

National News

Iowa farmers mobilize to block land-grab

A fight is on in the Iowa state legislature to repeal a bill passed April 6 that would open the door for foreign takeovers of farmland in the state. The measure, House File No. 705, was introduced as a rider to another farm bill in the Iowa House of Representatives, and initially passed the House 80-13.

When some local farm activists became aware of the rider, they mobilized to block it, eventually getting 40 votes in the House to reconsider the approving vote—not enough to call it to the floor, but enough fuss was made to keep the bill bottled up in the Senate committee.

The rider was offered by Democratic Rep. Blanshen, but was masterminded by members of the Iowa Bankers' Association, particularly the Hawkeye Bancorporation of Des Moines. According to one source, Hawkeye is a major bank holding only 10% of its assets in the state—the legal limit.

Alabama Senate passes anti-IMF resolution

On April 11, an unusual coalition of state senators in Alabama united to pass an emergency resolution to memorialize the U.S. Congress and President of the United States to take immediate action to end starvation in Africa. The resolution was jointly introduced by State Senators Goodwin and Sanders—leaders of factions said to be “always at odds” in the legislature—following discussions with Rev. Houston Anderson on behalf of the Schiller Institute.

Alabama's Senate Resolution No. 168 not only calls for immediate food relief for Africa, but poses concrete solutions for ending the U.S. depression and worldwide subservience to the International Monetary Fund. The resolution, which was initiated by the Schiller Institute as part of a worldwide mobilization for the inalienable rights of man, was passed in time to be read April 13 at demonstrations held internationally to call for the abolition of the International

Monetary Fund.

Alabama Governor George Wallace sent his own greetings to Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche “and followers” for the rally held by the Institute in Birmingham. “Please know how much I appreciate this opportunity to extend to you my most cordial greetings as you conduct your festivities in Birmingham, Alabama,” Governor Wallace wrote.

“Also allow me to take this opportunity to welcome each of you and offer you my best wishes and congratulations on the good work that you do,” he wrote. “It's my hope and prayer that your Birmingham project will be a success and that good will continue to bless you in your future endeavors.”

Alabama's State Senate resolution also calls for federalizing the Federal Reserve and initiating international action to “end the International Monetary Fund system” through a new development-based international monetary program.

Religious insurgency backed by State Dept.

President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz both addressed a State Department-sponsored conference April 15-16, “The International Conference on Religious Liberty.” The organizers of the conference ostensibly intended to focus on coordinating support for religious liberty in the East Bloc, but in fact they are fomenting irrationalist-fundamentalist religious insurgencies against nation-states throughout the world.

The conference, attended by over 200 clerics from around the world, was co-sponsored by the Institute for Religion and Democracy, the American Jewish Committee, the National Association of Evangelicals, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Jacques Maritain Center at Notre Dame University.

Even while some conference attendees identified the “total interface between the leadership of the Soviet Politburo and the Russian Orthodox Church,” noting the links between religious insurgency and Soviet strategic objectives, Shultz spoke of the great promise contained in the “surprising rise of something as supposedly irrational as reli-

gious faith . . . which denies that reason and science hold all the answers” as a dominant force in the world in the latter decades of the 20th century.

Meese hits back at Buckley's pro-dope call

Attorney General Edwin Meese refuted William Buckley's recent syndicated column claiming that the only solution to illegal drugs is to legalize them. Asked about Buckley's statement at an April 4 press conference, Meese replied:

“There is no doubt in my mind that if you legalize narcotic use, you would have a considerable increase in use, particularly by young people. . . . There has been no country where legalization of drugs has worked, and it has been tried in this country early in this century and it didn't work then. . . . I think this is probably the worst time in history to think about legalizing narcotics, because for the first time in the last 25 years, we are now starting to show a decrease in narcotics use among young people.”

AIDS vaccine sought for general population

Vaccination of the entire American population may be necessary in the future to stop the relentless spread of deadly AIDS infections, Dr. James W. Curran, head of the AIDS Task Force at the national Center for Disease Control, said in Atlanta on April 16 at a conference on the disease.

Scientists are assuming that an effective vaccine against AIDS will be developed by 1990, Curran said. Health officials “initially would vaccinate all Americans,” Curran said. Such a vaccination program “would result in a rapid reduction of infection.”

The number of AIDS cases is increasing rapidly in this country “and will double by 1986 from the present 9,405 to between 18,000-19,000.” He also said hundreds of thousands of Americans have been exposed to the disease. “My own guess is that 300,000 to one million Americans have been infected

by the [AIDS] virus," Curran said.

Presenting a paper at the conference, Dr. Redfield of the Walter Reed Institute of Research in Washington, D.C. said that AIDS is "a general disease now. Get rid of the 'high risk' group. Anyone can get it."

Depressed Flint gets gentrification

"Philanthropist" James Rouse will use his real estate boondoggle, Baltimore's Harbor Place, as a model for the gentrification of Flint, Mich. Construction on a \$23.4 million retail complex called Water Street Pavilion, will begin June 27 in Flint's bombed-out downtown section.

The project is expected to create 450 jobs in a city with 36,000 unemployed. Jobs will be in retail outlets selling "upscale women's apparel," running shoes, stuffed animals, fine gold and silver jewelry, and "serious and whimsical hats."

The city of Flint put up \$6.9 million, and the Mott Foundation, which also bankrolled the unsuccessful Auto World entertainment park in Flint, put in \$6 million, in addition to a federal UDAG grant. For its part, a revamped Auto World is scheduled to reopen next month.

ACLU to defend Texas pederast

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will defend David Sonnenschein of Austin, Texas, a former school clerk charged with promoting pederasty. The ACLU claims that the author of *How to Have Sex With Kids* was engaged in "legitimate research in sexuality" and is "a man with credentials."

Other books authored by Sonnenschein include *What is Pedophilia Anyway? Women "Pedophiles,"* and *Children and Sado-masochism*. He has been cited as "next in line" to take over leadership of The Child Sexuality Circle, a San Diego, Calif., group that advocates sex between adults and children. He is associate editor of the group's bi-monthly newsletter.

Algerian president meets with Reagan

The Reagan administration received Algeria's President Chadli Benjedid with full honors during his visit to the United States the week of April 15. Benjedid was treated to a military honor guard, a meeting with President Reagan, and a black-tie dinner.

A senior administration official said: "There are no major outstanding bilateral problems between our two countries. On the contrary, the relationship is warm and mutually advantageous." The United States will be cautious in arms sales because of Algeria's relationship to Morocco, but is also looking to an Algerian role in mediating the Iran-Iraq war.

Bilateral relations between the United States and Algeria will be formalized through a joint economic commission and cultural exchange agreement. During his stay, Benjedid will meet with Vice-President Bush, Secretary of State Shultz, Defense Secretary Weinberger, Commerce Secretary Baldrige, Energy Secretary Herrington, and Agriculture Secretary Block.

Benjedid is particularly interested in aid in agriculture and high-technology and on April 19 began a tour of the Imperial Valley and "Silicon Valley," to visit farms, irrigation projects, and high-technology industries.

First fusion-SDI conference held

"Fusion and the SDI" was the title of a conference held April 18 at the University of Rochester, co-sponsored by the Strategic Defense Initiative Office and Fusion Power Associates. This marked the first joint conference of the fusion energy community and people working for the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative.

Louis Marquet, head of the directed-energy division of the SDI, emphasized to the group that "the SDI is *not* directed at defense of hardened silos, but at total defense. Protecting silos would be MAD."

Briefly

● **PRESIDENT REAGAN** had planned to invite the Soviets to participate in a joint space mission and would have done so in March, says *Aviation Week and Space Technology*. Reagan changed his mind after Major Nicholson was murdered by the Soviets in East Germany.

● **THE ATLANTA** child murders was the subject of a forum sponsored by *EIR* in Atlanta April 23, featuring *EIR* counterintelligence expert Ira Liebowitz and Roy Innis, national director of Congress on Racial Equality (CORE).

● **INFANT MORTALITY** in Detroit rose by 11% from 1983 to 1984. Detroit now has the highest death rate among American cities with populations of over half a million.

● **A BIO-ETHICS** conference co-sponsored by the University of California at Loma Linda and the Hastings Center the weekend of April 20-21 featured such topics as "The Value of Human Life"; "Making Life Human as Opposed to Reverence for Life"; "Perception of Death"; "Ethical Challenges."

● **GOV. LAMM** of Colorado was the keynote speaker at a conference of the "Global Tomorrow Coalition" held in Portland, Ore. April 17-21. The coalition is the organizing arm of "Global 2000," the policy group that wants to cut world population by half. Conference planners play up their "Globescope Action Plan" as comparable to the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), from California state official Huey Johnson, and former Audubon Society director Russell Peterson all addressed the meeting.

● **THREE OHIO** Democratic Party bigwigs have been forced to resign in Toledo, in the aftermath of the ESM Government Securities scam. City Manager David Boston and two leading city financial officials were responsible for funneling city funds into ESM in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.