

National News

Living standards in ten-year decline

Despite the fact that more women are working outside the home, the purchasing power of 40% of American families has declined over the last 10 years, according to a study released by the Economic Policy Institute Nov. 5.

The number of working wives increased from 55.4% in 1979 to 66.1% in 1986, and wives' earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased 12.1% over the same time period. Yet, husbands' adjusted earnings dropped from \$23,204 in 1979 to \$22,240 in 1986. While adjusted income for families increased 7.3%, two out of five families did not keep up with inflation.

The EPI study claimed that young adults who do not finish college are doing "substantially worse" than those of the same age a decade ago; that 1.5 million more unattached young people have "returned to the nest" because of low wages than did so a decade ago; and that U.S. families have been under greater economic pressure over the last decade than at any time in the post-World War II era.

"Without new economic policies, it is clear that families can no longer count on steadily increasing incomes and that the next generations cannot expect to live better than their parents," said Jeff Faux, president of the liberal institute.

NYC gives free needles to drug addicts

Despite enormous opposition from the public and several elected officials, New York City Mayor Ed Koch and Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph started supplying IV drug users with free needles on Nov. 7.

Organized as a "study" to see if free needle distribution will stop the sharing of needles and slow the spread of the AIDS virus among the city's addict population, the program will enroll 400 addicts, 200 of

whom will get free needles and counseling and the other 200 just counseling.

The New York City Council has condemned the project, and on Oct. 27 the Council's Minority Caucus said, "It is beyond all human reason and common sense for the city to hand out needles to drug addicts at a time when our police officers and our citizens have become casualties in the drug war." Harlem Councilman Hilton Clark told the press, "When the first needle is given out by Stephen Joseph, he ought to be indicted for murder. This is an unconscionable, criminal act. It's genocide pure and simple."

City Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward attacked the program because "it sends out the wrong message." The first location for the giveaway clinic was overruled by Koch because it provoked a wave of public outrage because it was located within a block of an elementary school.

Joseph nervously said, "If we get knocked out on this thing now, after all we've gone through, nobody will ever try it in other cities."

Duke returns to Mass. budget disaster

A major fiscal crisis awaits Michael Dukakis back in Massachusetts after the presidential election.

State Rep. Richard Voke, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, called for a full probe into the state's fiscal crisis Nov. 3, amid reports that the state's "master fund" account was overdrawn by almost \$400 million on Sept. 30. A Democrat allied with Dukakis, Voke scheduled an oversight hearing of his committee for Nov. 10 to force Dukakis's underlings to provide answers about the financial debacle. "There is a clear need for the Legislature to obtain an accurate report from the administration regarding the Commonwealth's fiscal well-being," he said.

Massachusetts State Treasurer Crane admitted that the account at the Bank of Boston was overdrawn by at least \$271 million—not \$194 million, as reported by his deputy, Patrick Sullivan. In late September,

one master fund account was \$384 million in the red.

On Nov. 1, it was revealed that the state had been running a \$200 million overdraft at the Bank of Boston to cover the Dukakis deficit. Now, release of the accounts by the Treasury shows that the overdraft reached \$383 million during October. Republican representatives want the state Inspector General and the Banking Commission to investigate irregularities.

"The Dukakis campaign, if it has done nothing else, has provided an opportunity to learn about the peculiarities of the Commonwealth, where borrowing from your own pension fund is prudence, and kited checks are a common understanding," the *Wall Street Journal* wrote Nov. 3.

LaRouche aired two pre-election broadcasts

Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche aired two nationally televised prime time half-hour paid political broadcasts on Oct. 31 and Nov. 5 leading up to the Nov. 8 election.

The Oct. 31 spot, entitled "The Winter of Our Discontent," which aired on NBC, had as its theme that the post-World War II era was coming to an end. The first section of the show dealt with "possibly the deepest depression" in our history. LaRouche warned against those who "are proposing to let the International Monetary Fund increase your taxes, dictate our federal, state, and local budgets, reduce the incomes of our people, and forbid new investments in agriculture and industry." In contrast, he outlined his policy to rebuild farms, industry, and infrastructure, which, with new technologies, "can increase our average incomes by 50% before the end of this century."

The second part of the show analyzed the serious threat the West faces from Moscow and the significance of the recent shake-ups in the Soviet leadership. LaRouche compared the current popular analysis of the Soviets by the State Department and Soviet experts to "little girls playing with dolls."

The third and final section of the show featured LaRouche's proposal to provide the