

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Senator says population growth is 'communist'

Senator Bob Packwood (R-Oreg.) denounced the Reagan administration's stand against Malthusian population control, charging that it is the communist countries that have promoted economic growth "in and of itself," at the expense of "population stabilization."

In Senate testimony, Packwood argued that in 1974 the communist bloc countries opposed the population-stabilization policies of the West. "They were still operating under the theory of economic determinism, that growth in and of itself was good. The logic went, the more people the better and if countries simply followed proper economic policies, they could accommodate all of their population growth."

On Aug. 8, Packwood and Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) a "sense of the Senate" resolution reaffirming the U.S. commitment to a population control policy. The Reagan administration had announced that it would withdraw funding from programs designed to force population control on Third World populations.

Packwood correctly argued that the United States has taken the lead, over the last 10 years, in spreading the Malthusian dogma to the rest of the world. Citing the role played by the United States at the 1974 Bucharest Population conference, he called the United States "the godfather in encouraging other countries to undertake programs of population stabilization."

Senator Bradley, a leading supporter of the International Monetary Fund, attacked the administration head-on: "For over 20 years, the philosophy justifying U.S. policy on population aid has been that 'continued high rates of population growth

significantly place burdens on economies unable to provide sufficient goods and services for the growing population.'

assert this week that more people do not necessarily mean less economic growth."

Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) launched a successful effort to amend the Packwood-Bradley resolution with language praising President Reagan's anti-abortion stand. The Helms amendment passed by a vote of 52 to 43, at which point Packwood withdrew his bid.

Investigate terrorist link to the drug trade

Senator Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.) opened hearings Aug. 2 in the Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to examine the link between drugs and terrorism. The subcommittee took telephone testimony directly from Judge Fernando Imposimato—the Italian magistrate leading the investigation of the Bulgarian connection into the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II.

In her opening statement, Hawkins charged that the connection between drugs and terrorism is "irrefutable," and listed Cuba, Nicaragua, Bulgaria, and Vietnam as countries which foster international narcotics trafficking. "The dollars generated from this nefarious business," she said, "were plowed into promoting terrorism in this hemisphere." In addition, she pointed out that the illegal-drug business in Colombia, Peru, and Thailand is used to bankroll terrorism.

Also testifying at the hearings were the director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, State Department and Customs officials, and a for-

mer Nicaraguan diplomat who provided evidence of Nicaraguan government complicity in drug-running. On Aug. 8, Hawkins released photographs showing uniformed Nicaraguan military personnel loading drugs onto a transport plane.

In a related development, Sen. Alfonso D'Amato (R-N.Y.) Edward Feighan (D-Ohio) introduced two bills aimed at hitting the Bulgarian guns-for-drugs connection.

One bill calls on the United States to review its relations with the government of Bulgaria, given the evidence developed by the Italian magistrates about the role of the official Bulgarian trading company Kintex in encouraging and facilitating illicit narcotics trafficking and in the assassination attempt against the Pope. The second bill calls for the United States to request a U.N. review of Bulgaria's and Kintex's compliance with international customs treaties.

Hearings held on increase in child porn

The Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice opened hearings Aug. 8 on the issue of the increase in child pornography. Testifying before the hearings were Kenneth Lanning of the FBI, a Texas prosecutor, the head of Women Against Pornography, and others. Witnesses charged that the United States is suffering from an "incest epidemic," and that child pornography and molestation are directly related phenomena.

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) seems to be attempting to build a case against the position of the American Civil Liberties Union that pornography must be protected by First Amendment rights. He told the wit-

nesses, "You're essentially saying stop publication, but when it comes up to that line you run smack against a very fundamental First Amendment right of the Constitution." He urged the witnesses to document their claim that pornography is not a victimless activity.

According to Senate sources, the activities of the North American Man-Boy Love Association (Nambla), which advocates the right to have sexual relations with children, are being investigated. *EIR* has documented direct ties between Nambla and high-level supporters of the Mondale campaign.

House sets commission to boost the grain cartels

The House approved by voice vote on Aug. 6 House Joint Resolution 600, establishing a study commission to recommend steps to "improve" U.S. agriculture-related trade and export policies. While the findings of the commission are not binding, its structure indicates that it will serve as a lobby group for the international grain cartels.

First, the commission will be funded by private contributions, with as much as 5% of costs allowed from any one contributor. The secretary of agriculture may draw up to \$1 million in additional funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation. Then, in addition to the members of Congress who will serve and three appointments by the President, 20 individuals will be selected by the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

These individuals will be drawn from among "producers of major agricultural commodities, . . . proces-

sors or refiners, . . . exporters, transporters, or shippers, . . . suppliers of production equipment or materials, . . . providers of financing or credit, . . . [and, finally] organizations representing general farm and rural interests in the United States."

The supposed safeguard against a "link between any private contributions and the makeup or work of the Commission," according to Rep. Tom Foley (D-Wash.), contributions can be accepted only after the appointments to the Commission are completed."

While the drop in the value of U.S. agricultural goods has gone from \$43.8 billion in FY 1981 to a projected \$38 billion for FY 1984, the commission is not charged with looking at major debt and financing problems or the issue of world parity prices for agricultural goods, but rather is to focus on trade competition and export programs.

House restores funds for Project Democracy

The House reversed itself once again and approved \$18.5 million for the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

181. Functioning through the offices of the U.S. Information Agency, the funds go to the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO for their private activities, which, they claim, promote democracy abroad.

In May 1984, the House had voted 226 to 173 to delete these funds, after abuses by the AFL-CIO were publicized, including using such financing to interfere in the internal affairs of Panama. The AFL-CIO used NED funds to contribute to a labor group that backed a political candidate in the

Panamanian elections. The U.S. ambassador cabled to Washington at that time: "Please stop this activity before it causes us irreparable harm and embarrassment in Panama."

While supporters of the NED proclaimed that safeguards were now in place against such interference in the internal affairs of foreign nations, all they could point to were that the NED records would now be audited and open to the public, and that the board of the NED "is all agreed, no interference in foreign elections and political processes."

Goldwater hits O'Neill sabotage of MX missile

Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Az.), an Aug. 2 statement on the Senate floor, charged House Speaker Tip O'Neill with sabotaging the House-Senate Conference on the administration's defense bill.

Responding to Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd's charge that the conference was being held up because of administration intransigence, Goldwater retorted, "I do not want to hear the President or the administration blamed for holding up this conference, when the holdup comes from the obstinacy of the House—and I do not say the House committee. I think it comes from above, from Mr. O'Neill."

Several days later, the Senate Appropriations Committee tabled its efforts to vote on appropriations for the MX missile, citing the stalled defense authorization conference. As the Congress recessed on Aug. 10 for the Republican convention, Speaker O'Neill declared that the MX missile program would be ultimately killed by the Congress.