

National News

Harold Brown: 'U.S. has a credible deterrent'

Defense Secretary, Harold Brown, in a special interview to the *New York Times* on Feb. 15, announced that the United States "possesses a credible deterrent in the Persian Gulf" to "enforce the Carter Doctrine." Brown, a former McNamara "Whiz Kid," stated that the "credible deterrent" consists of "two carrier task forces, two B-52 bombers, and 1,800 Marines," who will not even be stationed in the Gulf until a month from now.

Sober military estimates ridicule such talk. The latest issue of *Business Week* quotes John M. Collins, defense analyst for the Library of Congress, on the reality principle of the Persian Gulf region. Collins cites that the U.S. forces in the region—or those subject to instant deployment there—are there as a "trip-wire deterrent" only and have no realistic combat function, or capability.

Collins declared: U.S. troops are equipped for only three days of combat, after that they'll get chewed up, then this could be one for table stakes (i.e., all-out nuclear war) in a hell of a hurry ... the Russians have IRBMs (Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles) in the Transcaucasus (just north of Iran and Turkey) and no one in the U.S. Navy wants to discuss the survivability of its carrier groups if it comes to nuclear war."

U.S. to commence arms sales to China

Five weeks after the visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown to Communist China, the clearance for U.S. military equipment sales to China has been given. Last week, the Defense Department announced, in accord with the Carter White House, that "within a few weeks," the administration guidelines for sales of military equipment to China

would be issued, opening the way for the first round of such sales.

Categories of equipment under active DoD consideration for earliest clearance include, "over the horizon radar" to be used for monitoring Soviet missile sites, "sophisticated electronic gear," and "advanced jet engines for Chinese fighter bombers." The Defense Department stressed that these categories were likely to be approved immediately and would mark only the start of an expanding array of military-technological categories slated for approval.

The sales coincide with moves underway for much closer U.S.-Chinese military collaboration. As reported in the *Los Angeles Times*, China has accepted Harold Brown's invitation to Geng Biao, China's chief defense planner, to visit the United States this year.

Will Connally drop out?

No one is saying so yet, but John Connally could be out of the running for the GOP presidential nomination within the next few weeks.

Connally is expected to finish so far behind in the upcoming New Hampshire primary that he won't be within hailing distance of expected leaders George Bush and Ronald Reagan. Two weeks ago, Bush people began circulating the story that Connally was going to drop out of the race in New Hampshire, prompting repeated denials from the former governor.

Now some Connally aides feel Connally went overboard in stressing that he thought he would do well in the Granite State.

The Connally campaign has already spent some \$9 million for which it has yet to net one single delegate to the July GOP convention. Connally's vaunted southern strategy which has him concentrating on a few southern primaries while conceding the early New England races to Bush and Reagan has several flaws. First, no one in his inner circle thought that he would do as miserably as he did in the Iowa caucuses. They also thought that they would be running

against Ronald Reagan, but instead found George Bush out front.

All this has produced an erosion of support among Connally's supporters in the South and crucial incremental gains for Bush. If he does poorly in New Hampshire, the southern primaries may now be a moot point for Connally.

Did CBS give Carter the Maine caucus?

Aides to Senator Edward Kennedy charged last week that erroneous and misleading reporting by CBS-TV news may have shaped the outcome of the Maine Democratic Party caucuses. All the votes are now in and President Carter holds a 3.4 percent edge over Kennedy.

Kennedy aide Tom Southwick says that CBS-TV came on the air at approximately 4:30 p.m. on the Feb. 10 caucus date to announce that Carter was declared the "winner" and would have nearly a two to one margin. At the time, less than two thirds of the caucuses had been held. Southwick and other Kennedy aides contend that by putting out this wrong information, CBS influenced potential Kennedy voters in the later caucuses and thereby handed the President the victory in the popular vote count. CBS meanwhile has no explanation for why its computerized voter prediction apparatus failed, though they say that Kennedy people cannot prove that the failure caused Kennedy to lose votes.

'Human labor—the ultimate energy alternative'

Labor Secretary Ray Marshall declared during a press briefing last week that human labor was perhaps the best substitute for energy forms like oil and gas. "I see examples of the shift from energy to labor time and time again as I travel around the world." Marshall then

claimed that more jobs are being created by the growing manufacture of various conservation gadgets.

The labor substitution plan is "likely" to have some harmful effects on the economy, said Harvard economist Dale W. Jorgenson who commented on Marshall's statement in the *New York Times*, Feb. 18. There may be reduced growth, lower productivity, higher inflation and lower income gains, said Jorgenson, but the unemployment problem will be solved.

AFL-CIO makes offer to Teamsters

The AFL-CIO Executive Board opened up its winter meeting in Bal Harbour, Fla. last week. This is the first meeting in the Federation's history without the late George Meany as its president, but that isn't the only thing that has changed.

The new AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland made news at the otherwise dull session by announcing the creation of a five-man negotiating team as part of an effort to bring the International Brotherhood of Teamsters back into the Federation. The Teamsters, meeting in executive session last month, announced the formation of a similar negotiating committee.

Kirkland, an executive member of both the Trilateral Commission and the New York Council on Foreign Relations, has stated for some time that he wanted to see the Teamsters, the United Autoworkers and the United Mine-workers Union, as well as other unions, brought back into the AFL-CIO. The UMW has never affiliated with the Federation, while the UAW left in a dispute over foreign policy issues during the Vietnam war. The Teamsters, however, were booted out of the Federation by Meany for alleged corruption in 1957.

In making the announcement of the new negotiating committee, Kirkland stated that he felt unequivocally that the Teamsters were in full compliance with the AFL-CIO constitution. "I am satis-

fied," the AFL-CIO president stated, "that the Teamsters is a bona fide trade union that has been working in the best interests of its members."

The Teamsters meanwhile are not saying very much about the proposed reconciliation. It was rumored a while back that the AFL-CIO would demand a change in the current leadership as one of the terms of a deal. Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons would be asked to step down. All this, if it was true, is now a moot point. Fitzsimmons, sick with cancer, is said to be thinking of stepping down soon, putting Teamster Secretary Treasurer Ray Schoesling in charge as an interim president.

Brown makes a pitch to labor

Troops of Carter advisors marched down to the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Florida last week to explain the always confusing policies of what George Meany used to call a "very confused White House."

Only one chose to make his remarks confidential and secret: Defense Secretary Harold Brown. The Secretary is said to have given the labor leaders an "up to date picture of the world strategic situation" off the record and then a statement calling for support for the Carter administration's draft and defense policies in public remarks.

But AFL-CIO leaders appeared none too impressed. Even new AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, while refusing to divulge exactly what the secretary had stated, would not say whether the Federation bought all his explanations. "Let's just say we had a wide ranging discussion," said Kirkland.

Some labor leaders stated privately that they were alarmed by the extent to which the administration seems to have convinced itself that it is projecting real military power when it has so little to back it up. At least one labor leader said that he thought the administration had a "god damn poor record" on defense.

Briefly

● **EDWARD KENNEDY** has decided to make "perfectly" clear his position against nuclear power development, hoping for votes from some unwashed environmentalists in the crucial New Hampshire primary. Nuclear power is an idea whose time has passed, said Kennedy reaffirming his support for the antinuclear policies of the Campaign for Safe Energy.

● **WORD FROM** Teamster headquarters and from AFL-CIO headquarters down the block in Washington, D.C. is that neither Carter, Kennedy nor any of the Republicans are labor's favorite to win the presidency in November. AFL-CIO President Kirkland, although he leans toward Carter, says it "is too early" to make any commitments. Meanwhile, the Teamsters are eyeing the roster of candidates to try to broker a deal of their own in this year's presidential sweepstakes.

● **WHAT WERE** Ronald Reagan, the Republican presidential hopeful, and Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the Democratic presidential contender, talking about on the podium of last week's candidates night at the Concord, N.H. Gunowners Association? Observers noted that the two were engaged in serious discussion.

● **JOHN CONNALLY**, of late noted for an acute case of foot-in-mouth disease, attempted to cheer up his supporters in South Carolina last week by telling them that he would still be in the running if he ran third to George Bush and Ronald Reagan in every primary. "You lose if you do that," said a former Connally supporter. "I guess that Big John can't add very well either."