

## Congressional Closeup by William Jones

### Armed Services Committee cuts SDI funding

The House Armed Services Committee on June 27 cut almost one-fourth of the administration's request for the Strategic Defense Initiative, paring research and development spending by \$1.1 billion, trimming the funds available to \$3.5 billion. The committee also cut \$800 million from the administration's request of \$4.6 billion for development and procurement of the Air Force's B-2 Stealth bomber production budget, after defeating an attempt to scrap the project entirely. Part of the funds from the B-2 bomber were allotted to the Marine Corps' V-22 Osprey vertical takeoff transport, a program which the administration proposed to eliminate.

The committee also defeated an attempt by its research and development subcommittee to delete a proposed upgrade of the Lance short-range nuclear missile and the tactical nuclear short-range attack missile called SRAM-T. The Lance modernization program was considered vital in upgrading NATO's nuclear capability in the aftermath of the INF Treaty.

In what was perhaps an attempt to prevent a stalling of these funds, Gen. John Galvin, the commander of NATO forces in Europe, told reporters in Brussels on June 27 that he considered the Lance modernization research money his top priority this year. Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.), chairman of the research and development subcommittee, said that both the Lance and the SRAM-T were political attempts to circumvent the INF Treaty signed last year by the United States and Soviet Union.

In other action on June 27, the House Armed Services Committee agreed to the development of two mobile missile systems, the single-warhead Midgetman and the multiple-

warhead MX. The Bush administration and congressional leaders have argued that the development of both systems, corresponding to Soviet deployments, would strengthen the position of American negotiators seeking an agreement with the Soviet Union to reduce the arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons. Dellums has led an effort to end the Midgetman program. Dellums's motion was defeated 39-12 in committee. Congressional staffers warn, however, that more votes in the committee and on the floor would give opponents ample opportunity to reverse that decision.

### It's cheaper to keep Shoreham plant running

A study conducted by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee concluded June 28 that running the controversial Shoreham nuclear power plant on Long Island in New York would be cheaper than shutting it down, contrary to an analysis by state regulators. The study said that the state had overestimated the savings to Long Island Lighting Co. of being able to carry more debt with Shoreham scuttled. The New York State estimates failed to assign enough cost to shrunken generating reserves without Shoreham, and assumed an implausibly low price for fuel oil in the year 2000 in figuring alternative costs.

### House votes to extend drought bill

On June 28 the House, with next to no opposition, passed a \$1 billion extension of last year's drought relief legislation. The measure was passed by voice vote after lobbying by farm state

lawmakers who said winter wheat farmers are facing another disastrous year. The measures will, however, have to pass the Senate, and President Bush has threatened to veto the bill.

Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter opposes the legislation, and claims that further drought relief may not be necessary. Yeutter said the Agriculture Department "believes it would not be appropriate to put an all-inclusive disaster relief program in place that very well might not be necessary."

The bill extends most provisions of the 1988 drought bill, providing disaster payments to farmers who lose more than 35% of their 1989 crops. It also adds \$75 million aid program for communities whose water supplies have been affected by drought. Legislators from wheat-producing regions said the legislation is desperately needed to offset heavy crop losses from a second straight year of drought.

### Foreign aid for abortion is defeated

On June 22 an amendment by Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) and Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) was appended by the House to the International Cooperation Act. The amendment prohibits the use of economic assistance to any organization or program which supports a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization, or to any foreign non-governmental organization which performs abortions or actively promotes abortion as a method of birth control.

One of the main targets of the Smith Amendment is the Communist Chinese government, whose abortion program has been lauded to the skies by the Eastern Establishment. Smith pointed out that in China, nearly 110

million children have been aborted since 1979—a number equal to the combined populations of England and France—most of these a result of some degree of government coercion.

## **C**onstitutional amendment gets cool response

House Democratic leaders have reacted somewhat coolly to President Bush's proposed constitutional amendment to overturn the recent Supreme Court decision striking down flag desecration laws in 48 states. Democrats are wary of opening up the constitutional amendment process.

"I think there should be very little tinkering with the Constitution, and it should be done very, very carefully," said Jack Brooks, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, a Marine veteran who fought his way across the South Pacific in World War II. "We will carefully evaluate it," Brooks said. "We will see if there are other alternatives, if a statute can do the job, as the Senate thinks."

President Bush is attempting to make the amendment issue the litmus test for patriotism in order to distract attention from his bending over backwards so as not to impose sanctions on the Communist Chinese government.

## **G**reenhouse bill calls for population control

Recent legislation introduced in the Congress under the title House Resolution 1078, the so-called Greenhouse Bill, or the "hug-a-tree" act, goes a long way in promoting population control. The bill calls for a minimum of \$500 million to be spent on family planning services in fiscal 1991. After

that, it would be \$540 million in 1992 and \$580 million in 1993, 1994, and 1995. At least 16% of that or \$60 million, whichever is less, is supposed to go to the United Nations Population Fund. The bill also implies that by 1993 the government would be spending \$20 million a year for the operation of a five-man National Commission on Population, Environment, and Natural Resources. This is intended to result from an international conference on population to be convened by the President of the United States at which there would be an examination of "the policies necessary to achieve sustainable world population levels."

## **S**anctions against China demanded by House

Breaking with the Bush administration, the House on June 29 voted 418-0 to approve legislation imposing new sanctions against China. Drafted as a bipartisan amendment to the foreign aid bill, the measure would require the President to suspend 1) new U.S. government guarantees of private investment, export of police equipment, 2) new U.S. trade development activity, peaceful nuclear cooperation, 3) the export of U.S. satellites to be launched by China and to issue of arms exports licences. The amendment also condemns in strong language both the Tiananmen Square massacre, and the subsequent executions and arrests.

Responding to the House action, Secretary of State James Baker said the administration opposed the measure, but stopped short of saying it would be vetoed. He claimed that Bush has been "on the right track" in his response to the Chinese crackdown. "I believe many Americans believe and understand that no elected official in the United States understands China

better than the President."

The measure was passed with the strong support of key House Republicans, including Republican leader Bob Michel (Ill.) and William Broomfield (Mich.), the senior Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

## **H**elms 'Kissinger bill' moving toward vote

The bill submitted by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) as an amendment to the Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1990 for the Department of State, and aimed at Henry Kissinger's membership on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB), is scheduled for a vote sometime after the Senate July 4 recess.

The measure demands that no member of PFIAB may "derive income from foreign governments or foreign government-controlled entities," and requires each member of PFIAB to file a full financial disclosure report within 30 days of the enactment of the bill—conditions which Kissinger has said he is not prepared to comply with.

## **S**uper-collider gets \$110 million funding

The House of Representatives approved on June 28 an appropriations bill which includes \$110 million in start-up construction funds for a \$4 billion-plus superconducting super-collider to be built in Texas. The super-collider is a 54-mile-long device used for research in particle physics. The Appropriations bill was approved on a voice vote after members soundly rejected an amendment that would have eliminated it.