

Congressional Closeup by Stanley Ezrol

The Schiller Institute invades Congress again

February 27 was the Schiller Institute's international "Day of Resistance" against the new Nazism known as the Green movement. Over 500 Institute activists converged on Capitol Hill from around the world as part of the Institute's campaign to break the 99th Congress from the International Monetary Fund's policies of genocide.

Participation in the day of rallying and lobbying on Capitol Hill was more than triple that of the last day of intensive lobbying sponsored by the Institute on Jan. 29. Beyond the mere increase in numbers, organizers of the rally report a dramatically increased "feistiness" of the activists in meetings with congressmen and their staffs. In no less than four instances, staff of congressional offices called or threatened to call the police when they ran out of arguments or had to reveal their ignorance in front of constituents.

After four hours and approximately 50 scheduled and dozens of unscheduled meetings at congressional offices, the activists involved were in a mood typified by the remark of one young woman from California: "Boy, I didn't use to think I knew much. I read a little. I studied a few things, but I thought I was ignorant. But now, after a day on Capitol Hill, I really know what ignorance is. They don't know a thing. I should be in there running it." A farmer remarked, "My two-year-old son is smarter than that one aide. At least he knows the difference between right and wrong."

Aides take the Fifth

In at least a dozen recorded instances, congressional aides pretended not to know the position of their "boss" on

key issues such as the International Monetary Fund's genocidal austerity policies. Jack Allard, an aide to Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), went so far as to profess ignorance of the First Bank of Boston scandal which has been front-page news in Boston and internationally for weeks.

An aide to Rep. Michael Dewine (R-Ohio) professed not to know Dewine's position on the IMF, although he had voted an \$8 billion bailout for the fund. Kennedy's aide, Allard, also professed not to know "the Senator's position," although the delegation in the meeting knew very well that Kennedy had supported every IMF appropriation he had an opportunity to.

The activists, many of whom were black ministers and church people, farmers, industrial workers, and unemployed industrial workers, were stricken by the callousness of congressmen and their staffs toward the hundreds of thousands whom the IMF is starving to death in Africa and elsewhere. Kennedy's man, Allard, insipidly repeated over and over, "I assure you, the senator shares your concerns for the starving. He just visited Africa," but he avoided saying anything about the IMF. Finally, a minister of Caribbean birth insisted, "But the United States took orders from the IMF in Sudan to cut off aid. Don't you know they're right in the middle of the starvation?" Allard then claimed not to know what the senator's position on the IMF is.

Perhaps the most venal response was from two greenhorn aides to freshman Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), the in-law of the aristocratic Forbes family who campaigned as an "Irish working-class boy." The aides, James Brenner and John Dukakis (from the family of the Massachusetts gover-

nor), at first were highly supportive of the IMF. Brennan admitted, "I know the conditionalities, they insist on cut-backs. We support that." When one of the delegates from Boston said, "We are the senator's constituents and we tell you we are opposed to this killing off of people," Brenner said, "Well, I think most of the people of Massachusetts support the IMF. I know people from all walks of life. I know people from MIT and from Harvard."

He then said that if they could show that a majority of Massachusetts voters opposed the IMF, the senator might reconsider.

Perhaps the stupidest position was that taken by an aide to Rep. Michael Oxley (R-Ohio). He was meeting with a delegation of farmers including the former congressional candidate Don Scott. Whenever members of the delegation pointed out the genocidal international impact of the current wave of U.S. farm bankruptcies, Oxley said, "You just have to pay the debt. If you want interest rates down, you just have to pay the debt." When the farmers impressed on him that there was just no way to stay in business under the current credit regime, he said, "Well, I'm from Champagne County. Now we have about 1,200 farmers there. I think we could probably get by with only 200." At that point, the delegation walked out.

Representative Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) claimed to oppose starvation, but admitted that he was working with arch-genocidalist Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) to increase the IMF's authority over "food relief" efforts.

Representative Tom Foley (D-Wash.) was taught a lesson when he tried to organize a number of black constituents into supporting the KGB's attacks on U.S. defense capabilities.

Foley, who confers almost constantly with Soviet officials in the United States and Russia, is also a supporter of the IMF's genocide. He told a delegation, "If I were President, I'd take the whole defense budget and use it to feed Africa." He was greeted with a chorus of remarks like, "Man, are you smoking dope? What do you think the Russians would do then?"

Signs of progress

Some of the meetings did demonstrate some real, if limited, progress with some congressmen. Edolphus Towns (D-N. Y.) had thrown a delegation out of his office on Jan. 29 when they informed him that they could not take seriously his protestations that he was against starvation, unless he opposed the International Monetary Fund. This time around, he agreed to fight the IMF, but said, "I'm only one congressman, I can't do anything. Why don't you put pressure on the Banking Committee."

Representative Austin Murphy (D-Pa.) told the delegation visiting him something they already knew. "Nothing positive is going to come out of Washington until you change the whole philosophy here."

What's Weld?

One of the points that the lobbyists stressed in many of their meetings was the evidence that has come to light around the scandalous drug-money laundering operations of the First Bank of Boston under the protection of U.S. Attorney William Weld. Although at least two congressional investigations of this case are in preparation, most

congressional offices claimed not to understand the importance of the case. Not only did Kennedy's aide, Allard, pretend not to have even heard of it. Senator Kerry's twerps, Brenner and Dukakis, were apoplectic in their defense of the corrupt U.S. attorney.

Dukakis at first objected to the description of Weld as being associated with his family's firm, White, Weld. "Why do you bring that up?" When it was explained that this was important because it proves conflict of interest and collusion in the money laundering which went on between several different institutions, in all of which the Weld family has interests, he demanded to know whether members of the delegation were familiar with all of the trusts in which Weld's share of the family fund had been placed!

Finally, the twerps shouted together, "Weld is doing a good job. We're Democrats and he's a Republican, but he's doing an exemplary job. We support him. He's absolutely above reproach." When a delegate said, "But this isn't the only case, look at what he's done to LaRouche," these squirts, who apparently didn't even realize who they were talking to, said, "Yes, that's what we mean."

Afraid to talk

Many congressmen apparently feel so guilty about their support for the IMF that they would rather call the police than have to defend their positions. House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.), the glad-hander who has already crowned himself next Speaker of the House, personally demanded the arrest of two delegations, totalling over 30 citizens, for trying to pay a cordial visit to his office.

Senator Sam Nunn's (D-Ga.) staff threatened to arrest the second delegation that came to demand he abandon Henry Kissinger's policy of surrendering Europe to Soviet domination.

Representative John J. LaFalce (D-N. Y.) not only refused to see a delegation of over 30 constituents. His office threatened to take pictures of any who tried to visit him and turn them over to the FBI. When a group of constituents attempted, nevertheless, to visit their congressman, he threw a tantrum, and shouted, "I won't meet with you because you're stupid," to a delegation most of whose members had voted for him. He called the police to escort them from his office.

The picture of Dorian Gray

Perhaps the most visceral impression of what must be cleaned up in Congress was the closeup view that one Boston delegation got of their senator, the reportedly photogenic Ted Kennedy. The senator, whose aides were heard discussing visits to the Center for Creative Non-Violence, an organization of homeless winos who sleep on sidewalks, looked as if he himself had succumbed to the bum's life. His face was swathed with puffy red rashes and scars, as if he had fallen asleep in the sun for several weeks on a drunk. There was a gouge close to a half-inch deep in his nose. One of his constituents remarked, "I was afraid to shake his hand because I thought it might fall off." His aide Allard, who had never heard of the First Boston scandal and had forgotten the senator's support for the IMF, assured one of the delegates who expressed concern for the senator's health, "He's just fine."