

from the Pentagon, has staunchly maintained since the Carter coup last week that the Ford Administration is still the government and will continue on the basis of his faction's own peace policies until Carter's inauguration.

Because of his resistance to the Carter-Committee insurrection, Rumsfeld has come under the gun from both the New York Times and the Washington Post, as have his Defense Department colleagues Malcolm Currie, Director of Research and Engineering and William Clements, Deputy Secretary of Defense, who, like their boss, have offered strong resistance to the "war-by-1977" fanatics over the past months.

War Committee Comes Out of the Closet at D.C. Press Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 11 (NSIPS) — The Committee on the Present Danger unveiled itself and had trouble hiding its plans for provoking a nuclear confrontation between the U.S. and Soviet Union at its first public press conference here today, one week after stealing the White House for their puppet-President-elect, Jimmy Carter. Presided over by Committee Executive Board members Eugene Rostow, Paul Nitze, David Packard and Henry Fowler, the conference provided graphic proof of U.S. Labor Party charges that the Committee wants war, and a demonstration of the deadly strategic bungling that characterizes these war-hawks.

Nitze and Rostow opened the press conference by describing their outfit's aims as "alerting the public to the dangers of Soviet expansionism," releasing two policy statements and a list of 100 Committee members. "Our country is in a period of danger, and the danger is increasing...." one of the statements reads. "The principal threat to our nation, to world peace and to the cause of human freedom is Soviet imperialism based upon an unparalleled military buildup...." Rostow told the press conference that the Committee intends to issue a steady stream of pamphlets, hold nationwide seminars and issue numerous policy statements to build anti-Soviet war sentiment.

Reporters quickly put Rostow on the spot. A U.S. Labor Party leaflet exposing the Committee's war aims set the tone for reporters' questions, ranging from the skeptical to the hostile, and focusing on the Committee's relation to "tactical nuclear war" advocate James Rodney Schlesinger.

Rostow responded to the first major question with an admission that the Committee wanted to attack the Soviets before they grew "too strong." NSIPS representative Laura Chasan had told him that the Warsaw Pact and many of Western Europe's politicians considered the Committee itself to be the gravest "present danger." "Aren't you setting up a situation which will compel the Soviet Union to launch a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the U.S.?" Rostow answered: "Er, well, I think the best thing that was ever said about war was said by Thucydides who said that Sparta was provoked into attacking Athens because Athens was becoming too strong. We are calling attention to the fact that the growing military weakness of the U.S. could lead to war.... We are facing a situation of growing Soviet power. In such a situation, we could be panicked into war...."

"The Labor Party leaflet says that you people want James Schlesinger to be back as Secretary of Defense," asked another reporter. "Is this true?" Replied Rostow: "Why, uh, no. We don't have a position on that." Another reporter then asked him,

In an editorial Nov. 8, the New York Times scored Rumsfeld for presuming to insist that the Ford Administration will continue to govern until Jan. 20. The enraged Times editors screeched that while Rumsfeld has been right in stating that the Ford Administration is legally entitled to introduce its own defense budget before Carter's inauguration, "The question is not whether it is legal but whether it is wise." The following day, the Washington Post bolstered this threat by dredging up a months-old bogus scandal that alleges that Rumsfeld, Currie, and Clements are guilty of "conflict of interest" in connection with the Condor missile program.

"It says here in the Labor Party leaflet that Schlesinger was one of your leading and founding members. Is that true?" Rostow replied, "Why, er, no. We began pulling this committee together in 1975 and Secretary of Defense Schlesinger encouraged us to go ahead." An NSIPS reporter interjected: "So you began to pull this committee together seriously just after the so-called 'Halloween massacre,' when Schlesinger and the views he represented were pushed out of the government by responsible political forces." A harried Rostow blurted: "No, no. We began to form in the *spring* of 1975. Why I remember a meeting to discuss forming the committee in Secretary Schlesinger's office...."

Rostow also admitted that members of the Committee had spoken with Jimmy Carter. "We think Carter intends to tighten things up with the defense budget, but not through any substantial cutbacks in military programs."

"We all say the same things in public that we are thinking in private," Rostow assured the press. He was quickly asked: "Regarding this, the USLP has a letter in which you state — in private — that we are in a pre-war situation. Are you willing to repeat that in public?" The old Cold Warrior replied: "I don't know who gave you that letter — certainly not me — but I always say that in public — we are in a pre-war situation." But when the NSIPS reporter queried, "When are the bombs going to be launched?" Rostow could only say: "Well, it doesn't really mean that...."

Asked if he expected the current round of SALT negotiations to fail, Paul Nitze, one of the Committee's original organizers, commented that he doubted any agreement would be reached. "It is very difficult to reach a really adequate agreement with the Soviets." A reporter for West Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* asked if the Committee planned a propaganda campaign in Europe. Nitze replied that the organization would push for better "coordination, rationalization, and standardization within NATO."

An NSIPS reporter rose and began to read a *Washington Post* article by Henry Owen, Carter advisor and director of the Brookings Institution foreign affairs division, who calls for putting NATO on an immediate war footing. "Out of order," screamed Nitze. "Who's chairing this conference, who's chairing...."

As the news conference broke up, a Labor Party representative approached Nitze for more information on the Committee's stand. Dropping all pretenses at rationality, Nitze began shouting: "I've read your *New Solidarity*. I'm bored with you maniacs — you're maniacs. I don't have to answer you!"