

# National News

## Eizenstat: we are committed to coal

White House domestic policy adviser Stu Eizenstat told the first meeting of the President's Coal Advisory Board this week that the Carter administration is "firmly committed" to a large expansion of U.S. coal production and a giant coal-based synthetic fuels program. Eizenstat emphasized that the administration has already mobilized \$20 billion to fund the effort.

The board, which met in Charleston, West Virginia, also heard from the state's governor, John D. Rockefeller IV, who called on the nation to move forward in the next decade to meet the ambitious demand of the coal expansion program. Sources close to board members say the board has been given full White House backing to work on proposals to raise coal output over the coming decade, including port and rail expansion as well as the already announced synfuel program.

## Nuclear power wins in Maine vote

Nuclear proponents won 59.1 percent of the vote in the Sept. 23 Maine referendum, the first of six such battles nationally this year. Of the more than 390,000 who voted (56 percent of the electorate), 230,780 turned down the first referendum that would have closed an operating nuclear reactor and permanently banned future nuclear power construction. Similar measures are on the November ballot in Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and possibly Missouri, if a court challenge to that referendum fails.

The vote keeps the Maine Yankee Power Plant operating, to produce one-third of the state's electricity. Before the vote two companies, IMC, which produces chemicals for the state's paper industry, and the 6,000-man Bath Iron Works shipbuilding firm, threatened to leave the state if this deathblow to the state's economy passed.

Despite the victory, nuclear advocates fear that the 40 percent environmentalist vote will be used by national press and environmentalists to escalate attacks on the nuclear industry. Ray Shadis, head of the sponsoring Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee, claims they assembled get-out-the-vote organizations in 61 cities, while the Save Maine Yankee pronuclear coalition ran a campaign confined to media advertising. The state Democratic Party supported shut-down, while the Republicans were silent. Only the state's building trades unions mounted a door-to-door campaign against the referendum.

## Dixy Lee Ray defeated in Dem primary

Democrat Dixy Lee Ray, Washington state's outspoken pronuclear governor, was defeated by a 3 to 2 margin in the state's Democratic primary Sept. 16 by State Sen. Jim McDermott, a liberal child psychiatrist. The result is being touted nationally as a show of zero-growth sentiment among the electorate.

Mobilized against Ray were the press, broadcast media, the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, and Republicans who crossed party lines to "get Dixy" by voting in the Democratic primary. Ray's campaign strategists had made a decision to run a low-key campaign, ostensibly because they believed that the governor would win easily.

The campaign fight did not focus on Ray's economic development initiatives, such as bringing supertankers filled with Alaskan oil into Puget Sound. Instead, McDermott and the press emphasized "personality" issues.

Ray's allies were picked off in court or tried by the press. Larry Bradley, her top energy aide who opposed conservation policies emanating from the DOE, was charged with mismanagement and resigned. State Senator Donohue, who helped steer Governor Ray's budget through the legislature, was implicated in the U.S. Justice Department's current "Gamscam" prosecutions. Even the state Democratic convention withheld the en-

dorsement usually given to an incumbent, and adopted a platform of decriminalization of marijuana, pornography and prostitution, which Ray refused to run on, saying that she is a "true Democrat."

Now, Washington's voters face a choice between McDermott and Republican John Spellman, King County (Seattle) Executive, both of whom have been characterized as "antigrowth." McDermott has claimed his victory represents "a new majority [that] has emerged in this state who believe that we don't have to waste Washington with nuclear waste, and who also believe that we don't have to allow growth to destroy the quality of life in this state."

## Committee calls for aid to African famine areas

A newly formed Ad Hoc Committee for a New Africa Policy has issued a national call for President Carter to adopt emergency food relief measures to supply 10 million Africans threatened with starvation in the next several weeks, and an additional 70 million who face the combined results of "drought, famine, and war on the continent."

Citing the fact that the U.S. has nearly 26 million metric tons of surplus wheat, 271 thousand metric tons of dry milk, and 30 million metric tons of corn, the committee urges President Carter to "direct the Commodity Credit Corp. to purchase 18 million metric tons of grain and dry milk from farm producers at parity prices . . . and to work closely with . . . the affected countries to ensure the food supplies' effective transport and distribution."

Since the letter by the Ad Hoc Committee was sent out two weeks ago, it has received endorsements from over one hundred ethnic, political, religious, farm, and labor leaders throughout the United States. Signators include Hulan Jack, former Manhattan Borough President; Lillian Roberts, vice chairman of the flagship District 37 of the AFSCME union in New York City, which includes all of the New York service unions; 50

officials of District 37 AFSCME locals; NAACP chapters in Oakland and Hollywood/Beverly Hills, Calif., Plainfield, N.J., and Seattle, Wash.; Agriculture Movement leaders in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and elsewhere; leaders of the National Farmers Organization; Episcopal Church, including H. H. Brookins, President of the AME Bishops; leaders of the Transport Workers Union, UAW, Building Trades, IBEW, Ironworkers, and church leaders of many other denominations.

## Fortune magazine calls U.S. democracy outdated

In a Sept. 22 article titled "Making Democracy Less Inflation-Prone," *Fortune* magazine blames economic disruption on excessive government concern for labor, farmers, minorities and businessmen, and calls for constituency representation to be drastically modified. The article begins with an epigraph: "Democracy has a very bad track record. . . it has proved unable to withstand or defend itself against pressure from within, the spendthrifts who disburse its resources . . . the pressure groups who try to cajole, corrupt, or intimidate government. . . ." The author of the epigraph is Lord Hailsham, presently presiding officer of the British House of Lords.

Lord Hailsham is echoed by Alan Greenspan, former head of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisers and a current economic policymaker for candidate Ronald Reagan. Greenspan states: "The problem of inflation has arisen because there is no governor in the system—no limitation on the exercise of one man, one vote."

## Robert Komer tours Asia for Pentagon

Known among his colleagues as "Blowtorch" during the Vietnam War, Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Komer returned to the Asian theater this week. In

Tokyo, he reportedly pressed Japan to "fill in the defense vacuum in Asia" because the United States has had to divert its Pacific forces to the Indian Ocean-Persian Gulf area. According to Japan's Kyodo news agency, he stressed that Japan should cooperate with the U.S. in an arms buildup.

In India, Komer attempted to sell \$200 million worth of antitank missiles and howitzers, \$32 million of which had been contracted during the administration of Prime Minister Gandhi's predecessor. Indian sources expect the deal to go through. Komer did not visit China as originally expected, but stopped in Indonesia, whose government is skeptical about China's regional ambitions and traditionally opposed to concentrations of superpower military presence in Southeast Asia.

The Middle East leg of Komer's trip is to include Oman, Israel, Egypt, Somalia and perhaps Saudi Arabia.

## NDPC testifies on synfuel appointments

The Senate Energy Committee heard the National Democratic Policy Committee testify Sept. 24 that the President's nominees to the board of the newly established Synthetic Fuels Corporation are "unusually unqualified" to occupy such powerful posts. The NDPC charged that none of the individuals is committed to energy growth or concern for rational water, capital, and labor allocations, and thus could not evaluate the scientific and economic viability of synthetic fuels.

At the hearings, AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland suggested that the corporation could fund a mass relocation of unemployed workers to synfuel sites. Kirkland faded into inaudibility when asked if he would support Davis-Bacon provisions for the projects, which guarantee that federally funded construction meets area wage scales. After committee chairman Scoop Jackson demanded that he speak into the microphone, Kirkland murmured that he thought under most instances Davis-Bacon would apply.

## Briefly

● **JOSEPH CHURBA**, former director of Air Force intelligence and a senior adviser to Ronald Reagan, said in an interview this week that the U.S. should immediately back Iran in its war against Iraq. Churba proposed that the U.S. dispatch a fleet of C-30 transport planes to Iran with spare parts for the Iranian armed forces, in exchange for the release of the hostages.

● **MOBIL PRESIDENT** William Tavoulaareas declared that "the United States should set as a goal that all electricity should be generated by nuclear power" in an op-ed in the *New York Daily News*. "We recognize that nuclear power is not without risks. . . . But the risks of nuclear power are insignificant when compared with the greatest risk of all—the risk of nuclear war triggered by our dependence on foreign oil."

● **THE RDF** assembled by the Carter administration is being criticized by Republican James Schlesinger, who wrote in the *Washington Post* on Sept. 24: "It seems to be a hallmark of this administration that it is prepared on occasion to embrace—and then to advertise—some of Zbigniew Brzezinski's concepts. It is, however, wholly unwilling to put behind such concepts the resources and the planning effort necessary to turn concept into reality. Oddly enough, Brzezinski himself appears to be satisfied with this arrangement."

● **MICHIGAN GOVERNOR** Milliken is projecting \$700 million in state budget cuts, including cuts of \$250.4 million in vital services. Slated for cuts are police, agriculture, public health, transit and social services (\$170 million alone). By law, Milliken is mandated to balance this year's budget by Oct. 1, which shows a \$180 million deficit. A projected \$800 million deficit for next year is caused by lost tax revenues due to mass layoffs in the auto and feeder industries.