was deprived of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel in his 1989 trial by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Judge Williams has set aside a week to hear evidence on this point. The hearing will be held in federal court in Richmond, Virginia.

Billington, who spent two years in federal prison as a co-defendant in the LaRouche frameup trial, is currently serving a 77-year

sentence in a Virginia prison on hoked up charges of "securities fraud." He had appealed his conviction to the federal courts, in a *habeas corpus* petition, which documented that his trial and conviction were riddled with violations of his constitutional rights, including double jeopardy, prosecutorial misconduct, and judicial bias.

Judge Williams granted the hearing only on the issue of ineffective assistance of counsel. If Billington proves that point, his conviction would be overturned.

Billington's attorneys are expected to appeal the denial of the petition on the other substantive points. Massive documentation exists to show that the federal and state governments undertook their prosecutions of LaRouche and his associates, in full knowledge that they were innocent of all charges against them. State and federal prosecutors "solved" this problem by suborning perjury, coercing and bribing witnesses, and carrying out other illegal acts.

Three firms dominate meatpacking, says USDA

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman released a study on Feb. 14 on "concentration" (i.e., ownership and control of supplies by only a few companies) in the meatpacking industry, prepared by university researchers under contract to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Feb. 15 *Wall Street Journal* reported. The study concluded that just three companies, Cargill (through its Excel division), IBP, Inc., and ConAgra (through its Montfort Meats division), control 81% of U.S. meat-slaughter. In 1980, the top four meatpackers controlled only 36% of the steers and heifers slaughtered.

The study confirmed charges in the Dec. 8, 1995 *EIR*, that the food cartel, under the control of the British monarchy, controls the supply of meat and most other basic foodstuffs as a food weapon.

Glickman said that, based on the study, he cannot tell whether the three companies are colluding to depress prices paid to ranchers. Cattle-raisers are being paid an artificially low price of \$63-65 per 100 pounds for the cattle they sell, while meat

prices charged at supermarkets are much higher, and meatpackers are enjoying record profits.

For example, IBP posted a 41% gain in net earnings for 1995 over 1994, while prices paid by IBP to farmers plunged. IBP is the world's largest producer of fresh beef and pork, and is moving to increase its market share in meat sales in Asia.

Glickman stated he has drawn up a 21-person advisory committee to do further study. The committee includes cattle-raisers, but also representatives from Cargill and the Meat Packers Institute, which represents the big three meatpackers. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and Rep. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) had been pushing for the study.

Biomedical scientists urge federal funding

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a coalition of 10 societies representing 44,000 biomedical research scientists, urged government policymakers to increase funding for basic biomedical research in fiscal year 1997, and for the education of the next generation of scientists, in a report released on Feb. 12. "The federal government is the only source capable of providing the broad, long-term support necessary for basic research," FASEB President Dr. Ralph Bradshaw stated. "The returns to investments in basic research are large, but too difficult to predict and too widely shared to attract the support of private investors."

Bradshaw said that "public funds also promote the climate of openness and sharing which speed the process of discovery and verification." On the other hand, corporate-funded R&D is almost entirely for proprietary purposes.

The FASEB specifically recommends that the National Institutes of Health receive a 6.5% increase in FY 97, stressing that it is estimated that since World War II, over 90% of the revolutionary advances in medical research resulted from NIH funding. It also recommends a 12.1% increase for biological science funded through the National Science Foundation; an increase of 7.2% in

the Department of Veterans Affairs medical efforts; a 34.4% increase for the Department of Agriculture's National Research Initiative; a 6% increase for Department of Energy health-related research; and steady funding for NASA's life sciences programs.

Greenspan reappointed in 'package deal'

President William Clinton reappointed Alan Greenspan chairman of the Federal Reserve Board on Feb. 22. Greenspan had been championed by leading British media, and by Senate Banking Committee Chairman Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.). Laura Tyson, the head of the National Economic Council, which made the final recommendation to the President, indicated that the appointment was made after looking at "the whole package." Clinton also named Alice Rivlin, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, to be vice chairman of the Fed; and Lawrence Meyer, a professor of economics at Washington University in St. Louis, to the Federal Reserve board.

In New York on Feb. 15, President Clinton attacked the "outrageous political treatment" of Felix Rohatyn. Clinton said that he had wanted to nominate Rohatyn to the Federal Reserve vice chairmanship, in order to force a debate on the level of economic growth in the U.S. economy. Clinton said that if the nation had a rate of economic growth only two-tenths of a percent higher, the budget deficit would not be problem.

Rail plan will prevent decline, says group

The Regional Plan Association, a private group, warned that without a massive investment in infrastructure, the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut region will face crumbling urban cores, isolated islands of wealth, transportation paralysis, feeble economic growth, and long-term economic decline, in a five-year study released Feb. 13. The association proposes a \$75 billion, three-year program, primarily to upgrade New York's

aged transport infrastructure with modern high-speed rail, and finish the 25 miles of rail links that would create a tie-in for the entire region and to other never-completed projects.

An *EIR* study of transport in New York in the 1970s found that for the lack of less than two miles of railroad track in Brooklyn, it was impossible to transport freight from Kennedy Airport to the ports in the city, which resulted in the use of trucking instead.

The association proposes that this be funded by a gasoline tax of an additional up to 20¢ per gallon, and increased bridge and tunnel fares during periods of congestion, to be used by a tri-state infrastructure bank. The bank would be the financial mechanism for the capital spending plan, insulated from the political pressures of the three state governments.

AFL-CIO hits electric utilities deregulation

The executive council of the AFL-CIO warned against destabilizing the electric utility industry, at its meeting on Feb. 21. Hundreds of thousands of jobs in the electric utility and related industries are threatened by the proposed deregulation of the industry and "emerging international environmental commitments related to global climate change," it said. "Claims of universal benefit associated with fully open competition for electricity supply are exaggerated and not well founded."

The AFL-CIO correctly stated that "radical deregulation" of the industry will increase electricity rates for residential customers, and that pressure for more downsizing and layoffs will come from such measures.

"The AFL-CIO encourages Congress and state regulatory authorities to proceed cautiously on electric utility deregulation and ensure that deregulation efforts do not destabilize the industry, threaten workers' jobs, and dramatically increase residential electricity rates. Similarly, efforts to address global climate change must not threaten U.S. jobs and harm competitiveness of U.S. industry," the executive council said.

Briefly

THE AFL-CIO executive council approved a plan Feb. 20 at its semi-annual meeting, to hold a series of town hall meetings in 27 cities nationwide, from March through May, that will stress the growing "wage gap" between upper- and lower-income Americans.

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission plans to review *EIR*'s call for an investigation of George Soros, Stanley Druckenmiller, Newt Gingrich, and others, to decide whether to open a formal probe, a spokesman said Feb. 15. *EIR* alleged that speculators were colluding to profit from a U.S. debt default.

RICHARD HOLBROOKE, the former U.S. envoy dealing with Bosnia, said that the U.S. decision (under President Bush) not to get involved when the threat of war in the former Yugoslavia was getting acute, and instead to leave the field to the Europeans, was a prescription for disaster, in an interview in Romania on Feb. 13.

A MILLION WOMAN March is planned for June 15 in Los Angeles, the Congress on Racial Equality and other civil rights groups announced on Feb. 15. This march, the spokeswoman said, will include both men and women and their families.

THE WESTERN Fuels Association called environmentalists "druids" engaged in a "scientific fraud" to promote their global warming theory, in a Feb. 15 press release. Western Fuels, a cooperative of several fuel and electric utilities, has been taking the lead in funding the publication of research exposing the fraudulent global warming theory.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS members of Local 1981 produced a 32-page comic book that exposes "the crimes, the history, and the treachery of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund." The authors say, "This isn't a balanced view of the bank. They have millions of dollars to get their side across, so why should we help them?"