IPS Interview

Javits Pushes Fascist Austerity Under NATO Control



NEW YORK, July 22 (IPS) — Jacob Javits, long known as one of Rockefeller's leading spokesmen in the U.S. Senate, recently has become the chief proponent of two of Rockefeller's key policies; a Schachtian economic program of genocidal austerity and deindustrialization in the advanced sector and an increased role for NATO as the brutal military executor of this program.

In his plan for an Economic Review Board announced July 17, Javits integrates the most overtly fascist features of similar legislation already introduced in Congress: the slave labor bills of Senator Walter Mondale and Representative Henry Reuss and the control mechanisms proposed by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield. Javit's proposal includes a Brazilian-style cost-of-living index, which ties wage hikes to murderous speed-up, and sweeping rationalization of production, which will throw millions of workers out of the plants and into forcedlabor development projects.

As Javits outlined it, the Board, modeled on the Third Reich's National Economic Chamber, will:

- "spot and try to remedy supply bottlenecks... review industrial capacity...in an effort to restrain prices;
- "cooperate with labor and management to improve the structure of collective bargaining;

- "improve wage and price data base...monitor the economy...by requiring such reports on wages, productivity, prices, sales, profits, imports and exports as are needed for price and wage stability;
- "conduct public hearings on inflationary and supply problems;
 - "seek to increase productivity."

Javits is pushing this legislation hard because he knows that the time has come to cut through the administrative ineptness and congressional sluggishness that retard fascist austerity planning in the U.S. In a recent press conference, Javits warned: "Our country and indeed our world — is adrift on perilous economic seas. Some economists believe — and there are strong indicators to confirm this belief — that the world is on a collision course with a serious economic depression..."

Controlled Depression

Javits is interested not in preventing the current depression, but in achieving ratchet-like control over it. The New York banking circles in which he moves, and his long participation in international planning, particularly his position as President of NATO's Committee of Nine, have sensitized him to the necessity of creating a world fascist order based on NATO.

The Committee of Nine's report is insistent: crises of new and hitherto unparalleled dimensions demand higher-level management of international policy: "The decreased pressure for political and ideological unity in the wake of detente unleashes a variety of potentially destabilizing social forces Contrary to growing beliefs, these developments make a coordinated security policy more, not less imperative ... today the requisite security effort is inherently more political and complex

The bulk of the Committee's report is concerned with NATO's role in the non-military sphere. Javits has long championed NATO as a major instrument for integrating economic and political policies of the member states, their relations to the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, and to other countries as well.

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IPS interviewed Javits along with Peter Lakeland, his chief aide on NATO and European affairs, July 19. Javits did not hide his commitment to Rockefeller's strategy for global domination through NATO as a means of imposing fascism on the world's working class. He offered IPS the Rockefeller faction's policy of controlled depression:

"I doubt a serious recession can be avoided at this time. But the Herstatt collapse showed the banking system was sounder than we thought. Don't get me wrong, there will be defaults, but as long as there is no run on the banks—that the public doesn't panic—the banking system is essentially sound."

Lakeland was even more specific:

"The way this money is sloshing around it could even happen to Chase Manhattan...there may be a shaking out among the middle-size private banks. The Arabs prefer dealing with only the largest banks. The Germans feel a real sense of crisis in the monetary thing...in the vulnerability of the banking system..."

According to Javits, the problem posed by both the Herstatt collapse and the Italian crisis was the inadequacy of existing international agencies to act ruthlessly and quickly in a period when delay could mean disaster for Rockefeller. Lakeland told IPS: "You don't want to go to the IMF unless you have a solution worked out. The Europeans want the OECD but we feel its too slow, too peripheral, the situation requires quicker action among smaller groups...." Lakeland felt NATO could exert useful influence because: "The security thing is always in the forefront of everyone's minds, especially the Germans."

"Develop NATO Quickly"

Javits was more emphatic on the role of NATO: "We've lost golden opportunities because we have not been able to implement Article II [the Article of the NATO treaty that addresses the alliance's non-military options]. NATO is a strong caucus unified by a common interest in security. What has held us back so far is lack of will... there is no question that the French opposition to Article II has held us back. We must develop NATO quickly."

What NATO must be developed to do became clear in the discussion of the role of Special Drawing Rights (SDR). Javits told IPS: "We have to come up with a new name for SDRs quickly: they have already been discredited... it's written into the rules of the SDRs to enforce the requirement [to impose austerity].... Sure there will have to be sacrifices: there will be unemployment: construction and agriculture will suffer...."

Lakeland's additional comments on Germany and the Soviet Union reflects Javit's thinking: "Ostpolitik has more or less played itself out. Schmidt is less enthusiastic

about Ostpolitik than Westpolitik, than with NATO, the U.S., and the market CDU [Christian Democratic Union] people say that Schmidt is more of their view that Germany did not get a hell of a lot out of Ostpolitik You could say there is a big change [from Brandt to Schmidt]. Under Brandt, Ostpolitik was the main thing; under Schmidt it is Atlanticism."

As for the Russian insistence that nothing has changed, Lakeland remarked, "Well it's the old story of the half-filled glass. They want to see it half-full, we see it half-empty." Finally, on David Rockefeller: "Funny thing, he was in Germany when we were."

Throughout the interview ran the strains of urgency and necessity: "Steps must be taken immediately ... without delay ... this must be done now" Javits is conscious of capitalist necessity, the entirely psychotic necessity that would bankrupt the world's productive capacity. Typical of this madness is his comment on Rockefeller's squeezing of Savings and Loan Associations (and the resulting drop in construction starts) to feed the commercial banks: "I believe in competition!"

Javits' Opposition: U.S. Labor Party

Zeke Boyd, the U.S. Labor Party candidate contesting Javits' Senatorial seat, commented on Javits' role in the current Italian crisis:

"The European Labor Committees is pressing for a full investigation of the relationship between Rockefeller agent Javits and the austerity measures promulgated by Guido Carli, head of Italy's central bank. The ELC is circulating throughout the European left a dossier containing evidence of Javits' involvement in developing the Carli program as well as his advocacy of increased NATO intervention into 'troubled' member countries.

"In the IPS interview," Boyd noted, "Javit's aide, Lakeland, gave further evidence of his boss' involvement with Carli. Lakeland gloated: 'Italy is more a case study of what could happen...what do you do with Italy? There's hardly a viable government. The Italians did come up with an austerity plan beyond people's expectations.'

"These austerity policies," Boyd remarked, "are putting the Italian working class against the wall. They are precisely the same fascist economic measures which Javits plans to introduce into the U.S. through his Economic Review Act and similar legislation."