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## Conference Report

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# AEI meeting targets the Constitution

by Graham Lowry, U.S. Editor

An escalated effort is underway by forces of the Trilateral Commission, the Aspen Institute, Brookings Institution, American Enterprise Institute, and elements within the Reagan administration itself to use the battering ram of the ongoing budget process to finish off the authority of an already weakened Congress, and subject the United States to a dictatorship thinly disguised by an approximation of the British parliamentary system.

Projections leaked the week of Dec. 7 by David Stockman's Office of Management and Budget claim the federal deficit for 1982 will hit \$109 billion, two and a half times the level forecast as recently as this summer. On cue, the Constitution-wreckers inside and outside the administration have rushed to demand a new orgy of budget cutting and tax gouging, and the stripping of congressional powers of resistance. A four-day conference Dec. 7-10 held by the American Enterprise Institute, a British-influenced "conservative" think tank in Washington, has stacked its panels with presidential advisers and White House officials to hammer home precisely those demands.

### Restructuring government

The door has been simultaneously opened to a broader assault on constitutional government by Senate passage Dec. 7, by a vote of 79-4, of a bill sponsored by Trilateral Commission member Sen. William Roth (R-Del.) mandating a new Hoover Commission to restructure American government.

According to Roth's aides, the legislation would create a bipartisan committee of 18 members, 9 Republicans and 9 Democrats, appointed by the President, Speaker of the House, and Senate Majority Leader with the approval of Congress. Modeled on the task forces set up under Herbert Hoover after World War II which restructured American defense, intelligence, and national security and budget functions according to a British model, the commission would be mandated to assess the functioning of every level of the federal government and its relations with state and local governments during the last 30 years.

Roth has worked closely with Trilateralist Lloyd

Cutler, former special counsel to President Carter, and author of a proposal in Foreign Affairs last year calling for constitutional changes to remedy "the structural inability of our government to propose, legislate, and administer a balanced program for governing."

Cutler and his cothinkers have repeatedly spoken of their desire to administer a permanent depression—"controlled disintegration of the world economy" called for in the Council on Foreign Relations 1980s Project—by completely cutting business, labor, farmer, and minority constituencies out of the government process.

### Reagan's approval

With special encouragement from Vice-President George Bush and White House Chief of Staff James A. Baker III, President Reagan sent a letter to the Senate endorsing the Roth bill. While Reagan reportedly approves the measure as an expression of his commitment to the "New Federalism" policy of decentralizing the federal government, both Roth and Cutler have emphasized the necessity of a major economic crisis in overcoming resistance to scrapping America's republican form of constitutional government. The stage has been set for the political crisis of government over the collapse of the economy with the OMB's budget proposals for 1983, which would eliminate whole programs and *cut budgets for entire departments by 30 to 50 percent.*

An aide to Senator Roth stresses that "the government is not functioning well right now. We have a crisis, a deep crisis. Some people call it the worst in the history of the country. Look at the current budget crisis. Do we have the institutions to cope with what is being asked? Probably not. . . . No ability to plan, conflicts at all levels, fights between the executive and the Congress. We can come close to paralysis. This is what the commission must look at and correct."

Roth's Trilateral collaborator Lloyd Cutler elaborated the same theme in an interview in July. "I'm not quite as reverent about changing the Constitution as some people," he said. He was enthusiastic about the reconciliation resolution used by Stockman and the OMB to put a ceiling on total federal spending, *before* any consideration of specific program needs and funding requirements. "I would regard the budget reconciliation resolution mechanism as a great step forward. It brings us much closer to the budget process in a parliamentary system," Cutler declared. "We should definitely strengthen the OMB, or create some other unit along those lines to keep control over the budget process."

Cutler has worked with the Brookings Institution's Project '87, a subversive unit also blessed by Sen. Edward Kennedy, to further the attempt to retool American government along British lines.

The Roth bill now goes to the House, where its landslide margin in the Senate is expected to finally move it through the Government Operations Committee chaired by Rep. Jack Brooks (R-Tex.), who has previously kept the bill bottled up in committee. David Stockman is a major supporter of the bill, according to Roth's office.

### Taking issues out of Congress

Keying off of the new budget deficit projections, the economic policy panels at the ongoing conference of the American Enterprise Institute have focused on the role of the budget process in restructuring the federal government. The most blatant call for crushing the powers of Congress to legislate on substantive issues came from White House spokesman David Gergen, formerly of George Bush's presidential campaign committee, speaking on a panel chaired by none other than Lloyd Cutler.

Gergen demanded that Congress "overcome its natural instincts" to vote on each budgetary and appropriations measure as concrete questions of policy, and confine itself simply to voting up an omnibus bill "as a commitment to reduce spending." While he added that "President Reagan has a preference for running the government with regular appropriations," Gergen declared that congressional committees "can't reconcile growing demands with scarce resources," and said the administration would try to use the reconciliation process again next year.

His remarks were warmly endorsed by Lloyd Cutler, who called for toughening and tightening the budget process even further.

Gergen's call for curtailing democratic decision making to meet the requirements dictated by "scarce resources" echoes the theme of Trilateral member Samuel Huntington's 1975 book, *The Crisis of Democracy*. Written as a report to the Trilateral Commission "on the governability of democracies," Huntington's study argued, "We have come to recognize that there are potentially desirable limits to economic growth. There are also potentially desirable limits to the indefinite extension of political democracy."

Subsequently appointed to the staff of Jimmy Carter's National Security Council, Huntington also emphasized, "A government which lacks authority and which is committed to substantial domestic programs will have little ability, short of cataclysmic crisis, to impose on its people the sacrifices which may be necessary to deal with foreign policy and defense."

Huntington was also a featured participant in AEI conference, reporting as a project co-director with Brent Scowcroft—rumored to be in some quarters a possible successor to Richard Allen as national security adviser—on American vital interests in "regions of conflict."

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## Baltimore

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# Control Data uses city as test tube

by Freyda Greenberg

"Over the next decade, sweeping economic and technological transformations will alter the jobs people do and the ways they do them. Older, heavy industries such as steel and automobile manufacturing will continue a retrenchment that has already begun—and the semiskilled legions who served them will be hard pressed to find similar work. . . . It will be a decade of dramatic demographic, geographic and educational realignment. And it will be painful."

This statement in the Nov. 23 issue of the Washington Post Company's *Newsweek* magazine was subsequently repeated in media outlets throughout the United States.

Behind *Newsweek's* ostensible prediction are individuals who have not only been defending the Federal Reserve Bank's high interest-rate destruction of industry, but who have also been getting in on the ground floor of their desired "post-industrial" society. An outstanding example of what this scheme is doing to American cities is Baltimore, where area-based financial and political leaders are conspiring with the Control Data Corporation to turn that once-prominent steel, auto, and shipbuilding center into a model post-industrial city.

The Minneapolis-based Control Data's program for Baltimore is comprised of both public and behind-the-scenes initiatives. On the one hand, Control Data is known in Baltimore as the creator of the PLATO computer education course, which has been incorporated into the public-school curriculum, despite vehement opposition from teachers and parents because of its documented brainwashing effects on students. A more secretive aspect of Control Data's Baltimore venture, according to sources in the city's business community, is that the firm is quietly buying up abandoned school buildings and slum real estate. Where do these ventures coincide and what do they have to do with the post-industrial society? First, it is necessary to understand the real nature of PLATO "education." Control Data personnel have provided the most candid description of their 20-year old, \$1 billion project. "We are redefining education," said an assistant at one of CDC's learning centers, "No frills. Down to basics. A little reading, a little math, a little science. All very simple. Teach people to be func-