

National News

Charges dropped against LaRouche associates

Charges of "grand larceny" were dropped against 14 associates of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and all charges were dropped against 4 men and women, as the New York State Attorney General's case against the political activists unraveled further on Sept. 15.

The case stems from the efforts of LaRouche associates to raise contributions and loans for the political causes associated with him. Various state governments, including Alaska, Virginia, and Missouri, at the quiet but obvious instigation of the U.S. Justice Department, dubbed the loans "securities" and charged LaRouche's friends with "marketing unregistered securities," "conspiracy" to do so, "conspiracy" to defraud, in some cases "credit card fraud," and in New York's case, even "grand larceny."

Earlier, all New York charges had been dropped against LaRouche associate D. Stephen Pepper. On Sept. 15, the prosecution withdrew all charges against Linda de Hoyos, David Shavin, Roger Ham, and Denise Ham.

While the grand larceny charge was dropped with across the board, five other friends of LaRouche still face charges of felonious "scheme to defraud" and "conspiracy," and five more face misdemeanor conspiracy charges.

However, at the same hearing, the prosecution yet again told a district court judge in New York City that, although the indictments were issued in March 1987, it is still not prepared to prosecute the case. Legal observers believe that the case is so weak and conspicuously political that Attorney General Robert Abrams's office does not want to prosecute at all.

LaRouche Democrat wins in Minnesota

LaRouche Democrat Richard Van Burgen won the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) primary in Minnesota's legislative District

22B on Sept. 14. Van Burgen defeated Mel Moench with 53% of the vote.

He had campaigned as part of a 12-person slate of "LaRouche Democrats," individuals supporting the independent presidential campaign of Lyndon LaRouche, who ran in a number of Democratic primaries and is currently on the presidential ballot as an independent in 9 states. That platform calls for a new international monetary system, a farm production-oriented solution to the food crisis, and a program to rebuild the nation's productive base.

Van Burgen will challenge six-term incumbent Republican Tony Onnen in November.

Other members of the slate, which included candidates in two congressional primaries, the U.S. Senate primary, and eight state legislature races, polled between 10% and 35% of the vote—despite an extremely low voter turnout—generally matching the pattern of 20-40% of Democratic voters supporting LaRouche across the country.

Van Burgen joins a growing list of LaRouche candidates across the country who have won Democratic primary elections will now face Republican opponents in November. Nine other LaRouche Democrats have won congressional or state legislative primaries this year in Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, Indiana, Iowa, and Washington state. As *EIR* goes to press, as many as five LaRouche Democrats are reported to have won state legislature races in New Hampshire.

Defense industry rips procurement changes

A coalition of six defense industry trade groups which are organized as the Council of Defense and Space Industry Associations, strongly attacked new Pentagon requirements that affect 16 companies whose executives or consultants were implicated in the current Pentagon procurement scandal.

The new rules "will be extremely onerous, unduly burdensome and will interfere with the necessary exchange of information between contractors and the government," the group said.

The "profit recovery" clauses for new

contracts are a "draconian remedy" that give "excessive authority to Executive Branch officials," and put defense firms at "enormous financial risk," the statement continued.

The new regulations also deny defense contractors their legal "due process" rights.

The council said that the new rules have "substantial implications for the defense industry as a whole," and insisted that they be withdrawn or drastically rewritten to modify the most onerous sections.

Dukakis aide demands drug legalization

Alan Dershowitz, who is rumored to be under consideration for the Attorney General's post in a Dukakis administration, demanded the total legalization of drugs on national television Sept. 13. Dershowitz, part of the same Harvard Law School networks that provide most of Dukakis's top campaign aides, was the most rabid of numerous pro-legalization proponents featured on an ABC Night Line "Town Meeting" on drug legalization.

Although the show was supposed to present an "objective" look at the issue, the format and guest list were clearly aimed to favor legalization. For instance, "Yippie" leader Dana Beal was one of the very few persons from the audience who was allowed to ask a "question"—which turned into a pro-drug diatribe that host Ted Koppel permitted to go on and on. Other pro-drug guests included Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke and William F. Buckley. The "anti-drug" side had a few excellent spokesmen, including the head of the Drug Enforcement Agency's New York office, but they were overshadowed by Jesse Jackson, Rep. Charles Rangel, and New York Mayor Ed Koch. The discussion was interspersed with recorded segments on various aspects of the drug issue which presented arguments in favor of legalization.

The show is part of a drug legalization gear-up, which will get its next big boost Sept. 29, when Rangel starts congressional hearings on the issue, with Schmoke as lead-off witness.

Thornburgh wants jurisdiction over Panama

U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh said Sept. 11 that the Justice Department is "trying to get jurisdiction over the case of" Panamanian Defense Forces commander Gen. Manuel Noriega "to see that he is appropriately prosecuted and punished."

Noriega was indicted by a Miami grand jury in March 1988 on drug-trafficking charges, at the instigation of the U.S. State Department, which saw this as a means of forcing his ouster from command and weakening nationalism in Panama. The move has backfired badly.

In televised statements on NBC News's "Meet the Press" program Sept. 11—which were surprisingly devoid of any defense of the Republican administration's anti-drug efforts—Thornburgh answered ambiguously when asked if Sen. Dan Quayle is qualified to head up the nation's anti-drug efforts, something which George Bush has said he will ask him to do. "That's not for us to judge," Thornburgh replied.

He also said the administration opposes several provisions of the anti-drug bill now up for debate in the House, one of which calls on the CIA to engage in covert anti-drug operations. "I think [that provision] ill advised," he said.

New AIDS cover-up from the CDC

The Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control has been caught in a new cover-up concerning AIDS, this time involving the extent of its spread among minorities and migrant laborers. The *Atlanta Constitution* has confirmed that the CDC deliberately deleted sections of a consultant's study which found that the agency has no "coherent plan of action" to prevent the high incidence of AIDS in the minority population.

A study in North Carolina revealed that nearly 3% of seasonal farm workers who used a certain health clinic were infected. This is twice as high as the rate found in

military recruits.

The rate shot up to 7% among migrant workers in the 30-39 age bracket, a rate that *Boston Globe* editors say is higher than among inner-city minority youth. It scored the CDC in an editorial for "mishandling the effort to curb the spread of the disease in black and Hispanic minorities," who, it says, make up 40% of AIDS cases, with 500,000 infected. "Congress should hold the CDC responsible for its poor performance in behalf of blacks and Hispanics threatened with AIDS."

The CDC has apparently felt enough heat to order an expanded study of migrant workers. CDC spokesman Dr. Richard Spiegel, who conducted the study of North Carolina migrants, told a reporter that eight health centers servicing migrants throughout the country will now be studied. CDC spokesmen are refusing to reveal the location of these centers or of the center at which the original study was conducted.

Migrants travel throughout the United States, admitted Dr. Spiegel, who told a reporter that the migrants utilizing the health center at which his study was conducted would typically spend part of the winter in southern Florida, and then travel to North Carolina, and to the Midwest in mid-summer. He said, however, that no one can identify the AIDS victims among the migrants, since the study was conducted under conditions of total anonymity.

State Dept. bars FBI role in Zia probe

The U.S. State Department barred FBI experts from joining in the investigation of the Aug. 17 death of Pakistan's President Zia ul-Haq, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

"Right after the crash, the State Department allowed Air Force technical advisers to help sift through the wreckage, but, according to FBI officials, denied permission to FBI counterterrorism specialists, who are trained to preserve evidence," the report says.

Rep. Bill McCollum, a Florida Republican, is demanding an investigation into "possible obstruction of justice."

● **KAISER** Electronics President Stan Hill charged Sept. 8 that a spy had gained access to the secrets of a fighter pilot helmet at Kaiser's exhibit at the Farnborough Air Show in Britain. The prototype helmet, being tested by pilots flying F-18s, was dismantled, and, it is believed, the optical electronics photographed by a spy. The helmet allows pilots to fire at targets that are not visually directly ahead of them.

● **AT LEAST 12** states have passed or are considering imitations of the Minnesota "grass tax" law, after a judge upheld its constitutionality. The law requires drug pushers to purchase sales stamps anonymously, a major step toward legalization. Kansas, Illinois, New Hampshire, Montana, Colorado, and reportedly, California and Utah have passed such legislation. New York, Nebraska, Florida, and Louisiana are said to have called Minnesota asking for further information.

● **THE AIDS LOBBY** in California is upset about the prospects for victory of a public health referendum on AIDS placed on the California ballot by Rep. William Dannemeyer and "tax gadfly" Paul Gann. A lengthy *Washington Post* feature May 11 focused its coverage on Lyndon LaRouche, saying that the "coalition opposing" the Gann/Dannemeyer referendum has been "sapped" by two big fights against LaRouche referendums.

● **FOUR U.S.** military aircraft crashed in two days in the United States, Sept. 12 and 13. On Sept. 12, two F-14s crashed in North Carolina in separate incidents. The next day, two F-16s crashed. One crashed while on a training mission near Sumter, South Carolina struck a house and exploded. The second jet crashed in Utah.