

Business Briefs

Drug abuse among air traffic controllers?

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has warned for two years that drug abuse could be high among the 12,000 air traffic controllers hired to replace strikers fired in 1981, syndicated columnist Jack Anderson reported on Sept. 10.

The Transportation Department's inspector general reported at the time: "Many of the newly hired individuals have prior records of involvement with civilian or military police involving drugs." Investigators found that 80 of 2,108 controllers checked had been implicated with drugs before joining the FAA. Those studied were in the New England, Great Lakes, and Northwest Mountain regions.

In an internal memo, the FAA warned that the Transportation Department's report could "severely damage public confidence in the air transportation system." Yet FAA administrator Donald Engen recently insisted in a television interview, "We do not have a lot of drug abusers in the FAA."

U.S. releases results of military AIDS tests

The U.S. military announced the results of its first AIDS tests for recruits on Sept. 6. Of a total 466,629 applicants from Oct. 15 to June 30, 689 tested positive to the AIDS antibodies—49 men and 40 women. In the 17-20 age group, incidence was 0.5 per thousand; among women the rate was 0.6 per thousand.

The highest incidence positive response was among those from U.S. territories over the age of 26. A full 16.2 per 1,000 positive tests came from this group. The next-highest group included those over 26 from the Middle Atlantic states, with 11 of 1,000 positives.

Dr. Myron Essex of the Harvard University School of Public Health told a symposium Sept. 6 that three to five million Americans will have contracted AIDS with-

in the next five years. "We obviously have a very major new epidemic on our hands that we don't know how to control," he said. He disclosed that in some places, as many as 2 in every 100 young people who try to join the U.S. military, are infected with the virus.

Satanists issue death threat to LaRouche

California leaders of the Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee (PANIC) announced that they had received a written death threat against themselves and against Democratic presidential contender Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. at their Los Angeles offices on Sept. 6.

The PANIC group has placed a referendum, known as Proposition 64, which would apply traditional public health measures to stop the spread of AIDS, on the state ballot in the November election. The plan has drawn bitter attack from San Francisco liberals and the state's sexual deviant and satanist community.

The typewritten letter was addressed to PANIC Vice-President Brian Lantz by one Kelly Hernandez, a self-described satanist and supporter of Richard Ramirez, the "Night Stalker" imprisoned for a series of murders and rapes that terrorized Los Angeles earlier this year. "If this initiative passes," Hernandez wrote, "then I strongly support you and your associates families [sic] death as I already support Richard Ramirez's case to find him innocent. . . . If it passes then you are going to die—HORRAY!!!! . . . I would also like to say that your Mr. LaRouche is stupid. I hope that he bloody well die! . . . LaRouch [sic] is a m——f——r. So you s——heads better clean up or else you're dead."

One day after this letter was received, the automobile belonging to PANIC President Khushro Ghandhi was sabotaged. Three pins were inserted into the tire wall, which could have led to a blow-out at high speed and a serious accident.

Two weeks before, in San Lorenzo, PANIC organizer Ron Taylor was savagely bitten by one Ernest "Mad Dog" Waltz, who is suspected to be a homosexual.

PANIC officials are battling public officials who have refused to investigate the threats or press charges against fanatical assailants. California Attorney-General John Van De Kamp has refused to open an investigation into the pattern of threats. The District-Attorney for San Lorenzo has refused to detain "Mad Dog" Waltz or have him tested for AIDS—which would possibly be the basis for an attempted homicide charge against him.

Abrahamson: SDI tests must proceed in space

Lieutenant-Gen. James Abrahamson, director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Office, told the Cobb County, Georgia Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 6 that research on the ground into some phases of the SDI has nearly reached its limits.

Some sensitive electronic aiming devices which might be used to destroy nuclear missiles and warheads have reached a plateau in development, he said. "In fact, we are reaching the limits of what you can test on the ground. We have to be able to go to space." Abrahamson said the SDI is making "extraordinary progress. . . . Just last week, for the first time, we took our very large laser that we have out at White Sands and fired it through a beam director."

But he added, "In this area, we are dramatically behind the Soviet Union," which has "between 6 and 10 ground-based lasers that they have been experimenting with . . . since the early '70s."

Terrorism called a form of warfare

Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy Seth Cropsey, writing in the *Washington Times* on Sept. 10, said that "Reagan policy understands that state-sponsored, low-intensity violence is a form of warfare; one calculated to fall below the threshold of provocation at which the United States will act.

"Deterrence must and can be applied to

such aggression, no less than to conventional or nuclear conflict. . . . Americans should be aware of . . . the administration's commitment to giving special operations forces the strategic consideration and budgetary resources they properly deserve."

Stressing the special operations (SEAL) capabilities of the Navy, Cropsey wrote: "Low-intensity conflict' in 1986 is different from the counter-insurgency mission advocated a quarter century ago. Today . . . special operations run the gamut from supporting larger conventional operations to conducting counterterrorism."

AP circulates lies on Fusion Foundation

The Fusion Energy Foundation, the internationally known scientific research foundation of which Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. is a founding board member, on Sept. 11 issued a statement denouncing the Associated Press for its deliberately false published claim that the FEF's tax-exempt status had been revoked by the Internal Revenue Service.

A story written by drug-lobby journalist William Welsh, had been distributed to radio and print media, featuring that claim; some versions of the wire even alleged that FEF had never had tax-exempt status, but had falsely claimed that status to "raise millions for Lyndon LaRouche."

Contacted for comment, the Public Affairs office of the IRS stated that the IRS has issued no revocation of the FEF's tax-exempt status.

FEF Director Paul Gallagher sent the following telegram to AP's Washington office on Sept. 11, to the attention of Bureau Chief Charles Lewis:

"With regard to the Associated Press story by William Welsh circulated to radio and print media today:

"1) Mr. Lewis, as bureau chief, acknowledged receipt of my statement Sept. 10, informing you that Mr. Welsh's claims concerning the tax status of FEF were false, prior to your issuing of the wire built around that false claim;

"2) FEF's tax-exempt status, which dates from 1978, has not been revoked, according to IRS, up through this date;

"3) According to the IRS Public Affairs Division, if Mr. Welsh were to claim to have IRS correspondence or information concerning a revocation of FEF's tax status, he would be claiming to have that information illegally, through specific violation of federal disclosure laws concerning tax-exempts;

"4) Mr. Welsh's claim, and your story built on that claim, are a libel, written with intent of financial damage, and with available foreknowledge of its probable falsehood."

Of liver, the IMF, and Archbishop Weakland

The Aug. 21 conviction for disorderly conduct of LaRouche Democrat Janice Hart, Democratic nominee for secretary of state in Illinois, caused amazement in the British press. Hart was fined \$500 for presenting a slab of raw liver to Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, as a protest against his support for the International Monetary Fund, which extracts the last "pound of flesh" from Third World countries, through its usurious austerity conditionalities.

Wrote the London *Times*: "We confess that we are as baffled by this story as we have ever been in our lives. . . . In the first place, why should it be termed 'disorderly conduct' (and of a nature grave enough to warrant arrest and fine) to give an archbishop a piece of liver? Possibly, he was known not to like liver, even lightly grilled with sage and accompanied by a watercress salad (which is how we like it). . . ."

"Now there is no reason why an archbishop should not admire the work of the IMF, though it is unlikely that he would have time to involve himself closely in its activities. But why should that bring down on him the wrath of a lady, to the extent that she would pause on her way to her rendezvous with history to pop into a butcher's? . . . We end as baffled as we began. . . ."

Briefly

● **THE U.S. CUSTOMS** has set up an anti-drug-smuggling telephone hotline—1-800-BE-ALERT. Callers receive \$250 to \$2,500 if their tip leads to arrests, convictions, and seizures. In Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas, the number has resulted in recruitment of 40 new informants who provide information on smuggling on a regular basis.

● **THE NEW JERSEY** Health Council on Sept. 9 passed a regulation, by a 5-1 vote, requiring the reporting of all AIDS cases in the state. The law, which takes effect in October, requires doctors and officials of prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes to give the state Health Department the name, sex, birth date, and home town of anyone diagnosed as having AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex.

● **ELLIOT RICHARDSON**, the former attorney-general, has been retained as a consultant by the pro-Soviet regime in Angola. Richardson says he was recruited to bring "objectivity" to the dispute between Angola and the Reagan administration.

● **JAMES C. MILLER III**, director of the Office of Management and Budget, announced on Sept. 11 that Congress was about \$10 billion short of its budget targets, which would set off the automatic budget-cutting device ordered by the Gramm-Rudman amendment. To avoid this, the administration will count \$11 billion worth of new income that it claims would be generated next year if the federal tax overhaul were approved.

● **THE WHITE HOUSE** Domestic Policy Council recommended on Sept. 10 that President Reagan approve mandatory drug tests for the 1.1 million government employees in sensitive positions—roughly half the federal work force. The panel, headed by Attorney-General Ed Meese, did not agree on whether all government job applicants should be tested, or only those seeking sensitive positions.