

National News

Conventional buildup pushed in Congress

The House Foreign Affairs Committee will convene hearings Feb. 18 on former World Bank president Robert McNamara's nuclear freeze proposal. The House committee, chaired by Rep. Clement Zablocki (D-Wis.), will hear testimony on the resolution introduced by Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), a political associate of Edward Kennedy, who introduced the main resolution in the Senate.

Senators William Proxmire (D-Wis.) and Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) staged a debate early in February over who could give most support to McNamara's policy of building up conventional military forces. Such conventional forces are designed for use in "rapid deployment" interventions in the developing sector, Malvinas-style.

Although both senators strongly advocated buildup of conventional forces if a nuclear freeze is carried out, they were less enthusiastic about McNamara's proposal that the United States delay retaliation to a nuclear attack until it had been determined that the attack was "intentional!"

The nuclear freeze movement is planning a massive lobbying operation March 8, before the resolution comes to a vote in the House.

'We'll find a way to back IMF'

A top economist for the AFL-CIO says that, while the AFL-CIO might face some problems from its members in supporting an IMF quota increase, they would "find a way to back the IMF. . . . We always do."

The economist reported on Feb. 17 that the AFL-CIO is now drafting a policy statement on the bailout that will make sure not to attack the IMF too strongly. He indicated that the Federation's president, Lane Kirkland, is working with the groups in Congress supporting the Bradley-Schumer legislation (or the similar Heinz-Proxmire package), which would make U.S. banking regulations on foreign loans completely subordinate to IMF policy dictates.

"We are in a curious situation about this latest quota increase," said the economist, who collaborates with Rep. Fernand St. Germaine's aide at the House Banking Committee. "We have traditionally supported the IMF and want the IMF to be a strong institution. Normally, we would just allow the quota to go through, but now people are perceiving this as a bailout of the big banks. . . . There are people inside the unions who are saying that we should let the banks take it on the chin for their loans. Kirkland is a lot smarter than these hotheads and knows that this will not work. . . ."

"But we will have to make compromises with the demands that something be done about the banks and their lending practices. I say—and people like Kirkland say—that we should have done this a long time ago. We'll push, with others in Congress, for tightened oversight of overseas loans and guarantees that keeping a country like Brazil afloat won't further tighten credit here. There will be write-downs of some debt, but we want to see the debt exchanged for longer term debts. . . ."

The economist asserted that the AFL-CIO has been involved in discussions with top international bankers and policy planners on the creation of a "new Bretton Woods" monetary system. "Our plan is to create the kind of supranational structures that would prevent insane actions of sovereign states, like the U.S. monetary policies, from having a disruptive effect on the global economy," he said.

NASA to build world's largest computer

NASA has announced a new project it will begin in its FY84 budget, the Numerical Aerodynamic Simulation (NAS) facility at the Ames Research Center in California.

The \$100 million program, scheduled for completion in 1987, will be developed to improve the quality of computer design of aircraft, and reduce the amount of time and money now needed to test actual physical models of new aircraft in wind tunnels.

NASA scientists have estimated that to achieve more accurate computer modeling of highly complex physics problems in air-

craft design, they need a computer that can perform 1 billion operations per second. Today's computers can do about 30 million.

Therefore, NASA will extend contracts to industry to do the R&D to meet NASA's performance requirements. This will push the computer industry past the current state of the art, and will help make the industry competitive with Japanese computer firms who plan to have machines with more than a billion-operation-per-second capabilities by 1990.

Global 2000 moles provoke EPA scandal

Attacks by Congress and the news media against the administration's handling of the Environmental Protection Agency toxic waste clean-up program mark a renewed effort to Watergate the President. Five congressional subcommittees are currently investigating alleged political corruption and a potential political malfeasance in the management of the program.

Congressional ringleaders of the effort are Reps. John Dingell (D-Mich.) and James Scheuer (D-N.Y.). Both are backers of the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*, which predicts that by the end of the century, there will be some 400 million too many people in the world to be sustained. Senator Gary Hart (D-Colo.), also a Global 2000 advocate, demanded Feb. 11 that the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee—the committee noted for witch-hunt attacks on labor leaders—begin an immediate investigation into potential criminal acts by EPA officials.

Intelligence sources say that the scandal has been fanned by a network of pro-Global 2000 moles in the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the EPA itself, and the environmental staff of the Justice Department, who trace their political lineage to the Carter administration or to the era when GOP Global 2000 backers, such as Russell Train of the World Wildlife Fund, former Attorney General William French Smith, and Fabian Republican Elliot Richardson created the U.S. government's environmentalist apparatus under Presidents Nixon and Ford.

Report attacks collapsing electricity use

Washington State's WPPSS power system is on the verge of bankruptcy and possible losses to its electricity grid, and the *New York Times* is publishing identical scenarios for the Nine Mile Point and Shoreham nuclear plants and the utility consortia in New York state which have built them. As commercial bank meetings take place in New York to decide whether to continue credit lines for plants currently under construction or to cut them off, a new report has been issued by Gibbs and Hill Engineering in New York, showing that power plant cost problems stem entirely from Paul Volcker's strangulation of credit.

The report, by Gibbs and Hill consultant Fremont Felix, shows that even using current grossly inflated costs for building power plants (\$3 billion for a 100 megawatt plant), all that is required is enough future planned expansion of industrial and agricultural electricity use to guarantee over 50 percent load-capacity utilization of the new plant. Given that expansion, such a power plant will have a net negative cost to the economy, correlating with an addition of \$4 billion to GNP every year of use.

Instead, the report says, the U.S.-Canada region now has the lowest electricity growth rate of any region in the world (the rate for the U.S. is actually negative, as are several other major regions).

Under this condition of demand collapse, WPPSS was forced by an environmentalist-Wall Street investment house coalition to abandon construction of two plants, and is now about to default on the bonds of those plants. The Feb. 17 *New York Times*, raises the prospect of similar production collapse and threat of bankruptcy for the three utilities building the Nine Mile Point nuclear plant.

Since one of those is Long Island Lighting Company, which is also fighting to get the completed \$3 billion Shoreham plant on line, the *Times* moots a "double burden" for LILCO which may shut off its credit lines.

Industry sources report that a meeting between nuclear industry representatives and

representatives of a large number of New York commercial and investment banks took place the week of Feb. 14, to assess "risk control" (financial, not physical risks); reportedly the banks were persuaded for the time being to leave nuclear-construction credit lines open for already-underway projects.

White Panthers force recall vote

With a few months remaining in her term, San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein, an instrument of the city's real-estate elite, is facing an April recall election forced on the city by the White Panther Party.

The chaos being created by the recall "is what we are going to see in city after city unless a new world economic order is put into effect," declared Brian Lantz, the city's only declared candidate for mayor for the November election. Lantz, who is backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee, is proposing a specific program to rebuild the city's port facilities and provide affordable housing.

The White Panthers, a small Yippie-style organization, apparently succeeded in gathering the 35,000 petition signatures necessary to force a referendum on whether Feinstein will remain in office. The petitions were validated Feb. 9.

The Panthers claim that they want to oust Feinstein because of her recent passage of gun-control legislation. Panther spokesman Thomas Stevens claims that he strongly believes in and has practiced the right to bear arms: he served three years in San Quentin for firing what he called "warning shots" at a police officer in 1974.

In early March, as the recall drive expands, the Panthers, along with homosexuals' organizations, squatters' rights groups, and organizations linked to the IRA, will be brought into a 10,000 person demonstration against President Reagan when he visits San Francisco with Britain's Queen Elizabeth. Leaders of this demonstration include pro-euthanasia Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.) and former leader of the 1968 Chicago riots Tom Hayden, currently a California state assemblyman.

Briefly

● **ROBERT MORGENTHAU**, the Manhattan D.A., keeps as his assistant a punk rock star named Irving Gotbaum who "does his thing" at a den of dope users and perverts, known as the Mudd Club. According to the *New York Post*, Morgenthau is concerned that this connection will give his office a bad name. Gotbaum is the son of public workers' union chief Victor Gotbaum. Other punks working for Morgenthau include Cyrus Vance Jr. and Bobby Kennedy Jr.

● **CYRUS VANCE's** mind has been successfully duplicated by a computer. A team of Yale University researchers headed by Dr. Janet Kolodner asserted to the *Christian Science Monitor* Feb. 17 that their artificial intelligence program, called CYRUS, contained Vance's memory and may soon be developed into "a world affairs expert system capable of offering political advice."

● **GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN**, a National Democratic Policy Committee candidate in the Feb. 13 special election in Texas's 6th congressional district, was so seriously defrauded of his vote that "it was overkill," according to a Texas Democratic official. Chamberlain, who is a nuclear engineer, officially received less than 1 percent of the vote, while several Democratic county chairman had predicted a 10-15 percent vote. Chamberlain was opposing Phil Gramm, a just-turned-Democrat supporter of Milton Friedman's austerity policies, and eight other candidates.

● **THE USDA** Office of Transportation has completed the first test shipment of cattle in an experimental rail car equipped with an on-board feeding and watering system. These feeding and watering facilities will mean that the cattle can be maintained at pre-shipment weight, which will guarantee higher prices to U.S. cattle ranchers. Researchers from Texas A&M University will collect data on the new system.