

## **Congressional Closeup** by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

### **Kennedy, Heinz target Jordan**

Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and John Heinz (R-Pa.), along with 66 other senators, introduced a resolution on June 4 opposing advanced arms sales to Jordan. Justified as an effort to stop the tilt of military balance against Israel, the resolution puts additional pressure on one of the shrinking number of Mideastern governments not a Soviet client state and not under the sway of Islamic fundamentalists.

Kennedy attacked the Reagan administration for considering sales to Jordan of "F-16 and F-20 fighter planes, Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, mobile I-Hawks, and other state-of-the-art weaponry."

### **Dole supports terrorist Syria**

Senator Robert Dole (R-Kan.) took the point in removing Syria from the official list of countries which support terrorism, with an amendment to the Senate Foreign Aid Bill which passed the Senate by a vote of 75-19 on May 15.

Dole declared, "We have to acknowledge and act on the fact that Syria has a key role to play in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon and in the search for a secure peace with Israel." He added that Syria, a center of Nazi-communist terrorism, "is not Libya or Iran," and warned the Senate that Syria has to be included in "our search for peace in the Middle East."

### **Senate passes defense budget freeze**

The Senate completed action on the Defense Authorization bill for FY86 on June 5, passing a measure which allows for zero growth in the defense budget, by a vote of 92 to 3. The final two days' debate on the bill focused on the Strategic Defense Initiative and the SALT treaty.

The bill allocates \$2.97 billion for the SDI, compared to the \$3.7 billion the Reagan administration had requested. Included in the bill is the provision that any SDI system will have to be specifically approved by Congress before it is deployed, and will have to meet "cost-effectiveness" criteria—being cheaper to deploy than offensive weapons or countermeasures.

Opponents of the SDI also pushed through a measure to create an outside panel of "experts," who will have access to all classified material and will advise the Senate on the effect of the SDI on U.S. "arms control goals and policies and United States compliance with existing arms control treaties."

### **Panel of 'experts' to monitor the SDI**

The SDI program will now be monitored by a group of outside watchdogs, whose composition will be determined by the majority and minority leaders of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The move will create yet another bureaucratic obstacle to progress on the SDI.

Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), husband of the Soviet KGB's Betty Bumpers, had proposed instead, a panel of indefinite tenure that would

be appointed by the chairmen and ranking members of the Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate. Senator John Warner (R-Va.), who chairs the Armed Services subcommittee with responsibility for SDI, voted for this proposal, as did Senator Nunn. It lost, 49 to 38.

### **Amendments to wreck the program**

Four separate attempts were made to cut the SDI funding even further. First, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) sponsored an amendment to cut the program to \$1.4 billion. This was defeated by a vote of 78 to 21. Kerry argued that the SDI violates the ABM Treaty.

Next, Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) put forward an amendment to reduce funding to \$1.9 billion and to remove \$1 billion from the "technology demonstration projects" of the program. The amendment was defeated 57 to 38.

Senator Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) then attempted to limit funding to \$2.5 billion and to put a "hold" on three technology demonstration projects which "are nearest in time to execution": the airborne optical sensor, the hypervelocity launcher, and the kinetic kill vehicle. Gore would have had the administration submit to the Congress reports giving "technical justification" for the programs, and establishing their "consistency" with the ABM treaty. Gore's bid was defeated 59 to 36.

Finally, with the Senate session continuing past midnight, Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) tried to cut the SDI funds to \$2.8 billion, and was defeated 59 to 36.

## **Wallop calls for building systems now**

Attempting a counteroffensive against the SDI, Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), then sponsored an amendment to use one-third of the SDI funds "for building actual defenses against ballistic missiles to be deployed within five to seven years." This proposal was intended to counter the effort—by Henry Kissinger, Senator Nunn, and others—to confine the SDI to "research," never actually deploying the defense systems.

Wallop specified three systems for immediate development: "a surface-to-air missile system not inferior in performance to the Soviet SA-12"; "a space-based chemical laser"; and the "Air Force anti-satellite homing vehicle from orbit against missiles."

Wallop's amendment was defeated 62 to 33.

## **Senate backs extension of SALT II**

On June 5, the Senate overwhelmingly adopted (90-5) an amendment sponsored by Senator Bumpers, favoring continued adherence to the SALT II Treaty, which was never ratified by the Senate and has been continuously violated by the Soviet Union.

Opponents of the treaty got a sop: The United States is entitled to violate SALT II, with "proportionate responses," if the Soviet Union does so. It also allows the United States to proceed with the Midgetman missile, which would otherwise be classed a violation of SALT II.

Senator Wallop ridiculed the amendment as "an exercise in self-deception." Referring to the sections that

urged the United States to raise the issue of any Soviet violations through "diplomatic channels" and the "standing Consultative Commission," Wallop charged: "We are going to do it through confidential diplomatic channels, because if we did it out loud, we might inform the public that our world is a little more dangerous than we in the Senate would like to admit."

Senator Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) attacked suggestions that the Soviets have abided by SALT II as "absolute tommyrot," and pointed out that SALT II did not slow down but speeded up Soviet weapons programs.

## **House takes up defense authorization**

The House Armed Services committee has recommended for consideration by the House the second week of June, a budget that does not account even for inflation over the FY85 budget, and includes \$2.4 billion for the SDI. A House-Senate conference will then be appointed to reconcile differences in funding levels.

In preparation for the House debate, the conservative House Republican Study Committee held a forum on June 5, where SDI supporters, including Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Dr. Edward Teller, explained why the strategic defense program is vital to the national security. Weinberger charged that congressional cuts in the SDI "are following the program of the Soviet negotiators at Geneva, and that "if Congress underfunds it or stops it, the Soviets would have achieved one of their principal goals at Geneva."

SDI Director Lt.-Gen. James Abrahamson and White House Sci-

ence Adviser George Keyworth said that efforts to prove SDI feasibility will be fruitless, if Congress eliminates or restricts the demonstration and testing components of the program. "We will go nowhere unless progress is demonstrated that the technology can be shown," said Keyworth. "The time frame for the SDI depends on the U.S. Congress and a demonstration of national will. The real threat lies not in our technological capabilities, but our will to use them."

Abrahamson attacked the congressional amendments aimed at eliminating SDI testing demonstrations. "We need demonstrations," he said, "so that it's apparent it can be done."

## **House hits Turkey**

After a heated debate, the House passed House Joint Resolution 192 by a vote of 233 to 180 on June 4, setting up a national day of remembrance for the victims of Ottoman Empire genocide against Armenians 70 years ago. The resolution was sponsored by liberal Democrats such as William Ford (D-Mich.).

Supporters tried to claim that this was not an attack against the Turkish government, one of the key nations on NATO's southern flank, which is now especially vulnerable to Soviet pressure tactics following the victory of KGB asset Andreas Papandreu in the June 2 Greek elections.

Opponents of the resolution blasted it as a slap in the face to Turkey. Rep. William Whitehurst (R-Va.) pointed out that diplomats of the Turkish Republic, not agents of the Ottoman Empire, are today being assassinated by Armenian terrorists.