
PROFILE



John Glenn: Middle-of-the-road Malthusian

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Ask any political pundit to describe what Democratic presidential aspirant John Glenn's appeal as a candidate might be, and you'll probably be told that the Ohio Senator is "middle of the road," "a traditional Democrat," "a candidate capable of appealing to a broad spectrum of Democratic constituencies, as well as to the business community." Glenn may not be too bright, the pundits will acknowledge—but he still might be sold to regular Democrats as a less revolting alternative to Fritz Mondale.

Indeed, the major media and the national polls portray Glenn as the one Democratic contender who might conceivably give Reagan a run for his money, on the grounds that he could appeal to a wider constituency than his rivals. Glenn's straw-poll win at the New Jersey State Democratic convention in mid-September fueled speculation that frontrunner Mondale's lead may be evaporating—the AFL-CIO notwithstanding.

Glenn may come across as a centrist, just bland enough to avoid spontaneously alienating whole sectors of the electorate, but his orientation differs little in substance from the other five candidates in the Democratic "six-pack." Judging from his two-term Senate record and his campaign pronouncements, the Ohio Democrat is just another fraud palmed off on the American voters by the Harrimanite gang that controls the Democratic party.

Glenn revealed his true colors over the Soviet shooting down of the Korean airliner. On Sept. 13, he became the first Democratic presidential candidate to openly criticize President Reagan's handling of the incident. In a speech to the Foreign Policy Association in New York, Glenn accused Reagan of using the KAL affair "to try and sell" an MX-missile program that "doesn't make sense" to Congress and the American people.

Earlier this summer, Glenn publicly stated that, if elected President, he would not necessarily order a retaliatory strike

should the Soviets launch a nuclear attack on a secondary U.S. city.

Non-proliferation: 'centerpiece' of Glenn's campaign

Nothing is more revealing of Glenn's mentality than his pivotal role in passing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978, a modified version of the post-World War II Baruch plan. Known as the Glenn-Percy bill after its two main sponsors, Glenn and Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.), and considered by the Carter regime as one of its crowning achievements, the Non-Proliferation Act culminated a decades-long effort by the neo-Malthusians to cut off all nuclear-related exports to the developing sector. Ostensibly aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, the act drastically undermined the ability of the Third World to support its population and inflicted permanent damage on the U.S. nuclear industry.

Glenn strategists report that the Ohio Senator will make this genocidal legislation the "centerpiece" of his presidential primary campaign. Glenn plans to take full credit for engineering the legislation, according to campaign research director Michael Wack, who recently disclosed that one of the main goals of the campaign will be to "get across the fact that Glenn felt so strongly about the non-proliferation issue that he literally, physically, sat down and wrote the bill himself—and that's rare in the Senate." Moreover, Glenn intends to push to strengthen the bill and possibly for creation of a "new international regime" to close up any loopholes.

Glenn's campaign managers hope that the new stress on this issue will bolster their man's standing among the ultra-liberal wing of the Democratic Party—"the type of Democrat who tends to dominate party caucuses and vote in the primaries," as one politico put it—away from such established "peace candidates" as Mondale, Gary Hart, and Alan Cranston. "We want to make sure that the voters realize that the

non-proliferation question is really a peace issue," a Glenn spokesman revealed. "Too many people still think that Glenn is a Johnny-come-lately to the peace movement, but by showing how involved he was in non-proliferation, we're sure that people will recognize that Glenn has been active in the peace movement a lot longer than some others I could mention. In fact, when you think about it, Glenn is the true peace candidate."

But Glenn's decision to go big with his stand on non-proliferation could do more to undermine the former astronaut's cultivated middle-of-the-road image than any other element of his slick presidential packaging.

The national security threat

The "peace candidate" sobriquet fits Glenn only if "peace," thanks to Orwellian mediaspeak, now means any effort designed to gravely undermine U.S. national security. According to a report issued by the Fusion Energy Foundation, the withholding of nuclear technologies from developing nations, which Glenn's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act and earlier related measures ordained, has caused the death of more than 110 million people since 1960. The study also projected that in the remaining years of this century, another 125 million people will die. By placing onerous conditions on the export and development of energy-producing devices desperately required by the developing sector for its agriculture and industry, nuclear non-proliferation has not only been a killer, but has also created political and economic instability throughout the Third World, which the Soviet Union has been quick to exploit.

A case in point is India, which has been one of Glenn's major targets. U.S. relations with India, potentially one of America's most crucial friends in the Third World, could easily become a casualty of "non-proliferation."

Under the Glenn-Percy act, the Carter administration temporarily held up fuel shipments for India's Tarapur plant, a light-water reactor built by the United States in the 1960s, due to a furor over India's mid-1970s explosion of a nuclear device which led to never-substantiated allegations by environmentalists that India was using spent fuel to develop a nuclear weapons capability. Glenn personally led an unsuccessful Senate floor fight to continue the ban when Carter moved to rescind it.

This summer, when the Reagan administration proposed to sell India spare parts for the plant, Glenn again took up cudgels, introducing a resolution to the Senate on Aug. 4 to block the sale. Glenn and his seven co-sponsors further demanded that India compromise its sovereignty by providing guarantees on its nuclear program, including a ban on the use of peaceful nuclear explosives for industrial and agricultural development. As a result, India—whose dependence on coal-generated electricity has severely hampered industrialization plans—has hinted it might go to the Soviets for assistance and has now developed its own nuclear-plant construction

ability, further reducing its obligations to submit to international inspection.

Although claiming that Glenn doesn't oppose nuclear power in the developing sector, one of the Senator's top aides recently criticized Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's "unfortunate statements" about her country's intention to maintain an independent nuclear capability, and reported that Glenn intends to pursue the issue during upcoming Senate hearings.

The Third World isn't the only victim. The U.S. nuclear industry has been brought to the edge of collapse because the Glenn-Percy bill shut off almost all its export markets. By conservative estimates, the bill cost the United States more than 2 million man-years of high-skilled jobs, over \$4 billion in steel orders, and more than \$20 billion in export dollar earnings in the first few years of its life. While the United States could have had the lion's share of the nuclear export trade, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act effectively handed the market over to West Germany, France, Italy, and Canada.

Even before the bill had been passed, the Shah of Iran cited the uncertainty caused by such legislation as the main reason why Iran had to renege on its intended purchase of eight nuclear reactors from American manufacturers. The loss of export earnings due to the Glenn-Percy bill has contributed significantly to the near-bankruptcy of the U.S. nuclear industry today, making Glenn's loud-mouthed criticisms of Japan's aggressive export policies doubly hypocritical.

Glenn's sabotage of nuclear power is consistent with his attitude toward science and technology in general. Despite his much-publicized background in the space program and recent statements about getting NASA back on track, Glenn maintains the view that equates science and technology with computers and telecommunications rather than with fundamental breakthroughs in basic research of the kind that made space travel possible. Last spring, for example, Glenn warned an audience that "a word of caution" must be applied regarding technology's promise, because it "can cause lost jobs, environmental destruction, nuclear disaster and an Orwellian nightmare of government control. We must be masters of the new technology, not its servants or victims," said Glenn, adding, in an obvious reference to himself, "We must have leadership that understands the potential of modern science, both for good and for evil."

Strategic policy: Ban the Beam

Glenn's bias is also apparent in his military-strategic policy prescription. In March 1983 he climbed aboard the nuclear freeze bandwagon, issuing a statement that "I strongly endorse the Kennedy-Hatfield nuclear freeze resolution." His only cavil was that "it doesn't go far enough." More importantly still, Glenn strenuously opposes U.S. development of a beam-weapon-based defense capability. According to one of his chief advisers, Glenn "absolutely opposes any military

use of space," including for anti-satellite capabilities, and "would like to sit down with the Soviets and work out a ban on weapons in space" as one of his top priorities as president. In explaining this position, the aide reported that Glenn believes "there is a bigger danger posed to peace by the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Third World countries than by the Soviet Union," and rather irately contended that Glenn is "the real Mr. Star Wars" because "he realizes that space is not the place for weapons" whereas Reagan—"the false Mr. Star Wars"—"wants to put weapons all over space."

Glenn's support of the nuclear freeze and his opposition to a beam defense for the country are features of a strategic outlook that would make the United States a virtual hostage to the Soviet Union. Glenn hysterically denies that the Soviet Union is committed to a nuclear war-winning doctrine, and insists that what the United States and its NATO allies must emphasize is conventional rather than strategic forces. In a major statement on military policy issued by the Harriman-controlled Center for National Policy last spring, Glenn detailed some of his other major military proposals, which included:

- Scrambling the MX missile in favor of a small, mobile missile, a proposal also favored by Henry Kissinger.

- Reducing U.S. troop levels in Europe—which would make Western Europe more vulnerable to Soviet encroachments.

- Replacing the Joint Chiefs of Staff system with one modeled on the British. In Glenn's view, this measure would greatly reduce the influence of the military services over both military policy and military procurement, and would enable the central military staff to make "hard program choices."

- Building up the U.S.'s conventional deterrent. Significantly, Glenn motivates this proposal by stressing that the United States may have to fight a series of wars with Third World countries: "Third World threats to American interests are secondary when compared to the Soviet menace," Glenn noted in his Center for National Policy piece, but "they are neither negligible nor ignorable. If we concentrate too much on the Soviets in our weapons and in our deployment of forces, we may run limited but still substantial risks in conflicts that have little to do with the U.S./Soviet rivalry."

Glenn's statements put him squarely in the camp of those policy circles which see U.S. military capabilities as primarily an instrument for debt-collection in Third World countries rather than for defending the nation against its avowed enemies. But it all fits with the genocidal consequences of his "non-proliferation" profile: The biggest proponents of a U.S. military meddling in the developing sector are men like former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and the population-control fanatics in the State Department, who can see no faster way to curb population growth among what they consider to be "inferior" races.

Part II of this candidate profile will deal with Glenn's strategic and economic policies and his recent activities in Ibero-America.

'Auschwitz' bill passes

by Marianna Wertz

The California legislature cast a final vote on Sept. 15, passing Senate Bill 762, which extends the "durable powers of attorney" to health care provisions. The Senate vote, on concurrence with the assembly's amendments, was 28 to 3; the assembly's vote was 71 to 0. The bill has been denounced by pro-life, minority, trade union, and religious leaders from around the world as "Nazi euthanasia" legislation. SB 762 will become state law unless it is vetoed, as its opponents have urged, by Republican Gov. George Deukmejian within 12 days.

SB 762 grants the power to "pull the plug" of a patient to any designated friend or relative, through authorization as an "attorney in fact." As the bill itself states, it would "authorize the attorney in fact to make health care decisions for the principal before or after the death of the principal, including those which would dispose of the body or parts thereof. . . ." In fact, the only medical procedures excluded are commitment of the patient to a mental institution, psychosurgery, shock treatment, sterilization, and abortion.

The California bill was prompted by the well-publicized murder indictment of two California physicians who disconnected the life support systems of Clarence Herbert, a comatose patient at a Kaiser-Permanente HMO in Harbor City. Convinced by the physicians that her husband was "hopelessly ill," Mrs. Herbert consented to the removal of all life support systems. When Mr. Herbert continued to breathe on his own, the doctors also removed his feeding tubes. He died six days later; dehydration was listed as a major cause of death.

A municipal court judge dismissed the murder charges brought by the Los Angeles District Attorney against the two doctors in early 1982, but Superior Court Judge Robert Wenke reversed the decision. The physicians' appeal of their indictment for murder and conspiracy to commit murder is now pending in the second division of the California Appellate Court.

The bill's sponsor is Sen. Barry Keene (D-Vallejo), whose district includes Ukiah, former home town of euthanasia advocate and cult leader Jim Jones. Keene was also the sponsor of the nation's first "death with dignity" bill, California's 1976 Natural Death Act.