

National News

Farmers seek capital for Dakota water project

President Carter's killing of water projects followed by Reagan administration "New Federalism" has forced South Dakota farmers to seek local capital for an urgently needed project to irrigate fertile lands in the state.

The Oahe Dam, and infrastructure for a series of eastward irrigation canals off the Missouri River, are already built, and to prevent it from rotting and rusting, farmers and ranchers have formed the CENDAK (Central Dakota) Corporation to raise funds withdrawn by the government.

Only 500,000 of 16 million South Dakota acres under cultivation are irrigated. Oahe Unit irrigation was to have added another 190,000 acres in the dry eastern part of the state, most of them developed after 1975.

CENDAK is still seeking government funds and wants the state to float revenue bonds.

Besides David Stockman, Dakota farmers have had to contend with the opposition of the "United Family Farmers" organization, a local environmentalist cult that was instrumental in helping the Carter administration kill Oahe. The same organization is now claiming that CENDAK is pouring money down a "rat hole."

But since the drought of 1979, most of the organization's membership has dried up.

Waterways group attacks DOT users study

The 500-member National Waterways Conference Feb. 3 issued a press release saying that a Transportation Department report justifying waterway use charges and taxes contains false "factual assumptions" and untenable "principle conclusions."

The Transportation report asserts

that charges against barge traffic will have "minimal economic impact on regions and industries which depend on waterway transportation."

"We respectfully disagree," says the organization chairman, James Skinner in the press release.

The report predicts steady growth of waterway commerce even with high-level user taxes, and assumes that no new navigations facilities will need to be built for more than two decades. Mr. Skinner called this ridiculous.

"This assumption is contrary to the common knowledge of people who currently work the inland river system and have to contend with the existing bottlenecks. It also contradicts the findings of a study of Upper Mississippi River needs conducted under Section 101 of the same law requiring the DOT study, and it substantially contradicts the *National Waterways Study* of the Corps of Engineers."

That latter study calls for \$6 billion in new inland waterway construction over two decades to eliminate bottlenecks.

The National Waterways Conference board declared that it would demand Senate and House verification of the data and conclusions in the Transportation Department's zero-growth report.

Study says NRC causing hazards

The Fusion Energy Foundation, a large private scientific organization, has accused the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of regulating unsafe conditions into otherwise safe nuclear installations.

According to the FEF study, the NRC's regulations both introduce unsafe conditions and shorten the lifespan of nuclear plants, and those regulations "could have no other purpose."

A Feb. 15 FEF press release calls for congressional and national security investigations as well as the convening of a grand jury.

The release says that corrosion of steam-generator tubing in pressurized-water reactors is caused by recent NRC

regulations that bar plant operators from applying routine maintenance procedures to prevent it.

Evidence also indicates that NRC regulations are responsible for much-publicized "embrittlement" of reactor vessels.

"Environmentalists" have run away with the agency's functions over the past few years, notes the report. Frequently, an anti-nuclear staffer at the agency will leak a "report" to media or an anti-nuclear organization before it is made available to commissioners. They become labeled official policy documents—though often representing the views of a single individual.

Through the same procedures, the FEF release warns, environmentalist groups have obtained knowledge of how to carry out sabotage of nuclear plants. *EIR* will carry a full report on these charges.

'Death Committee' formed on El Salvador

A new "Committee for Free Elections in El Salvador" was formed Feb. 18 in Washington by the three forces investigations have proven to be responsible for the ongoing "population war" there: the United Brands Company (formerly United Fruit), the Socialist International, and the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

One member, Angier Biddle Duke, set up a similar coalition two months ago during a "fact-finding tour" of Central America. The earlier group included Mary Temple of the Social Democrats USA (SDUSA), a designer of the El Salvador "land-reform" program which, based on the Vietnam strategic-hamlets, served to drive peasants into the guerrilla opposition.

Robert Corrigan, the company's official Washington lobbyist, will represent United Brands on the new Committee. Other members include Daniel James, former CIA operative who edited Che Guevara's diaries, and has recently written scenarios for spilling the violence in Central America over into Mexico; Jo-

seph John Jova, Knight of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (Black Maltese) who was U.S. ambassador to Mexico from 1973 to 1976; and Francis Bouche, executive director of the Council for Interamerican Security (CIS), which hosted a summer 1980 U.S. tour by Salvadoran Maj. Roberto D'Aubuisson, who is given a chance of defeating incumbent president Napoleon Duarte in March 28 elections.

If D'Aubuisson wins, sources say, he "could kill 5,000 Christian Democrats [Duarte's party] like rats," and launch a scorched-earth "pacification" policy.

State Department caught backing Club of Rome

Alexander Haig's State Department is now under intense pressure not to allow Robert Hormats, Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, to address a March 2 conference of the Club of Rome in Washington.

The Club is an organization dedicated to genocide in the Third World and "deindustrialization" of nations like the United States.

Such proposals first appeared in the Club Study "Limits to Growth." The scheduled conference is in celebration of that report's tenth anniversary. Founder Aurelio Peccei will keynote the conference, also to be addressed by Sen. Claiborne Pell and former ambassador Elliot Richardson.

Reportedly, one week after receiving a formal inquiry concerning Hormats's scheduled appearance, the State Department anxiously withdrew a drafted response for fear it would draw added attention to the Assistant Secretary's activities, confirming his and Haig's ongoing collaboration with the Club of Rome.

The Club of Rome, which broadly advertised Hormats as representing the Reagan administration, is now denying it, saying that he will speak as an individual.

He is considered a Henry Kissinger factioneer whom Haig wanted to promote to Economic Undersecretary,

fourth most important job at the department, but Sen. Jesse Helms and others protested that the department already has too many Kissinger flunkies.

Has Weinberger written off NATO?

A top NATO defense analyst said Feb. 18 that the Weinberger defense budget already prediscards the collapse of the NATO alliance within two years.

"I've spoken to people about this," said the analyst, who is linked to Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). "There is only one way to understand Weinberger's budget. He and Fred Iklé [Undersecretary of Defense for Policy] have written off NATO. I know that Iklé feels that NATO won't exist in a few years and that the U.S. will have to go it alone."

The analyst, also closely associated with the liberal Harriman wing of the Democratic party, added: "They are going to run into a fundamental problem. The U.S. economy cannot produce to meet the demands placed upon it." The build-up won't be abandoned, but stretched out for this reason, he opined.

The Harriman grouping is planning a NATO reorganization that will stress greater European conventional-force readiness in return for greater decision-making power, which the analyst said depended on the removal of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt from power.

Of a West German scandal launched by *Der Spiegel* magazine involving the Neue Heimat construction company, he added, the target is not just Helmut Schmidt, but the "basic institutions of the German social-democratic state. Augstein [*Der Spiegel's* publisher] is going for broke. He is moving to create chaos in the social institutions that are the basis of power for Schmidt's faction of the Social Democracy. Then, if Schmidt goes, the Social Democratic party in Germany goes with him and the structure of politics in Germany changes forever."

Briefly

● **THE DOE** has been ordered to conduct a rapid study of the effect on civilian energy supplies of various military contingency situations. Government sources claim that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed an analytic model that separates the defense base from the rest of the economy, but do not know how to proceed with the mandated study.

● **ROBERT BYRD**, the Senate Minority leader from West Virginia, has set up an 18-member Democratic task force to develop alternative budget proposals. Members include Henry Jackson of Washington, Sam Nunn of Georgia, and Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts.

● **GEORGETOWN** University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) has scheduled a private seminar on U.S.-French relations in Bellagio, Italy, featuring representatives of the U.S. State Department and the French Foreign Office. The group will discuss plans to divide U.S. and French security responsibilities in areas around the world. Word has it that the number-two man at DOS, Larry Eagleburger, will attend.

● **BARRY BOSWORTH**, the Carter administration's director of the Council on Wage and Price Controls, has called for banning multi-year labor contracts in order to eliminate cost-of-living escalator clauses. The Federal Reserve's tight money policy is only temporarily effective in fighting inflation, he stated. What is needed is the "permanent change" of keeping wages low by means of wage and price controls.

● **A FEDERAL RESERVE** Bank study of the economic impact of casino gambling on the Atlantic City, New Jersey, area found that it had "lived up to its . . . expectations in providing jobs and stimulus."