

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

New Senate attacks on Ibero-America

Senator Paula Hawkins (D-Fla.) renewed her call to use the "stick" against drug-producing countries during Sept. 11 hearings on "International Narcotics," before the Foreign Relations Committee. Hawkins, who is outspoken in her refusal to distinguish between the continent's drug mafias and its nation-states and peoples, was backed up by Joe Biden (D-Del.), Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.), and a host of others.

She has succeeded in forcing legislation through the Congress which cuts off aid to countries which are not waging a war against drugs serious enough to meet congressional approval. Recently, Lyndon LaRouche wondered aloud why she did not therefore cut off aid to such states as California and Florida.

Most members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, including the strange Mrs. Hawkins, have remained totally silent on the historic shooting war against drugs which has been inaugurated by the new Peruvian President, Alan García. No one has taken note of García's effort to jail the bankers and the politicians, affiliated with the IMF, who turned Peru into a cocaine economy.

Indeed, most of those members of Congress now involved in bashing Ibero-America have remained staunch supporters of the IMF. Peru is one of those countries targeted for an aid cut-off in the future.

Motivating tougher sanctions against Ibero-America, Hawkins pointed to the "success" of the U.S. policy of "retaliation" for the kidnapping of the DEA agent Camarena. "The U.S. virtually closed down the border with Mexico, searching every car that

passed. The Mexicans screamed, but shortly thereafter, there was a major break in the case." Hawkins does not acknowledge the estimate, circulating in informed circles, that the order to kill Camarena may have come from the United States itself.

But Hawkins' charges on, declaring, "What this all proved is something I have been saying for years; trade and aid. That is the key to stopping the flow of illegal drugs. Try the carrot. And if the carrot does not work, try the stick."

Efforts to stop ASAT test failed

Efforts by the Soviet Union's congressional lobby to stop the United States' first anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons test, which was completed successfully on Sept. 13, were defeated on the Senate floor and in a Washington, D.C. district court, allowing the test to proceed. Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.), Joe Moakley (D-Mass.), John Seiberling (D-Ohio) and Matthew McHugh (D-N.Y.) and the Union of Concerned Scientists filed suit in district court, on Sept. 10, in an effort to block the test on the grounds that the President had not complied with congressional certification procedures.

Simultaneous with the filing of the suit, Brown testified before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee to argue that the President has lied to Congress, and that the Soviet Union is far behind the United States in ASAT technology, despite the fact that they have carried out numerous tests and have a workable system. Various KGB assets, such as Carol Rosin and Robert Bowman, were in attendance at the hearing to give aid and comfort to

Brown. Rosin was exposed on national television last year by presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, *EIR*'s founder, for having drafted anti-ASAT legislation in collaboration with Soviet embassy personnel in Washington, D.C., and then passing it on to Moakley for introduction.

On September 12, a district court judge threw the Brown-UCS case out of court. At that point, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) brought up an amendment on the Senate floor, President to delay the ASAT test until after the Reagan-Gorbachov summit. That amendment was defeated by a vote of 62 to 34. The next day, the test went forward.

'Decoupling' hearings begin in Senate

Senator Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) began an extensive series of hearing, on Sept. 12, entitled, "Is NATO the Still the Centerpiece of Our Strategy, and Should It Be?" Lead witness at the hearings was former Carter National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, who announced that the Soviet Union's major strategic goal was the "decoupling" of Europe from the United States.

Brzezinski himself then called for the decoupling of Europe from the United States, arguing that the United States should foster a "strong, self-reliant Europe, which can stand on its own feet and can be somewhat distant from the U.S."

This means a "gradual change in the nature and level of the U.S. conventional commitment" to Europe. Brzezinski would like to see, in particular, a "reactivation of the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction talks in Vienna which have been stalled for 12

years. Brzezinski called for "greater flexibility on the U.S. side, in terms of taking a first step toward U.S. troop withdrawals."

The MBFR talks were the subject of a hearing earlier in the week, as a special arms-control panel of the House Armed Services Committee heard from newly appointed MBFR Ambassador Robert Blackwill. Blackwill, a former Carter administration official, is one of the closest allies of arch-decoupler and American Ambassador to West Germany, Richard Burt.

House backs down on defense cuts

The efforts of a group of liberals in the House of Representatives to reopen debate on the Defense Authorization bill were set back when the Pentagon promised to tear up the entire compromise. Pentagon spokesman Fred Hoffman warned: "If the House sends the defense budget bill back to conference, the 'compromise' is over, and we will push for full funding for all vital programs . . . restoring funds to the MX and the SDI."

The liberals had threatened to vote down the conference report on the FY 1986 Defense Authorization bill, because House negotiators had accepted the Senate funding ceiling of \$305 billion, instead of the House ceiling of \$295 billion. House Armed Services Committee chairman Les Aspin (D-Wisc.) had extracted a promise from Caspar Weinberger to accept a 50-missile limit on the MX in exchange for the \$305 billion figure, a trade-off which was unacceptable to the liberals.

But after the Pentagon threatened

to call off all bets on the defense budget, House liberals backed down. Now they have been promised an opportunity, by Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) and Aspin, to emasculate the defense budget during the upcoming appropriations process, which allocates the actual funds for defense programs.

Sixty congressmen says "go slow" on SDI

Over 60 senators and congressmen have joined a new "Coalition for the Strategic Defense Initiative," ostensibly formed to "ensure strong public support" for President Reagan's SDI, launched on Sept. 13. The Coalition is chaired by High Frontiersman Gen. Daniel Graham and is co-chaired by Sens. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) and Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) and Rep. Bill Chappell (D-Fla.).

The curious General Graham's presence as chairman of the Coalition leaves its ultimate usefulness in some doubt, given his previous efforts to push an outmoded, Rube Goldberg missile defense system. And, sure enough, at the opening press conference of the coalition, Graham endorsed, with some "technical" reservations, Henry Kissinger's recently unveiled scheme for a negotiated, "limited" deployment of the SDI.

The coalition intends to "counter the anti-defense and anti-SDI lobbies fighting to kill SDI on Capitol Hill." At the opening press conference, Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) pointed out that the coalition's biggest job is countering disinformation on Capitol Hill, since "the public is already with us, all the polls show overwhelming support for the SDI." Democrat Hollings

argued forcefully that the SDI would both save money and enhance arms control, by reducing the need for offensive weapons. Both Kemp and Hollings pointed out that the Soviets are ahead of the United States in work on particle beam and x-ray lasers.

Senate Democrats set up Watergate apparatus

Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats, who have been in the middle of several attempts to "Watergate" the Reagan administration, announced plans on Sept. 10 to broaden their future investigations of Reagan administration nominees, for the more than 100 vacancies in the Federal judiciary.

Ranking committee Democrat Joe Biden (Del.) has named Paul Simon (Ill.) to head a special panel to carry out the investigations of new nominees. Simon, who is playing a major role in establishing a "green" or "populist" faction in the Democratic Party, said "There is a feeling that we have to be a little bit more careful." The Democrats took heart from the ability to block the nomination of William Bradford Reynolds to be associate attorney-general.

Two days later, the entire panel, at the urging of Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), will examine the Justice Department's prosecutorial decisions in recent criminal cases. Metzenbaum charged that the administration is "soft" on prosecuting white-collar crime: "If you wear a white collar, you don't get prosecuted." Singled out for attention were Justice Department handling of the E. F. Hutton check-kiting case, and Teamster leader Jackie Presser's case.