

## Congressional Closeup by William Jones

### **Nunn: Use military to assist civilian agents**

Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has proposed developing plans to use military engineers, medics, and other specialists to help civilian agencies and private groups address problems of the inner cities.

While noting that the military's primary mission would remain national security, Nunn said, "By using the capabilities we have in the military, we can assist civilian authorities in addressing the critical fundamentals upon which a healthy society and economy are built.

"In each community, the military, private sector, labor unions, and other agencies would decide where the voids were and where military training requirements might meet local needs," Nunn said.

Some senior Defense Department officials said the Pentagon was not excited about broadening its area of responsibilities in this way.

### **Superconducting Super Collider killed by House**

The House voted 232-181 on June 17 to kill the giant particle accelerator in Texas known as the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC), which could mean the end of an ambitious project which studied how the tiniest particles behave when hurled against each other at extremely high speeds.

"The House was looking for a blood sacrifice and they found it in the SSC," said Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tex.). The SSC was sacrificed on the altar of budget austerity, in a climate characterized by congressmen falling over each other to prove to the voters that they know how to cut expenditures. A year ago, the Super Collider passed with an 86-vote margin of victory. But

this year it was defeated with a 51-vote margin. Nothing changed in the arguments pro and con; but 1992 is an election year.

Energy Secretary James Watkins said that he was "disappointed by the House action. . . . It does not demonstrate good stewardship of the science and technology research base that the public has entrusted to the government." He added that the cancellation of the project would result in the loss of 7,800 jobs.

The project was defeated despite the intervention of President Bush, who urged House members to give their support to this "crucial investment" in the nation's science and technology future. More than \$1 billion has already been spent on the project. The funds for the SSC were a part of the in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations legislation which passed on June 17 by a 365-51 vote.

In work on the same legislation, the House rejected attempts to eliminate funding for an advanced liquid metal reactor and for the SP-100 space nuclear reactor program. The bill also includes \$339 million for the magnetic fusion energy program.

### **'Non-proliferation' bill targets Iran, Iraq**

Legislation was introduced on June 18 by Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) which would impose mandatory and discretionary sanctions on individuals, corporations, and countries that transfer technology to either Iran or Iraq, or "which contribute to the acquisition by Iran and Iraq of nuclear, chemical, biological, and advanced conventional weapons."

The bill was introduced with bipartisan support. Similar legislation had already been introduced in the

Senate. One of the "discretionary sanctions" which can be imposed on a country violating this legislation, would be suspension by the President of that country's Most Favored Nation trade status.

### **Lugar moots military intervention in Yugoslavia**

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), a key Bush supporter and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is urging the Bush administration to seek authority from the U.N. Security Council to use military force against Serbian forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Interviewed on June 20 on the "American Interests" television news program, Lugar said that "sanctions have taken their toll, but it is not a sufficient toll." Lugar made it clear that he believes that at the present point in time, with Bush's popularity sinking, a military operation like Desert Storm would be the best thing for Bush. "Strong leadership is good politics as well as good policy," said Lugar. "The President is at his best when he fastens on to such a solution."

Lugar ranted that America must "lead the world." "We must have control of our own destiny and that of the rest of the world," he said. Lugar drove his point home by indicating that Desert Storm commander Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf was running neck-and-neck with Ross Perot in some polls where Schwarzkopf—the non-candidate—was included. Comparing such an operation to the U.S.-led foray against Iraq, Lugar said the U.S. should "universalize what was a one-time occasion." Lugar did not recommend attempting to take Sarajevo, but rather, "getting at the powers behind the shooting." One option, he mooted, was an "air sweep" to prove

to the Serbs that they didn't have control of the air.

Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, interviewed on June 21 on the NBC News program "Meet the Press," similarly indicated that military intervention is a real possibility. Nunn said that the Pentagon should draw up contingency plans for sending U.S. troops to Yugoslavia "as a part of a broader United Nations or international force."

Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on European Affairs, has already held hearings on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and is considering introducing a resolution giving prior congressional support to the use of U.S. military forces by the U.N. if the Security Council should so decide.

Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) was even more blunt when on June 21 he called on NATO to immediately issue an ultimatum to Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic, and to authorize the use of alliance forces to reestablish peace in Bosnia "and other threatened areas of the former Yugoslavia."

## Urban aid okay clears way for Russian aid bill

The House approved on June 18 in a 249-168 vote an emergency aid bill for Los Angeles and Chicago, after compromising with President Bush in order to clear the way for debate on the Freedom Support Act, a bill which designates certain monies to Russia and contains a \$12 billion increase in the U.S. quota to the International Monetary Fund.

In the compromise, Congress agreed to eliminate \$1.1 billion for so-

cial programs which were sought by Democrats, and to fund a summer jobs program which President Bush did not request.

The legislation also eliminated the inner-city investment "enterprise zones," the lame response of the Bush administration to the riots in Los Angeles. The bill provides \$576 million for disaster relief and recovery loans to help Los Angeles businesses and residents recover from the riots and to assist Chicago businesses repair damage caused by a tunnel rupture earlier this year. The bill also includes \$500 million to create an estimated 360,000 jobs for youths in 75 cities.

## Senate restricts hearings on the October Surprise

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee came to an agreement on June 24 to hold closed-door hearings into the so-called "October Surprise," allegations that the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1980 conspired to delay release of the 52 American hostages held at the U.S. embassy in Teheran to boost their electoral prospects. The committee has subpoenaed numerous witnesses affiliated with the Reagan-Bush administration to testify.

Under procedural agreements reached early in June, only four senators will question witnesses in a "secure" room on the fourth floor of the Capitol. One committee member, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), had not been informed of the plans for a "closed-door hearing." He said that the decision effectively creates an ad hoc committee "with no formal authorization."

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), a member of the four-man Senate inves-

tigation, said the group would likely conduct more than one secret hearing, but expected to finish its work in the next two weeks.

The House is conducting a separate investigation into the affair, and has set aside up to \$2.5 million for a bipartisan October Surprise Task Force whose preliminary report is due by July 1.

## Bentley: NAFTA, GATT are threat to sovereignty

In comments on the floor on June 16, Rep. Helen Delich Bentley (R-Md.) attacked the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) agreements as infringements of U.S. national sovereignty.

Bentley's criticism echoed a fact sheet put out by the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which charges that the terms of the GATT draft will effectively eliminate all import control laws including the U.S. Meat Import Act. The current GATT draft proposes greatly expanded powers including the creation of a multilateral trade organization, which, according to a UFCW fact sheet, "would threaten existing laws and our nation's right to enact and enforce new laws in the future."

As Bentley pointed out in her floor comments, a GATT panel ruled that "GATT is part of federal law in the U.S. and as such is superior to GATT-inconsistent state law."

"If the panel report is adopted," said Bentley, "the federal government would be obligated to ensure that the 50 states be in strict compliance with GATT." This, she warned, would strike at the basis of the federal system.