

IN SHORT

Misguided missiles

Opponents of Cruise and Pershing II deployment took to the nation's streets and military bases October 21-24 in what may have been the largest national antinuclear protest to date (see Briefing). Although deployment may be inevitable, doubts about it are clearly growing. The *Nation's* Christopher Hitchens recently discussed the views of a surprisingly skeptical Richard Perle, Assistant Secretary for Defense, who told an off-the-record journalists' lunch in Washington that the missiles were of questionable military value and that if the decision had to be made again he'd oppose deployment. (Backing out now, however, would break an American commitment, Perle said.)

Harder to ignore than Perle's attack of common sense may be evidence of poor test results for the missiles. The Coalition Against the Deployment of Cruise and Pershing II Missiles found that just counting publicized test failures, the missiles have a success rate of barely 70 percent. The Navy is on record saying it would require an 80 to 90 percent success rate under simulated combat conditions before deployment, but a critical General Accounting Office report has found that even the disappointing Cruise tests aren't taking place in combat-like situations. Coalition source Robert Aldridge, a former Lockheed engineer, says, "The only thing that makes sense in deploying [the missiles] in December is to get NATO's nuclear buildup started before the opposition gets stronger."

Smearing Seneca

One site of entrenched American opposition to Euromissile deployment has been the Seneca Army Depot, where the Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice has received a lot of media attention since it was established July 4. But last month editors of small local papers got an unsolicited story on an aspect of the camp that has received "little publicity"—the financial hardship it has caused Seneca County. Focusing on local resentment of the women campers, articulated by a crusty supervisor who calls the "young ladies" of the camp "a burden from the moment they got here," the story was distributed by the Washington-based ALF News Service. The service bills itself as non-partisan and non-profit, and the best news to struggling editors is that its stories are free.

Who's footing the bill for the hidden story of the Seneca subversives? The news service is connected with the American Legal Foundation (ALF), a right-wing law firm that has specialized in broadcast law and Federal Communications Commission proceedings. Its publications are advertised in *Spotlight*, the newspaper of the far right Liberty Lobby, and its most noteworthy case was a 1981 challenge to the license renewal of Pacifica radio station WPFW of Washington, D.C., on the grounds that the station gave inordinate airtime to Salvadoran rebel supporters. Last May ALF threw a party honoring National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) head Terry Dolan, attended by Republican Senators Orrin Hatch, Paul Laxalt and Jack Kemp. The news service appears to be ALF's attempt to move into the communication business, but it's had a slow start—so far only the Greensboro, Penn., *Tribune Review* and the *Texas Gazette* have carried the Seneca expose. Future stories will reportedly include a look at how a presidential campaign affects an incumbent senator's performance. Coincidentally, the only senators running for president so far this year are Democrats.

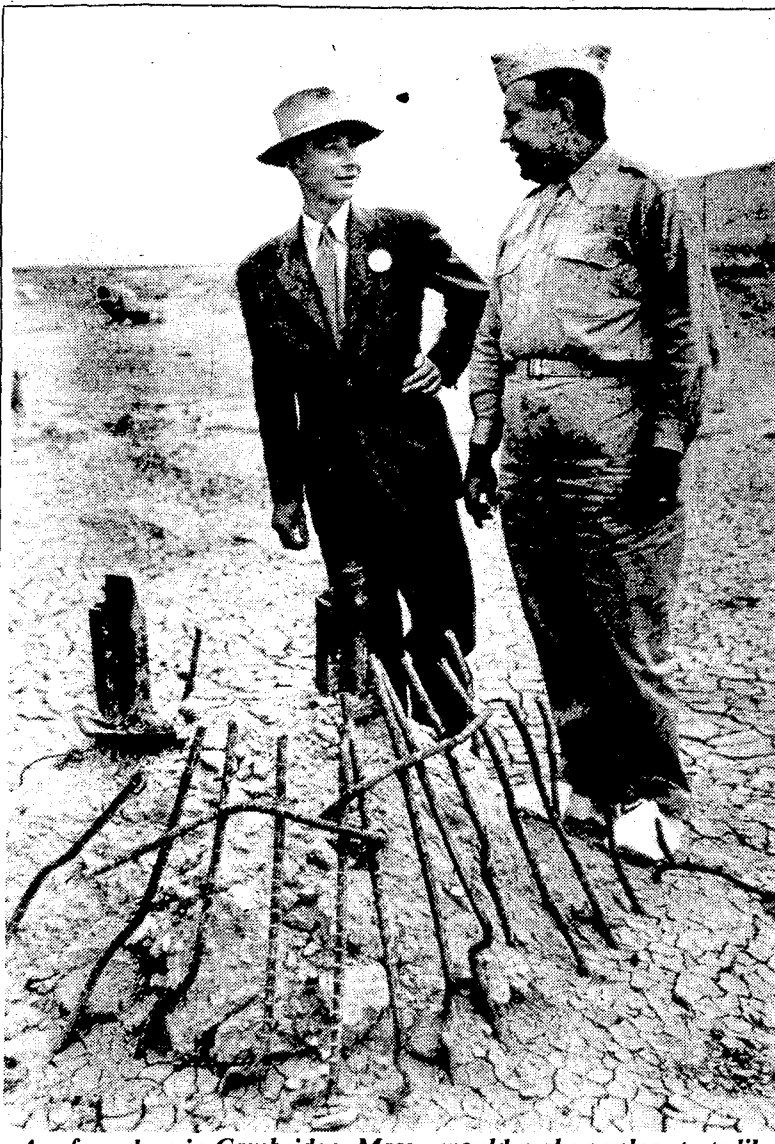
Big Oil beaten

An unusual coalition of environmentalists and labor unions has been pushing for laws restricting the storage of toxic chemicals in California's Silicon Valley, where electronics companies' leaky underground facilities have contaminated the groundwater of surrounding communities. A successful drive for a tough toxics ordinance in Santa Clara County earlier this year (*In These Times*, March 2) turned into a push for statewide legislation requiring tighter containment and stricter monitoring of toxic chemicals. Despite the bitter opposition of the state's powerful electronics and oil industry lobbies, the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition was victorious, and Republican Gov. George Deukmejian recently signed AB 1362 into law. Commented 20-year California State Senate veteran David Roberti: "It's the first time I've seen Big Oil beat since I've been here."

Gentlemen's agreement

Ten years after Salvador Allende's elected government in Chile was toppled by a U.S.-backed coup, the CIA director who funneled millions of dollars to insurgents and then lied about it to Congress has finally gotten the credit he deserves. Richard Helms, who was pronounced "in disgrace and shame" by a federal judge in 1977 for denying the CIA's role in supporting the Chilean coup, quietly received a National Security Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service" at the White House October 20. "I have to feel exonerated," said Helms, who wrote off his past legal troubles as "one of the hazards of working for the agency." Helms' secret for dealing with the ups and downs of CIA service? "You just be as much a gentleman as you can be."

—Joan Walsh



A referendum in Cambridge, Mass., would make nuclear tests like the above a crime.

Nuclear ban in Cambridge?

CAMBRIDGE, MA—Twenty-five communities around the nation have approved largely symbolic measures declaring themselves "nuclear-free zones." Cambridge voters, however, will have the chance to do more than send a message: a November 8 referendum would actually interrupt nuclear weapons research and development taking place in the city.

In 1981, a non-binding vote for a nuclear-free Cambridge was approved by three quarters of the electorate. This year's vote would put the referendum into law, making research, production and development of nuclear weapons a crime. This time, defense contractors and other corporations have set up "Citizens Against Research Bans" to defeat the referendum. Already the best financed campaign in the city's history, CARB has raised \$100,000, most of it from out-of-state, and flown in political consultants from Los Angeles.

Their intensive campaign is well underway. Before election day, every registered voter will receive several direct mail appeals, with union members targeted for special treatment. In addition to leaflets and TV spots, a 21-line phone bank is being used to conduct "polls" that are really an attempt to argue against the referendum. Voters are told that 4,600 jobs would be lost, that honest researchers would be jailed and that 70 to 80 companies would be jeopardized.

Mobilization for Survival, running a shoestring campaign from its basement office, called a press conference recently to denounce opponents for "deliberately and consistently misleading voters." They argue that only one wea-

pons contractor, Charles Stark Draper Laboratories, which designs guidance systems for MX and Cruise missiles, is certain to be affected by the law.

The ultimate impact of a nuclear-free Cambridge, besides preventing future weapons research here, also lies in the precedent it would set: cities that actually house defense contractors can shut down their nuclear work. According to Sandra Graham, a city councilor and state representative, Question Two represents the best in "bottom-up" social change. "What we're doing here in Cambridge is saying to the country: there is a way to fight nuclear weapons," she commented. Rather than waiting for Congress to pass a nuclear freeze, citizens can refuse to allow the weapons to be designed or produced in their hometowns.

Opponents are working with the city's Chamber of Commerce



as well as academics, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Jerome Wiesner, to defeat the law. Letters mailed over the signature of Ernest May, a Harvard history professor, declare that he is "very concerned about banning research on anything."

"Dirty politics," responds Nobel Laureate George Wald, a supporter of the referendum. "What we're talking about here is not pure science but research and development—technology—for nuclear weapons."

—Alfie Kohn

Chicago strike ends uneasily

CHICAGO—Teachers in the nation's third largest public school system returned from a three-week strike last week with a tiny pay increase and more discontent than usual. Unlike many past school negotiations, the mayor did not intervene to bring about a settlement—a decision that won both compliments and criticism from Mayor Harold Washington's supporters.

Although teachers had played a major role in winning the approximately \$172 million in new revenues that the school system obtained this year, the Board began by offering a meager 0.5 percent pay increase. Eventually they won an effective 2.9 percent increase plus a bonus and extension of the school year to make up for lost pay during the strike, the longest in the system's history. The increase will be financed by extending some teachers' salaries to a full year instead of nine months, pledges to cut medical and absenteeism costs, savings resulting from the strike and other adjustments.

But many teachers believed that there was more money to be found, especially by cutting the highly paid and bloated school bureaucracy. However, one of the biggest burdens diminishing money for teacher pay and better education is the high debt payments for bonds issued by the School Finance Authority, established in 1980 to deal—in a way ultimately most costly to the taxpayer and most beneficial to the banks—with a school fiscal crisis.

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is. Furthermore, as the Finance Authority has retired some of its debt, it has not shifted its share of the school property tax back to the system but has instead given tax rebates (too small to be very helpful to the average taxpayer but large enough to have financed a reasonable raise for teachers who had foregone pay increases for the past two years.)

As union president Robert Healey quickly pushed through the settlement, he encountered unusually high opposition in the union House of Delegates and a 28 percent "no" vote among teachers. Many were angry that strikebreaking teachers would be paid for the strike and receive bonuses, although substitute teachers, who strongly backed the strike, will not.

Some black community groups had brought pressure to end the strike. The acting head of Jesse Jackson's PUSH accused the teachers union of acting in collusion with Washington foe Alderman Edward Vrdolyak to embarrass the mayor. But white teachers and the black majority in the union stuck together against such community pressures and in opposition to Superintendent Ruth Love, a black woman.

Washington refused to play "Mr. Fix-It." Unlike past mayors, he didn't pledge city money

not readily available to bring about a settlement. Washington may have hoped not only to set a precedent of serious collective bargaining but also to use the school board as a means of delivering an austerity message to city employees, since police and fire contracts are now in negotiation.

Although a number of supporters and establishment figures praised Washington for not dabbling in the school crisis, others felt that he could have played a more active role without falling into Mayor Richard Daley's pattern.

George Schmidt, a teacher who was an active Washington supporter and writes regularly on school finances, thought the mayor's action was "cowardly." "He could have appointed two people to the board to replace two of the most anti-union people on the board," Schmidt said. "He has had the opportunity for months. By not making those appointments he left Jane Byrne's school board in place. And he could have put together a package with Vrdolyak to go after legislation to change the School Finance Authority. Also, when Operation PUSH came out with that conspiracy nonsense, he could have said immediately that it was untrue. It was unconscionable for Washington to let that continue." —David Moberg

ately falsified in order to cover up the laboratory's extraordinarily high animal mortality rate. The stunning find sent tremors through several federal regulatory agencies, particularly the Environmental Protection Agency, where more than 2,000 IBT studies were contained in the agency's pesticide safety files.

The IBT trial, which generated more than 16,000 pages of court transcript, was grueling. The jury was inundated by details about pathology, biostatistics, tumor identification, animal necropsy, chemical dose relationships and other arduous disciplines that make up the relatively new science of toxicology.

Defense witnesses conceded that critical information was missing from IBT's files, but denied that data used to replace it had been fabricated. The laboratory's difficulties were the result of untried and pioneering practices begun by the company, defense attorneys argued, and not the result of fraud.

The EPA began a massive review of its files after the problems with IBT tests were discovered, and last July announced that "major portions" of the questionable IBT studies used to license 140 popular pesticides had been replaced. But in late September EPA staff charged that the report was a "sham," and that the EPA still lacks basic health and safety information on more than 100 commonly used pesticides IBT tested.

An internal EPA memo dated Aug. 30, 1983, showed that the agency had "reviewed and accepted" just 69 replacement studies for the more than 600 invalidated IBT tests. According to the memo, in more than 200 other studies the EPA termed "replaced" in July, the chemical companies have merely agreed to start long-term replacement studies.

—Keith Schneider

IBT research fraud found

CHICAGO—Three former officials of Industrial Bio-Test (IBT) Laboratories were found guilty of falsifying key scientific safety tests used to obtain government approval of drugs and pesticides October 21.

The former IBT officials are Dr. Moreno L. Keplinger, former section head of toxicology; Dr. Paul L. Wright, former section head for rat toxicology; and James B. Plank, former assistant manager for toxicology. Each was convicted of defrauding the government, though only Keplinger was found guilty on all eight counts brought against them.

At issue in the marathon trial that began in Federal District Court here April 4 were four long-term scientific studies used to market the herbicide Sencor, the pesticide Nemacur, a drug used in the treatment of arthritis inflammation called Naprosyn and TCC, an antibacterial agent contained in most popular deodorant soaps. All the compounds have been retested and have received government approval for sale nationwide.

IBT, based in Northbrook, Ill., was once the nation's oldest and largest independent chemical testing firm. Between the firm's founding in 1952 and its closing in 1978, IBT conducted more than 22,000 toxicology studies. Almost half were used to gain federal registrations for hundreds of drugs, food additives and pesticides still sold on the American and international markets (see *In These Times*, May 11.)

In 1976, a toxicologist with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration discovered that IBT tests conducted in the late '60s and early '70s may have been deliber-

Briefing: Euromissiles protested across U.S.

The so-called "heart of the arms race"—a complex of dozens of facilities under five major defense contractors—in suburban El Segundo near Los Angeles—was the target of weekend demonstrations and civil disobedience during International Days of Protest, October 21-24, opposing deployment of NATO Cruise and Pershing II missiles. At least 60 people from religious and peace groups were arrested early Monday as they blockaded arriving defense employees at busy facility entrances, and seven more were taken into

property in 1982.

A camp-in of 20 women at McConnell-Douglas Lab went unchallenged Monday because the contractor for the Cruise missile was idle in observance of United Nations Day.

In the hours before dawn on Monday, October 24, more than 50 demonstrators gathered in rural upstate New York to blockade the main gates of the Seneca Army Depot, the Department of Defense's principal East Coast storage facility for nuclear weapons and an anticipated storage site for



custody for leafletting outside a plant. Included were California's giant Hughes Aircraft, contractor for the Trident missile, and the U.S. Air Force Space Division, a contract manager in defense-dependent southern California, which absorbs a full 10 percent of the nation's defense spending.

A police-sanctioned demonstration sponsored by the Alliance for Survival on Saturday, October 22, drew 6,000 participants. The diverse group included drum-beating Buddhists and a contingent identified on a banner as Punks for Peace. There was a one-mile march on the spacious, sealed off street before the Northrop facility.

Speaker Irene Eckert, West Berlin Chair of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, told the demonstrators that Europeans are "not unilateralists or pro-Soviet" to resist the deployment of "first-strike" Euromissiles, set to arrive in Europe December 12. Eckert later shied from speculating on the scheduled deployment. She called resistance a "process" subject to still-changing forces in West Germany and other nations.

An Alliance for Survival lawyer said Monday that charges against the seven arrested for pamphleting at Hughes Aircraft will be used to secure pamphleting rights on contractors' property as "the only way to get to employees." Pamphleters already won the right to pamphlet on Rockwell

Pershing II missile warheads. Before the day was over, more than 400 of them—almost twice the number projected by organizers—were arrested for civil disobedience.

Monday's blockade was the culmination of a weekend of protest highlighted by a rally and demonstration on Saturday at Sampson State Park, just a few miles from the Depot. The Sampson Park demonstration was the largest such protest held in upstate New York and the largest in a series of rallies held in the U.S. on Saturday as part of International Days of Protest. According to state police, about 5,000 people attended the event and listened to guest speakers including Dr. Benjamin Spock, former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug and Bishop Matthew Clark from nearby Rochester.

The weekend's activities were a continuation of the work of the Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Social Justice, which sponsored protests at the Seneca Depot throughout the summer. The summer encampment was troubled by widely reported suspicion by the locals, but the weekend action seemed calculated to assuage the community's uneasiness. The Rochester contingent handed out American flags—one summer conflict occurred when the women refused to fly a flag at the camp—and mainstream religious leaders were involved in planning the protest. Nevertheless, a group of 50 anti-camp locals counterprotested a few

miles from the park—covered by 30 reporters.

Outside the gates of the Savannah River plant near Aiken, S.C., where all plutonium and tritium used in American nuclear weapons is produced, 80 protesters were arrested in a peaceful blockade October 24. An earlier legal rally and a weekend peace camp were designed to halt the operations at the bomb plant.

Monday morning, men and women protesters from southeastern states attempted to block incoming traffic to the bomb plant. About 50 women at separate women's peace camp gates engaged in civil disobedience, doing the slow walk and chanting and wailing before a peaceful arrest.

"Deployment of first-strike weapons missiles in West

In Minneapolis, 577 people were arrested at Honeywell, Inc., designers of Pershing II guidance systems. The firm took out newspaper ads before the action, explaining why it installed chainlink fences.

Germany is suicidal," said Brett Bursey, a member of the Natural Guard, a group that organized Friday's legal rally. The rally was attended by 400 persons who sat on a grassy strip bordering an entrance to the Savannah River facility, the safest plant in South Carolina, according to road signs. Protesters listened to about 20 speakers, musicians and performers reaffirm the call for a nuclear freeze and an immediate shutdown of the bomb plant.

Many focused on health hazards the plant poses to local residents and workers. Pointing out that local infant mortality rates are the highest in the state, and rates in South Carolina are the highest nationally, Bursey said, "Letting our children die—that's an issue of national security."

Bursey's remarks came in response to earlier attempts by a federal judge to dissuade protesters from blockading the plant by issuing a maximum \$1,000 fine and up to six months in jail on the grounds of national security. The protesters claimed an early victory on Friday when a judge from the Fourth District Court of Appeals overturned the injunction.

—Michael Jondreau, Carl Goldfarb and Anne-Christine d'Adesky