

National News

Reagan appoints space task force

President Ronald Reagan has formed a special task force which will draw up a program to guide the American space program for the next 10 years. Within the administration the effort is being compared to the review which led to the historic 1969 NASA program for manned exploration of the solar system—a program later sabotaged by fiscal-conservative elements in the Nixon administration. However, it is thought unlikely that the Reagan group will draw up a set of recommendations anywhere near as ambitious as those of the 1969 plan.

The study is being conducted by a top-level Steering Group, headed by White House Science adviser George Keyworth, and a lower-level Working Group chaired by White House Space advisor Victor Reis. Their proposals are expected to concentrate on expanded uses for the Space Shuttle, with little emphasis on new or more far-reaching interplanetary missions and exploration.

Trilateral Democrats form national labor group

Democratic National Committee (DNC) chairman Charles Manatt joined with 20 leading labor officials on Jan. 5 at a meeting in Washington, D.C. to form a DNC Labor Council. The goal is to give the Trilateral Commission-controlled echelons of the AFL-CIO bureaucracy greater control over the policy and candidates of the party.

Chairing the new council will be Glenn Watts, President of the Communication Workers of America, who is also a member of the Trilateral Commission, the Club of Rome, and the Aspen Institute.

According to Watts, one of the council's initial goals will be to target Senate Labor Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch for ouster in 1983, when his term

expires. The other members of the council are co-chairman John Joyce, President of the International Union of Bricklayers, and 18 other members of the AFL-CIO Executive Board.

The establishment of a mechanism for herding union votes into a Club of Rome-controlled Democratic Party conforms to the scenario laid out in December 1980 at the Socialist International conference in Washington, D.C.

LaRouche wins injunction against Roosevelt Hotel

A New York court issued an injunction Dec. 31 barring the Roosevelt Hotel from stripping private security protection for economist and political leader Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. who was the keynote speaker at the year-end conference of the International Caucus of Labor Committees held at the hotel. The ruling by New York State Supreme Court Justice Richard Price held that LaRouche has the same right to armed security protection as does a foreign diplomat or an elected government official.

LaRouche's attorneys applied for the injunction after the hotel attempted to cancel the conference, and then agreed to allow it to proceed on the condition that LaRouche's security guards be disarmed and subordinated to the hotel's own security force.

The Roosevelt Hotel is controlled through ownership and financing by forces who have been directly identified as linked to assassination operations against LaRouche. The hotel is owned by Pakistani International Airlines (PIA), and an ownership and financial interest is also held by the Milstein family of United Brands Company, the principal sponsor of drug trafficking and terrorism in Central America.

The hotel was represented throughout the negotiations and the court case by the New York law firm of Chadborne, Park, Whiteside, and Wolff, which represents United Brands, the PIA, and the Bronfman family.

United Brands' Max Fisher has been

repeatedly identified by *EIR*'s counter-intelligence staff as involved in assassination and related operations against LaRouche.

The Roosevelt Hotel was acquired in 1980 by PIA. Columnist last year published classified State Department and CIA documents showing that the government-owned PIA "is a major conduit for illicit narcotics from Pakistan to Western Europe, the Far East, Canada, and the United States."

The hotel was previously owned by "Letoh Associates," a partnership of the Milstein family which includes Seymour and Paul Milstein, who are both on the Board of Directors of United Brands.

Not only is Chadbourne the chief outside firm for United Brands, but three of UB's nine in-house lawyers are also "graduates" of Chadbourne. Chadbourne is also the law firm of U.S. Judge Edward Neaher, who launched the career of Abscam prosecutor Thomas Puccio.

AFL-CIO demonstrates against Helmut Schmidt

A coalition of 14 right-wing social democratic unions and "captive-nations" groups demonstrated in Washington Jan. 5 against the refusal by West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to go along with Alexander Haig's policies of sanctions and confrontation with the Soviet Union over Poland. The groups, which collectively managed to assemble a crowd of only about 150 AFL-CIO office workers, included the American Federation of Teachers, the United Steel Workers, and other unions, the Coalition for a Democratic Majority, the Committee for the Free World, Polish and Ukrainian groups, and the Abdela Cuban Movement, a group which has been accused of involvement in training terrorists.

Sources report that the key organizer of the demonstration was Chris Gersten, the assistant to Operating Engineers President J. C. Turner, and an organizer of the British-controlled political campaign to prevent the sale of U.S. AWACS

to Saudi Arabia. While not officially a sponsor of the demonstration, AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland sent the demonstrators a message expressing his solidarity with those present. Top AFL-CIO sources have reliably reported that Kirkland has been meeting regularly with Haig on policy issues.

The organizations at the demonstration co-signed a statement denouncing Schmidt in the harshest terms. "Chancellor Schmidt today has come to America to tell us why his government will not support the United States actions against the Soviet repression of Solidarity," the statement reads. "Pipeline politics leaves the impression of complicity with Soviet brutality. We stand here today with a simple message for Chancellor Schmidt: 'If communism is fine for Poland, why should America pay to defend West Germany from it?' . . . For Germany to turn its backs on these values, particularly regarding Poland, raises questions about the basic commitments of the German Federal Republic."

High Times implicated in murder of police officer

High Times magazine, the official organ of international drug traffic, has been linked to the Dec. 21 murder of New Jersey State Trooper Philip Lamonaco.

According to police sources cited in the *New Jersey Daily Record* of Dec. 22, *High Times* had singled out Lamonaco's Route 80 beat in a published warning to its readers not to carry drugs when driving through his area.

On the basis of evidence analyzed to date, the *High Times* lead in the Lamonaco case traces directly to the international assassination capability known as Perminex. It is likely Lamonaco was proceeding on a tip from intelligence community sources linking the car he stopped with the activation of various terrorist groups connected to *High Times*, the Yippies, and the Playboy Foundation following the Weatherunderground shooting of two police officers in Nyack, New York last October.

Fingerprints found on the car have been traced to two terrorist fugitives, Raymond Levasseur and Cameron Bishop, both alleged members of the terrorist Sam Melville-Jonathan Jackson Unit, which was formed from a radical prisoners network based around the federal prison in Thomaston, Maine, sponsored by the North East Prisoners Association (NEPA). Bishop was giving radical political indoctrination courses to inmates at Thomaston under NEPA auspices from 1973 to 1975—at the same time he was on the FBI's ten most wanted list.

Energy panel report: kill advanced technology

The Energy Research Advisory Board has recommended to the Secretary of Energy de-emphasis of major energy-intensive technology development. The recommendation, in response to a request from Deputy Energy Secretary Kenneth Davis, calls for reduction in nuclear fusion research, significant cuts in funding for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor, and complete elimination of funding for magnetohydrodynamics research.

Premised on "continuing pressure for further reductions in DOE's budget," the panel also calls for significantly higher priority to be given funding of energy conservation, acid rain and CO₂ research.

The highly controversial recommendations have been echoed by recent statements by White House Science Adviser George Keyworth. Four members of the panel took the unusual step of filing a dissent criticizing the entire methodology used to prioritize various technologies based on whether or not "they will significantly reduce the need for oil before the year 2000."

The ERAB panel, which sounds to many like a Carter-era holdover, is headed by John Foster of TRW, and includes such people as Thomas Cochran of the anti-nuclear NRDC, Charles Hitch of RAND, and Hans Landsberg of Resources for the Future.

Briefly

● **THE "RIGHT TO DIE"** bill for the District of Columbia will go into effect on Feb. 18 unless a resolution of disapproval is introduced and passed in the House and Senate. Officially termed the Natural Death Act of 1981, the legislation includes penalties for physicians who attempt to save lives of persons who signed a "please pull the plug on me" document.

● **AURELIO PECCEI**, President of the Club of Rome, will visit the New York City Jan. 15-16 for private meetings. His schedule is being kept secret due in part to International Caucus of Labor Committee-organized protests against him during his December trip to the United States.

● **FARMECONOMISTS** predict that U.S. farmers' net income will turn out to have been only \$13 to \$15 billion in the year just ended, or half the pre-Volcker level of \$27 billion in 1979. The relative position of farmers in October, or parity position, was at only 57 percent of the 1913 benchmark, and the worst since May of 1933. Under these conditions, mass farm bankruptcies are already occurring and expected to continue through 1982. American Agriculture Movement president Marvin Meek estimates that 300,000 farmers went out of business last year. Capital expenditures have collapsed meanwhile, with an absolute reduction of 8 percent between 1979 and 1980, the first such fall in more than a decade.

● **THE SALVATION ARMY** in Philadelphia is preparing to revive the soup kitchens of the depression days. Its Task Force has reported, "The Salvation Army nationally should be prepared perhaps as early as spring '82, for either a national or territorial campaign program for the poor . . . on the basis of a national emergency." It is not determined if Paul Volcker ever contributed to the Salvation Army.