

National News

Reagan uses FEMA to boost nuclear power

President Reagan issued an order Nov. 18 which authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare evacuation plans for nuclear plants when state and local authorities refuse or are unable to do so. The move takes a major weapon out of the hands of anti-nuclear local and state officials who, by refusing to prepare such plans, have blocked such nuclear plants as Seabrook in New Hampshire and Shoreham on Long Island from starting up.

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, however, is vowing to continue his fight against the Seabrook plant. According to his spokesman, James Dorsey, Dukakis thinks President Reagan's order allowing FEMA to develop emergency evacuation plans for nuclear plants was "a wrong headed, ill-advised approach which removes the authority of protecting the public health and safety from local government, and yet leaves the local government responsible."

Dorsey said Massachusetts will explore a legal challenge to the President's order. Other Seabrook opponents have asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, whose staff recommended that it be allowed a low-power operating license on Nov. 18, to determine whether a bankrupt utility is "financially qualified" to hold a license for a plant with such exacting safety requirements.

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo is also reportedly attempting to line up the votes in his state legislature to close the Shoreham plant before a Dec. 1 deadline. Shoreham also has been issued a license for low-power generation.

Judge rules for du Pont Smith marriage

Judge Lawrence Wood of Chester County, Pennsylvania Orphans' Court, in an order dated Nov. 10, granted the petition of Andrea Diano-Smith to validate her marriage

to Lewis du Pont Smith, which occurred in Rome in December 1986. The decision ended a nearly two-year legal battle to have their marriage recognized in that state.

Two months earlier, Judge Wood had conceded that Smith would be competent to marry under Pennsylvania law, but had raised the issue of whether an "incompetent" could marry under Italian law. After an attorney from Florence on Italian civil law, and another on Catholic Church canon law, presented expert testimony on matrimonial matters, Wood ruled to validate the marriage.

Smith, an heir to the du Pont family fortune, said, "For over three years, my family has waged a relentless legal campaign against me, and my wife, solely because of my generous financial support of, and political association with, Lyndon LaRouche. My family humiliated me for three years, by claiming I was mentally incompetent, only as a pretext to legally prevent me from contributing more money to LaRouche causes. Then, for over a year, my father, E. Newbold Smith, tried to prevent our marriage from being validated under Pennsylvania state law, by making wild accusations that my wife Andrea was an agent, or seductress, for Lyndon LaRouche, and by suggesting that she may be mentally incompetent herself. Finally, my father claimed that Andrea fooled the Vatican. I personally want to thank Judge Wood. Justice has finally prevailed in Chester County, if nowhere else."

Lewis du Pont Smith called the decision a "great victory," and offered to make peace with his family. "In the spirit of Christian charity, which has carried Andrea and me through our struggles, I now offer my family an olive branch, to reconcile. Let's end all this silly legal nonsense. I am not mentally incompetent, nor have I ever been. I am a man of political and moral conviction."

Bush preparing space policy

President-elect George Bush will likely announce his long-term space policy next July 20, the 20th anniversary of the first manned

landing on the Moon, according to Bush advisers who are currently involved in preparing that policy.

The NASA Office of Exploration is working on a series of four possible long-term Moon-Mars mission scenarios, which will begin to be considered in January. The projects being examined include establishing a scientific base on the Moon; a short-stay series of "sprint" manned missions to Mars; and an "evolutionary" program which calls for going to the Moon first, and then to Mars.

NASA director James Fletcher recently said he preferred the latter option, putting a base on the Moon by 2007, from which the trip to Mars would then be made. But there is also heavy emphasis on the sprint missions using conventional chemical propulsion, fear that the Soviets might get to Mars first.

There is also a push from some within NASA to place emphasis on the development of nuclear and fusion propulsion systems; they are trying to revive the NERVA nuclear-rocket program from the 1960s. Some companies, such as Westinghouse, did not throw out their blueprints and hardware from their work on such systems at that time.

Rep. Garcia indicted in Wedtech scandal

Bronx Democratic Congressman Robert Garcia was indicted on Nov. 21, along with his wife and lawyer Ralph Vallone, Jr., on federal charges of carrying out a bribery-extortion scheme to obtain \$185,000 from the Wedtech Corporation. New York FBI office head James Fox said Garcia is charged with receiving payments "to obtain favorable, lucrative defense contracts for Wedtech."

The seven-count indictment charged Garcia with using his official position to demand and obtain Wedtech payoffs, including payments disguised as legal fees to Vallone, most of which were then passed along to Mrs. Garcia as consulting fees.

The indictment followed the sentencing

of Rep. Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.) to eight years in prison for his conviction in a Wedtech racketeering trial in a federal court in Manhattan. The crucial government witness is Mario Moreno, the Wedtech financial officer who is cooperating with the government.

Garcia blasted both Moreno and the government, saying, "I note that, despite an investigation which lasted nearly two years and has scrutinized virtually every facet of my personal and professional life, the charges deal only with the preposterous allegations of Mario Moreno, one of the most notorious felons of the 20th century.

"My brush with the criminal justice system has left me deeply shaken, as I observed the government harass and intimidate my staff, colleagues, friends, and family to induce them to say something negative about me, while virtually ignoring polygraph evidence demonstrating my innocence and all other exculpatory information and testimony."

Pollard confirms hunt for 'Mr. X'

Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life term for passing U.S. secrets to Israel, whence they were passed to Moscow, confirmed that U.S. counterintelligence experts are searching not only for his controller, but a network of Soviet and Israeli spies labeled "Mr. X." In an interview Nov. 20 from prison with CBS "Sixty Minutes" reporter Mike Wallace, Pollard said that "Mr. X" is thought to be a list of prominent Jewish-Americans which he was shown after his arrest.

Joseph DiGenova, former U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, who prosecuted Pollard and his wife, told Wallace that Pollard did untold damage to U.S. intelligence. He said Pollard is not only lying about what he gave the Israelis, but that he revealed names of agents and procedures of U.S. intelligence, as no other spy had been able to do since Kim Philby, the British spy who defected to Russia.

One intelligence official said that Pollard's information wound up in the hands of the KGB.

Pentagon unveils Stealth bomber

The United States' latest long-range penetrating bomber, nicknamed the Stealth bomber for its ability to avoid radar detection, was unveiled Nov. 22, after 10 years of development. The Stealth, or B-2, is a high-flying craft; its use, combined with the B-1, which operates at low altitudes, is expected to provide a significantly increased potential to penetrate Soviet air defenses to deliver a nuclear strike.

The primary target for the Stealth fleet will be Soviet command posts intended to shelter Soviet civilian and military leaders, so-called hard targets, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Larry Welch said on Nov. 19. "The B-2 is the best hope for attacking relocatable targets," such as Soviet mobile missiles, as well, he added.

Experts estimate it will be a "very difficult task" for the Soviets to develop a radar capability to detect the Stealth.

Judge warns Reagan to act before North trial

U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell warned all parties at a Nov. 21 hearing that the case of former National Security Council employee Lt. Col. Oliver North "is rapidly approaching trial . . . probably, late January."

Gesell's statement was a blunt warning to President Reagan that if he intends to keep the trial of North from exposing vital national security secrets or possibly curbing presidential power over foreign policy, the President must act quickly, i.e., pardon North.

"It is for the President, not North or any witness, to protect the prerogatives of the President's office if he deems them unduly threatened," Judge Gesell said. "Neither North nor North's counsel can even purport to speak for the President of the United States."

Gesell warned that he, as the judge in the case, will have "very little control" over what material comes out at trial.

Briefly

● **REP. JIM COURTER** (R-N.J.) and two other congressmen warned Israel that drastic consequences would ensue if the new law defining "who is a Jew" is passed. "If Israel is going to redefine laws that may affect the interests of American Jewry, that may eventually impact on U.S. legislation, appropriations, support, and money," he said.

● **JOHN TOWER**, the former Texas Senator and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is expected to be named Secretary of Defense in the Bush administration. But Bush staff are reportedly negotiating to limit his control over the Pentagon, fearing he would be too independent and uncommitted to Pentagon "reforms." Tower would reportedly be allowed to choose the service secretaries.

● **LYNDON LAROUCHE** gave a brief address Nov. 20 to the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C. The special Thanksgiving service was sponsored by the Washington City Bible Society and featured a tribute to President John Quincy Adams. LaRouche was invited, as well as other presidential candidates. Adams's work, LaRouche said, "should not be viewed as just history, but as a living responsibility for all of us. I see in the eyes of millions around the world, that we as a nation have failed to build that community of principle based on the gift that has been bestowed upon this nation."

● **POVERTY** in the United States "has reached catastrophic proportions," University of Chicago professor William Julius Wilson stated, in an article in the Nov. 16 *Jerusalem Post*. Under the title, "Poverty Rampant in U.S.," the article stated, "More than 32 million persons in the U.S. are considered poverty-stricken," and quoted Diane Sonde, director of Project Reach-Out, which works with the homeless mentally ill: "It's Calcutta come to the United States."