

## ARMS CONTROL

## Peace groups attack hawk in dove's coop

By A. Lin Neumann

WASHINGTON

**H**EARINGS WERE HELD BY the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week on the controversial appointment of Gen. George M. Seignious (ret.) to replace outgoing Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) head Paul Warnke.

The appointment of Seignious raises concerns regarding, in Foreign Relations Committee chairman Sen. Frank Church's (D-ID) words, "the appropriateness of having an ex-military man as head of the arms control agency." But the appointment is not expected by Hill observers to have much difficulty in the committee. In fact, the appointment is seen as President Carter's bid to shore up support for the proposed SALT II agreement by having a military man to quiet the voice of Senate hawks.

Seignious' credentials as a supporter of arms control were questioned severely by several witnesses and members of the arms control community here. Admiral Gene LaRoque (ret.) who once served with him, characterized the general as a hawk and said, "Since we've not yet reached the agreement (SALT II), he's the very worst to negotiate it."

Jeremy Stone, director of the prestigious Federation of American Scientists (FAS), said his group was strongly opposed to the presence of a military man on an agency designed to limit the spread of arms. He characterized Seignious as "naive and inexperienced" in the mix of Washington politics, as well as having ties to the conservative Coalition for Peace Through Strength, a group that has condemned the SALT negotiations.

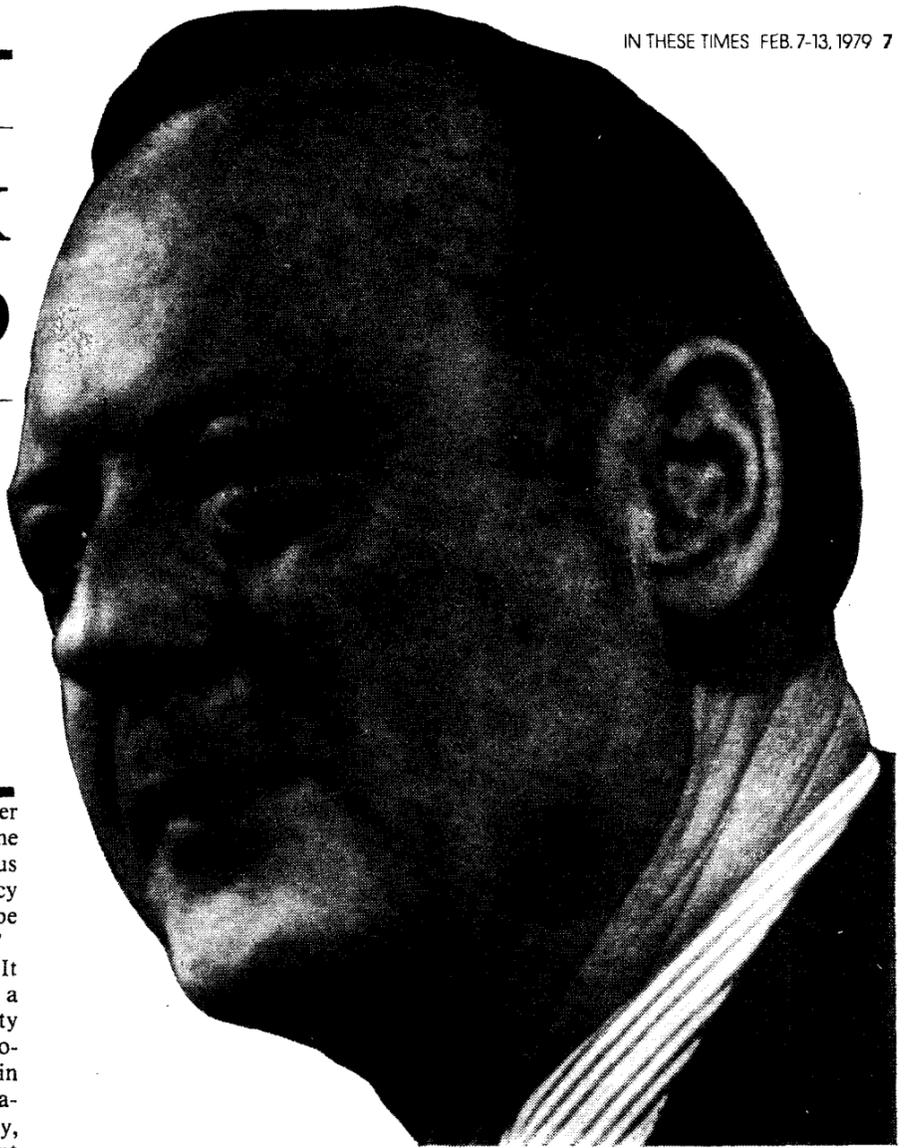
**Gen. Seignious' appointment as head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency is widely criticized at Senate committee hearings.**

Seignious asserted that he no longer has any contact with that coalition. Stone and FAS further feel that the Seignious appointment would "sever the agency from its constituency" and prove to be a "booby trap for the administration."

Seignious, in his testimony, said, "It is high time that arms control became a central component of national security policy." He has been an at-large negotiator during the SALT II negotiations in between his time as president of the Citadel, a South Carolina military academy, and claims a high degree of commitment to the principle of arms control that he sees as compatible with a strong defense. "It is a fallacy to believe that because one believes in a strong defense he cannot believe in arms control."

When a member of the committee asked the general about the opposition to his appointment voiced by, among others, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, he responded that his critics were "ungrateful" considering his long years of service. He said those who testify against him will "only lose their credibility."

In addition to FAS, Women's Interna-



Gen. George M. Seignious, named by President Carter to head arms control agency.

tional League for Peace and Freedom, the United Methodist Church, World Federalists, Sane, and Women's Strike for Peace are strongly against the appointment.

Another group, Foreign Affairs Information Project, based at Columbia University, raised objections to the shape of U.S. foreign policy which the appointment represents.

They cited the affair as a ploy of presidential Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski to gain control of ACDA. Jim Khatami, chairman of the Project, said, "Brzezinski has hinted...the U.S. can re-

assert its global primacy over the Soviets by facing them down in a nuclear confrontation."

Other sources confirm the fact that the Seignious choice was a Brzezinski decision. An aide at the White House told one questioner, "We don't know anything about it [the Seignious appointment], it's a Brzezinski appointment."

The Church committee, however, did not respond to the broader issues raised by Khatami. Church said, "The question of Mr. Brzezinski's position is not now before the committee." ■

## JERRY BROWN

## The governor makes his cuts sound leftish

By Larry Remer

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

**J**ERRY BROWN MAY HAVE HIS sights set on the White House, but he's clearly in the doghouse with Democratic Party regulars in his home state. Anti-Brown sentiment boiled over at the state Democratic Party Convention here in mid-January, where Brown played to a mixture of cheers and boos as reaction built to his headline grabbing assault on government spending the week before.

Brown's travails lived up an otherwise dull gathering where the major item on the agenda was selection of state chairman, a largely ceremonial post since organized political parties in California have little formal power.

A clear majority of the 2,000 delegates were angered by Brown's new state budget, which holds hikes in public aid payments and public employee wages to less than half the rate of inflation. Many delegates were also disturbed by Brown's call for a Constitutional Convention to draft an Amendment that would force the federal government to balance its budget—a move widely heralded as a definitive shift to the right for Brown.

The point man in the attack against Brown was State Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy, who is admittedly gearing up to make a bid for the statehouse in 1982 when Brown's term is over. Without mentioning Brown by name, McCarthy delivered a blistering attack on the Governor at a luncheon on the first day of the con-

fab. "This party had its proudest moments

when it was guided by visionary leaders who gave voice to the underprivileged and dispossessed," McCarthy declared.

Wearing a button with "\$28" stamped on it to connote the monthly differential in aid payments to the blind and disabled under Brown's budget, McCarthy pledged to fight to restore the funds in the legislature.

Barely half an hour later Brown appeared before the convention to defend his positions. The boos and cheers were

yourself, "Where did those hundreds of billions of dollars go?"

"Did it go to the poor? Did it go for better education? Or did it go to dictators? Did it go for arming the Shah of Iran? Did it go to kill people in Vietnam?"

"While I hear invocations of the needs of the many, I see a theory that props up the privileges of the few," he stated. "And that kind of Democratic Party philosophy I reject. I reject it today and I reject it tomorrow."

**"Where did those hundreds of billions of dollars go?" Brown asks. "To the poor, or for better education? Or to foreign dictators?"**

evenly split upon his arrival, yet the young governor took to the offensive, lashing back at his critics.

"I'll be glad to debate any Democrat to test the qualities of leadership," he declared, challenging McCarthy's statements. "Who are the timid souls of this party? Are they the ones who serve up the rhetoric of the '60s and ignore the realities of the '80s?"

It was Brown's strongest indication yet that he doesn't plan to backtrack on his stance that the federal budget should be balanced. As he spoke, his face turned red and his voice rose to an almost undecipherable shout in a rare display of emotion.

"Why is the dollar going down?" he asked. "Is it because we've had hundreds of billions of dollars of deficit spending? ...[and] did anyone in this room ever ask

It is time to challenge "the cherished myths of liberalism," declared Brown in defense of his call for a balanced federal budget. It was "the best and the brightest," he continued [who] told us all we have to do is spend more money, and if that doesn't work print more; and if that doesn't work, print still more."

He called for an end to federal expenditures of more than \$50 billion annually in foreign aid to "dictatorships like Korea, where they pay labor 90¢ an hour to make goods that are sold here undercutting our own markets." He urged energy self-sufficiency, limits on imports, and the development of a Common Market-like economic unit involving Mexico, the U.S. and Canada.

In an impassioned plea, Brown urged, "Don't yield this issue to the far right." He repeatedly brought up Vietnam, which

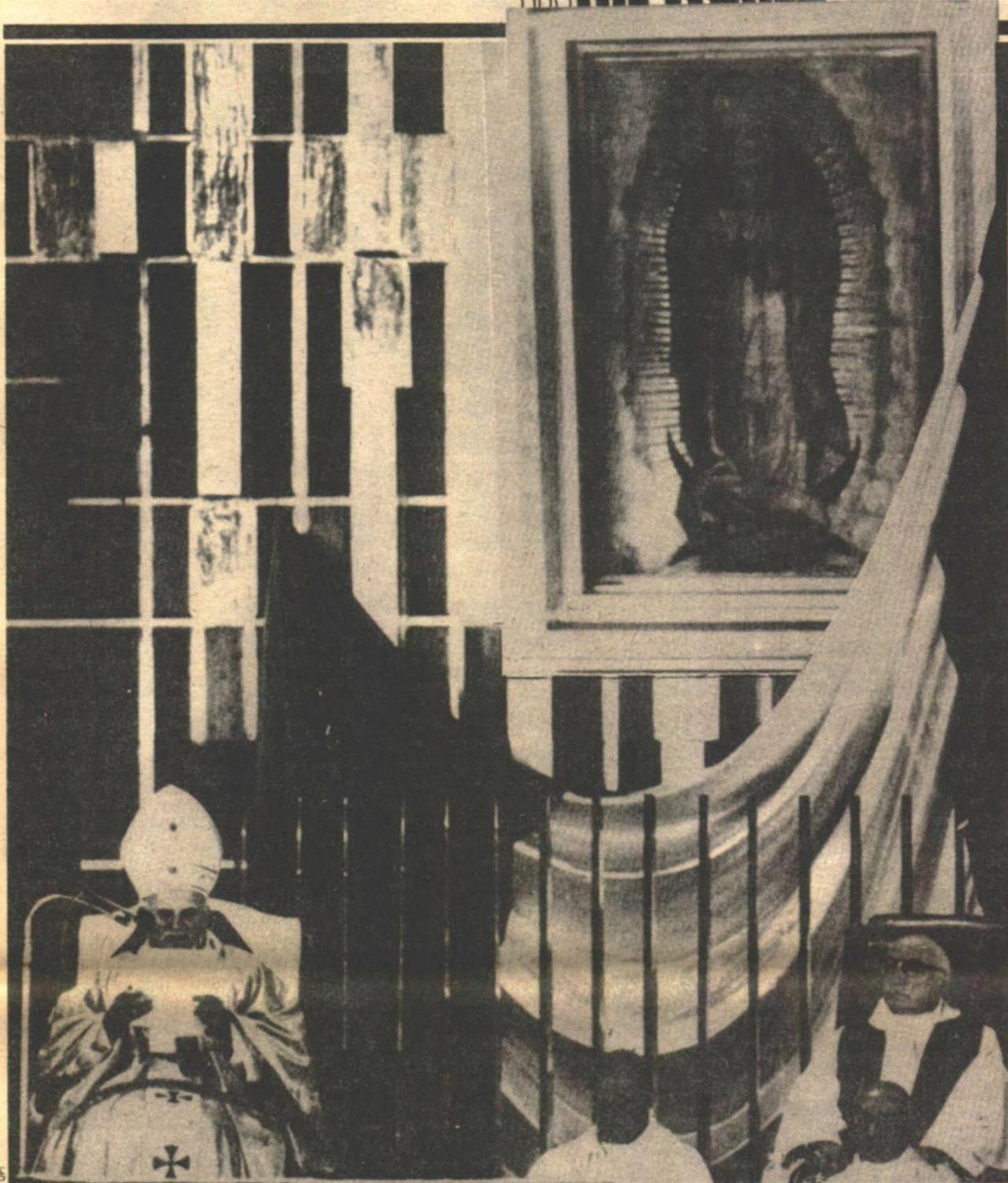
he said the American people were hoodwinked into supporting through deficit financing. And he linked his own opposition to the war and support of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers in the late '60s as part of the search for new directions—a search he insists his call for a balanced budget is in harmony with. Were the federal government to be forced to balance its budget, Brown argued, the petense that the country could have "guns and butter" would have to be shelved, and the fight over priorities would commence.

Seeking to meet his critics head on, he opened up the microphone to questions from the floor. It was a masterful display of Brown's statesmanship and political acumen. The questions came hot and heavy and he parried them with ease.

No, he wasn't firm about trimming the level of public aid. But the electorate in a post-Prop. 13 California would only stand for so much government spending and if aid levels were raised, cuts would have to come from somewhere else. Yes, he'd be willing to explore the use of public pension fund monies to finance socially useful programs like housing instead of investments in corporations with South African operations and if legislation permitting changes in investment policies reached his desk he'd sign it. And yes, he is sincere about the need for a Constitutional Convention. Its scope can be limited to one issue. It may be the only way to force Congress to act.

By the end of the session, Brown had mollified his critics. And though the applause wasn't as warm as it had been for McCarthy, when he was done the boos had vanished. ■

# IN THE WORLD



Sitting in front of the sacred shroud of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Pope John Paul II inaugurates the third general conference of the Latin American Episcopate at the Basilica of Guadalupe.

## THE POPE IN MEXICO

# A Mexican bishop speaks for his country's people

CUERNAVACA, MORELOS, MEXICO

The following are excerpts from a manifesto read here, Jan. 21, by Mendes Arceo, Bishop of Morelos, viewed as the most left-wing bishop in Mexico. He was not invited to the Bishop's conference convened at Puebla the following weekend. The document is translated by Cedric Belfrage, who resides in Cuernavaca.

### Welcome to Mexico, John Paul II

We Christians of Morelos, together with our Bishop, reaffirm our communion in charity with the successor to Peter, and rejoice that his testimony of love and respect for mankind inspires us to proclaim the more valiantly Jesus' liberating message to the poor.

Our countries grew up in the faith as adherents of...an Evangelization integrated with a colonial system for which papal concessions provided justification. This adherence also gained strength from the fact that it was, at the same time, a shield for Latin American Churches against that same colonial power (16th century). Even in the difficult days of the struggles for independence (17th and 19th centuries),

our communion with Rome grew to the point of becoming a distinctive characteristic of Latin American Catholicism, even more so of Mexican Catholicism (Latin American Plenary Council).

John Paul II, elected Pope on Oct. 16, 1978, was born in Poland, a country with a socialist government. Thus he has the advantage of having lived a new and different experience, in a world that is not the capitalist world now inhabited by most Catholics, but the world of socialism to which not a few Latin American Catholics aspire.

For that reason his visit is not like that of a tourist indifferent to our reality; nor like that of a Pole drawn by apparent superficial similarities between Mexico and Poland; nor like that of a conquistador extending his power to our country. He is in the way to encounter here the Christ who suffers within the Latin American people (340 million inhabitants), who struggle to make justice a reality in our continent. He comes to fulfill the exigencies that Jesus posed to his followers (Matt. 25). His decision to turn over the gifts he receives to the liberation programs for the indigenous population is a small

but hopeful sign of his commitment to man, after the manner of Jesus, "who came not to be served, but to serve." (Matt. 20, 28.)

However, different groups are trying to turn his visit to their advantage. Private enterprise...tries to conceal the wounding Mexican reality and portray a fervent Mexico that exalts the papal figure as a symbol of the power of their conservative ideology, irrationally opposed to social change. Big merchants are already calculating the huge profits they will make. Conservative liberals...seek arguments to bolster their demagoguery. Neo-liberal elements will be looking for recruits among the great Catholic electorate. In sum, here in this pluralistic but traditionally Catholic Mexico the Pope's visit is opportune for the various pressure groups.

### How do the Pope's host people live?

The people of Mexico, as of all Latin American countries, have a long history of domination and plunder, from the days of the conquest (16th century) to the imperialistic capitalism of our own day.

None can deny that our country lives

in economic, political and cultural dependence upon the United States and other potent countries which exercise organized dominance from outside, through the ever-growing economic power of multinational corporations.

Internally, we also live subject to every kind of repression: from the nullification of popular will in elections to the murderous persecution and "disappearance" of persons and groups fighting for a free society....

John Paul II will note that Mexico is not a poor country in natural resources; we are divided between brothers living in the most offensive opulence and brothers living in the most humiliating poverty; brothers who control the means of production and share absolute power, and brothers who are denied just payment for their work and who suffer deepening pauperization.

### What is the Pope coming to Mexico for?

We could very easily fall into the temptation of waxing enthusiastic just because [of the Pope's visit. But] he comes to inaugurate the work of the Bishops assembled in Puebla, as Paul VI did ten years ago in Medellin, Colombia.

The resolutions of that Second General Conference in Medellin have become for many Latin American Christians the guide to a change of mentality and to liberating action. From it stemmed a Church more committed to the process of liberation, sealed since then by the persecution, imprisonment and martyrdom of more than 850 bishops, priests, nuns and lay persons, who valiantly opted for the poor and oppressed. Medellin inspired us to reject the division between rich and poor as totally contrary to God's will and clearly condemned by the Lord Jesus. (Luke 18.25; Matt. 25.31-46.)

That conference reminded us that we Christians have the duty to follow the program proclaimed by Jesus in the synagogue at Capernaum according to Luke 4.18-19 (Medellin documents 14.7), and showed us how the poor are the privileged receivers of the Gospel (Medellin Documents 14.8-9)....

### Third General Conference of Latin American Bishops

Let us ask God to reinforce our hope that the Pope and Bishops participating in the Third General Conference will come out in solidarity with the historic mission of the poor and with those who suffer persecution in the cause of justice (Matt. 5. 1-12); that they will denounce the military regimes and the supposedly democratic ones responding to the Doctrine of National Security, and call for a change without taking refuge in a "third road"—that is, an intermediate road which, claiming to repudiate equally the capitalist and socialist systems, in effect stands on the side of capitalism.

Their loyalty to God will move them not to close their ears to the tumultuous clamor of our peoples, and to faithful theological reflections on its practical implications. As Monsr. Oves, the Archbishop of Havana, has said, "This gathering will be a hopeful one for the poor."

Because of his positions on collegialism since he was Archbishop of Cracow, confirmed by various indications he has given in Rome, the Pope's presence at the Third General Conference will animate the words of the Latin American bishops. And this despite those who would misinterpret the Pope by thinking he comes to introduce, impose or imply a substitute fixed road leaving no possibility for search by the prayers, pastoral experience and commitment of each Bishop participating at Puebla.

We are distressed to note the absence of many bishops identified with the struggle of the poor, and of theologians committed to thinking "from the world of the oppressed." We also regret the absence of bishops and experts of the oppressed and estranged Hispanic people in the U.S.A....

Presbytery of Cuernavaca, January 1979