

apparatus. It also emphasized the importance of building the National Missile Defense system; suggested that U.S. cities be eventually ringed by sensors to thwart terrorists carrying biological, chemical, radiation, or nuclear weapons; and demanded that means be developed for sealing the U.S. borders

Iklé's contribution was particularly rabid. In his own position paper, "Defending the U.S. Homeland: Strategic and Legal issues for DOD and the Armed Forces," published in January 1999, he spelled out one scenario that could become reality sooner than most think. After arguing that, in the event of a terrorist attack involving the use of weapons of mass destruction, FEMA and the DOJ would be the lead response agencies, he wrote: "A different approach will be needed if mass destruction weapons are used against the U.S. homeland as part of an enemy strategy in warlike situations, not merely as an isolated terrorist act. Illustrative of such a contingency would be another Gulf war, in which the United States would confront a shifting coalition of hostile countries in the region, all of which might possess WMD [weapons of mass destruction] of some sort. The United States, while preparing for such a war or already engaged in it, might have credible yet ambiguous information that a member of the enemy coalition has managed to smuggle a few mass destruction weapons into the United States. Or conversely, as the United States is about to win this war, a biological or nuclear attack might actually occur in a U.S. city. Clearly if the U.S. homeland is in danger of such attacks in wartime, the Defense Department—not the Justice Department—will have to be prepared to take the lead. . . . For such a contingency—an attack worse than Pearl Harbor—the American people would expect and, indeed, demand that they could count on DOD and the armed forces to protect the homeland."

License To Kill

Not to be outdone by the Beltway think-tanks, at least one member of the U.S. Congress is pushing to give the President a literal license to kill, in keeping with the drive to forge a "national security state," to combat enemies real and imagined.

On the opening day of the 107th Congress, Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.) introduced H.R. 19, the "Terrorist Elimination Act of 2001," which would officially lift the ban on government-sanctioned assassinations and assassination conspiracies. The last President to officially ban political assassinations was Ronald Reagan. The ban was included in Executive Order 12333, signed on Dec. 4, 1981, which, otherwise, ironically, privatized U.S. national security operations, and provided the legal "cover" for Sir George Bush and Oliver North's "secret parallel government."

What goes around, comes around, and, now, apparently some "Friends of Dubya" are pushing the idea that that secret government should come out of the closet and flaunt the fact that the grave economic and financial crisis will be "managed," by jackboot methods.

State Lawmakers: Requires Opposing

As of the end of January, the impact of the hyperinflation in fuel and electricity costs had created power supply and price emergencies in states other than California. Marcia Merry Baker interviewed three state Democratic lawmakers, from Nevada, Alabama, and Vermont, on their situations and initiatives.

Interview: Joseph Neal

Using Nevada's 'Public Purpose' Law

Nevada State Sen. Joseph Neal (D-Las Vegas) has been in the middle of a fight to roll back deregulation. The State Legislature opened on Feb. 6, and a primary topic of debate was the soaring energy costs. On Jan. 30, when legislators said that there was little they could do to reverse price increases, Senator Neal responded that the legislature should take a "dramatic step," and that he favored taking over the utilities. "I don't think [Governor] Kenny Guinn will like the idea," Neal said, "but it has a chance if voters get upset about what is happening. Energy is a necessity for people." In Fall 2000, energy deregulation, authorized to go into effect, was delayed in Nevada by Governor Guinn, after Senator Neal had intervened for a go-slow approach. Senator Neal spoke with Marcia Merry Baker on Feb. 3.



EIR: Senator Neal, Nevada is important, because it is right next door to the California energy crisis, and because of its response to its own energy problems; plus, you yourself are an international leader against the deregulation energy policy—you have been organizing against it in Mexico, Ohio, Califor-

Public Interest Deregulation

nia, and so on. Please tell us what you are working on right now, as far as the legal basis for intervening on behalf of the general welfare.

Neal: One of the things that we are looking at, is that, where there are contracts that have been put into place, by a state or Investor Owned Utility, to sell their generating capacity, my position is that those contracts can be terminated for the general welfare of the citizens. In our law, we refer to it as a “public purpose.” There are certain rules that must be followed, in doing that. So, we are looking at that.

Right now, our Public Consumer Office, which deals with energy in the state of Nevada, is in the process of having some contracts terminated. I will also submit a letter to the Public Service Commission, which oversees the utilities, asking them to engage this particular process — you know, terminating these particular contracts.

EIR: For out-of-state people who don’t know, these “contracts” refer to sales of electricity?

Neal: Yes, these refer to generating capacity that has been turned over to certain national groups, that are utilizing the fact that the energy has been deregulated on the transmission lines, that they can now sell that energy for any price that the market demands — or even that the market does not demand.

So, what we’re trying to do, is to bring that back within control of the state powers, where they’re able to set the rates, as it was before in our state — the Public Utility Commission allowed the Investor Owned Utilities to set certain rates to recoup their expenses, in terms of delivery of energy to the public.

And also, we are looking to gain control of the reliability of that energy being delivered to our people.

EIR: So, you are looking at both the legal ways to intervene right now, and in effect, to roll back deregulation permanently. Is that accurate?

Neal: Exactly.

EIR: Lyndon LaRouche today commissioned background work for a possible draft Federal measure, along the lines of “A National Energy-Management Reconstruction Act.” It would involve some of the same principles you are talking about on a state level. What do you think of this kind of approach?

Neal: Any time that we can go back to the laws that Roosevelt

passed during his Administration, laws such as the Federal Energy Act, the Public Utility Holding Company Act, and the Rural Electrification Act, to name just a few — I think that that is the proper course. Because, then, energy was declared a necessity. And under the Federal Energy Act of 1935, wholesale energy was regulated. And what has been done, effectively, in the last years of the Bush Administration — the passage of the 1992 Federal Energy Act, which amended that Act [of 1935] — deregulated wholesale energy. So, we’ve got to go back to regulating the wholesale price of energy. That’s a necessity.

Interview: Thomas Jackson

Alabama Legislator Says, ‘No Cut-Offs’

Alabama State Rep. Thomas E. Jackson (D-District 68), chairman of the Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Committee, was interviewed by Marcia Merry Baker on Feb. 2.



EIR: What is the situation in Alabama?

Jackson: We’re having numbers of problems with natural gas and propane in the state.

My constituents are the poor and those who are less fortunate, on fixed incomes. Gas bills have quadrupled in the last month. They’re getting \$550 a month, and they have a \$350 or \$400 gas bill for the month. We’ve been trying to get answers to these questions here.

In the northern part of the state, chicken growers have had their propane bill, for their chicken houses, quadruple as well — Calhoun County, in particular, and Culvert County. There was a chicken grower who showed us his bill for all of last year, of \$15,000. From November to Jan. 8, it was \$13,000!

We have met with the natural gas and propane distributors here in the state, and they are saying that it is the producers that’s the problem — they are spiking the prices.

We look at some of the things that happen with ExxonMobil, and the others, and the inflated prices. I know their stockholders are just enjoying it. They are up more than 120% from last year. Chevron is going up. Texaco is going up. They are