

National News

Education council attacks textbooks

The Council for Better Education has released a book written by Harriet Tyson-Bernstein that calls upon state policymakers to dump the formulas that have led to today's "dumbed-down" textbooks.

The book argues that state and local regulations are to blame for "destructive" textbooks that "squander the intellectual capital of our youth."

According to a *Washington Times* article April 18, the book, *A Conspiracy of Good Intentions: America's Textbook Fiasco*, asserts, "The more everybody tries to control textbooks, the worse they get."

It also says:

- "There is overwhelming evidence that formula-driven prose is bad for children and bad for education."

- "America's public policy system is perfectly designed to produce textbooks that confuse, mislead, and profoundly bore students."

- "Textbook reform is perhaps the least expensive way to make a beneficial difference in American education."

Houston Democrats adopt anti-Jones rules

On April 15, the Harris County (Houston, Texas) Democratic Executive Committee gave final approval to rule changes designed to prevent "LaRouche Democrat" and chairman-elect Claude Jones from having any power as county party chairman. Jones won the seat from incumbent Larry Veselka by a vote of 54,394 to 51,318 in the "Super Tuesday" primary.

Only a small fraction of the executive committee had the stomach to show up for the April 15 affair, which was called to introduce rule changes that would reduce the chairman to a figurehead, and give all real power to a newly appointed secretary—loser Veselka!

Fifteen Jones supporters, accompanied by civil rights leader Amelia Robinson, at-

tended the meeting carrying signs such as: "Does the Democratic Party believe in majority rule?" and "Keep Bull Connor tactics out of the Democratic Party."

After former chairman Veselka called the meeting to order, another committee member asked for a roll call to determine if a quorum was present. Veselka looked around. Obviously, no quorum was present. "I will not call the roll. I will declare a quorum present. All in favor say 'aye.' So be it."

After some other preliminaries, the lawyer for the party, David Webb, took the podium to give a report on the legal case Jones has brought to retain the powers of the office to which he was elected. Webb told the committee that the judge upheld their right to disenfranchise those who had voted for Jones by refusing to grant the injunction against the rule changes he had requested.

After this, a vote was taken and the rule changes were approved. Within minutes the meeting was over. The Jones forces are planning further legal action.

Meese testifies before grand jury

Attorney General Edwin Meese spent four hours before a federal grand jury April 18, "in the criminal investigation of his activities that began nearly a year ago," reported the *Washington Times*. It was his fifth appearance in the probe by special prosecutor James McKay since May 11, 1987. Meese's attorneys, Nathan Lewin and James Rocop, said Meese "answered all questions," and added that they remain confident that he will not be indicted and the probe will end in the near future.

Meanwhile, Meese continues to have trouble in filling the vacancies at the Department of Justice left by the forced resignations of Criminal Division head William Weld and Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns. According to the April 19 *Washington Post*, "Justice Department and other administration sources said yesterday they expected John Shepherd . . . to announce this week that he is withdrawing from consideration to become deputy attorney general." Shepherd did withdraw his name on

April 20.

At the same time, Meese's choice to replace Stephen Trott as associate attorney general, Francis Keating, has told Meese he will not come to work at Justice until he has been formally nominated by President Reagan.

Stephen Saltzburg, a law professor at the University of Virginia, who works part-time for Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh on the legal problems surrounding congressional grants of immunity in the Iran-Contra case, was mentioned by an aide to Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-N.C.) as someone under consideration for William Weld's job. Saltzburg, however, said, "I haven't been offered anything, and beyond that I'd rather not say anything."

Department of Justice sources told the *Post* that Trott had opposed Saltzburg when he was under consideration for the post of U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia earlier this year.

New York judge dismisses 19 charges

Justice Stephen Crane, presiding over the New York prosecution of 16 associates of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, on April 20 dismissed 19 felony counts from the indictment returned by a New York County grand jury last year.

Twelve other felony counts were dismissed on Jan. 12, 1988. The indictment, which charged conspiracy, securities fraud, and grand larceny, is now a mere shadow of its former self.

In the April 20 proceeding, all felony charges against defendants Mark Calney, Kathy Wolfe, and Paul Gallagher were dismissed for lack of jurisdiction because all three were involved in transactions outside the State of New York. Calney, Wolfe, and Gallagher were also dismissed from a misdemeanor count involving failure to register as securities broker-dealers. Judge Crane's action leaves only a misdemeanor conspiracy charge pending against the three.

The charges all stem from the efforts of the defendants to raise political contributions and loans.

The same misdemeanor conspiracy charge is all that is left pending against three other defendants, Edward and Nancy Spannaus and Judah P. Rubinstein, who had felony charges against them dismissed on Jan. 12. Charges against a seventh defendant, Dr. David Stephen Pepper, were dismissed entirely on March 28, 1988.

Crane also dismissed nine counts of grand larceny against Joyce Fredman, and one grand larceny count each against Marielle Kronberg, David Shavin, and Roger Ham because the prosecution failed to demonstrate jurisdiction within New York County, the situs of the grand jury investigation. Another grand larceny count, against Lynne Speed, was thrown out because the five-year statute of limitations had expired. The broker-dealer misdemeanor count was dismissed against Roger Ham because the evidence against him was ruled insufficient by Crane.

Thus, a prosecution which began with a highly publicized nationwide wave of arrests on St. Patrick's Day, 1987 now stands exposed as a complete sham.

North notebook contradicts Bush aide

An entry in one of Lt. Col. Oliver North's notebooks suggests that George Bush's national security adviser, Donald Gregg, and Col. James Steele, the U.S. military group commander in El Salvador, met on Sept. 10, 1985 to discuss the administration's Contra supply operations. That is almost a year earlier than Gregg has admitted to congressional investigators he learned of the Contra supply operation.

The Gregg-North meeting discussed establishing an air base in Honduras from which to fly Contra-support missions, the *Washington Post* reported April 15. The *Post* did not report, that testimony by pilots, including convicted drug-traffickers, say they flew drugs to the United States from the same airstrip.

The North notebook entry, numerous portions of which were deleted, includes references to Mario Dellamico, a Honduran-based arms broker who was said to have

channeled arms to the Contras in 1985. The date of the notebook entry is 11 months before the date Gregg gave to congressional investigators as the time he learned of the military resupply operation.

Revell subpoenaed in LaRouche trial

Assistant FBI director Oliver "Buck" Revell was personally served with a subpoena the morning of April 21, to appear in federal court in Boston for a hearing in the LaRouche case. Prosecutors immediately moved to quash the subpoena.

Shortly afterward, the FBI suddenly declassified a 1985 letter to Revell from Ryan Quade Emerson, an FBI informant who is currently on the witness stand.

Defense attorney Daniel Alcorn said that he had subpoenaed Revell because of the inconsistent testimony of FBI officials on the Emerson letter. The defense has contended that Emerson, among others, was used to plant statements in defendants' notebooks, which the prosecution then attempted to use as evidence against them.

Bust major heroin ring

A major Asian-source heroin ring, which appeared to be providing an "unlimited supply of heroin for shipment to New York and the Washington, D.C. area," was smashed by the FBI April 15, after a two-year investigation dubbed Operation Bamboo Dragon.

Eleven people were arrested in Hong Kong, five in Newark, New Jersey, and two in San Francisco, California.

Undercover agents said that they bought from the accused 137 pounds of nearly pure heroin, with an estimated street value of \$137 million.

The heroin originated in Burma and mainland China and was routed through Hong Kong to San Francisco and New York City.

Briefly

● **STEPHEN TROTT**, departing assistant attorney general, informed Conservative Caucus president Howard Phillips that there is "no evidence" to pursue a conflict-of-interest charge against the State Department's Michael Armacost. Phillips says the conflict exists because Armacost's brother, Sam, is a member of the board of Chevron Oil, and is therefore "affected by decisions on Angola made by Michael Armacost." Chevron Oil has refining operations in Angola's Cabinde province.

● **TERRORISM**, rampant in Europe for years, is now coming to the United States itself. Yu Kikumura, who was arrested on the New Jersey Turnpike on April 17, is believed to be a member of the Japanese Red Army, and was in possession of homemade bombs that could have knocked out the power grid of a major city. William Kunstler, the well-known lawyer for radicals and terrorists, attempted to take over his defense, but was blocked by U.S. Magistrate Ronald Hedges.

● **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** released a briefing in Washington April 20 announcing that there is a "human rights emergency" in Colombia. The briefing blames the Colombian Armed Forces for violence and "political killings," not the notorious Medellín Cartel of cocaine-runners, which has threatened to kill every political and military figure in the country, and whose bases the army has been raiding.

● **SAM COHEN**, the inventor of the neutron bomb, took to the pages of the *Wall Street Journal* April 20 to attack the Iklé-Wohlstetter report, *Discriminate Deterrence*, for its shortsightedness in not recommending the use of "certain SDI technologies—especially advanced lasers," in "ground war" situations. These, he said, could "deliver devastating attacks on tactical targets . . . literally with the speed of light."