

National News

DOE subordinates waffle on fusion

In testimony before the Energy Research and Production subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee Feb. 25, Dr. Doug Pewitt, acting director of the DOE's Office of Energy Research, which oversees the nuclear fusion program, stated that the new administration planned to "eliminate high future-year costs for certain projects that are not essential and to eliminate ineffective efforts."

Pewitt was referring to the magnetic fusion program, as outlined in the McCormack bill passed last year. In his testimony, Pewitt said, "Each of the projects to be canceled had been well planned and justified scientifically, and would have produced useful technical input for the fusion engineering device."

But, Pewitt stated, "Pursuing a vigorous program in times of fiscal austerity inevitably involves some difficult choices." The administration "has no intention of embarking on the schedule or program in the fusion act."

Representative Marilyn Bouquard (D-Tenn.), the chairman of the subcommittee, was incredulous. "I am disappointed in the DOE request," she stated. "Is there any doubt in your mind of the technical readiness of the program for the engineering state?" Pewitt replied, "No, but it is a question of timing and the need for additional baseload power-generating capacity in the future."

Since DOE Secretary James Edwards, in a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing, had testified that the administration holds the view opposite to Pewitt, *EIR* asked Edwards at a budget briefing Feb. 26 to comment on Pewitt's testimony.

Edwards replied: "We believe strongly that fusion is one of those long-term, high-payoff technologies that we should continue to push forward. This is a 20-year to 30-year project, and one of the things I wonder about is if it can be done . . . in less time."

Edwards's comment tends to indicate

that he is unaware of Pewitt's testimony. Meanwhile, Representative Bouquard is sending a letter to Edwards protesting Pewitt's testimony, as are prominent fusion spokesmen and the Fusion Energy Foundation. Bouquard's subcommittee will begin hearing public witnesses on the fusion program next week.

IADL agents pushing terrorism

A series of interviews by *EIR's Investigative Leads* specialists has traced plans for spring riots in the U.S. to a November 1980 conference of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), held in Malta every five years. That conference mapped out legal strategy for the FALN and related Puerto Rican terrorist groups operating in North America.

With the strong support of the Soviet, East German, Libyan and other spokesmen, the IADL unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Chicago FALN attorney Michael Deutsch, demanding that the U.S. government treat incarcerated FALN terrorists as prisoners of war. The IADL also demanded that the FALN be treated as a legitimate liberation movement outside American jurisdiction and subject only to international law.

Deutsch has sought to have his FALN clients tried by an international tribunal rather than the Illinois courts.

Other conference delegates who also helped formulate Deutsch's strategy include Ramsey Clark and Lennox Hines. Hines, IADL's representative at the U.N., is an official consultant to the Justice Department's Community Relations Service. The IADL, formed in 1946 by former French Comintern lawyers, is openly East bloc dominated and is staffed primarily by operatives from the legal division of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute, Georgii Arbatov's Soviet think tank, which is part of his KGB intelligence faction.

FBI attempts coup in drug war

FBI Director William H. Webster, in a letter to President Reagan and press interviews, is saying that all federal drug enforcement should come under FBI control, an area never handled by FBI. Webster has been citing the FBI's "newly developed expertise" in undercover work in its Abscam investigations and its dismay at "various reductions" in the FBI budget. Webster's proposal for the FBI to be given control of all investigations, training of undercover operatives, confidential informants, and cash flows for buy-bust arrests, is seen by insiders as a bid to sidetrack a strong commitment to a national war against drugs.

He cites "vast amounts of drugs coming in from outside the country, overwhelming the resources of Customs and the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA]." In effect, Webster proposes to continue the deadly budget cuts against the DEA that had weakened its operations under the Carter administration.

This move coincides with an inside operation by DEA director Peter Bensinger, who is currently using techniques characteristic of the FBI and its "in-place asset," the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, to conduct a purge of some of the nation's best DEA officials, including officials of the DEA's New York Northeast Region, on charges of poor "cost efficiency." These men, threatened with transfer or demotion by Bensinger, have been involved in developing major cases against top heroin traffickers in this country and Italy.

Bensinger has a history of close collaboration with Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.), a leading supporter of marijuana decriminalization and the leading opponent of DEA-supported paraquat program for eradication of Mexican marijuana cultivation. Bensinger is also a close friend of the dubious former attorney general, Edward Levi.

Antidrug forces consider auspicious the recent House vote to create a permanent Special Oversight Committee on

Drug Abuse and Control, replacing the Select Committee on Narcotics at its 1980 chartered expiration. Sources report that the Reagan administration will exempt law-enforcement from current across-the-board budget cuts. Members of the new House committee reported hearings will be held on banking reform to look into drug-related dirty-money laundering, illegal drug-crop cultivation, and sanctions against drug-exporting nations like Iran.

LaRouche winds up tour in Houston

Lyndon LaRouche, former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination and an *EIR* contributing editor, completed a several-weeks national tour Feb. 23, speaking to 300 Democratic, business and labor leaders in Houston, Texas. LaRouche detailed what they must do to get the Reagan administration back on track to fulfill its mandate for economic growth.

"We have only a short time," LaRouche told the audience, "to save the Reagan administration from the economic wrecking policies of Carter administration holdover Paul A. Volcker at the Federal Reserve Board and the confrontationist foreign policy of Secretary of State Alexander Haig." To judo the Haig-Volcker hold on the President, LaRouche said, "We've got to make the April summit of Mexican President López Portillo and Ronald Reagan work. We've got to establish oil-for-technology deals. That's the key."

LaRouche then called for a conference in Washington, D.C. in late March to hammer out the specifics for such a deal. Further, LaRouche, chairman of the advisory board of the National Democratic Policy Committee which sponsored his tour, told his audience that the key to whether Reagan fulfills his election mandate for economic growth "depends on what American citizens do" to break the administration from Carter policy holdovers.

Economists testify before Senate subcommittee

Four U.S. economists testifying before the Senate subcommittee on International Economic Policy of the Foreign Relations Committee Feb. 23 stated that there was little danger of a debt default from the less-developed countries in the short term, despite high interest rates and other economic dislocations. The hearings were held to review the debt situation of the LDCs.

There is another danger, however, the economists said. President Reagan's proposed budget includes a 10 percent cut in foreign aid monies, and freezes them for five years. An economist from the Bank of America pointed out that the International Monetary Fund has a role of "surveillance and adjustments." Another economist told the subcommittee bluntly that the United States must support "multilateral institutions" like the IMF and World Bank because the only alternative, he said, is "bilateral agreements."

Bilateral agreements, the Bank of America economist said, are insufficient to discipline the LDCs to make the necessary adjustments. "The discipline of the multinational institutions is essential for commercial lenders. These adjustments determine who is creditworthy." Arguing that IMF adjustments protect U.S. bank loans, the economists noted that U.S. banks hold 40 percent of the private loans to non-OPEC countries in Senator Mathias (D-Md.) asked the witnesses: "Do you support the doubling of the World Bank's capital?" Replied one witness, "If we don't participate, we lose our leverage. To put it crudely, we have to pay for that."

Proposals were also made to get OPEC to make more loans to the indebted less-developed countries, perhaps by forming an "energy affiliate" to the World Bank. Another proposal called for an International Monetary Fund window for compensatory financing for high interest rates.

Briefly

● **SOCIALIST** Carl Gershman has been appointed special assistant to U.N. ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick. Gershman is the former leader of the Young People's Socialist League and is currently director of the Social Democrats U.S.A., the U.S. branch of the Socialist International, which supports the overthrow of the Salvadorean junta.

● **CLINCH RIVER**, the controversial nuclear breeder reactor may soon receive approval for completion from President Reagan, announced Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker on Feb. 2. The Carter administration had tried to kill the fuel-efficient energy project.

● **CASPAR** Weinberger will be the featured speaker at the Trilateral Commission meeting in Washington, March 28-30. Weinberger is a former member of the commission, whose other members include former President Carter, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Walter Mondale.

● **GEORGETOWN'S** Center for Strategic and International Studies held a meeting of 30 specialists this week to discuss "the demographic and national security implications of the Salvador revolution." Addressing the group will be William Paddock (see Special Report) and Cord Meyer (see page 50).

● **FEMA**, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, established by the Carter administration as a super crisis-management coordinating agency, will be brought under the White House wing. Richard Williamson, a White House aide put the word out at the Governors Conference in Washington D.C. in late February that White House counselor Ed Meese will personally take control of FEMA. Louis Guiffreda, a California law-enforcement and terrorism expert and a friend of Meese, will be formally named to head the agency.