

# National News

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## Pressler attacks space laser defense

Senator Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) escalated his attack on high energy space-based ABM systems in the wake of President Reagan's March 23 announcement of that strategic defense policy. In a press released dated March 24, Pressler charged that "space-based weapons will lead to a new and destabilizing arms race. If we can reduce strategic weapons, we don't need lasers, and if we simply add lasers to the arsenal, it could be 'viewed as fostering an aggressive policy,' to use the President's own words."

Pressler pointed to hearings held before his subcommittee on arms control of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee several months ago, during which administration officials expressed "skepticism" about this concept.

Committed to maintaining the Kissinger-McNamara policy of Mutually Assured Destruction even in the face of Soviet technological advances that make that policy suicidal for the United States, Pressler says, "There are no magic bullets for solving our defense problems. A space-based laser defense will go the same way as all other previous 'solutions' to our strategic dilemma. Like MIRVs, lasers will add to our defense costs and reduce strategic stability."

Senator Pressler will hold hearings on the administration policy on April 14 in his arms control subcommittee, during which he will push his own resolution aimed at banning all weapons in space. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has been asked to testify.

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## State legislatures defeat nuclear freeze

The state legislatures of New Hampshire and North Carolina rejected nuclear freeze resolutions March 15 and 17, respectively, a development that indicates that the freeze resolution in the U.S. House of Representa-

tatives, presently scheduled for a vote April 12, will not get the 40- or 50-vote margin its sponsors are predicting.

In North Carolina, a Senate Joint Resolution "For a Mutual, Verifiable Nuclear Freeze between the U.S. and U.S.S.R." was defeated 25-23 on March 17 after a fight led by Sen. Harold W. Hardison (D-Deep Run). The resolution had started out with numerous co-sponsors, but 11 of them removed their names after they looked over the resolution's provisions for disarmament.

When the resolution came up on March 17, Hardison moved to amend the resolution on the grounds that the Soviets would not submit to an agreement that is verifiable, and that a bilateral freeze would be rendered obsolete as soon as any other nations developed nuclear weapons. The amended freeze resolution was defeated 25 to 23, and tabled for the duration of the session.

Rep. Howard Dickinson (R) led the fight to defeat the pro-freeze resolution in the New Hampshire State House of Representatives on March 15. The vote capped a series of defeats for the freeze resolution in 43 of 58 New Hampshire town meetings held during the week of March 8-15. These 1983 New Hampshire town meetings completely reversed the much publicized pro-freeze votes of 1982.

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## NDPC testifies on beam weapons potential

The National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) delivered testimony to two rather stunned subcommittees on the day after President Reagan's historic March 23 address on defense policy. The previously scheduled testimony before the energy and water subcommittees of both the Senate and the House Appropriations Committees was transformed as NDPC representatives stressed the economic implications of a beam weapon program as the science driver needed to pull the nation out of the depression.

Senator Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.), asked for an explanation of how beam weapons would work, expressing fear that an ABM system would be built, such as the one

built in North Dakota a decade ago, at enormous expense and then not be used. "I want to make sure we know what we are talking about before we spend the money," he stated.

The NDPC spokesman asserted that there is a huge difference between military spending on conventional or off-the-shelf technologies, and spending in such frontier areas of technology as directed energy beams, citing the productivity revolutions brought about by the NASA program and the advent of electricity.

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## Bioethics Commission opposes protecting infants

A federal ruling which demands strict enforcement of the federal statute regarding discrimination against handicapped infants, issued at the insistence of President Reagan, has sparked an outraged reaction among euthanasia advocates.

On March 18, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Children's Hospitals, and the Washington, D.C. Children's Hospital filed suit asking the District Court to "enjoin and declare invalid" the ruling published in the March 7 federal register. The Pediatrics Academy also asked for a temporary restraining order, which was denied by Judge Gerhard Gesell. A hearing date has been set for April 8.

The new regulation, which must now be posted in all hospitals, prohibits failing to provide care and food to infants, sets up a hotline for anonymous complaints, and threatens to withhold funds from hospitals that do not comply. President Reagan had acted in response to the widely publicized 1982 Baby Doe incident in which a newborn infant with Downs Syndrome was starved to death with the sanction of an Indiana court.

The lawsuit claims that the regulation to protect the handicapped was issued "without a legal or factual basis and in total disregard of the congressionally mandated Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Biomedical and Behavioral Research."

Dr. Joanne Lynne, a national leader of the hospice movement and study director of

the commission, stated at the March 21 press conference that medical care providers often exercise a "misguided paternalism" by fighting to keep people alive. She included in her definition of life-sustaining systems "antibiotics and artificial feeding"—both of which she thinks should be withheld from comatose patients if there is a question of scarce resources.

## Hinckley victims sue Tavistock psychiatrist

In Denver federal court on March 18, the three men John Warnock Hinckley shot in his attempted assassination of President Reagan in May, 1981—Secret Service agent Tim McCarthy, Press Secretary James Brady, and Washington, D.C. patrolman De-lahanty—entered million dollar lawsuits against Hinckley's Tavistock psychiatrist, Dr. John Hopper of Evergreen Associates on Human Behavior. Sources close to the case say that the lawsuit could gain access to Hopper's and possibly other psychiatric files, and could potentially establish the principle of legal responsibility of psychiatric controllers for crimes committed by "Manchurian candidate" assassins.

Lawyers for Brady, McCarthy, and De-lahanty have obtained a copy of the autobiography Hinckley wrote for Hopper before the assassination attempt, in which Hinckley states that his two interests in life are political assassination and actress Jodie Foster.

*EIR* has established that the Tavistock network in Colorado—including Drs. Hopper, Foster Cline of Evergreen, Edmund Casper of Fitzsimmons Army Base, and John M. MacDonald of the University of Colorado's Medical Center—have, since the Reagan shooting, brainwashed a new group of "Manchurian candidates" in the form of evangelical fundamentalists focused on killing "the Antichrist."

It is possible that this fresh crop of pseudo-religious Hinckleys was activated with the "trend-setting" murder of a police officer by a cult of "Antichrist" killers called "Black Egypt," which took place in Memphis, Tennessee on Jan. 1.

## Kirkland supports labor witchhunt bill

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland has revived his efforts to ram through legislation to sanction judicial frame-ups of trade union leaders. Kirkland sent a letter to Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) the week of March 14, reaffirming his support for so-called labor racketeering reform legislation sponsored by Nunn, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), and 11 other senators. The bill, S.336, which is in violation of the Constitution, places the burden of proof on the victim of a potential frame-up, and would strip a union official convicted of a felony of his union office without waiting for the results of an appeal.

Hearings were held in the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee during the week of March 14. A committee spokesman said that with Kirkland's backing, the bill is expected to "fly through the committee" and the full Senate in mid-April.

Kirkland reportedly wants the legislation in place before the 1984 presidential election campaign begins, so that he can use the threat of frame-ups to hold regional and local labor leaders in line behind his "permanent depression" policies.

A staff member of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee says Justice Department officials had told him that they would guarantee dozens of convictions of top leaders of the Teamsters and the building trades, especially the Laborers Union, if the law were passed. Hearings held by the committee emphasized attacks on allegedly organized-crime-controlled Teamster and other labor officials. Teamster President Roy Williams, who was recently framed up in a bribery case, was singled out by several witnesses from the Justice Department as a "convicted crook" who was able to stay in office because S.336 had not yet passed.

John Erlenborn (R-Ill.) will sponsor the House version of the bill. Erlenborn ranks near the top of the AFL-CIO's official enemies list in Congress as the sponsor of nearly every piece of anti-labor legislation.

## Briefly

● **DR. EDWARD TELLER** and his campaign for defensive beam weapon development have been condemned by *Izvestia's* A. V. Mikheev as the agents of a "criminal alliance of Pentagon generals, arms producers, and their lobbyists in the Washington corridors of power." Mikheev assured his readers on March 16 that the statement to the House Foreign Relations Committee of such an acknowledged "hawk" as Dr. Teller to the effect that "the freeze movement and the corresponding resolution increase the likelihood of nuclear war" can hardly stop the momentum of the Soviet-supported nuclear freeze movement. Mikheev called "perverted logic" Teller's statement in a letter to the House Foreign Relations Committee that "the freeze movement and the corresponding resolution increase the likelihood of nuclear war."

● **FATHER PAUL MARX**, president of Human Life International and chairman of the board of the American Life Lobby, told a Southern California representative of the Club of Life March 22 that he was "too busy" to demand prosecution for murder against two California physicians who starved 55-year-old Clarence Herbert to death by denying him food and water when he was in a coma at the Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Los Angeles. Father Marx said he would not even issue a statement on the crime.

● **JAMIE WHITTEN**, House Agriculture Subcommittee and full Appropriations Committee Chairman (D-Miss.), has said that he thinks the Agriculture Department's Payment In Kind program would create a "disaster." His statement came in response to testimony from a National Democratic Policy Committee spokesman. "Once these farmers stop production, they won't have the capital or the credit, or they might just become too smart to get back into farming," Whitten declared, implying that current economic policies offer no hope of recovery.