

National News

Are Feds closing in on Washington mayor?

Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, whose political machine stems from the heyday of the "poverty pimps" during the 1960s and 1970s, told a press conference May 27 that he believes he is not the subject of a federal probe, although two of his assistants have been indicted and eight have resigned during investigations by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney for the District, Joseph di Genova.

David E. Rivers, Barry's close friend and the head of Human Services, appears to have been "stung" by federal investigators from whom he received gifts in exchange for city contracts. The agents were informed by one company that Rivers demanded kickbacks for a contract, and the FBI thereupon set up its own dummy company to bid on city contracts.

Barry himself was implicated in a drug conviction case against a city worker and personal intimate, Karen Johnson; another of Barry's female associates was recently found dead of a drug overdose in the apartment of Barry associate and city contractor John Clyburn. Clyburn is involved in other city-contract charges; and three other associates are accused in kickbacks-for-contract cases.

VA patients may be tested for AIDS

The Reagan administration is considering a plan to test all Veterans Administration hospital patients for AIDS, reported the *Washington Times* May 27. The *Times* quotes a senior official saying the President could begin the testing in VA hospitals "with the stroke of a pen. They're already taking blood from patients."

The official added, "You've got to let the people taking care of patients know if they're infected," noting reports of casual

contact infections in three hospital workers.

The proposal for AIDS testing in VA hospitals is part of a larger package that was expected to spark fierce debate at a Cabinet-level Domestic Policy Council meeting May 27, according to *Times* sources. The protesting faction is led by Secretary of Education William Bennett, advocating mandatory AIDS tests for convicted criminals, aliens entering the United States, couples seeking marriage licenses, and hospital patients, while the anti-testing faction, led by Surgeon General Everett Koop, opposes mandatory testing, period.

TV networks feature euthanasia propaganda

CBS television targeted doctors and modern medical technology as monsters in its Sunday Night Movie May 24. "Baby Girl Scott" pits doctors who "play God" against two parents whose child was born three months premature and with multiple disabilities.

The film is done from the standpoint of parents who want their child disconnected from a life-saving respirator. Each scene of the infant's intensive care unit is presented with impending-doom sound effects reminiscent of Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory. The mad scientists are, of course, neonatologists, who battle all odds to save the child. They are accused of experimenting with human beings, and are asked: "Are you trying to prolong life, just to prove you can do it?"

ABC television, on the other hand, invited its views to commit suicide in "When the Time Comes," the network's Memorial Day broadcast. The film was done in collaboration with the Hemlock Society, advocates of "assisted suicide."

The film is clearly designed to break down viewers' opposition. A young woman with cancer reads about "assisted suicide in 'a women's magazine,'" and then pleads, first, with her unwilling husband, then a best friend, to help her kill herself "when the time comes"—before she gets hooked up to a machine and becomes "not human."

All the "facts" in the movie came from

the Hemlock Society, which was referred to in the film repeatedly as "an organization in L.A. that says it is okay to do it. Lots of people do it. They will even send you a list of what drugs to take and where to get them."

The friend decides to "help" after looking into an intensive care ward and seeing a comatose patient with shaved head, filled with tubes, and surrounded by shrill beeps, pulsating monitors, and bizarre sounds—all heightened dramatically for persuasive effect.

Call for radars based in space

A call for space-based radar systems has been issued by Gen. John Piotrowski, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Space Command. In an interview at his headquarters May 23, Piotrowski said: "The goal is to track all aircraft from all potential aggressor nations and know where they are at all times. There's absolutely no question about it: The least expensive way of maintaining surveillance is from space. It's cheaper, and it's ubiquitous; it's always there."

He estimated a surveillance network of 12-15 radar satellites would cost between \$6 billion and \$10 billion.

Piotrowski said the Soviets have deployed two types of satellites to watch the Persian Gulf. One is the EORSAT (electronic ocean reconnaissance satellite) and the other RORSAT (radar ocean reconnaissance satellite).

Piotrowski also said the Soviets' ASATs have the capability of destroying U.S. satellites within hours. "They could poke our eyes out," he said, "and at the same time their satellites would have free rein in targeting our ships." They could then attack them from over the horizon with land-based, 1,600-mile-range cruise missiles. "It's clearly evident to us that we would be giving the Soviets a free ride in space in terms of targeting our forces."

One of Piotrowski's nightmares is that the Russians would knock out U.S. satellites

in a way that's indistinguishable from mechanical failure. "Not having an ASAT is destabilizing," he added.

Scientist: People want more space activity

"The American people are now telling opinion pollsters: 'We want more manned space programs, more American activity in space.' The politician who decides in that direction is going to pick up a lot of votes," U.S. scientist Dr. Lowell Wood told the journal *Space World* in May.

According to an account in today's *Daily Telegraph* of London, Wood was "out-spoken" in his criticisms of the amateur, incompetent politicians who are now running NASA, who are not responding to the public mood.

Telegraph science correspondent Adrian Berry states that there is growing "impatience" over NASA's overly cautious response to the challenge posed by the Soviet launch of the super-booster rocket *Energia*. According to Berry, "many influential people . . . fear that the Russians will have built huge space stations and a permanent colony on the Moon while the Americans remain grounded by safety fears. As one scientist put it: 'They will soon own the whole sky from here to the Moon.'"

Dukakis seeks Hollywood's support

Massachusetts governor, Swarthmore College graduate, and Democratic presidential contender Michael Dukakis was scrutinized by Hollywood notables, politicians, and moneybags toward the end of May when he spoke at several fundraisers in Los Angeles.

Among those who attended a private dinner for Dukakis, hosted by Norman Lear, the producer of the TV sitcom "Family Ties," were songwriters for Barbara Streisand. Said Tony Podesta, ex-president of Lear's liberal advocacy organization, People for the

American Way, The Lear dinner "isn't a fundraiser. . . . But it's a chance for Dukakis to meet people who already have met as a group with other Democratic candidates." Podesta is now a Dukakis "volunteer."

Jane Fonda, according to the *Boston Globe*, had "little to say" after Dukakis' private talk to the Hollywood Women's Political Committee and declined to say whether she would support him financially or politically after the withdrawal of her previous favorite, Gary Hart.

Dukakis is viewed in some quarters as a stalking horse for Ted Kennedy.

Gephardt calls for 'open mind' on Soviets

Asked about U.S. relations with the Soviet Union during a meeting with *Boston Globe* editors May 22, presidential aspirant Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) been "particularly harmful for the President to label them the evil empire."

He said he would encourage Americans to "open their minds" to the Soviet Union, because he believes that there can be changes in Soviet society and that protection of human rights will improve. "You can more successfully manage the relationship so you lessen the likelihood there will be a nuclear war," he added.

Gephardt came under fire the same day from GOP aspirant Pete du Pont, who attacked his trade war legislation, calling it an example of "kamikaze economics." Du Pont predicted that Gephardt's economics would result in a loss of 3.5 million jobs nationally. "Protectionism is not the answer to the trade problem. . . . In fact, it would worsen the very problem it promises to fix. It costs in terms of higher prices, reduced trade opportunities, the stifling of innovation, and the threatened return to economic depression."

He continued: "The Gephardt approach reminds me of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff bill enacted in the midst of the Great Depression. . . . It amounts to a kamikaze economics that would cause our economy to self-destruct."

Briefly

● **THE NATIONAL BANK** of Washington, D.C. has filed a federal lawsuit in Denver against Gary Hart. The bank is trying to collect more than \$500,000 it claims Hart still owes on a loan from his 1984 presidential campaign.

● **FBI AGENTS** across the country have contacted scores of supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche and publications associated with him, and attempted to badger them into saying they had been "victims of fraud." "You may not think you were defrauded, but you're not the expert," agents told stunned individuals. None of the persons visited so far, to *EIR*'s knowledge, ever filed a complaint warranting the FBI visits.

● **ST. CLARE'S** Hospital in New York City may become the city's first hospital for the treatment of AIDS victims under a plan disclosed May 27 by state and federal health officials. St. Clare's, with 250 beds, would be the largest AIDS hospital in the country.

● **ALL POLICE** in Washington, D.C. will have gloves and surgical masks available to guard against exposure to the AIDS virus, police officials announced May 27. Vehicles used to transport prisoners or used by crime scene technicians, also will carry disposable uniforms for the officers' use.

● **THE SUPREME** Court's decision to allow "preventive detention" solely on the basis of a prosecutor's argument that a defendant represents a "danger to the community" was attacked on May 27 by the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Washington Post*, and the *New York Times*, which variously characterized it as "police-state behavior," and "denial of due process of law."