

National News

GOP, Dems join forces vs. Prop. 64

At a rare joint press conference on Sept. 30, California Democratic and Republican party leaders joined forces to denounce Proposition 64, the LaRouche-backed ballot initiative requiring basic public health measures of quarantine and prevention to fight the spread of AIDS.

State Democratic Party chair Betty Smith, joined by her GOP counterpart Cair W. Burgener, told a Sacramento press conference that the ballot initiative "threatens each and every one of us, as it puts underground a disease that has to have medical research." Citing public health officials, Burgener said the net effect of the measure would be to "scare a lot of people to death and negate people coming forward who may be at risk."

The two said that letters are being sent to candidates for office in both parties urging them to oppose the measure. They said their opposition "goes beyond the LaRouche issue."

One night earlier, California Senators Cranston and Wilson joined the Hollywood crowd for a celebrity "house party" at the home of producers Marc Schwartz and Jack Grossbart to benefit the "No on 64" organization. Among those on hand were Shirley Jones, Jean Simmons, and various stars from "Dynasty" (or is it, "Die-nasty") "Knot's Landing," "Downtown," and "Hill Street Blues." Those present pledged tables for the big "No on 64" benefit scheduled for Oct. 22 at the Bonaventure Hotel, to be presided over by Bob Hope. Reportedly, Barbra Streisand is sending \$330,000 from her trust fund.

AIDS rampant in Texas prisons

Up to one-third of the inmates in the Texas prison system could be identified as carriers of the AIDS virus, were the state to admin-

ister tests, says Texas Department of Corrections security director Michael Moore, and Sue Cooper, social services director for the Houston Institute for Immunological Disorders. The two spoke on AIDS at an Oct. 2 meeting of the Texas Corrections Association in College Station.

Blanket screening of the 38,000 inmates could show 14,000 AIDS or ARC (AIDS-related condition) victims. "It would not be surprising if one-third of the population tested positive," Cooper said. TDC administrators have decided that AIDS tests for entering convicts would not be legal, as courts have ruled that similar tests, such as x-rays, can't be used as a screening procedure, said Moore.

Cooper said that AIDS tests would be nearly useless, since those with the disease can still test negative. In the past two years, 10 TDC inmates have died of AIDS, and two others are living in isolation wards.

Shuttle flight date set for 1988

February 18, 1988 is the target date for the next flight of the Space Shuttle, NASA Administrator James Fletcher announced Oct. 3. At a news briefing in Washington, Fletcher explained that for the first four years of resumed Shuttle missions, about 40% of the flights will carry Defense Department payloads. After the DOD catches up on some of its backlogged payloads, their share of the payload manifest will go back to the one-third that existed before the Challenger accident.

Admiral Richard Truly, NASA associate administrator for space flight, stated that space science missions have a top priority, and that the Hubble Space Telescope will be launched at the end of 1988. The other planetary missions—Galileo to Jupiter, Magellan to Venus, and the Mars Observer—will be scheduled within their specific "launch windows."

Five flights are being planned for 1993 and seven in 1994, to start the construction of the space station. The first flight of the

replacement orbiter is now scheduled for the spring of 1991.

Kemp attacks Reagan on foreign policy

Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N. Y.) delivered a sharp attack on the Reagan administration's foreign policy, at a Heritage Foundation-sponsored event Oct. 8. The presidential hopeful charged that the Reagan policy is based on "the allure of détente" and "summits for the sake of summits."

He criticized the Daniloff-Zakharov "non-swap swap." Kemp said he was "concerned that what is called progress be progress toward a stable peace, not toward an illusory détente that becomes a springboard for Soviet superiority and expansionism. . . . Today I want to appeal to my President, and to him I say: Hold fast to your magnificent vision and your realism about the Soviet empire."

His press spokesman, John Buckley, said the speech was a clear indication of unhappiness with the course of the administration's foreign policy.

Media go after Admiral Poindexter

"I agree, they are out to get Poindexter," a high-level White House source commented, after a week of unrelenting effort by the White House press corps in early October to come up with charges that Adm. John Poindexter, national security adviser to the President, had used the media to disseminate "disinformation" in August to confuse Libya's Muammar Qaddafi.

Apparently, someone thought that during the summer and early fall, Poindexter was gaining an inside track in advising the President, over Chief of Staff Don Regan and Secretary of State George Shultz. The media was deployed to bust up the arrangement.

The *Washington Post* kicked off the ef-

fort on Sept. 28 with banner headlines, under Watergater Bob Woodward's byline. At a White House press briefing in early October, ABC's Sam Donaldson stated to White House spokesman Larry Speaks, "Poindexter is in trouble with the President," and an NBC reporter said: "Poindexter's credibility is now ruined." Then, UPI's Helen Thomas jumped on the bandwagon, suggesting that "the credibility of the entire White House is on the line."

However, the White House categorically denies using the U.S. media as an agent of "disinformation," and said that Poindexter is in no trouble with President Reagan.

Said a White House spokesman, the operation recommended by Poindexter against Qaddafi would better be characterized as "deception" rather than "disinformation," and did not involve any media whatsoever.

Senate report cites cost of Soviet spying

Spying by the Soviet Union has cost the United States billions of dollars and damaged national security far more than anyone in the administration has acknowledged, said a 171-page Senate Intelligence Committee report released Oct. 7.

"For years we had heard that CIA officers would never defect, that Soviet technical efforts were primitive, that our secrets were safe," said committee chairman Dave Durenberger. But that was before the "Year of the Spy," he said. "Based on the public and classified record, the committee has found the aggregate damage in recent years to be far greater than anyone in the U.S. government has yet acknowledged publicly," the report said. "The inescapable conclusion is that the damage was immense."

Military plans and capabilities have been seriously compromised; intelligence operations were gravely impaired; technological advantages have been overcome; diplomatic secrets were exposed to the scrutiny of adversaries; and sensitive aspects of U.S. economic life were subject to constant Soviet monitoring, said the report.

"Some of the most vital parts of our defense, intelligence, and foreign policy structure, including many Executive Branch agencies and the Congress" have been penetrated by foreign intelligence services."

Said Durenberger: "Our committee found a security system paralyzed by bureaucratic inertia, with little ability to bridge the gaps between agencies or between different security disciplines like personnel security and computer security."

In the past two years, 25 people have pleaded guilty or have been convicted of spying against the United States.

Deaver, Wick pushed Reagan-Hammer ties

President Reagan's relationship with Armand Hammer was encouraged by U.S. Information Agency head Charles Wick and Michael Deaver, the former top White House aide, according to a report in the Oct. 9 *Washington Times*.

Wick, a leading member of the President's "kitchen cabinet" is a longtime friend of Hammer, the Soviets' chief American business partner and agent of influence. Wick's daughter worked for Hammer's New York City art gallery.

The *Times* reports that Deaver saw to it that Hammer was on the guest list for White House social functions, giving him the opportunity to ingratiate himself with the President.

Hammer met with top Soviet officials in Moscow at the end of September, and is credited with having helped secure Nicholas Daniloff's exchange for captured Soviet spy Gennady Zakharov—despite President Reagan's repeated claims that he would never exchange an innocent journalist for an indicted spy, and his persistence in calling the swap "not a swap" to the very end.

Hammer is also credited with an important role in the arrangements for the "non-summit" in Iceland, where, there is every indication, the U.S. President is prepared to make what Europeans in particular fear will be major concessions to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov.

Briefly

● **SEN. GARY HART** listed seven dramatic steps for disarming the West in his farewell address to the U.S. Senate on Oct. 9. He said that President Reagan should put a nuclear test ban on the agenda for the next summit, and called on the administration to initiate a mutual moratorium on the deployment of nuclear armed, sea-launched cruise missiles and the testing of nuclear weapons.

● **A CIA PROBE** of Panamanian Defense Forces commander Gen. Manuel Noriega was killed by a Senate-House conference committee on Oct. 3. The probe had been ordered by a Senate committee headed by Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), which accused Noriega of killing an opponent, drug-trafficking, and other unsubstantiated charges. The committee watered its directives down to a requirement that the CIA provide "all relevant information on this subject to the intelligence committees."

● **SEMI-PORNOGRAPHIC** posters and matchbook ads promoting condom use to prevent AIDS will begin appearing at drug treatment centers, family planning clinics, homosexual bars, etc. in Maryland, sponsored by the Health Education Resource Committee. "Introducing the latest in evening wear for the man on the go" reads one. "Don't be caught dead wearing anything less," says another. Condoms with matchbook-style covers read "stop transmission fluid leaks." The campaign will soon be expanded to billboard and newspaper ads.

● **THE SUPREME COURT** announced on Oct. 7 that it would let stand a lower court ruling that awarded NBC-TV a \$250,000 judgment against presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. In a 1984 lawsuit, LaRouche charged NBC with libel. NBC won the \$250,000 in a countersuit, in which the court admitted as evidence accusations by "anonymous sources" cited by NBC journalists—who refused to name or produce those alleged sources!