

Stevenson Hearings — Forum For U.S. Export Battle

The Senate Banking subcommittee on international finance provided a forum for sharply conflicting views on U.S. trade policy when it held its second in a series of hearings on the future of American exports and the status of the dollar Feb. 23.

Pushing a proposal which has little to do with furthering U.S. exports and everything to do with the current British efforts to foment a Cold War, were subcommittee chairman Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill.) and ranking Republican John Heinz (R-Pa.). Both called for the Jackson-Vanik amendment restricting U.S.-Soviet Bloc trade to be rescinded on the condition that the Comecon nations agree to join the International Monetary Fund-World Bank nexus.

This not-so-subtle attempt at blackmailing the East into joining the crisis-ridden western monetary system is a tired old proposal floated previously by the Trilateral Commission, among others. Stevenson's backing of this

line coupled with his failure to push an aggressive export policy at his hearings — despite his previously stated intentions to do so — can probably be explained by one Chicago industrialist's assessment of the Illinois Senator as "a sewer who spews whatever backwater happens to be in the pipes."

Despite Heinz's and Stevenson's proposals, the session was marked by several prodevelopment presentations, including one by John Mathis of Continental Illinois Bank who called for a large scale investment in U.S. port facilities as a step toward beefing up U.S. export trades.

The highlight of the session was Sen. Jack Schmitt's response to testimony by a George Washington University researcher proving that the decline in U.S. exports stems directly from declining rates of investment in research and development and new capital formation. In response, the New Mexican Republican forcefully called for the U.S. to embark on a policy of exporting "advanced energy systems." This is the only way, said Schmitt, that the U.S. as well as the Third World will be able to achieve economic recovery. Schmitt also lambasted the Department of Energy for its consistent sabotage of such a development strategy.

Jack Anderson Sued For Column On NCLC

A \$20 million libel suit was filed Feb. 17 by the National Caucus of Labor Committees against Jack Anderson. Also named in the suit are United Feature Syndicate, the distributors of Anderson's "Washington's Merry-Go-Round" gossip column; and Cox Enterprises. The legal action stems from Anderson's Jan. 29 column falsely depicting the NCLC as a group of "armed" fanatics.

The suit, filed in Georgia Superior Court of Fulton County, names United Feature and Cox Enterprises as defendants since neither organization would accept the NCLC's official response to the Anderson slander. The refusal of United Feature and the newspaper chain backed by Cox Enterprises to run the NCLC's response has also left both journalistic ventures open to the censure of their peers.

Already the Professional Standards Committee of the National Conference of Editorial Writers has formally requested that United Feature circulate the NCLC's response to each of the 970 newspapers subscribing to the Anderson column.

When United Feature representative Sid Goldberg was told by the Professional Standard Committee that a libel suit had already been filed, he claimed to be "stunned."

Professional ethics have already led 13 other newspapers to accept and print the NCLC reply to Anderson's column.

Here are excerpts of the complaint:

NCLC vs. Anderson, United Feature,
and Cox Enterprises

...Defendant Cox (Enterprises) engages in publishing

a daily newspaper named the *Atlanta Constitution*, which paper has a large circulation in the greater Atlanta area.

7. On January 30, 1978, the Defendant Cox printed, published and caused to be circulated in the *Atlanta Constitution* an article purportedly written by Defendant Anderson....

8. The said article is false, malicious, and defamatory in that by implication and innuendo it intended to state and did state that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating the NCLC, which statement is untrue and was untrue at the time it was published and was known by the Defendants, and each of them, to be untrue at the time of publication.

9. The said article is false, malicious, and defamatory in that it by clear and concise language states that "thousands of fanatics, their minds twisted with hate have formed themselves into radical cults" and by innuendo implies that the NCLC is such a radical cult and composed of fanatics who are armed and who intend to assassinate public figures.

10. The said article was calculated to and did hold Plaintiff and the members of the NCLC up to scorn and ridicule and did injure Plaintiff and the members of the NCLC in their reputation, business, and credit and did cause the commission of physical assaults and threats against Plaintiff and the members of the NCLC.

11. That the said Defendants, and each of them, were motivated in the writing, printing, publication and circulation of the said article by hatred, malice and a desire to harm the said Plaintiff and members of the NCLC.

12. That the Defendants, and each of them were requested to retract the said article and wilfully and

wrongfully refused to print, publish, and circulate a retraction.

13. That the Defendant Cox, by and through its agents, after being put on notice of the falsity of the said article, refused to publish a statement by Plaintiff or members of the NCLC rebutting the said article, all to Plaintiff's damage....

Count Two

16. Defendant Anderson, through his agent, was put on notice that the material which formed the basis of the said article was false all prior to its writing, dissemination, publication and circulation.

17. Defendant Anderson maliciously wrote the said

article knowing that all investigation of the NCLC by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has ceased and terminated and that neither Plaintiff nor any member of the NCLC was or ever had been charged with any Federal crime for the incidents that Anderson writes has occurred or for the Federal crime of conspiracy in plotting the assassination incidents that Defendant Anderson writes might occur....

19. Defendant United Feature Syndicate is an organization that disseminates Defendant Anderson's writings for publication in other newspapers and specifically in Defendant Cox's publications in Atlanta, Georgia....

What's Happening To The Administration's 'Urban Policy'?

Despite widespread press accounts of deepening fissures in the Carter Administration at both the cabinet and departmental level over its so-called urban policy, thus far, there is a consensus that an "urban policy" will *not* mean real economic growth and the development of high-technology jobs in vital industries. It is Vice President Walter Mondale's top collaborator in the White House, Domestic Council head Stuart Eizenstat, who plays the role of mediator in the ongoing inter-departmental battles, to ensure that no side takes a position in favor of national economic development.

After weeks of preparation, Eizenstat finally presented a White House policy statement on the stalled urban program. After rejection of a call for massive funding for "distressed cities" drafted by Pat Harris, urban and Regional Planning head and HUD Secretary — twice rejected by the "fiscally conservative" President — Eizenstat presented a statement that stands as a masterpiece in semantics. Even the *New York Times* declared that the wording was so vague as to satisfy all warring factions. Thereafter, the Domestic Council chairman was credited with arriving at a "compromise."

The said compromise consisted of changes from the language of previous drafts, excluding suburbs from its definition of "distressed" areas. It also eliminated language which would have directed all government aid to cities; according to the new statement, federal monies will go to "cities and urban areas."

The manipulated character of the debate — the policy-sameness of the debaters — can be confirmed by the following summary description of departmental "factions" and what they propose that Mr. Carter submit to Congress this March as policy on housing and labor.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is

staffed, from its highest executive echelons on down, by personnel trained in the counterinsurgency methods which gained John F. Kennedy's "New Frontier" poverty-sharing programs notoriety for costliness and gross inefficiency. Top HUD personnel, including Assistant Secretaries Jay Janis and Geno Baroni and Neighborhoods Commission chairman Gale Cincotta, are either current or former executive members of leading "self-help" housing and urban organizations explicitly opposed to actual urban or national development. Hence, the Community Development Act of 1977, signed into law last April, literally deleted all reference to the concept of growth, while, at least on paper, committing the nation to "conservation" as the alternative.

While Harris has been forced to keep a lower profile after widespread reports of her falling out with both the White House and the Office of Management and Budget over HUD's original astronomical fiscal 1979 budget request, Janis and Deputy Secretary Bob Embry and Baroni have become HUD's front men, making demands that Harris herself cannot now risk politically.

Baroni heads the task force assigned to create the shock troops — the "community organizers" — capable of controlling increasing dissatisfaction over housing conditions in both inner cities and suburbs. Baroni's tactics are similar to those of Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joe Califano, one of the prime technicians behind JFK's "New Frontier." Despite sensationalist press accounts of a split between Harris and Califano over where to allocate urban money (Califano says "to the people," Harris "to the cities"), this breakdown of HUD shows the debate to be a phony. While power-hungry Califano would certainly like Pat Harris's job under a new superagency incorporating both HUD and HEW, their policies are nearly identical.

HUD's Priorities

High on HUD's list of priorities is a mammoth "rehabilitation" program, through direct subsidies to