

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Bull-Shi'ite awards go to Pressler, Scheuer

EIR's Capitol Hill correspondents are pleased to announce the Senate and House winners of the first ever B.S. Awards, for acts below and beyond the call of duty during the TWA hostage crisis. One day after President Reagan officially issued a travelers advisory concerning the Athens airport and several days after Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu negotiated with and made concessions to the terrorists, Sen. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.), one of the KGB's resident assets in Congress, announced that the Greek government had taken a bum rap in the hijacking. Pressler said "there is some unfair anger directed against Greece," and proceeded to place the Greek government's rebuttal in the June 19 *Congressional Record*.

Scheuer, on the other hand, took the hijacking as an opportunity to remind his colleagues that the underlying cause for instability in the world was overpopulation. In a June 18 floor statement, Scheuer pointed out that while the TWA events "dominate the television screens . . . sometimes underlying events, inexorable events that are taking place globally, escape our attention . . . I hope we will keep in mind the massive population increase that is taking place around the world and the impact that growth has on global security, on global tension, and on global violence."

African aid proposal: right label, wrong content

Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) introduced legislation on June 18 to provide U.S. assistance in an effort to

stop desertification and deforestation in Africa. Gilman correctly points out that "Sub-Saharan Africa's productive land is undergoing such a change for the worse, that the deleterious impact on the production of locally grown food, if not checked, will render all our good will and other efforts valueless. We shall only have to look forward to more famines that will make each preceding one seem mild in comparison."

Unfortunately, Gilman has succumbed to the arguments of the "appropriate technology" genocidalists at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund when it comes to his solution. His bill, H.R. 2782, says: "There is substantial and growing evidence that the most effective, quickest, and least costly way of maintaining and restoring the resource base is through small-scale, affordable, resource-conserving, low-risk, local projects, using appropriate technologies and methods suited to the local environment and traditional agricultural methods in Africa."

Such primitive methods, as opposed to the "Great Projects" approach advocated by *EIR's* research staff, will ensure the continuation of the holocaust in Africa.

Helms 'Save the Poseidon' amendment is defeated

Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and 16 other senators waged a rearguard battle to prevent the destruction of a Poseidon submarine, as called for by President Reagan when he agreed to abide by the limits set by the unratified SALT II treaty. In motivating his June 19 amendment to the FY1985 Supplemental Appropriations bill, Helms ar-

gued, "This Senate has recently voted to spend several billion dollars to deploy the MX-ICBM in an unsurvivable mode. It seems to me that it would be the height of irresponsibility for this Senate to turn right around and vote to scrap our highly survivable Poseidon submarines in order to comply with an unratified SALT II Treaty which the Soviets are confirmed to be violating in at least 11 ways."

Helms charged that any vote against his amendment would be con-

viets in the face of their very clear SALT violations . . . and a vote of acquiescence in the face of Soviet military supremacy."

Those 16 other senators who agreed with Helms were Democrats Ernest Hollings (S.C.) and Ed Zorinsky (Neb.), and Republicans Jake Garn and Orrin Hatch (Utah), Phil Gramm (Tex.), Paula Hawkins (Fla.), Chic Hecht (Nev.), Gordon Humphrey (N.H.), Bob Kasten (Wis.), Mack Mattingly (Ga.), Jim McClure and Steve Symms (Idaho), Frank Murkowski (Ark.), Strom Thurmond (S.C.), Malcolm Wallop (Wyo.), and Pete Wilson (Calif.).

House slashes the SDI budget

In floor action on June 20, the House of Representatives agreed to chop over \$1 billion from the President's requested FY1986 budget for the Strategic Defense Initiative. In a series of six votes, the House rejected each attempt to increase or decrease the funding level of \$2.5 billion, set by the House Armed Services Committee and its chairman, Les Aspin (D-Wis.). President Reagan had requested \$3.7

billion for the SDI program and the Senate had cut that request down to \$3 billion during its own debate on the defense bill several weeks ago. The final authorization for strategic defenses will fall somewhere in between the Senate figure and the House figure.

Indicative of the state of mind of the House were the votes on amendments put forward by Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.) and Jim Courter (R-N.J.). The Dellums amendment, which might as well have been drafted in the basement of the Soviet embassy, would have cut the SDI program to \$955 million—half a billion below its current level. One hundred and two congressmen choose to identify themselves as KGB assets by voting for that amendment, with 320 voting against. The amendment by Courter, who has taken up the role as one of the SDI's leading House supporters, would have restored funding to the administration level of \$3.7 billion. It was rejected by an almost identical margin of 104 to 315. In short, there are as many KGB assets in the House as there are patriots ready to fight for defense. In between are about 225 who need an object lesson in strategic reality.

Other amendments, which would have banned specific SDI experiments that might "bump up against" the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and which cut different amounts of funding, were also defeated.

That the committee proposal remained intact and was neither cut nor restructured to "protect" the ABM treaty, was in part a result of Courter's ability to expose a ploy by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Les Aspin (D-Wis.) to undercut his own committee's SDI proposal. Earlier in the week, Courter released a memo written to Aspin by one of his

staff members, outlining a strategy to cut the SDI below the already-agreed upon Committee level and to back a "save the ABM treaty" amendment. Aspin, who tries to carry himself off as pro-SDI, was exposed as a double-crosser by the memo and was probably less able to undercut his own Committee's bill on the House floor.

Number of MX missiles cut by House

Following the U.S. Senate's disastrous decision to cut the number of MX missiles requested by the President from 100 to 50, the House of Representatives struck another 10 missiles from the defense budget on June 18, thus limiting deployment to only 40 missiles. That 40 missile limit was affirmed with a 233-184 vote on a "sense of the House" resolution put forward by Rep. Nicholas Mavroules, a Massachusetts Democratic crony of House Speaker Tip O'Neill.

Now a House-Senate conference committee must resolve the difference between 40 and 50 missiles, with President Reagan insisting that he will accept nothing below the 50-limit ceiling. The Soviet Union has over 700 equivalent missiles already deployed.

Almost identical votes came on other amendments regarding the MX, indicating that the mind of the House was quite set on the 40 missile ceiling before debate ever started on the floor. An amendment by Rep. Charles Bennett (D-Fla.), to kill the MX outright, was rejected by a vote of 230 to 185. Another amendment to conform with the Senate's 50-missile limit, put forward by Rep. Jim Courter (R-N.J.), also lost, 234 to 182.

Senators put hold on Burt nomination

The nomination of Assistant Secretary of State Richard Burt, to be ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, has been placed on hold by nine conservative senators. Led by Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), the senatorial hold also prevents further action on Rozanne Ridgeway to be assistant secretary of state for European affairs (replacing Burt), Thomas Pickering to be ambassador to Israel, and Henry Kissinger-fellow-traveler (and former Mondale campaign adviser!) Winston Lord to be ambassador to China. Helms has been opposed to Secretary of State George Shultz's ideological purge of conservatives from State Department and Foreign Service posts and his appointment of Kissingerians and KGB assets such as Burt to sensitive positions.

Burt, who was charged by the Senate Intelligence Committee in 1982 with having done "significant damage to U.S. national security" by his leaks as a *New York Times* reporter, is also opposed by the Schiller Institute and the National Democratic Policy Committee. Also, Helms recently charged that Burt had conspired with the Soviet Union to coverup the Major Nicholson murder.

A "hold" means that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will delay a confirmation vote on an administration appointment as a courtesy to the senator requesting the hold. Joining with Helms are Republican Senators Jim McClure and Steve Symms of Idaho, Strom Thurmond (S.C.), Paula Hawkins (Fla.), Chic Hecht (Nev.), Orrin Hatch (Utah), Phil Gramm (Tex.), and Mitch Connell (Ky.).