

## National News

### Tuberculosis on the rise in New York

TB is increasing at an epidemic rate in New York City, and there were more deaths from the disease in 1986 than in any year since 1978, city health officials said.

At a recent conference of the New York Lung Association, Dr. H. William Harris, the group's president, noted that the rates in New York City "are increasing faster than any other city in the United States." The number of cases per 100,000 population increased 34% between 1985 and 1986, compared to a 1% increase nationwide. There were 186 deaths due to TB in New York in 1986, up from 155 in 1985, and the highest number since 1978, when 181 died.

"This is a social commentary," said Dr. Stephen Schultz, deputy city health commissioner for epidemiology. "TB is a disease associated with poverty, malnutrition, and crowded living conditions." He said overcrowding in shelters for the homeless is cause for particular concern.

Dr. Rand Stoneburner, deputy health commissioner for AIDS, told the conference that there is a correlation between the increase in the number of people exposed to the AIDS virus and the increase in TB. "The majority of TB cases are probably HIV-related," he said. "I don't think it's entirely due to AIDS. . . . The homeless situation has got to be something that's acting on it. It's all we've learned for a long time, that people who live in crowded circumstances with nutrition problems are at high risk."

### Warn on 1st Amendment in LaRouche case

Bruce Ledewitz, a Duquesne University professor of law with ties to the American Civil Liberties Union, wrote in the Oct. 12 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, that he has studied all aspects of the legal prosecution of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and his associates and that, if the government case succeeds, the First Amendment no longer exists.

"Acting as a creditor, the U.S. government last spring initiated involuntary bankruptcy proceedings and shut down a newspaper associated with a controversial political movement," he wrote, under the title "Challenge to the First Amendment."

"The rest of the press did not react to this challenge to the First Amendment. Nor, by and large, did the established civil-liberties organizations. The reason is that the newspaper at issue, *New Solidarity*, was associated with Lyndon LaRouche.

"... If *New Solidarity* can be closed down, which newspaper will be next?"

"To see the enormity of the government's action, one must understand the legal doctrine of prior restraint.

"The First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of the press is not absolute. . . . What is practically absolute, however, is the right to publish something first, and only later to be punished. The government may not 'restrain' the publication before it occurs.

"... No one doubts that closing a newspaper, particularly a newspaper that represents a political point of view, is a gross form of prior restraint. That is what makes the silence over the suppression of *New Solidarity* so startling, and so menacing."

In 1984, the government initiated grand jury proceedings against LaRouche, a number of his associates, and five companies associated with them. On the basis of huge contempt of court fines levied against three of those companies by Boston Judge A. David Mazzone, including \$5 million against the publishers of *New Solidarity*, the government declared them bankrupt, although the fines were under appeal.

Wrote Ledewitz, "The use of bankruptcy law to close *New Solidarity* represents a dangerous legal manipulation by the government. The government would never have been able to persuade Judge Mazzone to close down *New Solidarity*. . . . By going the bankruptcy route, the government succeeded in eliminating consideration of the First Amendment. . . ."

"This precedent must not be repeat-

ed. . . . Not only should bankruptcy judges themselves hesitate to close newspapers, the government should not seek such relief. . . . We should surely be willing to run the risk that a newspaper might not pay all the money it owes the government. The First Amendment is worth more than \$5 million."

### LaRouche sends telegram to Judge Bork

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche has sent a telegram to Judge Robert Bork on the question of his decision to fight for his Supreme Court nomination before the full Senate. Mr. LaRouche said that he sent copies of the telegram to President Reagan and Vice President Bush as well as to Judge Bork. He has instructed his campaign organization to immediately give wide distribution of copies to relevant influentials among government officials and political parties, especially those in the Senate.

The LaRouche telegram, dated Oct. 11, reads as follows:

"Subject: Lynch-mob confirmation proceedings.

"Dear Judge Bork:

"Although I probably disagree with you in philosophy of law, I applaud and support your refusing to withdraw your name from nomination.

"The methods of your opponents are essentially identical to those employed by the Democratic Party of Athens to accomplish the judicial murder of Socrates. The success of those methods fosters the shaping of our justice by the organized hysteria of political lynch-mobs. Just so, did Hitler's Germany use the organized passions of such events as mass Nuremberg rallies, to bend the selection of justices and decisions of courts of Germany to a philosophy of practice of law invoking the alleged authority of the 'popular will.'

"For that reason, despite our evident disagreements on philosophy of law, the circumstance has been created in which I must prefer your confirmation to become Asso-

ciate Justice of the Supreme Court over the success of the foul method which has been introduced to dominate the confirmation proceedings.”

## Gallo to join Johns Hopkins AIDS institute?

Leading AIDS researcher Dr. Robert Gallo is reported to be seriously weighing an offer to leave the U.S. government's National Institute of Health/National Cancer Institute in favor of a proposed AIDS institute.

The special institute would gather government, industry, and academic resources from around the world under one roof. It is to be located at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University.

While Gallo was unavailable for comment on the Oct. 11 *Baltimore Sun* report, last August he told an interviewer that vital AIDS work is sometimes "impossible because of government constraints," and an approach outside government channels may be needed to speed a cure.

## U.S.-Mexico anti-drug efforts behind schedule

*Operation Alliance*, the U.S.-Mexican anti-drug effort, is behind schedule, say U.S. drug enforcement officials. "We're about 50% to what we expected to be," said a Drug Enforcement Administration agent in San Diego.

Cocaine seized is up 460% from 1986, at 7,000 pounds; marijuana up 140%, and heroin 150% due to the effort. Better coordination among all the relevant agencies, and more federal prosecutors, have led to better intelligence, and better and more successful prosecutions, says a report in the *Christian Science Monitor*. But the smugglers, partly because of the crackdown in Florida, are increasing their operations nonetheless, and one-third of all drugs now

enter across the Mexican border.

In addition to *Operation Alliance*, Congress last year voted \$225 million each year for state and local police efforts against the traffic, but this year, the administration asked Congress to cancel these funds. In the end, Congress voted \$75 million.

Said Rep. Dennis DeConcini (D-N.M.): "Everyone last year was talking tough on drugs. Now, nobody wants to stand behind it."

## Kirkpatrick: INF treaty makes Europe vulnerable

Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.N. ambassador and spokesman for "neo-conservative" groups, warned Oct. 12 that the proposed treaty on removal of Soviet and U.S. intermediate nuclear forces (INF) missiles from Europe not only will render Europe more vulnerable, but has already begun to alter the climate on that continent.

"It seems unlikely that Reagan or Shultz intended to speed the disintegration of NATO or the development of a new framework for European defense. But the combination of Reykjavik and INF talks shook sober Europeans' confidence in American judgment and especially in the reliability of the United States as the leader of the Western alliance," she stated. "I do not believe that Ronald Reagan or George Shultz intended to render Europe more vulnerable, nor the Soviet Union less vulnerable, nor the Atlantic Alliance weaker. But that is what the proposed agreement does.

"Because the Pershing-2s and cruise missiles are what the Soviets fear most, they have become the centerpiece in deterring Soviet moves against Europe and a symbol of U.S. commitment to the defense of Europe. Their removal has a symbolic as well as military significance."

Kirkpatrick concluded, "The INF accord has not even been concluded, but the fallout from these particular intermediate-range missiles has already altered the climate of Western Europe."

## Briefly

● **'GEORGE BUSH** is not a leader now, just as he was not in the 1980 campaign. Bush has been Bush for 63 years. He has been Ronald Reagan's errand boy for just the last 7," said an Oct. 8 editorial in the Manchester, New Hampshire *Union Leader* signed by publisher Nackey Loeb. She recalled the characterization of Bush by her late husband William, the long-time publisher: "incompetent, liberal, masquerading as a conservative, a hypocrite . . . preppie, a wimp, part of the self-appointed elite."

● **SURGEON GENERAL C. Everett Koop** has criticized as useless a pending Illinois law requiring marriage license applicants to be tested for AIDS. Koop was questioned about the new law while in Chicago to attend a conference entitled, "AIDS: Corporate America Responds." On the legislation, which becomes effective Jan. 1, 1988, Koop stuck to his "risk groups" cover-up, saying that the groups most at risk for AIDS don't apply for marriage licenses anyway.

● **THE HOUSE Agriculture Committee** was told by Congress to cut more than \$1.2 billion from the fiscal year 1988 farm program in order to meet deficit reduction goals and avoid Gramm-Rudman-Hollings automatic budget cuts. Rep. Dan Glickman (D-Kan.) has put forward an amendment that was accepted which would save the Agriculture Department \$1.2 billion by delaying the payment of 25% of the subsidies farmers are allowed to receive in advance.

● **68 SENATORS** previously opposed to a \$1 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia, have now announced that they have accepted a modified version of the package. While the compromise version excludes 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles originally proposed, well-connected Arab sources report that the crucial feature of the package, upgraded components for F-15 jet fighters, got through despite violent Israeli opposition.