

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Senate supports sanctions on Soviets

By a unanimous vote of 93 to 0, the U.S. Senate went on record calling for the President to prepare and transmit to the Congress a report on the record of Soviet compliance or noncompliance with the letter and spirit of all existing arms control agreements.

The amendment was sponsored by Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho), who has been documenting Soviet violations of the SALT treaties and the ABM treaty for several months.

The Senate passed another amendment, sponsored by Democrat Walter Huddleston (Ky.), calling for the reduction of the number of Soviet officials allowed to operate in the United States. The Huddleston amendment takes note of the fact that the Soviets are allowed a substantially larger number of officials in the United States than the Soviets permit the United States to have in the U.S.S.R. Huddleston, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, pointed out that many of the Soviet "employees" and officials in the United States are functioning as intelligence operators. The amendment passed on a voice vote.

Both amendments had been brought up the previous week to amend the resolution condemning the Soviets for the shooting down of KAL flight 7. They were voted down at the time, in part because the administration wanted a straightforward resolution of condemnation, with no retributions or reprisals attached.

Sponsors of these amendments, and others put forward by Senator Helms, expressed surprise at the support they did receive during the KAL 7 debate.

The strategy of conservative Republicans appears to be to bring up each of the defeated KAL 7 amendments attached to different pieces of

legislation over the course of the fall, in an effort to show that there is broad support for "tougher" sanctions against the Soviets.

While some of the amendments are useful in their own right, they reflect a misreading on the part of conservatives of the mindset of the Soviet leadership. While conservatives are calling the KAL downing a confirmation of what they have said all along about the brutality and untrustworthiness of the Soviets, they have failed to understand that the Soviets will be unaffected by anything short of a mobilization of U.S. defense capabilities and industry, centered on development of space-based anti-missile beam weapons.

Other Helms amendments include such dangerous proposals as a cutoff of credit to East bloc nations, a proposal which could bring down the Western financial structure at a time most propitious for Yuri Andropov.

Simpson-Mazzoli up for October vote in House

Representative Claude Pepper (D-Fla.), is leading the effort to get the Simpson-Mazzoli bill through the House into law. The bill, which was passed by the Senate during the last session, is designed to erect near-insurmountable barriers to "illegal aliens" entering the United States. Provisions include issuing identity cards to all U.S. workers—a measure adopted by the Nazi government of Germany. AFL-CIO head Lane Kirkland and many members of the Harriman wing of the Democratic Party support the bill, which many Hispanic organizations have denounced as racist.

Pepper, who is chairman of the House Rules Committee, has been

holding meetings with the chairman of the other House committees, including Agriculture, Judiciary, and Education and Labor, involved with passage of the bill to iron out differences. Pepper has scheduled a Rules Committee hearing for Oct. 18 to decide on a final version and set the rules for the House floor debate. At that point, aides say, if Pepper thinks Simpson-Mazzoli has a chance of passing, he will move rapidly to get a full House vote on the bill—possibly as soon as the fourth week in October.

Passage of the very controversial bill in the House is by no means assured. The Sept. 26 *New York Times* ran a lead editorial blasting House Speaker Tip O'Neill for failing to publicly commit himself to Simpson-Mazzoli, because lack of O'Neill's active support could kill it.

Project Democracy attacked

A bipartisan effort by Sens. Ed Zorinsky (D-Neb.) and Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) to stop funding for the National Endowment for Democracy, better known as Project Democracy, was defeated by a five votes on Sept. 22.

Project Democracy, set up by the Shultz-Kissinger wing of the Reagan administration, would give \$30 million to the AFL-CIO, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Democratic and Republican Parties to "promote democracy" abroad. Zorinsky, the amendment's chief sponsor, attacked Project Democracy as superfluous and wasteful. "We have ambassadors," he stated, "and the USIA, the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe."

Helms warned that most of the money would go to the AFL-CIO, and "there is plenty of evidence that the AFL-CIO has gone around the world

already on taxpayers' money, promoting socialist reorganization of economic systems and leaving disaster in their wake."

Project Democracy was saved by Senate Labor Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who praised the role of the AFL-CIO in promoting democracy and suggested, "Let us fund the AFL-CIO since they are doing a good job, and have the mechanisms in place," and fund the other three entities at a later time. Sources report that Michael Pillsbury of Hatch's staff, a pro-China Card social democrat, is behind Hatch's support for Lane Kirkland. Others who sprang to Project Democracy's defense were Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), Charles Percy (R-Ill.), and Chris Dodd (D-Conn.).

Agriculture legislation stalled in Senate

Efforts by the administration and Republican Senators to force through reductions in 1984 target prices for wheat and feedgrains are still being resisted by farm state Democrats. Minimal concessions to dairy farmers, which would remove a 50 cent per hundred-weight assessment on dairy production, and changes in the tobacco program have been tied to the wheat target price freeze and, as a result, no agriculture legislation has moved in the Senate this year.

On Sept. 23, Bob Dole (R-Kan.) took the Senate floor to call for a "compromise" which would break the current deadlock. Dole is adopting the posture of being "reasonable" by modifying the administration's extreme free market stance. Dole threatens that "if those of us in Congress who represent agriculture are not able to show some responsibility in correcting our programs and restraining

their expense, others who are less understanding will begin to take a more active role." Dole now proposes to bring the dairy and tobacco legislation to the floor and then offer the target price freeze as an amendment, a move which will still, in effect, link them.

John Melcher (D-Mont.), the leader of the opposition attacked the Republican tactics, which have the backing of Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Jesse Helms. "It is absolutely unjust and unreasonable to divide the scant agriculture contingency and supporters in the Senate or in the House by attempting to take from one group of agricultural producers in order to do a minimal amount for another group. . . . There are not enough of us in the Senate and the House that can correctly portray the difficulties that our agriculture producers have. But when you decimate that by trying to play one group against the other, it is an outrageous procedure."

Reality of Brazil-Mexico debt crisis hits Congress

The failure of proponents to push the funding authorization for the International Monetary Fund bill through the Congress in August, has left ample time for the depth of the Brazilian and Mexican debt crises to shake up the situation. While the administration continues to insist that passage of the IMF authorization and appropriation will smooth the way to resolution of the crisis, other actions on the part of the administration and IMF proponents continue to prove the opposite.

An attempt by the U.S. Export-Import Bank to establish a \$2 billion loan guarantee and insurance facility for Mexico and Brazil, while ultimately successful, prompted widespread disclosure and discussion of

Mexico's continuing debt problems. On Sept. 19, Rep. Bill Patman (D-Tex.), a member of the House Banking Committee, introduced H.R. 311, expressing the sense of the Congress that the Exim Bank postpone establishing the facility until Congress could examine it in more detail.

Two days later, Patman entered into the *Congressional Record* a study by the Congressional Research Service, showing the extent of Mexican defaults on prior Exim loans. The establishing of such a new facility under those circumstances, the CRS argued, was an exception to standard Exim operating procedures. On Sept. 29, the House Banking subcommittee on International Trade and Monetary Policy voted unanimously to urge the Exim Bank to delay the facility. Nonetheless, on Sept. 30 Exim went ahead and put it into effect.

A hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, called to force Congress to pass the IMF authorization, left listeners with the clear impression that the IMF was going to bring down the government of Brazil. Latin American scholar Riorden Roett, a favorite of the Rockefeller interests, stated in Sept. 28 testimony that "Brazil is bankrupt." He warned that U.S. relations with Brazil could not be left in the hands of the IMF and the private commercial banks, because the result might cause a shift in Brazil's political posture.

Another witness at the hearing, C. Fred Bergsten of the Institute for International Economics, argued that a recent study of his institute shows that the worst is over for Brazil. One Democratic congressman, upon hearing the results of that study, promptly announced that he was switching his vote to one of opposition to the IMF, since the crisis had obviously been surmounted.