

National News

Weinberger leaves on Asian tour

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger left on March 30 for a two-week tour of Asia that will take him to South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, and the Philippines.

In a statement in Seoul on April 1, he emphasized that South Korea is "pivotal to the peace and stability of northeast Asia, and that is in turn vital to the security of the United States." Weinberger is scheduled to meet senior South Korean officials to discuss what is perceived in Washington as an extremely unpredictable military situation vis-à-vis North Korea.

The defense secretary will meet with Cory Aquino in the Philippines on April 7. According to Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims, the talks will emphasize "our willingness to support the efforts of the new government as it seeks to reform and rebuild its armed forces." Asked whether Weinberger would discuss the Subic Bay and Clark military bases, Sims said, "obviously these bases are important to the security of the Philippines in an economic and political point of view and vitally important to us."

In Thailand and Indonesia, Weinberger will discuss bilateral military ties, the growing Soviet presence in Vietnam, and the presence of more than 100,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea.

ADL reported worried about tax-exempt status

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith is worried that its campaign of slanders against Lyndon LaRouche and electoral candidates associated with him might jeopardize its tax-exempt status, reports Edwin Black in the weekly *Jewish World* dated March 28-April 3.

Since the Illinois primary victories of LaRouche Democrats Janice Hart and Mark Fairchild, the ADL has intensified its efforts against LaRouche nationally—a fact which

Black attempts unsuccessfully to veil, in his zeal to make Illinois "LaRouche's first and last such triumph."

Chicago ADL Director Michael Kotzin told Black, "Given our 501c3 tax status, we are restricted from taking steps regarding candidates and being involved in political campaigns." This tax classification gives exemption from income tax to non-profit educational, charitable, religious, and civic organizations. Those qualifying for it are prohibited from endorsing or opposing candidates for elected office.

Black continued, "Said Nate Perlmutter, national director of the ADL: 'If 501c3 says we won't talk about Hart or Fairchild, it's not worth risking the tax-exempt status.' But Perlmutter conceded his group could vigorously publicize information on right-wing organizations tied to such candidacies, as distinct from lobbying directly for or against the candidates.

"'Nothing in that law,' he acknowledged, 'disarms us from discussing the meaning of Lyndon LaRouche and his organization if we see their people running.'

"The fact is, the ADL has pounced on electoral campaigns in the past. . . ."

Black further reports that Jonathan Levine, director of the American Jewish Committee, is throwing all caution to the winds. "I'm not going to worry about 501c3," he said. "Even now a list is being put together of all the LaRouche candidates in races around the country."

Meese charges Soviet role in opium traffic

Attorney-General Edwin Meese said April 1 that the Soviet Union at least tacitly approves of the cultivation of opium poppies in Afghanistan for the production of heroin. Meese recently returned from a trip to the Far East and Europe.

When asked, in an interview on ABC-TV's "Good Morning, America," about his assertion in Pakistan the week before that Moscow allowed Afghan opium and heroin trafficking, he said: "The Soviets are doing absolutely nothing to control it, and indeed stories have been brought out that there is

actual encouragement of it there. . . . It's clear that most of the heroin, most of the opium poppies in that area, are coming from Afghanistan."

Meese also supported President Reagan's contention that Nicaraguan government "Sandinista officials are definitely involved,"

Jeremy Rifkin seeks to cut milk production

New Age "entropy" theorist Jeremy Rifkin announced on April 2 a campaign to stall the commercial application of a bovine growth hormone that could increase U.S. milk production by 20%. Rifkin threatened that if the Food and Drug Administration did not do an Environmental Impact Study on the hormone before allowing its commercial development, "we will bring a major Federal court action."

Rifkin is a frequent guest on fundamentalist Pat Robertson's national cable television show, the "700 Club." A radical left-winger, Rifkin authored a book in 1979 predicting that the evangelical movement would grow into a "fourth great awakening" which would leave behind American belief in progress and high technology.

Andrew Young promotes legalized prostitution

Mayor Andrew Young (D) of Atlanta appointed a commission last year to investigate the problem of prostitution, which has now come out recommending that prostitution be legalized. Mayor Young was formerly President Jimmy Carter's ambassador to the United Nations.

The committee said that prostitutes in Atlanta should be allowed to work out of escort services, bars, and hotels, as long as they do so discreetly and stay off the streets. The committee proposes that prostitution be decriminalized, and that if prostitutes agree to be tested regularly for sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, penalties

should be reduced or eliminated.

The recommendation was drafted by Peter Whiteside, a business consultant, who claimed that prostitution is a victimless crime, and also said that Atlanta could reap a tax windfall if it decriminalized prostitution. The mayor's committee finally recommended that prostitution continue to be against the law, but the law be enforced only against prostitutes who publicly make a nuisance of themselves.

AIDS in New Jersey is now an 'epidemic'

An official of the New Jersey State Board of Health has declared that the AIDS outbreak there constitutes a full-fledged epidemic, according to the *News Tribune* of Woodbridge, N.J. March 27. "There are presently 1,064 confirmed cases of AIDS in New Jersey, and authorities said the number will double in a year," the newspaper reports. "And, within another year, the number of AIDS victims is likely to double again. 'The figure will go up, up, up,' said Silas Mosley, Jr. of the state Department of Health. 'This is an epidemic.'"

Mosley emphasized that AIDS "is not a homosexual disease. . . . AIDS does not have any preference for one's sex or sexual preference."

Of the AIDS patients in the state, 40 are teen-agers, 233 are between 20 and 29 years of age; 52% are intravenous drug users, and 31% are homosexuals or bisexuals.

Ohio's Gov. Celeste: rockin' and rollin'

"We're going to send a message all across this country that Cleveland is rocking and rolling today," said Ohio's Democratic Gov. Richard Celeste at a rally for the Hall of Fame of Rock Music on March 31.

Celeste drew cheers as he boogalooed across the stage to a local rock group. Rock pioneers Chubby Checker and Chuck Berry were in Cleveland, which is the leading con-

tender for the hall of fame. Local disc jockey Allan Freed is credited with coining the phrase "rock and roll" 35 years ago. State Sen. Lee I. Fisher (D), who said his favorite rock group was the Turtles, told the crowd that the earthquake that hit Ohio last week was really the Ohio Legislature, shouting "Cleveland Rocks."

Governor Celeste's affection for the rock-drug counterculture is nothing new. He is the man who, along with Democratic Party chairman James Ruvolo, paved the way for the takeover of Ohio savings banks by the money-center drug banks, like David Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan and Carl Lindner's American Financial Corporation.

Celeste is the crony of drug banker Marvin Warner, who contributed and loaned a total of \$300,000 to the governor's election campaigns. His campaign manager and top adviser was Gerald Austin, the registered lobbyist for Warner's Home State Savings Bank. That bank's collapse in March 1985 precipitated the reorganization of banking in the state by the drug-money financiers.

Medicare could go broke in 1996

The Reagan administration announced on March 31 that the Medicare system will become insolvent in 1996, unless something is done to improve the situation of the service. In the annual report on Medicare and Social Security, the trustees of the two programs said it was "essential" that Congress take "early corrective action" to deal with depletion of Medicare funds to avoid "later, potentially precipitous changes."

According to the report, the Medicare trust fund will have to reduce outlays by 22% or raise income by 28% to be balanced. This report, however, is more optimistic than one issued three years ago, which anticipated that the fund would be depleted by 1990. The change is attributed to such "reforms" as the prospective payment system, which has brought down the growth of hospital room costs to the lowest rate since 1964, but which has also thrown many ill and elderly out of the hospital when the funds for their treatment ran out.

Briefly

● **THE AFL-CIO**, for the first time in its history, is calling for absolute reductions in U.S. military spending. With Trilateral Commissioner Lane Kirkland at the helm, the federation has helped form a coalition called Americans for a Common Sense Budget, which announced at a March 27 news conference a three-point program which includes reducing defense outlays.

● **"HAS IT OCCURRED** to all the left-wing liberals, including cock-eyed columnists, that some people who voted for the LaRouche candidates might like to see a bit of radicalism in this country?" wrote an angry reader of the *Chicago Tribune*, in a reply to articles by columnist Mike Royko. The letter, published April 1, continued: "All this rationalizing about how their names were appealing is so much baloney. Guys like you are all alike—poor losers, looking for a reason why everyone doesn't think like you do."

● **HEALTH OFFICIALS** in Queen Anne's County, Maryland have announced that a major effort will be launched at tuberculosis-infested seafood processing houses to convince workers there to submit voluntarily to AIDS tests. Since last summer, 3 people have died of TB in the area, and 45 people have been infected. AIDS and TB outbreaks often occur together.

● **BRONX DEMOCRATIC** Party chairman Stanley Friedman was indicted on March 27 for a scam which involved selling \$23 million of non-existent computers to the city of New York. Friedman is a law partner of Roy Cohn, the kingpin of New York graft. Indicted along with Friedman was former Transportation Commissioner Michael Lazar.

● **THE TRILATERAL** Commission, asked by a caller for its evaluation of the victory of LaRouche Democrats in Illinois, replied, "We are making absolutely no comment. We have decided not to discuss it."