

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Did administration help kill Simpson-Mazzoli?

In a apparent attempt to preempt the administration, House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) announced on Oct. 3 that he would not bring the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill to the House floor for consideration during this session of Congress.

O'Neill's move effectively kills the legislation, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) and Rep. Romano Mazzoli (D-Ky.), since it is unlikely that House Democrats would attempt to circumvent the Speaker on this matter.

O'Neill claimed that he was acting on information received from the congressional Hispanic Caucus, which indicated that President Reagan would double-cross Democrats and veto the legislation once it reached his desk, despite his previous strong support for it. The motivation, O'Neill argued, would be a Republican play for Hispanic votes in 1984.

The legislation, which has already passed the Senate with administration support, would impose sanctions against employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

Although supporters of Simpson-Mazzoli claimed that there was no evidence that the administration would reverse its position, congressional sources reported that Attorney General William French Smith had sent a letter to Congress in July, stating that the administration would veto anything which deviated from the Senate version of the bill. It was certain that the House would change the Senate bill substantially. The Smith letter surfaced several days before O'Neill announced he was killing the legislation.

O'Neill charged that the bill might "force Hispanics to wear a tag around the neck. Hitler did this to the Jews,

you know. He made them wear a dog tag." And, in one of his more politically astute comments in recent months, the Speaker added, "Outside of editorials in a few liberal newspapers, is there any real constituency for this bill?"

Industrial policy added to DITI bill

Legislation initiated by the Reagan administration to create a new Department of International Trade and Industry (DITI), which would provide more effective means to wage "free enterprise" trade war against the rest of the world, passed the Senate Government Affairs Committee on Oct. 5—but only after Committee Democrats Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and Tom Eagleton (D-Mo.) succeeded in turning the bill into a vehicle to force the administration to adopt an "industrial policy."

The Eagleton-Levin amendment, which passed by a vote of 8 to 2, would set up an Office of Competitive Analysis in the new DITI to pinpoint troubled industries and convoke a labor-industry-government commission to propose "remedies"—a rewarmed version of 1930s corporatism. The goal is to impose austerity through common agreement among labor, industry, and government. Amendment sponsor Levin has previously introduced legislation to create a tripartite National Industrial Policy Board which explicitly mandated the sharing of sacrifice. Investment banker Felix Rohatyn, the man who destroyed New York City's industries and services, is a prominent advocate of this policy.

After attaching the industrial policy provision to the legislation, Eagleton warned that the bill will "die in the House of Representatives [without the industrial policy provision]."

The original proposal, as spearheaded by Trilateral Commission members and Senate Government Affairs Committee Chairman William Roth, would "streamline" trade functions by combining the Department of Commerce, the Office of Special Trade Representative, and agencies from other departments such as State, Treasury, and Agriculture.

Pell delegation still appeasing Moscow

The eight Democratic senators who traveled to Moscow for a meeting with Yuri Andropov in August of this year, under the tutelage of Harrimanite Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), have released a report of their trip to the Senate under the title, "Dangerous Stalemate: Superpower Relations in Autumn 1983." The Aug. 17-28 trip was concluded just as the Soviet Union shot down KAL flight 007 over the Sea of Japan. But the report states: "That tragedy has not, however, caused us to revise the recommendation in this report pertaining to the urgency of nuclear arms control. Indeed, by demonstrating that the specter of military miscalculation is not an idle fear but a real possibility, this episode should serve as a spur to achieving limits on the superpower arsenals."

That Andropov's policies differ from the military's and that the KAL 007 shooting was a military "miscalculation" has become the preferred line of Council on Foreign Relations networks and dominates the report, which also implies that Andropov's efforts to modernize the economy are being hindered by Soviet defense requirements.

"Any such change," the report states, "would require the acquiescence of a military hierarchy which became accustomed to a dominant share

during the Soviet drive to achieve strategic parity with the United States. And that in turn would almost certainly require genuine normalization of East-West relations and a far-reaching regime of arms control."

Andropov made a propaganda pitch for a major arms control treaty concerning space during his meeting with the delegation, which was widely reported at the time. The delegation's report urges the United States to resume negotiations with the Soviets on an anti-satellite treaty and a ban on the deployment of all weapons in space, which would, of course, rule out a beam-weapon based strategic defense as articulated by President Reagan on March 23. On the question of verification, which the administration has argued precludes meaningful negotiations on an ASAT treaty, the report notes, "Andropov responded without specifics [on verification] but in the affirmative, finally saying, 'of course' they will be verifiable, 'the real question is whether we will have something to verify.'"

House tries to curb nuclear exports

The KGB-allied anti-nuclear movement's "fall offensive" against nuclear energy, which has already stopped an emergency program to save two Washington State Public Power Supply nuclear plants and which threatens the Clinch River Breeder Reactor's future funding, moved forward with House action aimed at curtailing nuclear exports.

On Sept. 30, the House accepted a resolution on the subject by a vote of 196 to 189. As sponsor Harold Wolpe (D-Mich.) explained, "Under existing law nuclear facilities and fuel cannot be exported to a country that refuses to accept full-scope safeguards. But

nuclear technology transfers, and transfers and retransfers of nuclear components, can be authorized to such countries. The amendment I am offering here is necessary to close this loophole, a loophole that is currently being exploited to allow nuclear exports to India, to Argentina, and to South Africa."

Wolpe said that adoption of his amendment would be retroactively applied to the Department of Energy's approval of the transfer of 143 tons of heavy water to Argentina and would be proactively applied to the administration's effort to sell nuclear components to India.

Referring to the Third World countries who are developing nuclear technologies, but who have not signed the notorious Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, population-reduction advocate Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.) argued, "I think that that threat is a far more real threat to the peace of the world than the nuclear problems that we are experiencing with the Soviet Union."

Opponents of the amendment argued that it only exacerbates the United States's current unreliability as a nuclear supplier. Rep. Manuel Lujan (R-N.M.), reporting on the Mexican decision several years ago to purchase nuclear plants from countries other than the United States, said that a Mexican official explicitly told him, "We need a reliable partner. Your nuclear policy doesn't make sense, either your domestic policy or your export policy."

Committee considers Kissinger probe

H.R. 323, introduced by Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) to mandate an investigation of Henry Kissinger's possible conflicts of interest in serving on the

President's Central America commission, has been referred to the House Government Operations Committee for consideration. The committee, chaired by Jack Brooks (D-Tex.), has just concluded a successful effort to renew the Ethics in Government Act, and to toughen up its provisions regarding conflict of interest. Gonzalez charges that Henry Kissinger and his Kissinger Associates have immense business dealings in Central and Latin America—including involvement in the sale of arms to the Sandinistas—which could influence the former Secretary of State's activities on the Central America commission.

Clinch River Breeder gets extension

The Clinch River Breeder Reactor, which was due to run out of funds at the outset of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1, was given a temporary extension with the passage of the congressional "continuing resolution" on Sept. 30. That resolution extends funding for programs until Nov. 10, so that Congress will have time to pass the necessary appropriations bills for FY1984. The House and the Senate had previously mandated that Clinch River, an advanced nuclear research and development project which will "breed" nuclear fuel, receive no new monies until Congress approves a private-sector cost-sharing plan.

Capitol Hill sources say Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), a long-time and crucial supporter of Clinch River (which is being built in his state), may no longer put himself on the line for the project. That Building Trades President Bob Georgine, who has pulled together a labor-industry-minority alliance in support of Clinch River, is maintaining the effort.