

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Establishment senators prepare desertion of Europe

The Senate Foreign Relations Europe subcommittee chaired by Sen. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) continued on Sept. 19 its hearings on developments in NATO, setting the stage for decoupling Europe from the United States. In an incredible exercise where black is white and white is black, these agents of Soviet propaganda tried to set themselves up as the defenders of NATO, and the "American right-wing" as those responsible for the decoupling.

Senator Charles Mathias (R-Md.), in explaining how the European left sets up the pretext for some to say Europe is not appreciative of U.S. help, went so far as to proclaim that it may be one of the "ironies, that the American right is the handmaiden of the Soviet Union" in splitting NATO. The leftist demonstrations "incite the biggest opposition to American support for NATO" from the right-wing, Mathias said.

One witness, Dr. Earl Ravenal, a rabid decoupler from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, proclaimed that the United States and Europe are "decoupled already." He pointed to the doubt expressed by Charles de Gaulle and others that the United States would ever deploy nuclear weapons in the defense of Europe. There is a U.S. commitment to use nuclear weapons, Ravenal said. But this breaks down once you get into the "precise circumstances" of a crisis where you have to decide what to do next.

Ravenal said that among the "first-order questions," whether to defend Europe, 97% of Americans will say they "love Europe" and will defend it.

But, said Ravenal, among the second-order questions, whether we "want to continue such large deficits or raise taxes to support NATO, then we get more doubts."

Paraphrasing Henry Kissinger, Mathias opined that there is no law that says every problem has a solution, in terms of how these problems could be addressed.

Prompted by Pressler, Dr. John Rielly, president of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, proclaimed that there was not a crisis of will in NATO, because, among other reasons, they face "no internal-Communist threat."

Senator Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) trumpeted what he called the fact that there is tremendous support for decoupling within the American population. He gratuitously noted that he had voted against proposal to reduce U.S. troops in Europe by one-third, and claimed that Nunn did not want his amendment to really pass. "If Senator Nunn had pursued his amendment more diligently, or had worded it differently so that it was a 5% reduction every year, I'm absolutely convinced that it would have passed," Dodd said.

A second afternoon hearing explored what Pressler labeled the "Crisis of Will in the Warsaw Pact." Witnesses including Dr. David Holloway from Stanford University, Dr. Lawrence Caldwell from RAND Corp., Dr. Karen Dawisha from the University of Maryland, Dr. Jiri Valenta from the University of Miami, and Dr. Dale Herspring from the House Armed Services Committee. They discussed the problems the Soviets have in relying on the East bloc military, their interoperability of weapons, command and

control problems, and so forth. The senators apparently took these to be major Soviet problems. Or at least, they wanted to promote the idea.

House Armed Services discrediting nuclear freeze

The House Armed Services Committee in mid-September continued hearings on the impact of nuclear testing bans, the nuclear freeze, verification, and other arms-control proposals. The hearings are being conducted by a special Arms Control and Disarmament Panel of the Procurement and Military Nuclear Systems Subcommittee, set up on March 26, 1985 and chaired by Rep. Beverly Byron (D-Md.).

The hearings to date have been setting the public record straight on the actual impact of various arms control and nuclear-freeze proposals. The testimony, coming from some of the most knowledgeable experts available, continues to point up the utter absurdity and incompetence of the nuclear freeze lobby.

On Sept. 18, the panel asked witnesses to specifically address H.J. Res. 3, which calls on the President to submit the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) to the Senate for ratification, and H.R. 3100, the latest freeze proposal, which would force a halt to all strategic or tactical nuclear modernization, halt all weapons R&D testing, prevent the assembly of any B-1s, Tomahawks, and all nuclear weapons, and close MX and other assembly facilities for at least seven months after enactment of the bill. Sponsored by Reps. Berkley Bedell (D-Iowa), Jim Leach (R-Iowa), and Ed Markey (D-

Mass.), and others, H.R. 3100 is referred to as "Freeze III." "The important question," Rep. Byron said in opening the hearing, "is whether these agreements make a contribution to our national security or whether they have tended to weaken our overall defense posture."

A leading witness, Richard Perle, assistant secretary of defense for international security policy, pointed out the degree of Soviet treaty violations, and the lack of effort by the freeze sponsors to get Soviet treaty compliance. "Arms control without Soviet compliance is unilateral disarmament no matter how often its proponents use the words 'mutual and verifiable' in their speeches and resolutions," Perle said. He said the Markey H.R. 3100 was "perhaps the silliest piece of legislation I have seen in almost 20 years of observing the Congress."

Other witnesses outlined the lack of reliability of verification measures, such as seismic monitoring, without on-site test inspection, which is why the administration believes the Soviets are violating the TTBT limit of 150 kilotons, but is not able to conclusively prove it. Richard Wagner, Jr., assistant secretary of defense for atomic energy, noted that the Soviets did not come to Nevada to monitor a U.S. nuclear test as President Reagan had offered. Wagner pointed out that to maintain the safety of our nuclear warheads as far as our own personnel and population is concerned, to be sure of its effectiveness and reliability, to develop weapons designs that minimize collateral damage, and to enhance the survivability of our nuclear forces, testing is absolutely essential. "A total test ban would not serve our national security interests," Wagner said.

Representative Byron pointed out the damage from the 1958 to 1961 moratorium on nuclear testing. "We lost a lot of talent," she said.

Congress fails test for AIDS

As the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) disease spreads to epidemic proportions, the U.S. Congress has failed miserably to ensure that standard, textbook public-health measures, such as identification of the carriers of AIDS and their quarantine, are implemented. This is largely because those congressmen who have taken the lead on addressing the AIDS problem, so far at least, are the leading spokesmen for the drugs and death lobby, or for those "homosexual rights" groups who are screaming for a cure to be found, but who insist that the AIDS virus has civil rights.

As several experts have pointed out, no epidemic has ever been stopped with a cure itself, but by rigorous enforcement of sound public health measures.

Chief among such congressmen, for example, is Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), chairman of the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee. On "This Week with David Brinkley" Sept. 15, Waxman called for a federally funded R&D AIDS program on a "crash basis." Yet on the same program, he agreed with the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control that public health measures to identify and isolate the carriers were not necessary.

Waxman's subcommittee has dealt with issues such as the research and

treatment of AIDS. Hearings on the cost of caring for AIDS victims and who is paying such costs were scheduled for Sept. 21, but have been postponed to a later date. But enforcement of public health measures has not been dealt with.

Even more blatant in his opposition to standard public health measures is Rep. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), who lists "discrimination" against AIDS victims among his top concerns. Weiss, who chairs the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee, held hearings in New York City in mid-September that included the issue of discrimination against AIDS patients. Weiss is openly hostile to medical assessments that the disease should be quarantined. His hearings also dealt with health care costs of victims, "public education," which means calming people's fears as to how they might be at risk, coordination of government efforts to deal with the disease, and social services aspects of AIDS victims. But, again, nothing on screening tests, isolation of victims, or other public health measures.

On Sept. 16, Lyndon LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee brought proposed legislation before the Congress that, outside of research, addressed three other areas which the Congress has not so far addressed: Screening and identification of victims, their isolation, and the broader economic breakdown and austerity policies which are creating greater conditions for the spread of epidemic and pandemic diseases. The memorial legislation is designed to educate the Congress to the fact that viruses do not have civil rights.