

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Fulbright: 'Soviet power isn't arrogant'

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee convened hearings on U.S.-Soviet relations Nov. 16 featuring J. William Fulbright, Adm. Noel Gaylor, Kissinger sidekick Helmut Sonnenfeldt, and former National Security Adviser Dick Allen, who could do little more than fulminate about the danger of Mexico going communist.

An exchange between Committee chairman Charles Percy and Fulbright set the tone for the hearings as both declared that nuclear war is the most important issue facing the electorate, and that the American population will be even more focused on it after the Nov. 20 ABC-TV program simulating the nuclear bombing of a city, "The Day After."

Fulbright openly sided with the Soviet leadership that shot down KAL 007 stating, "The Soviets are much more serious about negotiations at Geneva than we are. We are more eager to build up than to negotiate. I don't think [chief negotiator Edmund] Rowny is serious at all. He would be surprised and disappointed if the Soviets accepted an offer. The Russians have a great and deep interest in negotiations." Gaylor said that the United States can destroy our nuclear armaments because "they have no sensible military use, they will never be used." He also attacked the Pershing deployment as a response to a non-problem, but, on the other hand, he does not find the Soviet SS-20 buildup excessive.

Fulbright also made the strange comment: "Mr. Chairman and members of this Committee, you might reflect upon the thought that if you had been born in Moscow instead of the United States, today you would prob-

ably be a member of the Central Committee or the Politburo in the Kremlin. . . ."

Sonnenfeldt nearly broke his arm patting himself on the back, announcing that U.S. policy toward the Soviets was well-conceived in the early 1970s, but the U.S. administration did not have the "consensus" necessary to implement it. Sonnenfeldt would like to see a consensus now on Henry Kissinger's program to limit the number of warheads, and an anti-satellite (ASAT) arms control agreement. "ASATs, if unconstrained in their development, would be exceedingly destabilizing."

Congress approves ASAT in 1984 defense bill

In strong national defense actions, Congress approved \$19.4 million for advanced procurement of an anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons system included in the fiscal 1984 defense appropriation.

The House-Senate conferees who met to work out differences on their respective versions of the defense appropriations rejected the House version, which had retained funding for ASAT research and development but had deleted the advanced procurement funds.

Congress, which has watched the Soviet Union test and then deploy its own anti-satellite system, was not prepared to continue U.S. unpreparedness in the hope that the Soviets might negotiate a treaty banning anti-satellite weapons.

Arms controllers, in a move sponsored by Rep. Matthew McHugh (D-N.Y.), succeeded in inserting language into the bill, however, which directed the President to report to

Congress by the end of March 1984 on the steps the administration is taking to achieve a verifiable ASAT treaty with the Soviet Union.

The Senate language, sponsored by Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.), which was dropped, demanded a comprehensive report on the impact ASATs would have on global ballistic missile defense and U.S. strategy, on U.S. allies, on arms control, and what Soviet responses might be.

The U.S. ASAT, which will be launched into orbit by an F-15 fighter plane at high altitude, is expected to be significantly more effective than the Soviet system.

Lavie funds included in continuing resolution

The U.S. Congress included \$550 million in aid for Israel's controversial Lavie jet project in the continuing resolution (CR) appropriation passed on Nov. 12. The appropriation followed the Senate rejection of funds for the formation of a joint Rapid Deployment Force with Jordan.

The Lavie funds were included in the \$11.4 billion foreign assistance part of the CR, which continues funding for programs whose regular appropriation bills did not pass in time for the new fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

Funding for Lavie included \$300 million provided for R&D to be spent in the United States, and \$250 million for production, which can be used in Israel. Rep. Jack Kemp (N.Y.), the ranking Foreign Operations Subcommittee Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, said that the vote "is a reflection of Congress's strong support for a robust Israeli defense industry, and in recognition that the the United States benefits thereby

... and for strategic cooperation with Israel."

Funds that had been appropriated during the Carter administration and were in the pipeline to Syria were de-obligated. A major step-up in military aid to Turkey, which the administration has backed, was put on hold. Congress, for the time being, maintained a balance in aid to Greece and Turkey at the 7 to 10 ratio which has existed since Henry Kissinger's tenure in government.

In Central America, \$64.8 million was allotted for U.S. military assistance to El Salvador. The administration had requested \$85 million. Congress also denied all military and economic aid to Guatemala, citing continued reports of human rights abuses in that country.

Senate coalition to straitjacket Clark

An effort to dictate policy to incoming Interior Secretary William Clark stalled his Senate confirmation until Nov. 18, when the Senate finally confirmed him in a 71 to 18 vote. Forty-one senators introduced Senate Executive Resolution 277 Nov. 15, which attacked former Interior Secretary James Watt's policies for having "generated unprecedented public controversy," and for deviating from the wishes of Congress." The resolution calls on the incoming Interior Secretary to "undertake immediate actions to ensure that the policy and program of the Department of Interior conform with the expressed will of Congress and regain general public support and confidence."

The latter provision is an unconscionable codification of the "rule by news media" which drove Watt from

office in the first place.

Led by Senate Energy Committee ranking Democrat Bennett Johnston (D-La.), who usually avoids obvious displays of partisanship, the resolution is cosponsored by 36 other Democrats and four Republicans. The Republicans were liberals Bob Packwood (Ore.), David Durenberger (Minn.) and Rudy Boschwitz (Minn.) and radical free enterpriser Gordon Humphrey (N.H.), whose anti-government-spending views have lead him into the arms of environmentalists on many occasions.

Because the Republican Senate leadership does not want the politically motivated resolution brought up on the Senate floor, it has refused to schedule floor action on it. As a countermove, when Senate Majority leader Baker attempted to bring the Clark confirmation to the Senate floor, the resolution's sponsors began a filibuster. Finally, the resolution was brought up for a vote, but it was defeated, 48 to 42, with voting following closely along party lines.

Bogus industrial policy report from Democrats

A task force of Senate Democrats chaired by Edward Kennedy released an industrial policy statement on Nov. 16.

Purporting to advocate policies for the reinvigoration of both basic and frontier industries and for boosting U.S. exports, the program is a fraud at best. At worst, it represents a step toward the kind of corporatist austerity policy which is associated with Mussolini's Fascism.

One principal element exposes the program as a hoax: the voting records

of the task force which drafted the program. Out of its 13 Democratic senators, only two voted against the confirmation of Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, whose high interest rates have done more damage to the U.S. industrial base than any other single factor.

In a fit of populism, Kennedy voted against Volcker, as did Sen. Howell Heflin (Alaska), the only task force member not a charter member of the zero-growth clique. Heflin was the only member of the task force to vote against the IMF, which has destroyed U.S. markets in the developing sector and caused a precipitous drop in U.S. exports. Task force member Robert Byrd (W. Va.), the Senate Minority Leader, has protected Volcker consistently.

Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca was featured, along with Kennedy and Byrd, at the press conference which released the report. The 1980 Chrysler rescue package was highlighted as exemplary of the kind of labor-industry-government cooperation advocated by the Democrats.

The report lauds the wage-gouging, asset-stripping Chrysler model: "consensus was found around an equitable sharing of burdens, risks, and opportunities." The Democrats recommend a Council on Economic Competition and Cooperation to develop and propagate such Chrysler-style austerity solutions.

The task force dusted off old Democratic proposals for a National Development Bank, support for high technology research and development and education, and a "tough" international trade posture. Paying lip service to the need to refurbish basic industry with new technologies, the report is basically a brief for the post-industrial, "information" society.