

Congressional Closeup by Stanley Ezrol

Schiller lobbyists greet the 99th Congress

The 99th Congress of the United States, which took office during the first week of January, has experienced a force previously unknown to its members and staff. The shock first hit this Congress on Martin Luther King's Birthday, Jan. 15, 1985, when Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, led a rally of 10,000 supporters

This, the largest demonstration formed anywhere in the world for King's birthday, was, as everyone on Capitol Hill knew, built without the slightest bit of help from the mass media, or from any major financial backers, against the strenuous objections of the *Washington Post* which published 15,000 words of page-one articles during the three days preceding the rally in an attempt to sabotage it. The creatures of Capitol Hill saw a mass movement which is being built totally independent of the control or influence of the Eastern Establishment. No "major" national news media even admitted the rally had occurred.

On Jan. 29, in order to bring the requests of the 10,000, and the hundreds of thousands yet to come, directly to Congress, 250 Schiller Institute delegates from Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York City, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. vigorously greeted the Congress as it entered its first full week in session. After a rally and informational picket line which featured addresses from Pennsylvania farm leader and former congressional candidate George Elder, Lyndon LaRouche's agricultural policy advisor Lawrence Freeman, Rev. Raymond Robinson of Washington's Israel Baptist Church, and Paolo Raimondi of the Institute's military policy advisory board, the Institute delegates divided into squads of 6 to 10 to visit congressional offices and

press.

Their demands were for a crash program to deploy beam-weapon defense systems, emergency legislation to end the famine in Africa, and support for Mrs. LaRouche's proposal for an "Indira Gandhi Memorial Summit" to eliminate the International Monetary Fund and reorganize the world debt structure.

The delegates, many of whom had never before had experience with Congress, were shocked at the vacuousness, stupidity, and venality of the congressmen and staff with whom they met. Although many with whom the delegations met expressed support for some part of the Institute's program, in almost every meeting, congressmen or their aides complained that they couldn't comprehend the "connection" between the SDI, the IMF, and hunger in Africa. At one point, an exasperated aide was asked for her bosses' position on the SDI, and snapped back, "I already told you I don't know anything about Africa, I'm a defense-policy expert."

Lobbyists investigate Capitol Hill 'Inquisition'

The Schiller Institute lobbying was supplemented by investigating the "Inquisition" on Capitol Hill. "Truth squads" visited the offices of Walter Sheridan on Jan. 16 and Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (R-Ohio) on Jan. 29.

Sheridan, who is nominally employed as an aide to Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), has had a 30-year career with the Kennedy family, the FBI, and NBC News, working to smear, persecute, and intimidate elected officials as well as labor leaders including such figures as Teamster President Jimmy Hoffa, who was eventually assassinated. When a group of 12 Schiller Institute delegates visited him to interrogate him on the kinds of blackmail and terror which have immobilized Congress, he at first pretended

not to be himself, but when the delegation made it clear that they recognized his twisted features, he invited them in for a meeting in his office.

He denied that in his 30 years of political experience, he had ever known of any threats, pressure, blackmail, or terror being used against public figures, but when one of the delegates said, "Look at what happened to President Kennedy, he was assassinated," Sheridan ominously replied, "Yes, and so was his brother Robert." He was struck speechless when one delegate asked him, "Even if you are not aware of any such pressures in Congress, you would agree that it is necessary to eliminate the source of such terror, wouldn't you?" He said nothing. Then he asked the delegation to leave without venturing a reply.

On Jan. 29, twenty Schiller delegates cornered an aide to Senator Metzenbaum to ask him about his reasons for persecuting President Reagan's nominee for the office of Attorney General, Ed Meese. Although the aide could not explain why he thought there was anything particularly immoral or unacceptable about the business practices for which Meese has been vilified by Metzenbaum, Common Cause, the *New York Times*, and others, he did vigorously defend the genocidal policies of the International Monetary Fund.

Black Caucus supports genocide against Africa

In particular, it was noted that every member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the House Select Committee on Hunger, with whom the delegates met, went on record in support of the International Monetary Fund's policy of genocide against Black Africa and the rest of the Third World. One Washington, D.C. deacon remarked, "These congressmen don't want to get food to Africa; they only want to look good doing something."

No less than four members of the Black Caucus or their aides rudely shut down meetings when the delegates tried to win them away from their support for the IMF.

It was noted that almost every office was infected with the "limits to growth" ideology against which the founders of the Schiller Institute have been fighting and which President Ronald Reagan challenged in his historic Jan. 21 Inaugural Address.

Delegates from New York were treated to a direct example of the way American "pragmatic" thinking paralyzes even well-meaning congressmen. Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.), a Black Caucus member from Brooklyn, New York, hundreds of whose constituents participated in the Jan. 15 rally, opened a meeting with 10 delegates by saying, "I agree with most of what you say. Your problem isn't with me, it's with the offices where they won't even let you in the door because they disagree." He then added that, in his view, it would be necessary to balance the budget by raising taxes and cutting defense spending.

The delegation told him repeatedly, in different formulations, that he only thought this was necessary because he had been "perhaps not brainwashed, but certainly affected by the pervasive zero-growth mentality." "What if we could have 20% or higher annual growth rates? What if we could carry out the kind of economic expansion which Hamilton initiated after the Revolutionary War, which Lincoln implemented even during the fighting of the Civil War, or which Roosevelt implemented in 1939 to fight the Second World War?" one delegate asked him. When he repeated that the problem was with those who did not share a "consensus" and would not discuss these issues as he was willing to do, he was told, "No, that's not really true. Since our 10,000-man rally, we find almost everyone is trying to convince us they agree with us. The problem is

getting them to actually do something concrete. Where do you stand on the IMF?"

For approximately a half hour, he skirted the issue, saying, "We don't have any consensus yet on that." Asked if he understood that the IMF was founded to further Nazi economic policies, he refused to say what *he* knew, but said, "I've heard that said, but if you ask the people involved in the IMF, everyone will disagree with you." When he was challenged to forget what people think and "do what LaRouche did. Do what's right and let public opinion, consensus, and the media hang. By that method we got 10,000 out here for Martin Luther King's birthday while Jesse Jackson, with over \$1 million in free media advertising, could only get a couple of hundred. That's how many we have here today just by calling on our networks," he stated. "I'm a practical man. I get votes, I get into office," replied the congressman. "And do nothing," a delegate added. He then blew up, and said, "Okay, this meeting is over, get out. If you want to talk to me you have to show some respect. I'm through." When he was warned he would never be reelected on that basis, he said, "I don't care. I'll practice law."

An aide to Rep. Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.) answered the first question about the IMF by asking, "Are you from D.C.? . . . I'll only answer questions from the district." When the guests from the district said they were in full agreement with the others, the meeting was quickly terminated.

Aides to Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.) and William Dixon (D-Calif.) said they supported the IMF "because it creates jobs in the United States." Schiller delegates remarked that they couldn't believe anyone would say he would support genocide to create jobs, even if it were true.

Among "conservatives," similar bestial attachment to the IMF was not-

ed. Aides to Rep. Beverly Byron (R-Md.) said that she opposed the IMF only because "polls show that most people in our district are opposed to any foreign aid," and that "my boss" would therefore not support any African relief effort. An aide to Congresswoman Marjorie Holt of Maryland threw a delegation out, shouting, "You can't come here and make statements like that against the IMF and U.S. government officials."

'They don't understand and don't know what to do'

The high point of the day was a one-hour meeting between 60 delegates from Pennsylvania, plus 30 others, and aides to Pennsylvania's two Republican senators, John Heinz and Arlen Specter. The two aides became increasingly haggard as the delegates explained everything from culture, to the euthanasia issue, to the impact of the SDI on economic policy. Toward the close of the meeting, Heinz's aide hung his head in resignation when, after he said, "I don't know my boss's position on euthanasia," two delegates from Philadelphia quoted Heinz's public statements in support of using the Social Security system to create incentives for signing Living Wills. At approximately 4:55 p.m., the two aides exchanged looks, announced, "We only have this room 'till five o'clock," and walked out.

The response of participants to the day's events was typified by one Washington churchman who had been assigned by his pastor to attend. "This was very important," he said. "It's clear they don't understand anything and don't know what to do."

EIR renews its Congressional Closeup coverage with this special report on the Schiller Institute's intervention into the deliberations of U.S. congressmen. Next week, we will return to our regular news format.