



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE (IPS)
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EARLY EVENING NEWS

I. PRIORITIES

SPONSORSHIP OF PENDING DEBT RESCHEDULING BILLS REACHES 118

Feb. 26 (IPS)—Senator Harry Byrd's (D-VA) bill introduced some time ago which stipulates that every penny be paid on dollar debt is just one of many similar State Department backed bills now pending in Congress, IPS learned today. The bills, introduced in Congress between February and April of last year, have broad-based support with collective sponsorship totaling 118. All of these bills, whose sponsors include Representatives Biaggi (D.-NY) and Roe (D.-NJ) and Yatron (D.-Pa.), back the State Department demand that no rescheduling of debt occur without the approval of Congress. None of the bills have yet been approved by Congress.

SENATE AMENDS CONSTITUTION; CANCELS FREEDOM OF DEBATE

Washington, D.C. Feb. 26 (IPS)—The Senate Operations Committee today approved a resolution establishing a new intelligence oversight committee to supplant the standing subcommittees of the Armed Services, Judiciary, and Foreign Relations Committees. A key provision of the resolution provides for the censure or expulsion of any Senator who leaks classified information without approval of both the Senate or the President. Under the resolution a group of five Senators is permitted to issue an indictment of fellow legislators for alleged violations of the new internal ruling.

Amending the resolution before its passage by committee, Senator Samuel Nunn (D.-Ga.) expanded the material covered by the internal ruling to include all material received from the Executive which that institution chooses to classify.

Although the resolution was picked because it supposedly strengthens Senate oversight functions by granting the committee budgetary and legislative powers, it cedes to the Executive the right not to inform the proposed committee of any covert operation until after it has been put into effect.

The resolution also totally negates the "speech and debate" clause of the Constitution, which grants Congressmen full immunity for any topic raised while in session, and could be used both to censor Congressional debate on controversial measures, and to purge Senate ranks. A Senate aide who was present while the resolution was being drafted informed IPS that its authors consciously patterned it upon the British Official Secrets Act. The resolution now goes before the Senate Rules Committee, and is expected to be voted on by the Senate before the March 20 expiration of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

EVANSTON, ILL. DEM. GROUP TO CALL FOR EEA, LERA

Feb. 26(IPS)—The National Issues Committee of the Evanston, Ill. Democratic Party will introduce the U.S. Labor Party's Emergency Employment Act of 1975 (EEA) and the Law Enforcement Reform Act (LERA) to the rest of the group's committees for formal consideration on March 2.

The National Issues Committee was addressed last night by a U.S. Labor Party spokesman who described the the EEA and the LERA legislation as "the only alternative to Wall Street's drive for fascist austerity and police-state rule in the U.S." Following the presentation, the chairman of the committee said, "Well, I don't think we need much discussion, since the issues are clear," and promised to bring up the legislation March 20.

ASEAN COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR INDUSTRIAL,
FOOD AND ENERGY COOPERATION

Feb. 26 (IPS)—A communique at the conclusion of yesterday's summit meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Indonesia called for increased cooperation in the areas of food, energy, and industrial development among the five member nations. ASEAN economic ministers will meet next month to discuss ways that Indonesia's and Malaysia's exports of oil and Thailand's export of rice, can be used within the group to foster greater economic growth. Industrial cooperation is to begin with the establishment of ASEAN backed industrial projects, particularly in such areas as phosphates, potash, petrochemicals, steel, rubber products, and other products, according to the communique. A treaty was also signed among the 5 nations, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore, setting up a "high council" to settle any disputes in the region.

TRUDEAU MOVES TOWARD POLICE STATE

Feb. 26 (IPS)— The Canadian government moved one step closer to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's fascist "New Society" Feb. 23 with the introduction of a special "peace and security" package to the House of Commons. The package, tagged on to legislation to abolish capital punishment, includes provisions for indefinite incarceration of people ruled "dangerous offenders;" "better" training of police forces and more equipment and "technical" aids for police work; possible revising of sections of Canada's Protection of Privacy Act to allow police wire-tapping; and stringent gun control measure. The package would also remove jurisdiction over so-called "dangerous offenders" from Canada's Parole Board, limiting the right to appeal to the federal Cabinet. Yesterday's Toronto Globe and Mail reports that the Justice Department and the Solicitor-General's Department are mapping out a major "publicity blitz" to sell the package.

End of Early IPS 02.26.76