

that has infuriated the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). At a closed-door meeting called by CEQ Jan. 6, NRC Assistant General Counsel Carlton Stoiber said there is "no legal justification" for imposing U.S. environmental standards abroad. That brought objections from CEQ Chairman Charles Warren and member Gus Speth, who showed reluctance even to discuss legal justification. But Stoiber insisted that neither the 1969 National Environmental Protection Act nor its legislative history in congressional debate could justify the new regulations.

At least as upset as NRC and the State Department was Export-Import Bank President John Moore...

Speth, who took the leading role for CEQ in the acrimonious debate, gave uninformative and "fudged" answers, according to one participant. Eizenstat left the meeting before it ended, but those in a position to know say he was unimpressed with CEQ's rationale and has strong reservations about CEQ's ambition to be top cop for global environment.

Speth was legal counsel for the environmentalist NRDC before Carter appointed him to the CEQ. Last year the NRDC brought suit against the Export-Import Bank to require it to meet CEQ's domestic standards in all its foreign lending operations.

That suit, while not directly related to CEQ's proposed new regulations, helps to explain why Moore and the Export-Import Bank are so disturbed. The bank has provided more than \$20 billion in loans and guarantees for U.S. exports since mid-1974, much of it for nuclear and conventional power facilities and offshore oil drilling. NRDC claims these have direct impact on the environment.

If the Export-Import Bank either the NRDC suit (now in U.S. District Court here) or is forced to comply with the proposed CEQ regulations, billions of dollars' worth of exports of U.S. products in the future could go down the drain. Foreign buyers would be forced to wait out endless environmental investigations, filing of impact statements and predictable harassment of court actions brought by well-meaning environmentalist groups....

But the CEQ has almost certainly overreached itself. Representing an activist constituency that takes a highly negative view of extending U.S. military and political power around the globe, it now wants to blanket the world with U.S. environmental power. And that is an unwanted extension of Potomac power that Jimmy Carter, ardent environmentalist though he is, is having trouble accepting.

'The Banks' Mafia: London, N.Y. Fear Competition'

The Deutsche Zeitung, a conservative weekly published in West Germany's Rheinland, came forward Jan. 20 with an insightful analysis of the behind-the-scenes struggle in the international banking community. Portions of the article, written by Burkhardt Falchow, are reprinted here:

Public Prosecutors in old Europe are taking vigorous action. The head of the Banco di Roma is arrested, Ludwig Poullain falls into twilight, large currency losses are mentioned. Who will shed light on these events?

Public prosecutors, police, and detectives who have been following the confusing whirl of high finance on the European continent are only looking at the tip of the iceberg. For leading bankers have confirmed, in their supercool language, that an embittered jungle war is raging underneath the surface, in which British and American addresses, and perhaps even the Mafia, are serving in order to stop the advance of European hard currency bankers on the international finance markets. The gnomes of Zurich put it this way: "We cannot exclude the possibility that at the moment there is conspiratorial action under way by foreign countries against leading European bankers."...

Nevertheless, not even the Commerzbank could fail to observe that the series of scandals that were uncovered in other banks are traced back to a "conspiratorial action by foreign countries against leading continental-European banks." Indeed, standing behind the undeclared but intercontinental bank war is the City of London's fear of the Luxembourg financial market, controlled by the German Eurobanks, which is carrying off increasingly more of the British share of power.

The city's fear has joined in with that of Wall Street, which is afraid that Germans could support the oil countries in their strategy of breaking from the dollar and be helpful to them in the creation of a new currency for world trade. This currency would not be based on paper or on the whims of Michael Blumenthal, Billy Miller, or Jimmy Carter, but would have a relation to the increasing value of "black gold," oil. Because this new oil currency would possibly no longer be set up in New York and London, but in Luxembourg and Zurich, it is understandable that high-minded people, who are close to distinguished clubs and distinguished banks—but who can also show experience with intrigue in the highest political offices—are firing up the intrigues against continental-European banks with both barrels.