

# News from Congressman Les AuCoin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**AuCOIN SAYS MX SHOULD BE SCRAPPED**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon Congressman Les AuCoin and other Congressional leaders who will decide the fate of the MX missile said at a Capitol news conference today that a plan to put 100 of the missiles in existing Minuteman silos is unacceptable.

AuCoin, who serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, said the missile dramatically increases the threat of nuclear war and for that reason "this is the time to kill the MX, kill it clean, kill it now."

The Oregon Congressman said also that the fight over the \$20-\$30 billion weapons system "marks the first test of whether Congress will respond to clear public feelings that they want less defense spending."

A day before the press conference, a commission appointed by President Reagan recommended putting the MX in silos which currently house the Minuteman missile, a plan which would cost billions of dollars to achieve.

Joining AuCoin at the press conference were Rep. Joseph Addabbo (D-N.Y.), a leading opponent of the MX, Rep. William Green (R-N.Y.) of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Nicholas Mavroules (D-Mass) of the House Armed Services Committee, and Herbert Scoville, former deputy director of the CIA. Scoville said the MX missiles are "the most dangerous weapons designed to date," and "they make nuclear holocaust much more likely."

AuCoin told reporters that the use of Minuteman silos — locations already known to the Soviet Union — insures that the MX would not deter the Soviet Union from starting a nuclear war.

"It seems to me that nothing is more destabilizing than to put a highly accurate, first-strike weapon in a vulnerable basing mode. That is not deterrence. It is an invitation to the Soviet Union to try to take them out."

Last December, with AuCoin's support, Congress passed legislation prohibiting the Administration from spending \$560 million to develop the MX missile until Congress approves a basing system. The commission's recommendations for using Minuteman silos is expected to reach Congress within weeks.

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