Page 6B - THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, May 2, 1985 Star Wars" Research Sparks **Conflict Of Interest Issues**

Special To The Post ...Washington, D.C. - The Reagan Administration's "Star Wars" program is already "rife with potential conflict of interest," con-cludes the Council on Eco-nomic Priorities (CEP) in a first-ever study detailing Strategic Defense Initia-tive (SDI) research con-tract awards, to be re-

tive (SDI) research con-tract awards, to be re-leased by former arms con-trol negotiator Paul Warnke and scientist Ri-chard Garwin. Those military contrac-tors which have the most to gain from deployment of a strategic defense system, e.g., Lockheed, TRW, Mc-Donnel Douglas, and Rock-well International, etc., are the same as those responwell International, etc., are the same as those respon-sible for assessing the technical feasibility and strategic advisability of proceeding beyond the re-search stage, CEP says. "What we see happening today is the rapid conver-sion of the President's "Star Wars' proposal from

tar Wars' proposal from ardust and moonbeams that great pork barrel in e sky," said Paul

CEP's analysis of space eapons contracts by con-

gressional district shows "the program is already well-targeted to influence key members of Congress who will have the greatest sway over future funding." Approximately 77 percent of prime SDI contracts since Fy '83 were award since Fy '83 were awardsince Fy '83 were award-ed to areas represented by congressional members on the House Armed Ser-vices Committee, and the Subcommitee on Defense of the House Appropria-tions Committee, CEP concludes. Because of economic benefits to key contractors

because of economic benefits to key contractors and constituencies, pres-sure to build a "Star Wars" defense system could develop, "whether or not it is proven worthwhile on national security grounds," according to CEP.

The five-year, \$24.2 bill-ion cost of the SDI research program alone ri-vals the total research and production costs of programs for major weapons systems such as the MX missile and B-1 bomber. CEP's study reveals that nearly 90 percent of space weapons prime contracts in FY '83 and FY '84 were

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awarded to four states: California (45 percent); Washington (22 percent); Texas (13 percent); and Alabama (10 percent); These contract awards are also highly concentrat-ed: the top 10 space weapons contractors iden-tified by CEP received 87 percent of the awards in FY'83 and FY'84. Eight of those 10 were among the P T as and FY 84. Eight of those 10 were among the Pentagon's top 20 private contractors in FY 83. Further, CEP's study shows that most contracts

awarded in past years "are more applicable to terminal and mid-course defending the entire U.S. population.

Finally, the CEP study notes that accelerated re-search and testing of stra-tegic defense components could undermine the ABM Treaty, a treaty that President Reagan's own Com-mission on Strategic Forc-es described as "one of the most successful arms control agreements." Gerard Smith, Nixon Ad-ministration AMB Treaty negotiator, has said that even the SDI R&D program is currently outlined will undermine the treaty.

CEP recommends allo-cations for FY '83 be held at \$1.4 to \$1.6 billion, and that there be "continued scrutiny of SDI funding requests now, before it develops an economic and institutional life of its own," and a congressionally-appointed, indepen-dent review board of tech-nical and strategic experts with no financial stake in

SDI research. The Council on Econo Priorities is a non-profit Priorities is a non-profit service research organiza-tion dedicated to accurate and impartial analysis of vital issues facing our country today. It special-izes in issues of hazardous waste, national defense and corporate social re-sponsibility. Membership is \$25 per year. The study can be ordered from CEP for \$10. for \$10.

BALLOON VENDORS - Colorful helhum-filled balloons were a hit with young, old, and in-between SpringFest

WDAV To Air Oratorio Singers' Concert

WDAV (29.9 FM) will air "Bach to Stravinsky," a program of music by the Oratorio Singers of Char-lotte, on Sunday, May 5, at 6 p.m. The program was recorded in February of this year, and includes Bach's "Magnificent," the "Symphony of Psalms" by Stravinsky, and Buckner's Psalm 150. Psalm 150.

Psalm 150. Dr. Mary Nell Saunders conducts the singers, with featured soloists soprano Kristen Knight, mezzo-so-prano Deborah Ferrand, tenor Dale Jareet, and bass Carl Samet. The Char-lette Symphony Orchestra lotte Symphony Orchestra

WDAV production direc-tor Julie Rogier recorded the concert in Ovens Auditorium, and is pleased to be able to present it so soon after its performance. "It is great to have such concerts on tape to air in the coming year," said Rogier, "but it's fun when you can play one while the per-formers and audiences still

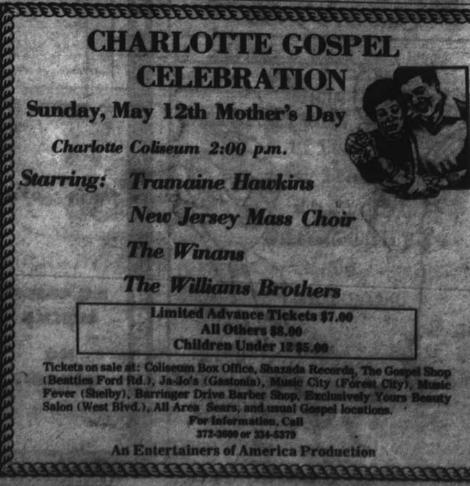
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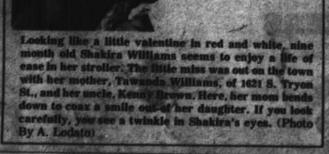
have the concert in recent

ers. (Photo By Peeler's Portrait

Read The Pa







ay, May 12th, 7:00 P.M. I Ovens Auditorium Senting-Tickets \$14.00 & \$15.00

Sale: Coliseum Box Office, coords, Camelot Music and otte and Pineville, New o's Gastonia, and area , call (704)