

Congressional Closeup by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

Hatch discovers raffle ticket scandal

Crusading Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), chairman of the Senate Labor And Human Resources Committee, revealed evidence on May 11 of a labor scandal whose proportions may dwarf the Hoffa Wars. Hatch presented explosive evidence about forced raffle-ticket buying in Boilermakers Local 154! Hatch described the sordid detail of the scheme: "Transient members working for Boilermakers locals are being forced on threat of firing to buy so-called '50-50' raffle tickets. This monthly raffle is called 50-50 because proceeds from tickets sales are to be split between the member whose ticket is drawn at the monthly meeting and a 'sick and disabled' fund for members injured on the job or facing financial emergencies. . . . If forced, these practices violate the section of the U.S. code dealing with extortion. . . . Who protects members who do not wish to participate?"

Flash: Highly-placed sources, whose identities must be protected for their own safety, have told EIR that Hatch's next crusade will take him into the nation's senior citizen's centers to expose corrupt bingo practices.

Underneath Hatch's dog-and-pony show on May 11, which was complete with anonymous witnesses behind protective screens, lay the continuing efforts of Hatch, and more important, committee investigators Frank Silbey and Walter Sheridan, to continue to pressure the Labor Department into vastly expanding in its inves-

tigations into organized labor. Hatch fulminated against the failure of the Labor and Justice Departments to vigorously pursue the evidences of corruption brought before them, and read a timeworn list of botched or unpursued investigations. Most of the evidence presented to the committee is years old.

Ludicrous as Hatch's attempts to revive the McClellan Committee are, the behind-the-scenes efforts of Silbey and Sheridan to topple Labor Department head Ray Donovan are continuing apace. Hatch is providing the sound effects for the first stage of Reagangate, which will commence in earnest if Donovan is forced out of his position.

House passes austere NASA authorization

The House of Representatives passed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration authorization, H.R.5890, on May 13, providing an austere budget of \$6.6 billion for FY83 NASA programs.

According to Rep. Ronnie Flippo (D-Ala.), chairman of the Science and Technology Subcommittee on Space Science and Applications, the bill preserves the Space Shuttle production schedules leading to an operational fleet of four orbiters supporting civil and military needs from launch sites on both coasts, along with funding for early operations leading to an initial flight rate capability of 24 flights per year; supports continued development of the Space Telescope; keeps on schedule the Gal-

ileo mission to Jupiter for a 1985 Shuttle launch using the "inertial upper stage"; continues the planetary exploration of the Voyager and Pioneer programs; continues the Landsat-D development for 1982 and 1985 launches; and provides continued U.S. support to the International Solar Polar Mission with only the European spacecraft.

The authorization, however, will result in a net loss of 433 NASA employees out of a previously planned level of 21,652; will delete funds for the Venus Orbiting Imaging Radar mission, which is the launch and initial operation of the tracking and data relay satellite system, the Space Shuttle Solar Maximum Mission retrieval/repair demonstration activity; and will significantly reduce the capability to process and analyze the valuable scientific data gathered through NASA programs.

While the \$6.6 billion represents an 11 percent increase over the FY82 levels, NASA spending power is less than one-third of its 1966 levels. "These [funding] trends do not recognize the positive contributions which NASA programs make to national defense, to the nation's economy, to the monitoring of our natural resources, to energy and mineral exploration and to the expansion of scientific knowledge," Flippo charged. "The most significant economic effects of NASA spending are in the long-run productivity advances from new technologies developed for the space and aeronautics programs."

The committee request, which was \$34 million (one-half of one

percent) above the Reagan administration request, found itself faced with a floor fight with a group of self-professed NASA supporters who were willing to expend a great deal of time and energy insisting that the \$34 million be cut in order to help "balance" the budget. An amendment sponsored by Larry Winn (R-Kan.), ranking Republican on the Science and Technology Committee, to cut the \$34 million from Aeronautic Research and Technology was defeated 204 to 169.

Senate calls for NATO industrial integration

Trilateral Commission member Sen. William Roth (R-Del.) proposed an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill May 13 which calls for the complete economic and defense integration of the member NATO states. The amendment specifically calls on President Reagan to propose at the NATO summit this month that the NATO nations "pool their defense efforts and resources" and "establish a cooperative defense industrial effort within Western Europe and between Western Europe and North America." The amendment passed by a vote of 87 to 1.

In motivating his proposal, Roth declared that "Western Europe could be treated as a single geopolitical entity. NATO forces would become far better integrated through using common and interoperable weapons systems."

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Tower (R-Tex.) wholeheartedly endorsed this attack on sovereignty, and called

on the Senate to unanimously endorse the proposal in order to both force the President to act on it and to give the President strong backing if he does. "If [the amendment] passes only marginally or fails, it will be an empty-handed President who would go to the June NATO summit, the Senate having rejected the notion of rationalization, standardization, and interoperability."

Speaking for the Democrats, Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) fully endorsed the proposal.

The only opposition came from Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), who told his colleagues that "I believe there is a right way and a wrong way to bring about standardization of NATO equipment through industrial cooperation, not industrial integration. . . . I am concerned at the implications for maintaining our independent defense industrial base."

Out-of-area NATO deployment advocates testify

Jeffrey Record and Robert Komer testified before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East May 20 in an effort to get the House lined up solidly behind the NATO out-of-area deployments doctrine. Komer stated that it would be a "very important step" for the House, "which is considered the more parochial of the two bodies" of Congress, to pass a resolution similar to the Glenn-Roth-Nunn Bill passed in the Senate. The Senate resolution, which Komer helped write, calls for integration of the defense industrial base of NATO members, interoperability of weap-

ons systems, and a redefined division of labor among NATO members in order to free up forces for other deployments.

Record testified against any quick pullouts of U.S. troops from Europe, but rather gradual withdrawal as European countries filled in a greater ground forces role combined with "robust" U.S. air, naval and tactical nuclear deployments. "These new demands [for United States forces out of NATO] derive from our growing dependence on fossil fuels and other critical raw materials in increasingly unstable areas of the world where the U.S. does not, as in Europe, enjoy politically secure military access ashore and the help of militarily competent local allies and client states."

When asked what the U.S. should try to get out of the upcoming NATO summit, Komer demanded that Reagan "take Chancellor Schmidt aside and get him to stop stalling on the West German add-ons to the NATO infrastructure program," which the Germans have been resisting for two years; the policy could topple Schmidt if pursued. "We need to stay away from the rhetoric and get some concrete initiatives like Carter did in May 1977 . . . on barriers, interoperability and upgrading of reserves . . . Reagan has to take Mitterrand aside and discuss what more France could do for its own and for NATO's defense.

The three Congressmen in attendance, Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), Millicent Fenwick (R-N.J.), and Toby Roth (R-Wis.) supported the testimony enthusiastically.