

## Congressional Closeup William Jones

### Gingrich elected as House GOP Whip

The two-vote majority won by the flamboyant Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich in the election for House Whip (the deputy to the House Republican leader) on March 22, assures that sparks will fly in the House during the 101st Congress.

Gingrich, netting a good deal of publicity recently from his attacks on House Speaker Jim Wright's (D-Tex.) financial affairs, ran for House Minority Whip in order to give the Republicans a more aggressive profile in the House, which they hope will improve their representation in future elections.

The Gingrich candidacy was opposed by the GOP leadership and Republican moderates, including Minority Leader Robert Michel (Ill.), who felt that making Gingrich House Whip would be like showing a red cape to a bull, with all the enmity his campaign against Wright has raised among House Democrats. Michel and the moderates were mobilizing support for the more conciliatory Edward Madigan (Ill.), but widespread GOP frustrations over the dictatorial control Democrats have wielded, were given vent in the Gingrich victory.

Gingrich, a member of the conservative Young Turk section of the House Republicans, was able to capitalize on these frustrations among Republicans, securing a 87 to 85 majority over Madigan. Judging from the reactions of leaders of both parties, the Gingrich election will mean a more polarized House, where Republicans now hold only 174 of the 435 seats.

Although Gingrich has been unusually soft-spoken and demure in his public statements since his election to the Whip post, it's clear that the offen-

sive against Jim Wright, whom Gingrich calls "the most corrupt speaker in the 20th century," will continue. Michel, dismayed by the Gingrich victory, commented that it was a clear message from House Republicans that they want the House leadership "to be more activated and more visible and more aggressive," adding that "we can't be content with business as usual." With the volatile Gingrich in the Republican leadership, House business promises to be far from routine.

### Helms calls for drug decertification of Mexico

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) introduced a resolution on March 16 disapproving the action by President Bush certifying that Mexico is fully cooperating in the war on drugs.

Under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, any country not so certified will be deprived of economic, military, and other U.S. assistance. On Jan. 26, Helms had written to Secretary of State James Baker III asserting that key officials of the Salinas government were alleged to be tied to criminals. Helms said he had a list of high Mexican officials in the Salinas government who were allegedly involved in the drug trade.

In a clear threat to Mexico's national sovereignty, Helms demanded that persons pinpointed by the U.S. as being involved in drugs be extradited to the United States. Helms requested that Secretary Baker delay asking for Senate approval of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Mexico until the President can assure the Senate that leading officials in the Salinas government are not connected with drug traf-

ficking "and other international crimes."

Helms used the opportunity to also flail Panama. Helms is quite cocky in asserting that his Teddy Roosevelt style attack on nations south of the U.S. border will not hurt U.S. economic or diplomatic interests. But with the debt bomb ticking all over Ibero-America, the good Senator from North Carolina may find egg on his face when his "arrogance of power" reaches a threshold which these nations' leaders can no longer tolerate.

### Gore urges emergency population summit

Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) called for an emergency international summit to cut the world's population in an op-ed published in the *International Herald Tribune* on March 22. Earlier in the *New York Times*, Gore called for reversing technological progress and assisting humanity in taking a self-concerted plunge into a New Dark Age.

Entitled "The Environment Indicts Our Civilization," Gore attacks "surging" human population and "environmental vandalism," comparing the "waffling" of "world leaders" in the face of this supposed environmental Armageddon to the passivity of people in the 1930s toward the rise of Hitler. Gore blames the usual hoaxes of the ozone layer, greenhouse effect, and the like on "our global appetite for the earth's abundance" which "grows every year." "We transform the resources of the past," moans Gore, "into the pollution of the future, telescoping time for self-indulgence in the present."

Gore then calls for a "series of global summit meetings to seek the

unprecedented international cooperation that the environmental crisis will demand."

Although the policies of the same grain cartel which oil the Senator's political machine have, with the help of similar environmental demagoguery, seen to it that not enough food will be produced to feed the world's population, the Senator still complains that there are too many mouths to feed.

Gore stops short of supporting the Chinese model of forced abortions and involuntary sterilizations, or praising rising infant mortality rates as does his co-thinker, Lester Brown.

A recent concurrent resolution introduced in the House by Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) condemns these policies in China and calls for the reinstatement of the Nuremburg war crimes criteria for those who propagate them. It ought to make the Senator think twice.

## Sen. Baucus introduces Greenhouse bill

Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) introduced the "Global Environmental Protection Act of 1989," into the Senate on March 17. The bill is a series of measures now being deliberated on in the Congress to legislate new restrictions on production and consumption, and draconian police state measures to prosecute violators.

The bill begins by saying, "Congress, recognizing the profound, irreversible and potentially catastrophic impacts of humanity's activities on the global atmosphere and the world's environment, and the inability of science to predict with certainty the consequences for humanity of any such

changes, hereby declares that each person has a responsibility and obligation to avoid contamination of the atmosphere."

The bill aims at "reducing significantly the production and emission into the atmosphere of pollutants caused by human activities" by "eliminating atmospheric emissions of manufactured substances with ozone depleting potential."

One section of the bill deals with measures to reduce the emission of chlorofluorocarbons and related chemicals. Another deals with the emissions of carbon dioxide, and a third deals with the emission of methane. Iron and steel manufacturing operations, and pulp and paper mills, for example, must reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide by the year 2000 to not more than 25% of their 1988 levels. Synthetic fiber plants must reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by not less than 35% during that same period.

The Environmental Protection Agency is mandated to develop regulations establishing standards and requirements regarding chlorofluorocarbon use. These regulations would include requirements to "reduce the use and emission of such substances to the lowest achievable level," and may demand use of alternative substances.

The EPA is also authorized to establish standards and requirements for the "recapture, recycling, and safe disposal of substances covered by this act," including forbidding the manufacture or distribution of "any appliance, machine or other good" containing said substance "unless it is equipped with a servicing aperture which will allow the recapture of such substance during service and repair."

Federal enforcement against vio-

lators of the act would include penalties up to \$25,000 for each day of non-compliance. Anyone who exceeds the emission limits set by the bill or who knowingly introduces into interstate commerce a substance that is categorized in the bill as a polluting agent, can be fined or imprisoned for up to two years.

## Senators prepare Panama election intervention

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) introduced a bill to authorize the Agency for International Development to pay the expenses of an official "election observation mission" for the 1989 national elections in Panama, during floor debate in the Senate on March 17.

"The United States has a special responsibility here," said D'Amato. "We are the ones who held up democracy as a model for the world. Now, right in our own neighborhood, the yearning for freedom promises to yield positive results, so long as forces of repression and the enemies of democracy are not allowed to thwart a free and fair opportunity for the people of Panama to decide their own future."

So as not to create any illusions as to the role such "observers" would play, D'Amato took aim at Gen. Manuel Noriega. "I think we have an opportunity to demonstrate to our Latin American and South American neighbors that we are prepared to stand for democracy, that we are prepared to expose this dictator and tyrant for what he is. . . . I am sure that this legislation will pass speedily and I look forward to our seeing to it that it is implemented with all of the strength, vigor, and determination at our disposal."