
National News

Senate bill includes New Bretton Woods call

The fiscal year 1999 Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (S. 2334) which goes to the floor for a vote in early September, contains the same language calling for a New Bretton Woods conference as the FY 1988 supplemental appropriations bill S. 1768, previously approved by the Senate, but not included in the final version after the House-Senate conference. S. 2334 also includes authorization to increase the International Monetary Fund quota.

S. 2334 was reported out of Committee on July 21. The entirety of the IMF section of the bill reflects growing hysteria around the economic and financial crisis. According to the bill's language, the President must establish an International Financial Institution Advisory Commission, which will make various reports on the IMF, and:

"Sec. 604. BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE. Not later than 180 days after the Commission reports to the appropriate committees, the President shall call for a conference of representatives of the governments of the member countries of the IMF, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [World Bank], and the WTO [World Trade Organization] to consider the structure, management and activities of the institutions, their possible merger, and their capacity to contribute to exchange rate stability and economic growth and to respond effectively to financial crises."

Virginia yearns to be 'America's prison capital'

Vying to become the prison capital of America, the Virginia Department of Corrections signed an agreement with the District of Columbia on Aug. 26 for Virginia to take almost 1,300 inmates from D.C.'s notorious prison complex, located in Lorton, Virginia. The Lorton inmates will be housed in a brand-new maximum-security facility in Sussex County. Under the contract, Virginia will be paid \$71 million over two and a half years. "The contract also helps bail out Vir-

ginia prison officials, who have a surplus of prison beds," the *Washington Post* noted on Aug. 27. "Virginia has spent about \$150 million more than necessary for new prisons in the past three years, according to an analysis by state officials." The new prison, which cost \$68 million, would have sat empty, if the deal had not been worked out with D.C. to fill it up with Lorton inmates.

Virginia is leasing out as many as 3,290 "surplus" prison beds over the next two years. The state has entered into contracts with Michigan, Delaware, and Vermont to take about 1,750 more inmates. In fact, Virginia's prison system is now operating at 137% of design capacity, and its five medium-security facilities are operating at 177% of capacity. But, corrections director Ron Angelone opines that there is no overcrowding unless prisoners are sleeping on the floor.

In July, officials from Youngstown, Ohio warned Virginia about taking inmates from Lorton. Youngstown is the site of the private prison run by Corrections Corp. of America, a privately owned prison which housed roughly 1,700 inmates transferred from Lorton. CCA's prison had at least 20 stabbings (two fatal), and the breakout of six D.C. inmates—four of whom were murderers who had been classified as "medium security."

Don Eret holds hearings on New Bretton Woods

On Aug. 18, LaRouche ally Don Eret, who is running for the Democratic nomination in the First Congressional District of Nebraska, held hearings to demonstrate why President Clinton must convene a New Bretton Woods conference. The hearings, in the state capital of Lincoln, took place just days before the free-fall of the Russian ruble. Now, farm state Congressmen had even begun to debate whether the free-trade prescriptions had any validity at all.

Eret, a former State Senator who is both a farmer and a retired NASA engineer, said, "I will prove in my keynote presentation . . . that cattle feeders are being asset-stripped through seemingly legal but actually immoral commodity price manipulation." Using methods that Eret had employed while

at NASA, he showed that during 1994-98, cattle prices repeatedly dipped to \$60/cwt, although parity for live cattle pricing is \$150/cwt.

"Congress must change its confidentiality clause on trader identity," Eret said, "to publicly disclose the identity of the four largest trader categories," so that hedge funds will be shown to be illegal. "The Commodity Exchange Act states that two or more persons trading in unison on a regulated exchange are committing a collusion in the market that is chargeable as a felony."

Defense lawyers praise McDade-Murtha bill

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers praised the McDade-Murtha "Citizens Protection Act" and urged everyone to lobby for its final passage, in a press release. Included was a fact sheet refuting all the phony criticism of the act by Justice Department prosecutors, Congressional opponents, and the FBI.

The act, whose language was incorporated into a House appropriations bill on Aug. 5, would establish independent oversight of Justice Department prosecutors. The bill is currently before a House-Senate conference committee.

To the complaint that McDade-Murtha would hamper multi-jurisdictional investigations by forcing them to adhere to all the different provisions in state laws governing prosecutorial conduct, the NACDL asserted that state bar and local Federal court rules of attorney ethics are all essentially the same. Therefore, it is untrue that the bill would disrupt multi-state investigations. Attorneys would be subject only to the rules of the states that licensed them, and Federal court rules of practice applicable to all lawyers. Historically DOJ lawyers were subject to independent investigation and discipline by ethics authorities of states where they are licensed to practice. In 1989, the DOJ started to exempt its lawyers from these standards of conduct.

"The House is right to recognize that law enforcement concerns cannot justify the DOJ's self-creation of less demanding ethics rules for Federal prosecutors and regulatory lawyers," the statement says.