

# National News

## NDPC called in on Texas vote fraud

Citizens for Electoral Justice, an organization of Austin, Texas citizens committed to reversing the electoral fraud perpetrated in the Democratic primary run-off June 5, called in election-fraud expert Edward Spannaus of the National Democratic Policy Committee.

Spannaus was met on his arrival at the Austin airport by a group of television and radio reporters. He stated that he had come at the request of the citizens' group, which raised the funds for his trip, because of reports of fraud similar to that the NDPC is contesting in the June 8 Democratic primary there.

Spannaus told a meeting of 60 Austin citizens, filmed by television cameras, that "the combination of massive documented evidence of irregularities and violations, [in the two contested commissioners' elections], the closeness of the elections, and a snow-balling citizens' mobilization means that we have the ingredients for a victory."

## Court pursues California vote fraud

Judge Lloyd Phillips of the Sacramento Superior Court ordered California Gov. Jerry Brown's Secretary of State, March Fong Eu, on June 21 to provide full answers in writing within 48 hours to the questions on fraud filed by the Wertz for Senate campaign following the June 8 California primary. Judge Phillips ordered that the questions avoided in the Secretary's inadequate earlier response, filed only 15 minutes before the hearing, be addressed. Two of the avoided questions were: how the votes were secured after the election, and whether unauthorized personnel were allowed in the computer rooms during ballot processing.

In Yolo County, home of University of California at Davis, a base of Tom Hayden's Campaign for Economic Democracy, CED-sponsored candidates

were granted victories even in rural Republican districts. The county clerk, a CED candidate, illegally altered and filed the computer election program on election day. He won his election with more than 50 percent of the vote, avoiding a run-off.

In five precincts in Santa Monica, Hayden's home base, Wertz for Senate campaign workers have already obtained more affidavits from voters who stated they voted for Wertz than the total official vote Wertz was credited with.

## Georgetown conference sells Harrier jets

According to the *Washington Post* and other sources, British Defense Minister John Nott hosted a major rural "bazaar" to promote British weaponry "battle-tested" in the Falklands. Britain is also instructing its stable of "military experts" to promote the idea that the British strategic quagmire in the South Atlantic has proven that British weaponry, particularly the Harrier "jump jet," has demonstrated its effectiveness.

At a Washington seminar sponsored by Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies on June 21, Jeffrey Record, Norman Polmar, and others solemnly announced that the reliability of the Harrier was the major "strategic lesson" of the Malvinas conflict. Record made the ridiculous claim that the Harriers were superior because, out of eight which the British admit went down in the fighting, none, they claim, was lost in air-to-air combat, and four crashed accidentally, while four were downed by surface-to-air missiles.

U.S. Admiral Thomas Moorer (Ret.) pointed out that if the air forces available were reversed and, "The Argentines had Harriers and the British had A4 Skyhawks [American] and Mirages [French], the Argentines would have stayed home because the Harriers never could have made it to the Islands with any bombs."

Other speakers pointed out that it was improbable that the results of the air

battles were as unbalanced as the British claims suggest and that in any case, the Argentine air force was operating at the outer limits of its flight range and had as its primary mission the sinking of British ships, whereas the British Harriers were operating under optimal conditions and with no mission other than attacking the Argentine forces.

## Texas real-estate bubble about to pop

The Houston and Dallas commercial real-estate bubble, representing both office buildings and shopping malls, worth \$150 to \$250 billion, is set to blow.

Both cities' markets have been vastly overbuilt, on the expectation that the Texas economy is immune to the collapse of the national economy. Now this is being proven wrong.

Houston, now the fourth largest office center in the United States, has gone from 30 million square feet of office space in 1970, to 116 million square feet of office space by the end of 1981. In 1980-82, Houston will have built roughly 50 million square feet of office space. This amount of space in Houston is equal to five New York City World Trade centers. Rental demand can't possibly absorb this amount of space, especially since the growth of Houston office rentals was predicated on the expansion of energy companies, the movement of company headquarters from the Northeast to Houston, the growth of Houston industry, and the movement into Houston of foreign money—all of which have come to a screeching halt.

The vacancy rate of office buildings in most of Houston, with the exception of the central business district, is a high 10 percent. But most striking is the highly speculative nature of the Houston real-estate market.

Normally, a building developer lines up leases before he builds a building, leasing 30 to 50 percent of the building. He then takes this pre-lease list to an insurance company or some financial institution and gets 10- to 15-year money

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to build the project. One Houston real-estate reporter stated, "What's happened over the last year is that people are building with no prior leases or only 5 percent of the building leased up. . . . They're borrowing from the banks six-month money, paying the prevailing interest rates." These "wildcatter" developers have no collateral to speak of, so as the market goes, they will crash.

The Texas real-estate collapse will shake markets in New York and throughout the country.

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## Thatcher deploys U.S. for British 'codes'

British Prime Minister Thatcher admitted to *EIR* Washington correspondent Stanley Ezrol at a White House press conference June 23 that Britain was using the United States to carry out its debt-collection policy against the Third World, and that this was essentially the issue in the Malvinas crisis.

Immediately following the hour-long meeting with President Reagan, Thatcher reported that the main topic of discussion was Reagan's congratulations on the birth of the royal heir. Thatcher claimed that the only problem the United States and United Kingdom have with Latin America is with Argentina, an assumption challenged by *EIR* Washington correspondent Stanley Ezrol.

When Ezrol asked Thatcher whether a move by Latin American nations to seize British financial and other assets wouldn't destroy what little is left of the British economy, her response was: "I must say, you have a way of asking questions which is not exactly propitious."

Ezrol: "I ask questions better than you fight wars."

Thatcher: "Oh? I rather thought we had won."

Ezrol: "You lost a great deal for a battle with a Third World nation."

Thatcher: "Let me try to understand; you seem to be saying that Britain has many investments in the Argentine and elsewhere in Latin America."

Ezrol: "Which represents vulnerability for you. . . ."

Thatcher: "Well, as you know, we and the United States are trying jointly . . . to get certain international rules over overseas investments. . . . Attracting overseas investments is one of the most important goals of the Argentine, and these other countries. . . . To do that, it is necessary to try to secure greater confidence in the security of these investments. . . . One needs codes of conduct. . . ."

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## Breakthrough in fusion development

Dr. Bruno Coppi of Massachusetts Institute of Technology reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency plasma physics conference in Gothenberg, Sweden June 6-11 on a new theoretical breakthrough in understanding nuclear kinetics that promised to revolutionize the development of magnetic fusion energy systems and their application.

Plasma scientists have now confirmed that nuclear polarization—the parallel alignment of the axis of spin of nuclei—can be utilized to suppress undesired reactions in a fusion plasma. Specifically, those reactions producing neutrons—the source of most of the engineering and technological problems in fusion reactors—can be prevented, while the non-neutron-producing deuterium-helium-3 reaction can be enhanced.

It was previously thought that the collision of plasmas in a reactor would destroy the alignment of the nuclei; however, Coppi reported, theoretical calculations at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory have indicated that nuclear polarization is maintained under magnetic plasma conditions.

The breakthrough means that the engineering and technological problems involved in maintaining fusion plasmas and extracting their energy output in a useful form can be solved more easily than the those encountered in existing fission and fossil fuel energy systems.

## Briefly

● **MEL KLENETSKY**, National Democratic Party Committee-backed candidate for Senate in New York, was illegally denied convention credentials at the state party convention June 20 and 21, after party officials gave his representatives false information about the time of the credentials meetings. Moynihan won the party endorsement unopposed. Klenetsky will now seek ballot status by gathering 20,000 signatures from registered Democrats statewide.

● **AN ASTROLOGER** with an international reputation has issued a startling prediction concerning the life expectancy of a list of prominent American political figures. According to the astrologer, who has asked that her name be withheld from print, if either *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. or European Labor Party chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche is assassinated, or the victim of an attempted assassination, a list of 13 well-known political figures headed by Henry Kissinger, Nancy Kissinger, and Alexander Haig will meet sudden death by either massive heart attacks or strokes. The astrologer declined to reveal the other remaining names on the list, insisting that most of the remaining names are self-evident to relevant parties.

● **PETER McPHERSON**, the Administrator of the State Department's Agency for International Development, told reporters June 24 that while the \$35 million requested by the President for disaster relief in Lebanon would probably be sufficient to alleviate "immediate life-threatening conditions," and begin some temporary "band-aid" repairs, it would not begin to address the long-term reconstruction of Lebanese infrastructure damaged by the invading Israeli forces.