

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

'Project Democracy' funded by House

By a relatively close vote of 215 to 194, the House passed on June 9 a \$31.3 million authorization for FY84 for a National Endowment for Democracy known as "Project Democracy." These funds are part of a two-year, \$6.9 billion FY84 and FY85 authorization for the State Department. The Endowment is charged "to promote . . . democratic training programs and institution-building abroad . . . [and] to strengthen democratic electoral processes."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has passed a similar authorization out of committee, and the bill is now pending floor business; no date has been set for consideration. If approved by the Senate, the endowment will automatically dispense \$13.8 million to the AFL-CIO's Free Trade Union Institute; \$2.5 million to a similar organization to be set up by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and an additional \$15 million for unspecified use. Representative Dante Fascell (D-Fla.), who floor-managed the bill in the House and who has been "breaking arms" to push through Project Democracy, will become the interim chairman of the project.

Hank Brown (R-Colo.) led the House fight against Project Democracy, claiming that any private agency that took government money would be inhibited by this association in its activities abroad. Black Caucus member George Crockett (D-Mich.) attacked the endowment as "at best a boondoggle." Brown succeeded, by a vote of 267 to 136, in eliminating \$10 million that would have funded entities set up by the national Democratic and Republican parties.

An attempt to cut the authorization for funding the Free Trade Union Institute was defeated by a voice vote.

This operation is run by protégés of Jay Lovestone, the former secretary-general of the Communist Party U.S.A. who has been operating for decades under an anti-communist cover, and associates of Luigi Scricciolo, a self-described stringer for East bloc intelligence agencies who is now in prison in Italy for his role in the Red Brigades' kidnapping of NATO General Dozier in December 1981.

In his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 15, Secretary of State Shultz, who, along with AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland is promoting Project Democracy, cited strident Soviet attacks on the project as proof of its importance. Some Capitol Hill sources speculated that Shultz may be using his "back channel" contact with Soviet leaders to boost his own "anti-communist" credibility.

Mullen attacked for FBI coverup

At his confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Francis M. Mullen, nominated to head the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), came under intense questioning on his role in the investigation of former Labor Secretary Ray Donovan. Mullen was second in command at the FBI at the time of the Donovan caper.

Mullen was appointed acting DEA administrator 18 months ago. His nomination as permanent DEA head has been held up because Senate Labor Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), also a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, demanded that a Labor Committee staff report on the Mullen-FBI-Donovan matter first be completed.

That report, released in early April,

charged that the FBI misled the Senate and "usurped the Senate's constitutional responsibilities" by withholding pertinent information.

At the June 15 hearing, Hatch pressed Mullen on his decisions to withhold information about allegations of organized crime ties to Donovan. Hatch stressed that the issue was not Donovan or the content of the allegations, since Donovan had been cleared and many of the allegations proven false, but rather Mullen's and the FBI's conduct in keeping the facts from the Senate.

After listening to Mullen's justification of what he considered merely a bad "judgement call," liberal Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) told Mullen, "I am astounded and flabbergasted that you could sit there and tell us that you consciously withheld this information from the U.S. Senate."

Percy hearings promote U.S.-Soviet summit

Beginning his prepared testimony with the statement that the President of the United States had reviewed, changed, and then initialed on his statement, Secretary of State George Shultz presented the administration's reading of U.S.-Soviet Relations to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 15.

The hearings, which initiate a series on U.S.-Soviet relations, have been launched by the Harriman wing of the Democratic Party and Kissinger-allied Republicans. The goal is to pressure the President into a summit meeting with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov which would result in some geopolitical "deal" undermining the March 23 commitment to develop de-

fensive anti-ballistic missile weapons.

Averell and Pamela Harriman are scheduled to testify before the committee June 16, and Henry Kissinger will conclude the hearings in July.

Despite the manifest hope of committee chairman Charles Percy (R-Ill.) to extract a pro-summit statement from the Secretary of State, Shultz did not deviate from the President's stated policy. Shultz insisted that the President was willing to meet with Andropov if a summit were well prepared, and if there were serious expectations that the meeting would have a substantive result.

When Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) tried to goad Shultz by noting that the Reagan administration might be the only one in postwar history to never conduct face-to-face negotiations with the Soviet leaders, Shultz replied, "So be it. We are not interested in a face-to-face meeting for the sake of it, just as we are not interested in arms control for the sake of it."

Percy, Tsongas, and Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) also placed great emphasis on the failure of the United States to ratify the Peaceful Nuclear Explosives Treaty and the Threshold Test Ban Treaty. Both have been signed by both superpowers but not ratified.

Again adhering to White House policy, Shultz cited the difficulties of verifying those treaties as the reason for U.S. non-ratification thus far, and underscored that the issue of verification was a crucial element of any arms control agreement with the Soviets.

House votes against space weapons ban

In a vote that some Capitol Hill observers view as a preliminary but significant test of policy on weapons deployment in space, the House rejected

an amendment to the FY84 defense authorization which would have taken out \$19.4 million for advanced procurement of an anti-satellite weapons system (ASAT) by a margin of 243 to 177.

The House action was considered a setback to those who are seeking a treaty with the Soviet Union banning space weapons, a treaty that would in effect be based on unilateral restraint of U.S. weapons development.

George Brown (D-Calif.), who is sponsoring the bill with Reps. John Seiberling (D-Ohio) and Joe Moakley (D-Mass.), said that the \$19.4 million deletion was "aimed at the initial steps in procurement of an operational system" which represented "crossing the threshold into the actual deployment of operational space weapons."

Brown slyly claimed he was "not even arguing not to cross that threshold," but "just arguing that it requires congressional discussion."

Member after member of the House, however, rose to speak in opposition, many pointing out that the Soviets were not only not restraining themselves, but had already developed and deployed their own anti-satellite capabilities in space, which were now threatening to leave the United States vulnerable to a Soviet first strike.

Advocates of a strong U.S. defense were joined by some members who have been seeking a space weapons ban treaty, but who assert that the United States should maintain a strategic balance with the Soviet Union rather than pursue unilateral restraint.

One such member, Martin Frost (D-Tex.), who opposed the funding cut, stated that "the only appropriate time for the United States to reassess its commitment to anti-satellite weapons development is when we have a reciprocal and verifiable treaty with the Soviets banning the use of outer space for weapons tests and deploy-

ments. Until that time, it makes no sense for our country to retreat from the ASAT program."

The vote may indicate support for President Reagan's program of directed energy weapons development and deployment. The *Rocky Mountain News* headlined its coverage of the House vote: "House Agrees Not To Sabotage Beam Weapon Program."

Congress kills the Clinch River breeder

The Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Energy and Water voted June 4 to delete any funding for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor project slated for construction in Tennessee. This action follows parallel budget votes in the House.

For the past year, the Reagan administration has been divided on the question. David Stockman and other ideologues have propagated the idea that since the breeder is "near-term" technology, private industry should pay for it. Though the President and Energy Department officials know that if the government does not fund the project, it will not be completed, a compromise with Congress was reached months ago, in which it was agreed that industry must "fund some portion of the cost." The bill states that if industry can come up with money, the House can put the project back into the budget.

Because no funding plan submitted by any industry has been accepted on Capitol Hill, the House authorization bill does not include any funding for Clinch River. And according to Senate Energy Committee staff members, it is not likely that the nuclear or utility sectors, both in a state of collapse, will provide the necessary funds.