

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 Both called for the Jackson-Vanik amendment restricting U.S.-Soviet Bloc trade to be rescinded on the condition that the Comecon nations agree to join the International Monetary Fund-World Bank nexus.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