

# National News

## Billington freed as frame-up collapses

The crude attempt to frame a top fundraiser for causes associated with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. on criminal charges has fallen apart. Michael Billington, a fundraiser based in Leesburg, Virginia, was released Feb. 11 from the Loudoun County jail at 5 p.m., after Missouri authorities dropped 15 felony counts of "securities fraud" which had been filed against him in November.

Billington, illegally imprisoned for almost four weeks without bail, is the first LaRouche associate to have criminal charges brought against him for alleged violations of state securities laws. A network of federal and state officials, led by Assistant Attorney General William Weld, has used the pretext of "securities" laws to try to stop fundraising by LaRouche-identified organizations in almost 20 states. But the Missouri fiasco around the case has exposed the groundlessness of the proceedings.

Billington was first arrested in November on a "fugitive warrant" from Missouri. After being released on in November on a "fugitive warrant" from Missouri. After being released on bail, he was re-arrested on an extradition warrant signed by Virginia Gov. Gerald Baliles on Jan. 8. His alleged "victim," apparently under pressure from relatives and prosecutors, was induced to make perjured statements saying that Billington had come to Missouri to obtain loans from her. Billington's attorney challenged the extradition warrant on grounds that he had never been in Missouri. Faced with the challenge and charges of human rights violations from around the world, Missouri retreated and said charges would be dropped if Billington's employer, Caucus Distributors, Inc., repaid loans due.

CDI had never contested its outstanding debt and agreed to accelerate the loan repayment.

Following his release, a CDI spokesman denounced the entire proceeding as "extortion." "This case should serve as a lesson to all corrupt law enforcement officials from William Weld on down who are using and abusing their offices and powers to try to

stop the political movement led by Lyndon LaRouche."

## Louisiana Democrats reject Vatican statement

Louisiana Democrats debated and rejected a resolution in support of the statement issued on the world debt problem by the Vatican commission, *Iustitia et Pax*. The Vatican statement castigated the International Monetary Fund and international financial institutions for the misery and suffering foreign debt was causing to Third World countries, in particular.

The Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee debated a resolution in support of the Vatican Commission's statement at a meeting on Feb. 7. In a floor vote, more than half voted against it. Louisiana is a predominantly Catholic state.

State Central Committee member Fred Huenefeld, a "LaRouche Democrat," had introduced the motion, causing a stir among the delegates. Although 45% of the members supported the resolution, it was eventually tabled because a controlling group of liberals argued that members of the state committee "were not knowledgeable enough about the IMF" to endorse the statement.

## BBC, OSI in witchhunt against rocket scientists

The British Broadcasting Corporation is launching a broadcast series designed to slander German rocket scientists in the United States as "Nazis." The series, undertaken in cooperation with the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) of the U.S. Justice Department, is a calculated attack on the U.S. space and defense programs.

The same broadcast series will be aired on the U.S. Public Broadcasting Service's "Frontline" television series during the last week of February.

The OSI, ostensibly created to find Nazi war criminals resident in the United States,

in the past has relied almost exclusively on the Soviet KGB for "evidence" against Russian-targeted individuals. Upon closer examination, the individuals targeted on the KGB's behalf by the OSI prove innocent—after their reputations and careers have been damaged beyond redress.

Even so, on Feb. 20, BBC's Tom Bower will present the show, "The Paperclip File," reportedly based on the work of OSI's Eli Rosenbaum, who will be interviewed by Bower.

"A Nazi Fire on the Moon," is the headline of part one of a *Times* of London serialization of Bower's program. The "intimacy" of Werhner von Braun et al. with Nazi crimes "had been smoothly and conspiratorially expunged after the war by sympathetic American army officers anxious to employ them in the United States," states one exemplary segment. "When the 'Eagle' settled on the Moon's surface and Neil Armstrong coolly assured ground control of the mission's success, a handful of Americans and Germans silently congratulated themselves on their skillfully carried-out deception."

## Governor challenges guard deployment law

The State of Minnesota has mounted the first legal challenge to a new federal law, the so-called Montgomery amendment, that denies the nation's governors their traditional control over the training and deployment of National Guard troops in their states. The suit is an outgrowth of objections by some to deployment of troops to Honduras.

Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich filed a suit against the Defense Department, the Army, the Air Force, and the National Guard, alleging that the Montgomery amendment is unconstitutional.

The amendment was approved in October along with the 1987 defense budget.

According to the Feb. 9 *Christian Science Monitor*, "The lawsuit is the outgrowth of a nationwide protest movement against the use of Guard units in military maneuvers in Honduras. Last year, the critics con-

vinced several governors to refuse to send units of their Guards to Honduras.”

## Early deployment of SDI illegal: Proxmire

“Congress cannot authorize any money for deploying ‘Star Wars’ until it has received a presidential certification that it is ‘survivable’ and ‘cost-effective,’ pronounced Sen. William Proxmire in a Feb. 11 letter to Secretary of State George Shultz.

Moreover, Congress must review that certification “for accuracy,” he said, citing a congressional amendment to that effect.

Saying that President Reagan had stood by the “Nitze criteria” of cost-effectiveness and survivability at a Feb. 3 National Security Council meeting, Proxmire added: “As it stands now, it’s doubtful any near-term deployment of SDI could be made cost-effective and survivable.

“I intend to see that these criteria remain the law of the land and that nobody tampers with them. There’s been talk among [Pentagon] and SDI officials about weaseling out of the amendment and its criteria.”

## Pentagon cancels security clearances

The Defense Department, after a 16-month review prompted by several incidents of espionage, has dropped 1.6 million security clearances allowing government employees and contractors access to classified information—40% of all security clearances. Since October 1985 clearances have been reduced from 4.1 million to 2.5 million. Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims made the announcement Feb. 10.

The sharpest reductions were imposed on the Defense Investigation Service and the Air Force. The DIS conducts inquiries of personnel being considered for clearances. DIS’s own clearances were cut 41%. Clearances issued to Air Force personnel have been cut nearly 57%.

Those given to Navy personnel were reduced by about one-third. The number of clearances awarded to defense contractors has been cut 31%.

## Drug dealer convicted in teenager’s drowning

A 30-year-old man has been convicted of the second degree murder of a teenager who drowned while under the influence of illegal drugs the man had supplied.

Mark Taylor was convicted Feb. 9 in Anaheim, California, for supplying PCP (phencyclidine), a disorienting drug known as “angel dust,” to Adrian Ubregon. The prosecution said Ubregon was under the influence of PCP when he decided to go for a swim. He disappeared under a wave and his body was washed ashore the next morning.

“There has probably never been a case like this in the state,” Superior Court Judge Richard Beacom said before dismissing the jury of six men and six women. “Your experience in this case will probably go a long way in settling other cases.”

## U.S. conducts second underground test

The United States exploded its second announced underground nuclear weapon of 1987 on Feb. 11. The blast occurred 1,000 feet below the surface of the Nevada desert, said the Energy Department.

The test of less than 20 kilotons, code-named “Tornero,” was detonated without difficulty at the Nevada Test Site, 77 miles from Las Vegas. “No radiation leaked into the atmosphere and the test was a success,” said a spokesman.

The test was not announced by the government prior to its explosion, although anti-nuclear groups had publicized the test’s code-name and date of explosion.

This and a previous test are linked to the research for the President’s Strategic Defense Initiative.

## Briefly

● **PAT ROBERTSON** said Feb. 7 that the United States should form a military strike force to hunt down terrorists who kidnap Americans. “The rights of our citizens who travel overseas should not be circumscribed by crazy people in Syria, Lebanon, or anywhere else.”

● **REP. JACK BROOKS**, chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, plans to hold hearings on current government policies on military data, claiming they are inconsistent. “One part of the Defense Department is awarding contracts to foreign companies and giving them access to sensitive scientific and technical information, while another part of the Defense Department is trying to restrict access to such information by our own citizens.”

● **THE 1988 CONVENTION** of the Democratic Party will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, chairman Paul Kirk told a news conference Feb. 10: “If we are to succeed, we have to be competitive in the South, and Atlanta is the capital of the South.”

● **THE AIR FORCE** sent a classified payload into space Feb. 11 aboard a Titan-3B rocket. It was the fourth such launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base this year, said Tech. Sgt. Virgil Short of the Space and Missile Test Organization. The rocket was launched at 10:40 p.m. The nature of the payload could not be revealed for security reasons.

● **THE FINDERS**, now exposed as a child-kidnapping, satanic cult based in Washington, D.C., has been linked to a “peace-farm network” operated by the American Friends Service Committee. AFSC, a so-called Quaker organization, was earlier linked by *EIR* to the activities of the North-American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which police have also linked to child kidnappings.