

National News

Congressman has great defense idea

Rep. Les Aucoin (D-Ore.)

"Zbigniew Brzezinski Award" as strategic thinker of the week. Writing in the March 1 *Washington Post*, Aucoin proposed a substitute for the Strategic Defense Initiative.

"An alternative course is a verifiable treaty banning ballistic missile flight tests. This would stop Soviet missiles from becoming more accurate, and accuracy is the key to a first strike. In addition, a zero-test would eventually cause Soviet missiles to become unreliable."

The penny-conscious congressman observes: "Both Star Wars and a zero-flight-test would lower confidence in a Soviet first strike. The key differences are that a zero-flight-test costs nothing, can be deployed immediately, requires no maintenance, and gets better with age."

Hart won't take money from North

Democratic presidential hopeful Gary Hart said March 1 that Lt. Col. Oliver North used political action committees to divert money to the Contras. "What North has done was to use the political action committee system to do what they did in Watergate—launder money," Hart told reporters.

"I think the system is out of control. It was out of control before Oliver North. Ollie North is just the final thing that brings it out in the open."

Hart has announced he will accept no money from political action committees. "The other candidates are going to have to explain why they do."

Aspin to hear SDI deployment testimony

Rep. Les Aspin (D)

of the House Armed Services Committee,

has called for testimony from several industry officials involved in development of space-based and land-based kinetic kill vehicles for the President's Strategic Defense Initiative, writes Gregory Fossedal in the March 2 *Washington Times*. The focus of the testimony will be deployment potential and schedules.

"Few observers think, and his aides strenuously deny, that Mr. Aspin is interested in giving explicit support to SDI deployment," says Fossedal. Aspin's scheduling of such industry spokesmen as witnesses, however, "is an indication that the influential Democrat takes seriously the growing sentiment for deployment both inside the Reagan administration and, more importantly, among SDI backers on Capitol Hill."

Said a former staffer to the Senate Armed Services Committee, "Les Aspin is preparing for the day, just in case it should come, that Ronald Reagan stands up and offers a deployment plan."

Cutler calls for ABM Treaty law

Attorney Lloyd Cutler, a member of the Trilateral Commission and chief counsel to Jimmy Carter's White House, stated, "A law requiring the executive branch not to take actions violating a certain interpretation of the [1972 ABM] treaty would be constitutional," according to the Feb. 27 *Washington Times*.

"It would be preferable," Cutler elaborated, "for the law to be drafted so as to bar the specified actions whether or not they violate the terms of the ABM Treaty." He said such wording would avoid possible infringement of the President's power to interpret a treaty.

"While a new law restricting the President's right of withdrawal from the ABM Treaty . . . would be constitutional, the President's lawyers would have quite plausible arguments to the contrary," he said, adding that a better legal course would be to use Congress's power of the purse to bar spending funds for testing or deployment of anti-missile systems other than those that are land-based and non-mobile—and sitting

ducks for Soviet SLBMs eight minutes off the U.S. coast.

Northwest rejects regional primary

A four-state regional primary for the Pacific Northwest looks unlikely, according to the *Seattle Times* Feb. 24. Proponents of a regional primary want Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana to hold primaries on the same day, the fourth Tuesday in March, March 22. But the measure has yet to clear any of the four state legislatures.

Laws introduced in the four states would make the same-day primaries' results binding in terms of giving candidates their proportionate share of delegates to the national convention.

Washington's house of representatives passed a primary bill two years ago, but it is now bottled up in a senate committee. The state presently uses a complicated caucus and convention system. Idaho now has a non-binding March 22 primary and is unlikely to change it. A Montana bill would change the primary from June to March 22, but the bill is still in committee, and must be approved by three fifths of the legislators to survive this session. An Oregon bill would change the date only if two other states did.

Dale Bumpers hails 'death of Bolshevism'

Prospective Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Dale Bumpers called on the Reagan administration March 2 to move rapidly to negotiate an arms control deal with the Soviets as a way to keep alive Mikhail Gorbachov's *glasnost* ("openness") policy. Under that policy, the Soviet leader has freed a few alleged dissidents and purged the party and government apparatus as necessary for the Soviet war buildup.

But not according to Bumpers. In his view, *glasnost* signals the death of Bolshevism itself.

"For 70 years this nation has waited for the old Bolsheviks to die off and a new lead-

er to emerge," Bumpers said in an address at Columbia University in New York. "Now that one has. . . ."

"His ability to continue reforms that we believe fundamental to a new and realistic arrangement between us depends in no small way on our responses."

Bumpers insisted that President Reagan holds the fate of Gorbachov in his hands, stating that if the President insisted on negotiating only on his terms, "Gorbachov may survive, but only after the initiatives he's now taking have been halted and reversed."

Bumpers also demanded a phase-out of all nuclear tests and a limit on SDI testing to the Soviet interpretation of the ABM treaty.

To save Gorbachov, it would seem necessary to surrender.

Bill would merge intelligence committees

A bill to merge the intelligence committees of both houses of Congress into a single joint committee was introduced by Rep. Charles Bennett (D) of Florida in the first week of March.

Said Bennett, "This would surely bring about a better chance that the President would share . . . intelligence knowledge on such matters as Iran and Grenada. If this committee had been in place in regard to the Iran situation, the advice of the committee would undoubtedly have been: 'Don't do it.'"

The merger was proposed by the Tower Commission in its recent report on the Iran-Contra affair. In the commission's opinion, the large number of congressmen and staff on the existing committees gives Presidents "cause for concern and a convenient excuse" not to consult fully with Congress on secret operations.

Admiral Crowe caught in the middle?

Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "has been caught in the middle of a tiff between Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger and Secre-

tary of State George P. Shultz," said the March 2 New York Times.

Weinberger and Shultz differ on the interpretation of a provision of the military reorganization act that makes the Joint Chiefs' chairman the principal military adviser to the President, the secretary of defense, and the National Security Council.

Weinberger contends that Admiral Crowe works for him and ought not be giving military advice to the National Security Council except through him, while Shultz contends that, as a member of the NSC, he has a right to hear Crowe's advice.

Shultz, according to the *Times*, has exercised his claimed prerogative by inviting the admiral to brief him directly. The admiral has accepted the invitations, while informing Weinberger prior to and filling him in immediately after the conversations. Crowe meets daily with Weinberger.

Judge out to bankrupt LaRouche associates

Judge A. David Mazzone of Boston, said to be the personal property of the former U.S. Attorney there, William Weld, has imposed \$21 million in fines on four organizations operated by associates of Lyndon LaRouche. The fines were originally sought in September 1986 by federal prosecutor John Markham, then Weld's assistant in Boston. Weld is now the Justice Department's Criminal Division head.

While in Boston, he directed a grand jury probe against LaRouche's friends that turned up no illegalities. Weld charged four people with crimes anyway—or rather, with his failure to find a crime: "obstruction of justice."

Now, Judge Mazzone has imposed the gargantuan fines because the four organizations failed to comply with a Weld-Markham subpoena to produce documentary material on their financial operations. Just one hitch; they did. John Markham himself is on the court record in December 1986, stating: "[The] various LaRouche organizations produced a wealth of material. It's never been our contention that they didn't produce it."

Briefly

● **CHARLES CURRAN**, suspended from his teaching post at The Catholic University in Washington by the Vatican, filed suit in federal court March 2, asking that the school be prevented from "violating the provisions of [his] contract with the university," allowing him to teach courses "in programs of study having only civil effects." Curran is an advocate of sodomy, euthanasia, etc.

● **BRUCE BABBITT**, former Arizona governor and presidential hopeful for the Trilateral Commission, denounced the Strategic Defense Initiative, President Reagan for turning down "the deal of the century" at Reykjavik, and Third World nations for spreading "pollution," at a Feb. 27 forum in New Hampshire.

● **THE FUTURIST L-5** cult and the National Space Society are merging in April. L-5's membership dropped from 10,000 in 1982 to only 3,000 today. The Space Society has lots of money but no big-name military or scientific figures, which L-5 does—for example, High Frontier's Danny Graham. "They hope they can salvage one organization from the two," said a source.

● **THE PENTAGON** announced on March 4 that the first experimental facility for the free-electron laser will be built on a missile range in New Mexico. "The research may ultimately lead to a ground-based laser that would guide its beam with space-based mirrors to destroy enemy missiles shortly after they are launched," said the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization.

● **CHRISTIAN** fundamentalist sects in Central America are receiving U.S. government support against the Catholic Church, according to the *Christian Science Monitor* March 5. The article traces this U.S. policy to the 1960s, and quotes Nelson Rockefeller in 1969: "The Catholic Church has ceased to be a reliable ally for the U.S. and the guarantor of social stability on the continent."