

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Economic Committee wants food trade war

Days after Henry Kissinger warned that the United States would embark on a trade war unless other nations dropped their mercantilist economic policies, several former secretaries of agriculture have demanded such a strategy for American food policy. Before a Sept. 27 hearing of the Joint Economic Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Jepsen (R-Iowa), former USDA heads Clifford Hardin, John Knebel, Earl Butz, and Bob Bergland called for using America's 'comparative economic advantage' in agriculture to force other countries to begin the kind of production cutbacks that the United States has carried out in the past two years.

The real theme of the hearings, titled "Perspectives on the Future of American Agriculture," was the international grain cartel's dictat that there is a food surplus—a lie has been exposed on national television by independent Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Both Jepsen and Butz argued that only the U.S. has taken the necessary steps to reduce production in the face of this "surplus," but that its policy has been counterproductive due to other nations' failure to cooperate.

"How do we unleash the tremendous productive capacity of Middle America's bread basket?" Butz asked. "How do we redirect world grain production to areas of greatest efficiency and lowest unit cost, both at home and abroad?" Jepsen added, "U.S. farmers and their land should be the last to be retired from food production, including those farmers currently under financial stress and facing bankruptcy. . . . Unilateral U.S. supply control programs have had the tragic con-

sequence of substituting less-efficient foreign producers for more-efficient U.S. producers. If indeed, fewer resources should be devoted to food production, I suggest we begin with the French!"

Bergland, one of the grain cartels' top international spokesmen, concurred that "governments establish food policies that sometimes neither recognize nor respect the doctrine of comparative economic advantage."

To restore this "comparative economic advantage" to agriculture, Jepsen, Butz, and Bergland demanded that the U.S. return to more competitive, free market pricing policies for agriculture. Bergland said, "I am no longer a supporter of the volutary target price concept in farm programs, because of the cost to the Treasury."

Butz laid out the policy for the 1985 farm bill: "The key words will be: efficiency; lower unit costs; competitive pricing in export markets . . . and a signal to our competition abroad that the 'honeymoon is over.'"

Moynihan: Allen Dulles ideal for CIA

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), Averell Harriman's representative on Capitol Hill, introduced legislation on Sept. 27 to restrict the appointment of future CIA directors to "career intelligence officers." Moynihan, an ardent critic of the Reagan administration's strategic, military, and foreign policies, charged that political appointments have damaged the "competence" of the agency.

As an example of the kind of "career professional" he hopes will run the CIA, Moynihan cited Allen Dulles, the man who integrated the Nazi intelligence apparatus into post-war West-

ern intelligence capabilities. That Nazi element has created the Nazi-communist operatives in international terrorism today, and is a critical reason why the United States is blinded in its efforts to combat terrorism. Moynihan gushed: Dulles "might appropriately be called the prototype of the modern intelligence professional."

Moynihan protested that his bill, S. 3019, is not an indictment of any particular individual, but he attacked President Reagan's appointment of Max Hugel as Director of Clandestine Operations in 1981. Hugel, who was shortly removed in a Watergate operation, is generally critical of William Casey's current tenure.

That Moynihan has something other than strengthening the CIA at heart was made clear in a speech on the Senate floor delivered shortly after his discussion of S. 3019. Moynihan violently attacked President Reagan for his recent statement that the dismantling of U.S. intelligence capabilities under the Carter administration had been, in part, responsible for terrorist bombings of U.S. facilities in Lebanon. Despite the painful truth widely acknowledged in the intelligence community, that Carter's CIA Director Stansfield Turner carried out a purge of competent intelligence operatives during his tenure, Moynihan charged that "the President was wrong in what he said and wrong to say it."

Senate majority endorses unconstitutional veto

Fifty-one senators, 42 Republicans and 9 Democrats, have endorsed a letter calling for a measure to give the White House a "line-item veto"—the authority to veto individual items in bills passed by Congress without having to

veto the entire context of the bill.

Under the currently accepted interpretation of the Constitution, the President has no such power. Such power would abrogate separation of powers and would put the President in the position of making the kind of detailed decisions mandated to the legislative branch.

Proponents of the legislation, led by chief sponsor Mack Mattingly (R-Ga.) and Joe Biden (D-Del.), are part of the increasingly hysterical budget-cutting faction in Congress who complain that Congress cannot resist the influence of interest groups, and will not cut favored programs—denying that responding to constituencies was a reason for the founding of the American Republic and the writing of the constitution. The measure has a two-year “sunset clause,” or automatic expiration date that will give Congress a chance to evaluate the results before deciding whether to continue the process, according to Mattingly. The measure will be offered as an amendment to a yet-unnamed bill in the Senate before the Oct. 5 recess.

Spector introduces anti-terror legislation

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) introduced S. 3018, the “Protection of United States Government Personnel Act of 1984,” on Sept. 25 to strengthen the fight against terrorism. The bill would give U.S. courts jurisdiction to prosecute, convict, and imprison foreign nationals for any terrorist acts against U.S. government personnel, regardless of where the offense occurred and whether the terrorist was extradited or kidnapped and brought before a U.S. court.

“It may surprise some to hear that abduction or kidnaping is an appropri-

ate way to bring criminals to trial,” Specter said. “But to obtain personal jurisdiction over the culprit himself, the suspect must first be seized or arrested and brought to stand trial. Under current constitutional doctrine, both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals can be seized and brought to trial in the United States without violating due process of law.” Specter said that resort to such tactics may not necessarily be needed, but was important in a case such as Lebanon where law and order cannot be enforced by the government, or in nations “which flagrantly violate international law or harbor international terrorists.”

Subsection (d) of the proposed change in the U.S. code section 2321 would allow the Attorney General to “request and shall receive assistance from any Federal, State, or local agency, including the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency, any statute, rule, or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding.”

“Legislation making terrorism a crime prosecutable in the United States,” Specter said, “backed up by clear national intent to vigorously enforce that law by whatever means may be necessary, will send a signal throughout the world that will not go unnoticed—a signal, Mr. President, which is long overdue.”

House compromises on infanticide

The House of Representatives passed a compromise “Baby Doe” bill Sept. 26 to help ensure medical treatment for handicapped newborns. Under the “Child Abuse Amendments of 1984,” federal funds to state agencies that

provide child protection services will be cut off from states in which hospitals withhold treatment and nutrition from handicapped newborns.

The bill was prompted by the infamous 1982 case of a handicapped infant born in Bloomington, Indiana that died six days after birth, after his parents ordered that the infant not be fed or given surgery to correct a life-threatening condition.

Resolution condemns Nicaraguan drug running

Senator Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.) introduced a S.Res. 449 on Sept. 20, condemning the government of Nicaragua for “engaging in the international trafficking of narcotics.” The resolution follows along lines of the limited, though useful, investigation which Hawkins has conducted in her Senate Labor Committee Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse which has exposed the role of senior Nicaraguan government officials in narcotics trafficking. Hawkins has also been one of the first members of the Congress to investigate the interface between narcotics trafficking and terrorism.

Capitol Hill sources report that an extensive fact-finding mission to Central and Latin America is being planned for the post-election period by a delegation of Congressmen and Senators at the forefront of the narcotics enforcement effort.

Among other motivating clauses, the resolution condemns “a plan to corrupt American youth through drugs . . . conceived of and implemented by senior officials of the government of Nicaragua with the aid of senior officials of the Government of Cuba” whose “profits are used to finance terrorism. . . .”