

# The 98th Congress: A triumph for enemies of the American republic

by Susan Kokinda

On the wall of *EIR*'s Washington, D.C., office hangs an enlarged cartoon depicting a professor addressing his class, "Today, class, we study this single celled creature whose aimless movements are easily manipulated by outside forces." "The ameoba?" asks a voice from the class. "No . . ." says the professor pointing to a picture, ". . . the Senate."

Before one grins too cynically, remember that the Congress was created by the Founding Fathers of our republic to be "manipulated" by outside forces—the force of educated and mobilized constituencies.

The history of the 98th Congress, which convened in January 1983 and recessed on Oct. 12, 1984, saw the collapse of republican constituencies and the takeover by lobbies controlled by the country's enemies. The 1983-84 session saw successes for the Moscow, International Financier, Liberal-Libertarian, and Death lobbies, bringing the United States and Western civilization to the brink of what Independent Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has called "The Five Crises Facing the Next President." For its postmortem on the 98th Congress, *EIR* will examine how the 98th Congress exacerbated each of these crises.

## 1. Moscow's drive for domination

From its inception, the 98th has been a pliant tool of the Moscow lobby and its Kissinger sub-lobby. On each weapons systems over which central battles were fought—the MX, the Strategic Defense Initiative, and anti-satellite weapons—and on the overall level of defense spending, Congress forced Reagan into defeat after defeat. The 98th pioneered a new form of brainwashing—acceptance of dangerous arms-control policies in exchange for a vital weapons system.

This was clearest in the battle over the MX. Reagan's earlier ability to force congressional support for the MX had dissolved by late 1982. As the 98th Congress began in January 1983, Reagan appointed a bipartisan commission headed by Henry Kissinger's associate Brent Scowcroft. The policies advanced by the commission were produced at Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which used Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) to craft every major defense "compromise" of the last two years. During late spring of 1983, Reagan was given "support" for the MX by the Scowcroft Commission in exchange for paying homage to arms negotiations.

The effort to box Reagan into selling the store to the Kremlin accelerated after his historic March 23, 1983 embrace of the concept of Mutually Assured Survival. The Georgetown lobby reneged on its end of the MX bargain and would have defeated it but for the Soviet shoot-down of KAL-007, which provoked a patriotic upsurge in the country and a temporary congressional lapse into responsibility.

As *EIR* exposed in mid-year, the Moscow embassy in Washington, D.C., was directly involved in drafting defense legislation, with all emphasis on stopping the beam-weapon defenses (the SDI) and anti-satellite weapons. With the exception of a brief show of fight by conservative Senate Republicans, who took courage from LaRouche's late spring television assault on the KGB lobby, no one took the Moscow apparatus on. By year end, O'Neill and Nunn threatened the President with a government financial shutdown unless he acceded to Moscow's demands. He did. Congress killed the MX for this year, prevented testing of ASATs in 1984 (with several restricted 1985 tests), and cut the SDI budget by 25%.

## 2. Worldwide monetary collapse

The 98th Congress faced two life-or-death choices in 1983—whether to reconfirm Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volcker and whether to approve the refinancing of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Despite significant pressure from constituencies, Congress bowed to the International Financier lobby on both decisions.

The die had, in a sense, been cast in 1981-82, when Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) declared himself Volcker's political bodyguard. Farmbelt Senate Democrats led by John Melcher (Mont.), David Boren (Okla.), and Ed Zorinsky (Neb.), tried to link up with Reagan loyalists to force Volcker out, but were stopped by Democratic chairman Charles Manatt, Byrd, O'Neill, and others.

That paved the way for Reagan's incalculably disastrous reappointment of Volcker in the spring of 1983. LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee spearheaded opposition to the confirmation. Every single constituency which had been devastated by Volcker's policies—farm groups, labor, homebuilders, etc.—had abandoned the field to the Financier lobby. Volcker was confirmed on July 27, 1983 by a vote of 84 to 16.

The fight against the IMF bailout was joined by more

forces, but was no more successful. With the exception of LaRouche's "Operation Juárez" program to reorganizing the world financial structure, none of the opposition to the IMF could answer the question, "If you collapse the present monetary structure, what replaces it?" Despite several close votes, Congress passed the IMF bailout.

### 3. Collapse of agro-industrial output

IN 1983, Congress began to come under the sway of a new political formation—the Liberal-Libertarian zero-growth lobby. This lobby is largely responsible for the mass hysteria now provoked by the words, "budget deficit." The liberal wing attacks defense spending and porkbarrelling; the libertarian/free-enterprise wing attacks defense waste, porkbarrelling, and social programs; and Paul Volcker, who has caused the deficit with his usurious interest rates, cheers both sides.

"Porkbarrel" is the 20th-century perjorative for what used to be known and revered as the American System of economy—the spending of the federal government on infrastructure and conditions for technologically progressive industrial and agricultural growth. Both the Moscow lobby and the International Financier lobby want to wipe out the remnants of the American System, and both contributed to the formation of the Liberal/Libertarian lobby—a merger of environmentalist zero-growthers and anti-government anarchists who are succeeding where the environmentalists alone have failed.

The year 1983 saw a successful assault on both the Clinch River Breeder Reactor (CRBR) and funding for the fusion-energy program. Clinch River had been an unsuccessful target of environmentalists for a decade. Joining their ranks in 1983 were "fiscal conservatives" led by Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.), the National Taxpayers Union, the Cato Institute, and the Heritage Foundation. Despite *EIR*'s warnings that these right-wing anarchist circles were contaminated by KGB assets, Congress killed Clinch River in the fall of 1983.

Other vital government programs such as fusion research and the U.S. space program have been staggered by the joint assault of liberals and libertarians.

Indeed, the very concept of a government role in infrastructure development has come under serious attack by this lobby. Although it did not pass in the 98th Congress, different versions of an Omnibus Rivers and Harbors bill were drafted in both the House and the Senate. While the drafts are the first authorizations for desperately needed water projects in practically a decade, they also begin to codify the notion of private-sector cost-sharing, a policy pushed heavily by Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.), Humphrey, and Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.). The idiocy of their approach is that infrastructure's necessity lies in its determination of the country's growth-potential. Imposition of user fees acts to limit infrastructure-spurred expansion of industry and agriculture, and with it, the federal revenue base. Of course, the entire bias

of this liberal-libertarian folly is in favor of the non-users and non-producers—the speculative and "post-industrial" sectors of the economy.

### 4. Worldwide food shortage

Under impetus of the budget-deficit and world grain cartel propaganda about overproduction, the 98th Congress took dangerous steps to cut U.S. food production and restructure U.S. farm policy. While the major battle lies ahead in the campaign over the 1985 farm bill, the precursors of destruction of the American family farmer were the 1983 dairy bill and the 1984 grain target-price freeze.

It is in agriculture that the destruction of American constituency lobbies is most evident. The farm sector used to fight as a bloc and thus was able to at least hold its own against the international grain cartels and financial oligarchy. Over recent years, the cartels have succeeded in splitting farm organizations up into competing commodity groups, each of which is willing to sell out the other to obtain some meager concession.

As a result, dairy farmers in late 1983 and grain producers in early 1984 suffered devastating setbacks. On Nov. 9, 1983, Congress passed H.R. 4196, which taxed dairy farmers 50¢ per hundredweight and then paid them back a portion as an incentive to cut production. The current milk shortage is the result of that bill. Several months later, Congress devastated the grain farmers by freezing the price supports which they receive for grain.

### 5. Crisis of Western cultural values

While the average member of Congress would probably not recognize a Western cultural value if one hit him over the head, the 98th Congress did much to erode the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Under the pressure of the ogre-like "budget deficit," the 98th Congress revised the Medicare and Medicaid systems and introduced a "useless eaters" standard to federally supported medical care. Through Medicare and Medicaid, the federal government now supports hospices—the first and most "palatable" step in the right-to-die movement. Furthermore, a major cost-containing resolution on hospital care was introduced called Diagnostic Related Groups (DRG), in which the federal government assesses the average cost of care of a particular medical ailment, and will reimburse only to that amount. Obviously the elderly and others with more complicated and interrelated illnesses are to be relegated to a "too expensive to save" category.

The same Death lobby Malthusianism was evident in the near-successful effort to pass a major immigration reform bill. Based on xenophobic anxiety over dwindling jobs, and modeled on the racist immigration legislation of the 1920s, the immigration bill died in the last hours of the 98th Congress because it had become too politically unacceptable in an election year.