

National News

Rep. Cox in London hails 'Anglo-American values'

Rep. Christopher Cox (R-Calif.), whose House committee recently issued a classified report claiming that technology transfers to China harmed U.S. national security, delivered a speech to the "European-Atlantic Group" in London on Feb. 18, appealing to "Anglo-American values" against the yellow, red, and rogue perils.

Cox proclaimed that "the overarching characteristic of the coming century will be a rapid and dramatic increase in the ability of comparatively small or poor nations to threaten the vital interests of even the wealthiest and most powerful countries—like ours"—meaning the United States and Britain. Cox railed against large government and large organizations (apparently not including big empires). "The empowerment of individuals, the eclipse of statism and planning, are a victory for Western—and in particular, Anglo-American—values," Cox declared. "Britons in particular can take pride in this development: Your famous distrust of ideology, and your empiricism and pragmatism, have been amply vindicated."

Cox then rattled sabres over the alleged threats posed by North Korea and Iraq, and by Russia and China. This was all by way of arguing for "national missile defense." But what Cox meant by this is indicated by his contention that President Reagan's 1983 Strategic Defense Initiative, the brainchild of Lyndon LaRouche, was a result of Reagan's close consultations with Britain's Lord Chalfont.

Anti-trust suit protects HMOs from physicians

In August 1998, the Justice Department Anti-Trust Division, acting on a complaint from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware (BCBSD), filed a suit against the Federation of Physicians and Dentists (FPD), alleging that the 9,000 member union "became a hub of a conspiracy to oppose and prevent proposed reduction in payments for orthopedic

services" by Blue Cross. "The federation organized an illegal boycott designed to insulate doctors' fees from market forces and led the doctors well over the line into anti-competitive conduct," the DOJ charged. Back in 1997, the state's largest health insurer, Blue Cross, announced large increases in both group and individual premiums, and notified all orthopedic surgeons in its plan that it was cutting their payment rates by over 20%. Physicians could either accept the cut or terminate their agreement.

Physician groups which attempted to negotiate, according to the defendant's response, found the insurer's "threats have been so arrogant, egregious and outrageous, the physicians have declined to deal or negotiate with BCBSD despite their desire to continue as providers under its plan." BCBSD had a "history of arrogant, abusive, and unscrupulous dealings with many physicians in its Delaware network." Physicians who then joined the FPD designated Executive Director Jack Seddon to act as their individual "third party messenger" to open a dialogue with BCBSD. BCBSD remained refractory and the new contract was non-negotiable. "Rather than subject their patients to danger of injury and themselves to claims of malpractice," FPD members independently chose not to deal with BCBSD, they said.

The DOJ claims that union doctors, through the FPD, facilitated a boycott "to extract artificially high fees from Blue Cross and to prevent other . . . insurers from reducing fees" to surgeons. Joel I. Klein, head of the Anti-Trust Division, pontificated, "We will take action to stop illegal boycotts that injure the public and ultimately increase the prices that consumers pay for health care."

Lott uses 'red scare' to raise GOP money

A Feb. 18 fundraising letter, over Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott's signature, uses the China missile "red scare" and terrorism threats to scare up funds for the Republican National Committee, after the GOP was so badly discredited in the impeachment fiasco. "I'm terrified by the grave jeopardy" that the Clinton administration has put us in, Lott

wrote in the letter. Lott claims that his terror comes from the fact that China has 13 nuclear missiles capable of reaching U.S. targets (not mentioning the several thousand ICBMs in the U.S. nuclear arsenal). Americans could die because Bill Clinton gave away our technology to China, Lott's letter says.

In pleading for contributions to the RNC, Lott not only brandishes the non-existent Chinese threat, but also North Korea, Iraq, and chemical and biological weapons. "Any Third World dictator or insane terrorist who can get his hands on a ballistic missile can 'point and shoot' it toward the U.S., and be virtually assured of killing thousands or millions of Americans with nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons," his racist claim states.

The solution? Give money to the RNC, so they can promote the late Danny Graham's worthless version of ballistic missile defense.

Legislators back Marianas sweatshops

House Resources Committee chairman Don Young (R-Ak.), leading a delegation of seven other members of Congress on a tour of the U.S. Pacific island territories, told local officials of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands that he could see no reason to dismantle its garment industry just because it heavily depends on low-paid foreign workers. "If this is the industry that is generating money for the economy," he shrugged, "why eliminate it?"

The delegation was warned by local government officials that the Commonwealth stands to lose tremendously if Federal minimum wage and immigration standards are imposed from Washington, as the Clinton administration is threatening to do. At the same time, they're complaining that President Clinton's FY 2000 budget submission reduces its capital infrastructure project funds by 51% percent, which they see as retaliation for the collapse of January's talks with the Interior Department over labor conditions. The Commonwealth's tourist business collapsed after the financial crisis in Asia, leaving the garment

SOUTH DAKOTA Sens. Tom Daschle (D) and Tim Johnson (D), and Rep. John Thune (R) addressed a Feb. 18 rally of 200 ranchers and farmers on the farm crisis. The has state lost 2,773 farms between 1992-97, and of those remaining, 11,000 reported net loss in income in 1997—a year *before* grain and hog prices plunged.

STATE DEPARTMENT Near East official John Limbert told a Georgetown University conference on Feb. 17, on the 20th anniversary of the Iranian revolution, that “there are signs of change, of a break in this 20-year cycle of mistrust” between the United States and Iran. The United States will no longer refer to Iran as a “rogue state,” he said.

THE FEDERAL ELECTION Commission dropped its lawsuit against Steve Forbes and his 1996 Presidential campaign committee in February. The action is unprecedented. The FEC suit had alleged that Forbes’s committee had accepted an illegal “in kind” contribution from his family’s magazine, *Forbes*, because it continued to print his weekly column during his campaign.

‘FAT HENRY’ KISSINGER proclaimed that U.S. ground troops should not be sent to Kosova, in his syndicated column, published in the *New York Post* on Feb. 20. Troops, he said, should be kept in ready for supposedly more serious threats, such as North Korea and Iraq. He also argued that Kosova is in Europe, and therefore a European problem (whereas, presumably, Korea and Iraq are on the U.S. doorstep).

‘NEW FEDERALIST,’ a weekly newspaper of the LaRouche political movement, is launching a Spanish bi-weekly supplement in the United States, *El Nuevo Federalista*. The new publication will be available by subscription, at \$20 for 24 issues. With an inaugural print-run of 8,800, the publisher anticipates a very rapid growth among Spanish-speakers in the United States, one of the core constituencies of the Democratic Party.

industry, which one source described as the “800 lb. gorilla of local politics,” as almost the only source of revenues for the local government.

Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.), part of the delegation, expressed support for the garment industry, saying it has “spared” U.S. taxpayers from having to support the islands’ economy.

The delegation was greeted by two demonstrations when it arrived at the Federal building on Saipan. The first demonstration of about 100 native islanders, supported the garment factories, and the second consisted mainly of Bangladeshis, Chinese, and Filipinos, demanding back wages, fair employment policies, and status as “economic refugees.” The second demonstration became a night-long candlelight vigil, moving Reps. Robert Underwood (D-Guam) and Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa), to go out and speak with the demonstrators.

Young: Army Engineers should help build Africa

Former UN Ambassador Andrew Young told a Washington press conference on Feb. 19 that he and others are very interested in the possibilities of using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in demilitarizing Africa, not in the sense of taking the guns away from African militaries—as most present had misunderstood—but in the sense of building things. “The U.S. Army,” he said, “was a development army for a hundred years. Africa won’t be able to develop without constructive demilitarization.”

Young’s point was clarified by Leonard Robinson, president of the National Summit on Africa, who explained that this includes putting demobilized soldiers, especially those who have been fighting internal conflicts, such as those in Angola, Liberia, and Mozambique, to work, building their countries. Young also stressed that Africa is very underpopulated, citing Namibia, which, he said, is the size of California, but has only 1.5 million people.

Young’s remarks were made at a press conference of Robinson’s organization to announce its plans for its national meeting to take place in Washington in February 2000,

and were one of the few bright spots in an otherwise dismal confab of assorted eco-fascists and human rights mafiosi, trying to shape U.S. policy toward Africa in line with British geopolitical designs. The organization is largely funded by the Ford and Carnegie foundations and includes among its national co-chairs Jack Kemp; Kathryn Fuller, U.S. president of the World Wildlife Fund; and Randall Robinson, executive director of TransAfrica. Its board of directors includes representatives of Zero Population Growth and the New York Council on Foreign Relations.

Confederate 4th Circuit overturns Miranda ruling

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting in Richmond, Virginia, made an unsolicited decision on Feb. 11 to overturn the *Miranda* decision, which binds law-enforcement officers to inform suspects of their Constitutional rights. Among the most shocking aspects of the ruling, is the fact that neither the prosecutor nor defendant had broached the *Miranda* issue. The decision, written by Judge Karen Williams and joined by Judge Jackson Kiser, lambasted the Department of Justice for refusing to argue or a law that attempted to set aside the Supreme Court’s 1966 *Miranda* ruling. The law, 18 U.S.C. Sec.3501, died almost as soon as it was signed in 1967.

After the original *Miranda* ruling, there was widespread hysteria (similar to that levelled today against the McDade-Murtha Citizens Protection Act), that hordes of murderers and other criminals would escape punishment. Sens. Arlen Specter and John McClellan forced through the bill’s passage, which leaves it to courts to decide whether confessions are “voluntary,” and does not guarantee the Fifth Amendment’s protection against self-incrimination. As soon as it became law, then-Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced that it would not be enforced because it was unconstitutional.

The Fourth Circuit’s decision sets the stage for the Supreme Court to take up the issue, where Associate Justice Antonin Scalia champions the act.