

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Kennedy, Mathias push nuclear testing ban

Within days of the latest Soviet propaganda offer to halt nuclear weapons testing for six months, Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Charles Mathias (R-Md.) continued their efforts to give Soviet offers credibility by introducing Senate Joint Resolution 179, calling on President Reagan to "re-sume negotiations with the Soviet Union for a verifiable comprehensive test ban treaty" on all nuclear tests.

While the Senate last year passed a similar resolution by 77 to 22, this time, S. J. Res. 179 was referred back to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) has promised hearings on the resolution, which are expected to come in late October of this year.

Kennedy claimed that the resolution backers were not making a "judgment about what Secretary Gorbachov's motivation is in making his proposal," but other supporters, such as Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) made their judgment of Gorbachov's credibility explicit. Proxmire claimed: "Mr. President, we are on the spot." Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N. Y.) also spoke out for the resolution. Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) indicated his total obliviousness to the Soviet leadership state-of-mind, urging members to give the new Soviet leadership an opportunity to respond to serious negotiating offers.

The resolution was opposed by the administration. Lugar put forward an amendment stating some simple points, and in the ensuing wrangle, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) suggested that further hearings be held, returning it to committee. Lugar proposed, first, that a testing ban had to be "related to

the ability of the United States to maintain credible deterrent forces." Second, that the ban had to be "verifiable" and made in the context of "deep and verifiable arms reductions." And third, that the United States "has concluded . . . that the Soviet Union has repeatedly violated the Limited Test Ban Treaty and likely violated the Threshold Test Ban Treaty." It was pointed out also that the President has invited the Soviet Union to observe and measure a nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site without reciprocity.

Kennedy was joined by a cacophony of liberal House members who blamed Reagan for arms-control failures, including Reps. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.), Tom Downey (D-N.Y.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), and Dante Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Rep. William Broomfield (R-Mich.), ranking Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, called the Soviet moratorium proposal "dishonesty," and said it "smells like left over borscht." "Coming just a week after the Soviets set off three nuclear explosions, it makes you wonder if there really is anything new in Moscow other than the smiling face of Gorbachov."

O'Neill delays defense vote

House Speaker Tip O'Neill has put off a vote on the defense authorization conference bill until after the August recess, under pressure from liberal House Democrats eager to slash an already disastrous zero-growth-plus-inflation defense budget passed by the conferees. On July 31, O'Neill indi-

cated that the House might be willing to accept the defense bill as part of a compromise with the Senate on a broader budget package, but indicated that House Democrats still had plenty of time to strike more money from defense in the appropriations process.

The defense authorization bill continues to ignore military and strategic reality. Earlier in the week, House-Senate conferees, generally more sympathetic on defense than the Congress as a whole, resolved disputes between the House and Senate in a more pro-defense direction. But, given the constraints of congressional action already taken, the budget passed is virtually one step short of the unilateral disarmament advocated by both House Democrats and some Senate Republicans.

Unless President Reagan decides to invoke a declaration of national defense emergency, he is unlikely to get anything substantial from Congress, even if he returns to ask for supplemental defense funds.

The specific decisions by the conferees included \$2.75 billion for the Strategic Defense Initiative, with management of the program left with the Pentagon. Specific language in the bill requires studies to ensure that this research program does not spill over into "development" of a piece of hardware.

Rep. Bill Chappell (D-Fla.) attacked this funding. "I think there'll be serious damage to the program at the \$2.75 billion level," he warned, leading to SDI management prejudging some technologies, and to serious delays in the program.

Three tests for the anti-satellite system (ASAT) will be allowed next year, instead of the testing moratorium passed by the House. However,

the Air Force has an indefinite postponement on further tests, and there are reports they are reconsidering the viability of the system.

Sen. Sam Nunn's (D-Ga.) proposed level of 50 MX missiles was agreed to, rather than the House-passed level of 40. This compared with the Jimmy Carter level of 200, and came despite the fact that the much touted alternative, the Midgetman missile, is not big enough to deliver its warheads.

The chemical weapons program was agreed to without the politically sensitive condition that NATO countries must accept deployment. However, O'Neill and Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wisc.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, have agreed to a separate up or down vote on this issue. If it fails, which seems likely, the conference will be reopened.

Among 22 research and procurement programs restored in conference were the advanced medium-range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM), the P3C Orion antisubmarine warfare patrol plane, the E6A communications aircraft, and the JSTARS airborne, tank-hunting radar.

Winston Lord's nomination on hold

Winston Lord's nomination as U.S. ambassador to the People's Republic of China was delayed in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 30, when Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) put a hold on the nomination. The Committee had been scheduled to vote and send it to the Senate floor, but now will not act until after the August recess.

Lord is currently head of the New York Council on Foreign Relations,

and is a protégé of Henry Kissinger. Lord was nominated for the post, by the State Department, despite the fact that he was a foreign policy adviser to Walter Mondale's presidential campaign.

The placement of such personnel in sensitive foreign policy posts by Secretary of State George Shultz has prompted several former U.S. ambassadors and a range of new-right and conservative groups to call for Shultz's resignation. However, led by the Heritage Foundation, most of these same groups are ecstatic over the passage this week of the first foreign aid bill, S. 960, since 1981 (see *EIR*, July 25, 1985). Passed by 262 to 161 in the House on July 31, liberals agreed to support a range of liberation movements including the Contras in Nicaragua, the Afghan resistance, the Cambodian resistance, and supported the repeal of the Clark amendment which had banned aid to the Angolan resistance groups. The coherence of the foreign aid bill with "New Yalta," however, was completely overlooked.

The bill, which also includes \$1.5 billion in aid to Israel, and \$500 million for Egypt, has been sent to the President for his signature.

One more attempt at immigration changes

Proponents of changes in the immigration laws of the United States are going to try once again, despite their failure to pass a piece of legislation over the last four years. Heralded with great optimism in much of the press coverage to date, the only major new factor is that House Judiciary Chairman Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.) has

put his prestige on the line by putting himself forward as the major sponsor of the legislation.

In the last Congress, proponents got different bills passed by the Senate and the House, but failed to work out the major points of controversy in House-Senate conference.

As in previous attempts, the Senate once again passed its legislation early in the session. On July 30, the full Senate Judiciary Committee passed Sen. Alan Simpson's (R-Wyo.) bill 12 to 5, after Sen. Howard Metzenbaum's (D-Ohio) amendment to create criminal as well as civil penalties against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens more than once, was accepted. Last year, Simpson included the penalties on his bill, so the legislation is much the same.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration will begin hearings when the Congress returns from the August recess.

Among the major points of controversy are differences in what financial, medical, and other benefits newly legalized aliens should be entitled to. The Senate has consistently put forward a lower dollar amount. Another controversy between the houses is whether and what type of mechanism should be set up to investigate and prosecute employers who discriminate against hiring legal aliens. The Senate has no mechanism. Employers generally are caught between civil and criminal penalties for knowingly hiring illegal aliens, and penalties for discriminating against legal job-seekers.

The entire impetus behind the so called immigration reform has been to close U.S. borders to the flow of immigrants from Mexico and Latin America.