

Eye on Washington by Stanley Ezrol

Biological diversity

In apparent coordination with the just-announced U.S. Association for the Club of Rome (Usacor) campaign to promote "positive images" of the dismal future they intend, "conservative" Undersecretary of State for Security Assistance James Buckley, a close personal friend of Usacor leader Russell Train, has publicly trumpeted his sympathy for Club of Rome dogma which holds that man must suffer for the "tyranny" over plant and animal life which he has enjoyed. In a Nov. 16 speech opening a State Department conference on "Biological Diversity" (no, not biological diversions, that's brother Bill's affair), Buckley announced himself to be an ardent supporter of the furbish lousewort and the snail darter. In a Nov. 2 speech in New York City, Buckley had declared his first love to be the "fields and woodlands of Northwest Connecticut." In the same speech (referring to his arms sales to Pakistan et al.) he says his own children call him "The Merchant of Death."

Anti-Soviet terrorist expert Sam Francis has also recently expressed support for the Club of Rome. Puffy-cheeked Francis, now an aide to New Right Senator John East (R-N.C.), was the Heritage Foundation "expert" who became notorious for "proving" that the Soviet KGB ran international terrorism. Asked about the possible threat to national security posed by Darnell Whitt, a Usacor member who recently moved from a position in the Defense Intelligence Agency to work in the office of Fred Iklè, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, Francis admitted he knew of at least one Club of Rome leader, Dzhermen Gvishiani, who had

been identified in a 1976 New Republic article by Michael Ledeen and Clare Sterling as a KGB operative, but said, "Don't worry. I don't think the Club of Rome is KGB, it just has a few agents in its leadership. Calling the Club of Rome KGB because of the agents in its leadership is like saying the State Department is KGB run." Being told that Darnell Whitt had pledged to a recent Usacor meeting that he would use his Defense Department position to implement the policies of the Club of Rome, "anti-Communist" Francis said, "That's all right, we have a lot of people in government loyal to a lot of things besides the interest of the United States. I wouldn't worry about it."

Listen to nanny

No one who is anyone in Washington travels alone. On Nov. 24, Peter McPherson, the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development gave a press conference in which he said that the most important thing the Reagan administration, which now admits its policies will cause at least another eight months of recession and a longer period of high unemployment, can do for underdeveloped nations is to strong-arm them into adopting its own failing economic policies. After this press conference, as McPherson tried to purchase a candy bar without assistance, I asked him, "Doesn't all of this 'Magic of the Marketplace' talk embarrass you?" At that point, his nanny, a silky haired blonde man, grabbed him by the shoulder, shook his head emphatically, "No," and turned to me saying, "Excuse us, but we won't tackle that one right now."

"Little David Stockman ran off to play with Billy Greider without his nanny and now he's a disgrace,"

our leaders are taught in their leadership training schools. I asked a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Information officer if FEMA had contingency plans to deal with the Reagan-ordered Nov. 23 shutdown of the federal government. He answered, "No, like Mt. St. Helen's, it hasn't ever happened before." I asked him if I could quote him as comparing the President to a volcano, and he said, "Sure, but attribute the quote to David Stockman."

Professional solidarity

At a recent State Department briefing, State Department smokescreen Dean Fischer was asked about narcotics cult queen Bianca Jagger's role in rescuing Salvadoran refugees from presumed right-wing thugs in Guatemala. After Fischer read a lengthy statement, making no reference to the incident under discussion but suggesting that many refugees might also be radical guerrillas and that many refugee service operations may actually be servicing guerrillas, the assembled journalists broke into chants of "What about Bianca? What about Bianca?" As Dean seemed confused about what was being asked of him, I cut off the chanting with the clarifying question, "How many guerrillas did Bianca service?"

At this point the assembled journalists turned toward me and shouted, in rough unison, a stern disapproving, "Ooh." This disapproval puzzled me for some time because the Washington press corps is noted for nothing if not its fancy for gratuitous sexual innuendo at the expense of almost any figure no matter how sainted. Upon reflection, however, I realized that in Bianca the State Department correspondents recognized a professional of their own class.