

National News

Seminar discusses space nuclear power

The National Academy of Sciences held a symposium Nov. 15-17 on the long-neglected subject of nuclear power systems in space. This program, which would deliver electric power to in-space satellites and other systems, was ended in 1972 but is now being resurrected as NASA and the military see a need for meeting large power requirements in the next 10 years.

The symposium reviewed the state of research and past testing of nuclear reactors in space, and also discussed innovative ideas developed recently. The Department of Energy is currently conducting a program to flight-test a 100 KW reactor in the early 1990s, but systems up to 100 MW will be needed for advanced missions.

The military will need large power supplies to provide protection for conventional satellites, and for a beam-weapon defensive system in space. NASA wants large space stations and planetary missions (manned and unmanned) to be able to sustain long duration and long distances. Funding is being increased for this program.

MIT professor attacks beam-weapon plans

Professor Kostas Tsipis of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, associate director of the division of Science and Technology for International Security, called Edward Teller's assertion that anti-nuclear beam weapons can and should be developed "pure fantasy," and stated that President Reagan and his advisors were "dumb" for taking Teller's advice, in an interview the week of Nov. 15. Professor Tsipis is the leading opponent of the development of beam weapons in the United States, and is an associate of the group at MIT promoting the nuclear freeze movement.

Tsipis was particularly concerned with the U.S. population's propensity to support

technological development, as was shown for the NASA programs. "Unless there is a countervailing movement," Tsipis told the interviewer, "the American people can be won over to Teller's perspective. Why not? They don't know anything about space. They like the idea! It's a very fecund area for propaganda."

Beam weapons, which would prevent nuclear missiles from detonating by destroying the triggering mechanisms, "are not scientifically feasible, no matter what Teller says," according to Tsipis. Edward Teller was the scientist who led the development of the hydrogen bomb in World War II's Manhattan Project.

Asked why President Reagan and his advisers would consider taking Teller's advice on so important an issue, Tsipis insisted: "Because they're dumb! Just plain dumb."

A counteroffensive to beam-weapon development is "definitely in the works," according to Tsipis. One of the forces in this counteroffensive will be "those people pushing conventional weapons."

House unit hears new charges against Abscam

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights heard explosive testimony Nov. 23 that will aid in calling to account the government perpetrators of the FBI-Abscam frame-ups, led by New York Eastern District prosecutor Thomas Puccio. One witness, former U.S. Attorney for the district of New Jersey, William Robertson, charged that "there has not been an uncovering in Abscam. Abscam has not yet seen the light of day. I would urge the committee to get all the facts out on the table for the American people. This has not yet been done."

Robertson told the Judiciary Subcommittee that he had "never during the course of my career as a prosecutor [been] exposed to such institutional resistance and an intentional attempt to thwart the discovery of facts that were relevant to a criminal investigation."

Rep. Harold Washington (D-Ill.) concluded after hearing the testimony that it would be a fair characterization that there was occurring a "horrible breakdown in the system, one might surmise a conspiracy to put Abscam through on greased skids." Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Cal.) commented that "we can have all the internal protections we want but if someone chooses to ignore these [safeguards], then they're no use to us." And Rep. Bill Hughes (D-N.J.) indicated his desire for the impaneling of a grand jury to look at malfeasance in office.

Witnesses before the committee charged that government officials, including prosecutor Thomas Puccio and Abscam prosecution witnesses, committed perjury, overreached proper prosecutorial bounds, committed the intentional fabrication of relevant facts, covered up wrongdoing, and trampled the constitutional rights of those never charged.

Mario Cuomo fills Criminal Justice post

New York State Governor-elect Mario Cuomo announced the appointment of Lawrence Kurlander to the newly created cabinet position of Criminal Justice Coordinator for the state Nov. 23. The week before, the *New York Post* had printed the rumor that the position would go to Thomas Puccio, the former prosecutor of the FBI's Abscam frame-up operations in the Eastern District. The National Democratic Policy Committee led a campaign against any appointment of Puccio.

Kurlander was District Attorney in Rochester, New York in 1976-80. During that period, Kurlander's office conducted a series of investigations against the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, which had been successfully prosecuting a number of organized-crime figures in the region. As a result of the investigations, several indictments of Mafia figures were overturned and several sheriff's deputies were jailed for perjury.

Kurlander is also associated with New York's Center for Research on Social Policy and Institutions, chaired by Harold Tyler, a

partner in New York D.A. Robert Morgenthau's former law firm.

Kurlander is proposing, among other things, the creation of a "scab" police force through a campus program in which students would be given scholarships for three years of service at half the wages urban police officers receive. The graduates of this state-controlled program would be encouraged to form auxiliary police forces after graduation, rather than enlisting in urban police forces.

Localities challenge McNamara study

The Greater Washington Research Center (GWRC) released a study on Nov. 15 predicting that local governments in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area will be running deficits on the order of \$600 million larger than projected over the next five years, and pointed to Felix Rohatyn's New York City "Big MAC" as a model of fiscal management. Robert McNamara, a member of the Committee on the Year 2000, was brought in to run the study and to endeavor to do to local government jurisdictions what he has already done to the Ford Motor Company, the Defense Department, and the people of Vietnam.

The deployment of McNamara into the study, reflects the underlying approach of the GWRC. Funded primarily by the Meyer Foundation (established by Katherine Meyer Graham's family interests), the GWRC has released studies which predict that the Greater Washington area will develop along post-industrial lines and have many of the characteristics of the capital of a Third World country.

The McNamara study makes very generalized recommendations about the need for better long-term management, modeled on Big MAC, but as one county official confirmed, the report is clearly heading in the direction of more all-inclusive regional government, which could manage the transition into a post-industrial economy.

The study has come under immediate attack from at least one local government

official, Fairfax County Executive Jack Herrity, who told *EIR* that the GWRC report had no relationship to his county's fiscal situation. Herrity agreed that the prediction of unexpected budget deficits for his county, a prediction based on spurious data, could become self-fulfilling if it damages the county's excellent bond rating. "Wall Street looks at these kind of reports. I'm sure Kate Graham would be furious if someone came out with a study like this about the *Washington Post*," Herrity stated, adding that he has challenged McNamara to a debate.

Eagleton proposes constitutional amendment

Senator Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.) announced Nov. 24 that he intends to propose an amendment to the Constitution that would allow naturalized citizens to become President of the United States. Only native Americans are currently eligible for the presidency.

Senator Eagleton, who attempted to be George McGovern's Democratic running mate in the 1972 presidential election, stated that he was inspired to propose the amendment by his "unbounded admiration for the intellect and skills of Felix Rohatyn," who was born in Austria. Rohatyn was the author of the "Big MAC" financial plan that has stripped New York City of over 40 percent of its workforce since its near-bankruptcy in 1975. Due to these massive austerity measures, and the overall collapse of the economy, New York is again facing bankruptcy.

Other foreign-born figures Eagleton suggests for the presidency are Henry A. Kissinger, recently named in the Red Brigades trials in Italy as the man who threatened the life of murdered former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro; outgoing president of the United Auto Workers Douglas Fraser, a leader of the Socialist International and chosen successor of Leonard Woodcock; Keynesian economist John Kenneth Galbraith of Harvard, author of *The Post-Industrial Society*; and former Treasury Secretary of the Carter administration W. Michael Blumenthal, a Trilateral Commission member.

Briefly

● **CYRUS VANCE**, Lloyd Cutler, former Treasury Secretary William Simon, and Milton Eisenhower are members of the newly formed Committee for a Single Six-Year Presidential Term. The motivation would be to put the President "above" the pressure of constituency demands—something Cutler cited as necessary to enforce austerity measures in a period of economic decline in his fall 1980 article in *Foreign Affairs*.

● **FELIX ROHATYN**, who is a member of New York State Governor-elect Mario Cuomo's transition team, called for a national four-point program of massive economic austerity Nov. 21. The widely publicized program calls for slashing Social Security, taxing consumption "as we have never done before," reducing military spending, and a "social compact" between management and labor to enforce wage reductions.

● **THE CBO** released a report Nov. 19 claiming that the United States would have to spend some \$63 billion to build up its non-nuclear NATO forces in Western Europe to the point where they could resist a Warsaw Pact invasion. President Reagan has proposed spending \$37.6 billion on conventional arms buildup.

● **GERALD ROSE**, Midwest Coordinator of the National Democratic Policy Committee, who made a speaking tour of North Dakota, Kansas, and Nebraska to promote the development of beam weapons as the only way to stop nuclear war, was presented on ABC and CBS news in Omaha, Nebraska as part of the lead item Nov. 22, directly following film clips of President Reagan's speech on MX missile development, and comments from Defense Secretary Weinberger.

● **MAXWELL RABB**, ambassador to Italy, is rumored to be slated for an early replacement.