

National News

Carter picks up greenies' endorsement

President Carter has won the endorsement of 22 leaders of U.S. environmentalist organizations. According to Carter/Mondale campaign aides, the President met with "greenie" chiefs at the White House last month to discuss his environmentalist record and "came off looking pretty damned good."

Audubon Society head Russell Peterson, former Governor of Delaware and head of the Council on Environmental Quality under President Ford, explained the environmentalists' decision: "President Carter and his administration are facing up to the long-term factors that will affect this planet." Referring to the GOP platform's call for development of nuclear power, including the breeder reactor, Peterson charged that the Republican Party and its presidential candidate "show a basic misunderstanding of the important issues such as energy. All they want to do is free up industry so it can make a bundle today. They don't understand that a healthy economy depends on a healthy environment and a wise use of resources."

EIR holds conference in Oklahoma City

Criton Zoakos, Editor-in-Chief of the *Executive Intelligence Review*, addressed 125 participants at an EIR conference on windfall profits Sept. 28. The event brought together subscribers, other oil and gas industry representatives, and long-time supporters of former Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

Bud Stewart, president of the Oil Producers and Consumers Alliance, and Dave Samuelson, spokesman for the National Democratic Policy Committee in Texas, also addressed the gathering.

Zoakos bluntly stated the following perspective: "Windfall profits is a dead issue—it is a lost battle. If we sent 10

divisions of troops in World War II to replace every lost division, we would have lost the war. We have to develop new flanks.... I'm going to teach you a method of identifying and solving problems—people have forgotten what an American citizen is."

In fighting the Council on Foreign Relations' 1980s Project of shutting down U.S. industry, he said, "current proposals to restructure the banking system represent a flank we can win ... but we have to build the organization to achieve these victories." The question session was flooded with participants' own proposals on how to accomplish that goal.

Conference asks African relief effort

"We are not here to present a disaster report; the people in this room know we have one already. The point is we have the power to do something about it," Christopher White stated to a conference sponsored in New York by the Ad Hoc Committee for a New Africa Policy. White, an *EIR* contributing editor, nevertheless outlined for the 75 persons present the current scope of African famine, especially in the Horn and East Africa.

The conference, the ad hoc committee's first, was chaired by former Manhattan Borough President Hulan Jack. In addition to White, speakers included George Harris of the Georgia American Agricultural Movement, and Dennis Speed, ad hoc committee coordinator. Over 10 church groups, several engineers, and minority groups' spokesmen attended, along with representatives of the National Black Police Association, the United Nations Development Program, and a range of individuals from Teamsters to Wall Street investment bankers. The committee has issued a call for emergency aid from the United States to avert famine in Africa.

Said White: "Our latest reports on the number of lives threatened over the next weeks add up to 20 million, not 10 million as we had originally estimated.

And if we don't turn this around, another 70 to 100 million people will die over the next months."

Concerning assertions that famine and drought in Africa amount to a "natural disaster," White said: "Baloney." The famine, he said, is caused by a "systematic policy" of such agencies as the United Nations, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund.

Commander says RDF in logistical trouble

The commander of the Rapid Deployment Force told the House Budget Committee Oct. 2 that the Rapid Deployment Force has serious problems. "We are still dramatically short of airlift," Lieutenant General P. X. Kelley informed the panel. "The strategic airlift, while significant, is not sufficient to put a capital R in rapid. It would take three to four weeks before any ship would be in Southeast Asia by the time of a crisis.

"I have the capability to go to war today. The problem is how fast you can close the entering forces. If you take advantage of warning time, I can put in very considerable forces in short order. But then admittedly we have a huge problem. The problem is moving equipment and supplies."

Submitting testimony to the committee on the Rapid Deployment Force was former Defense secretary James Schlesinger, who charged that the RDF is neither rapid nor deployable.

Brzezinski moots superpower confrontation

Campaigning for President Carter in Alabama this week, National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski maintained that "American armed forces are prepositioned for possible use in the Middle East if U.S. interests are threatened." Speaking before the Lions Club, Rotary Club, and Kiwanis Club in Mobile, Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama, Brzezinski stressed on each occasion that

the "U.S. has a military strategy to ensure passage of oil through the Straits of Hormuz," according to local press accounts.

In an article in the *Mobile Press-Register*, Brzezinski is quoted: "If the flow of a vital source of energy to the economies of Western Europe and the Far East is interrupted or placed under control of an adversary power, then there will have taken place a fundamental tipping of the balance of global power. There will be no recovery from that. There is no pullback position. There should be no misunderstanding . . . the U.S. will protect its vital interests."

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, Brzezinski claimed it represented "the most serious threat to Western society since 1945." He called for a "determined response to Soviet aggression."

Consultants call for gigantic oil cuts

Arthur D. Little, a leading international consulting firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has just completed a study that calls for the U.S. to reduce its oil imports by "as much as 70 percent between now and 1995." The prescription is part of a proposal for "continued conservation and substitution efforts" to "reduce total domestic oil demand by one third over the next 15 years," issued in A. D. Little's study, "The Impact of Constrained Global Oil Supplies on the U.S. Energy Outlook to 1995."

But a number of governments, and not only those of the OPEC nations, would contest the assertions carried in Little's release on their study: "Oil is not likely to be available in sufficient quantities to allow the United States to consume much more than 12 million b/d according to Christopher E. H. Ross, co-author of the study." Ross is a member of London's Institute for International Strategic Studies.

Without documentation, the release states: "Likewise, the OPEC countries' concern about the decline in the ratio of reserves and the need to leave reserves . . . does not permit an optimistic view of

future OPEC supplies, regardless of future production capacity." No reference is made to nuclear power or coal.

Committee formed against Brilab and Abscam

An organization aimed at defending organized labor and other constituency organizations from government "sting" operations was formed at a Houston, Texas press conference Oct. 2. Called the Committee Against Brilab and Abscam, the group announced its intention to raise funds to organize opposition to what it described as U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti's witchhunt against trade unions and urban political machines, thinly disguised as an effort to root out organized crime.

Spokesmen for the new committee disclosed that prominent political and farm leaders have agreed to serve on its advisory board, including Charles R. Pinzone, president, Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council; Ernest Colbert, president, Southeast Louisiana Laborers District Council; Allen Thompson, president, Kansas State Building and Construction Trades Council; Bill Smedley, president, Oklahoma State Building and Construction Trades Council; Lloyd Jenkins, president, Carpenters District Council, Topeka; Jim Dehoff, executive secretary, Kansas State Building and Construction Trades Council; Roger Geall, American Agricultural Movement National delegate from Louisiana; attorney Max Dean, treasurer of the Flint, Michigan NAACP chapter; J. C. Harrison, president, ILA Local 854, New Orleans; Francis Hicks, director of the Teamsters DRIVE for Southern Illinois; and Bill Bounds, president, Joint Council 65 (Illinois) Teamsters.

The committee has formed a trust to accept contributions. One of its first activities will be to raise funds for the court defense of two Abscam-Brilab targets, L. G. Moore, the head of the Texas Operating Engineers union, and Billy Clayton, speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

Briefly

● "HIGH-LEVEL" negotiations between Castro and the Carter administration produced Fidel's termination of the boatlift, according to Florida Rep. Bill Nelson's White House sources. Observers have noted that Cuba's move, five weeks before the presidential elections, followed Castro's agreement with Washington to cool down the refugee problem.

● A NATIONAL ACCORD between contractors and building trades unions has been set in motion by the administration, according to Labor Department sources. The subject is the synthetic fuels construction projects. The accord is "only just getting off the ground," a department official said. "We would like to see the unions bend a lot on work rules and apprenticeship programs. We're out to cut costs."

● SEN. JESSE HELMS has introduced a bill in the Senate that would return the U.S. to the gold standard. Helms characterizes this legislation as "the monetary equivalent of supply-side classical economics—the economics of growth, jobs, and stable prices." The bill, titled "The Gold Reserve Act of 1980," is based on a study prepared by former Reagan adviser Arthur Laffer, who proposed that the U.S. preannounce its intention to make the dollar convertible into gold again and permit "the free market" to determine the price at which the new parity would be set. The Federal Reserve would be instructed to keep the value of the nation's gold stock at or above 40 percent of the monetary base, tightening credit if necessary to do this.

● THE NEW YORK TIMES, owners of Quadrangle Books, on Oct. 1 suddenly cancelled publication of a forthcoming autobiography of convicted multiple murderer and federal Abscam/Brilab witness James Fratianno. A Quadrangle spokesman said the reason "cannot be revealed."