

National News

'Pain techniques' used against L.A. abortion foes

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has announced that it plans to continue the use of "nunchaku" martial arts weapons as part of its procedure for handling non-violent protesters who go limp when approached by police officers attempting to place them under arrest.

On June 10, some 300 uniformed officers in riot gear arrested about 250 Operation Rescue anti-abortion protesters during a "rescue" operation at an abortion clinic in Los Angeles. The officers routinely used the plastic nunchakus to force protesters to stand up and walk to the police vans. Two officers would approach the protester, and each would wrap the nunchaku around one arm of the protester, then tighten the weapon until the pain forced the protester to comply with the officers' commands.

Operation Rescue spokesmen claim at least 50 of the non-violent protesters were injured by police, including two whose arms were broken. News reports at the time of the demonstrations alleged that when one protester's arm was broken, "you could hear the snap 40 feet away."

Virginia tries again to jail Rochelle Ascher

The Commonwealth of Virginia requested at the end of June that the state Appeals Court reconsider its ruling allowing LaRouche associate Rochelle Ascher, convicted on April 5 of securities fraud, to be out on bail pending appeal of her conviction.

The brief states blatantly as its reason, the state's fear that Mrs. Ascher will continue her *political* activities and associations—which is the only reason she was indicted in the first place.

According to the brief: "The record reveals that Mrs. Ascher exercised considerable influence within the LaRouche organization and will continue to do so if conditions are not placed on her bond. . . . Her

testimony at trial that she felt she was innocent of any wrongdoing lends further support to the conclusion that she is likely to continue working with the organization if conditions are not placed on her bond.

"There must be some restrictions imposed on the defendant's bond to cut off her activities with the organization."

Ascher was originally sentenced to an unprecedented 86-year prison term by the jury. This was revised to a 20-year sentence by Judge Carleton Penn (half of it to be on probation), who denied the defendant bail pending appeal. The Appeals Court reversed that ruling, stating that the judge had "abused his discretion" on the bail issue.

NDPC petitions for stay of execution

Warren J. Hamerman, the chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee, announced on June 26 that the NDPC is petitioning Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan for a "stay of execution" of all collection proceedings of a multimillion-dollar "economic death penalty" against the political action committee of the LaRouche Democrats.

The enormous fines were the result of a contempt of court judgment against the NDPC for alleged failure to produce records in the First Circuit's Boston prosecution against LaRouche. The NDPC denies that it is in contempt, but was never even granted a hearing to present its case.

Hamerman, decrying the threat of what he called an attempt for "Chinese-style execution of political rights," stated that the NDPC, on the basis of the First Amendment and a wealth of other legal authority, is asking that the stay last until the Supreme Court can decide on the merits of the NDPC's appeal. Will the court condone the execution of a "purely political organization" without even so much as a hearing on the fines in question, he asked?

Hamerman then announced on June 30 that Kenneth W. Starr, the Solicitor General of the United States, had submitted a 14-page legal brief to Justice Brennan, arguing that the NDPC's request should be denied.

The Solicitor General's brief was submitted four days after Justice Brennan ordered him to respond to the NDPC's request.

Starr presented a prejudiced and inflammatory falsification of the facts, in an attempt to sway the Supreme Court Justice to ignore the violations of the Constitution against the NDPC on the grounds, in effect, of judicial prejudice against organizations associated with Lyndon LaRouche.

Detroit-area churches are closing down

The largest single closing of parishes in U.S. Catholic Church history is taking place in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Fifteen parishes are scheduled to be closed down for financial reasons.

The decision taken by Detroit Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka was appealed by the parishes that did not accept a study by the Archdiocese that documented the declining of membership and receipts after many Catholics emigrated to the suburbs.

Another 25 parishes in Detroit have been given one year to improve their financial situation, or they too will be closed.

Defector: CIA idle as Gorbachov woos Greens

Evgeny Novikov, a Soviet defector formerly with the International Department of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's Central Committee from 1970 to 1988, warned that the CIA is ignoring Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov's growing ties to the Greens and peaceniks in the West. A Novikov interview conducted by the *Springfield News-Sun* in Ohio and published June 12 was covered by Associated Press.

"According to Novikov, 'Gorbachov started to promote the principles of his *new thinking*, to find new clients, sometimes at the expense of old clients; to find parties and groups that have influence in capitalist countries.' The new approach has brought

closer Soviet ties to American and Western European environmental and peace groups, he said," wrote AP.

"Because his work centered on Arab and Middle Eastern affairs, Novikov declined to speculate on which Western groups were sympathetic to Gorbachov's new approach."

New book chronicles 'railroad' of LaRouche

The first copies of *Railroad!*, a new book documenting the judicial abuses that have taken place in the case *U.S.A. v. Lyndon LaRouche, et al.*, were released on June 29 at a press conference given by Warren J. Hamerman, chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee. The press conference was given on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, which has before it a Writ of Habeas Corpus demanding the release of Lyndon LaRouche and his six fellow prisoners, who were jailed on Jan. 27 in a political frameup trial.

Hamerman also released the following statement by Ramsey Clark, the former U.S. Attorney General, who is the representing LaRouche in his appeal to the Fourth Circuit:

"The U.S. government has engaged in flagrant constitutional violations to convict and confine Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., whom they perceive as a political enemy.

- "The fundamental constitutional rights of LaRouche and his associates to a fair trial and to the effective representation of counsel were violated by forcing them to trial within 38 days of indictment in an exceedingly complex case involving millions of documents, many witnesses, and a myriad of complex and novel issues.

- "The fundamental constitutional right of LaRouche and his associates to present their defense to a jury was violated by prohibiting them from introducing admittedly relevant evidence concerning the role of the government and others in waging financial warfare against LaRouche and his political organizations.

- "LaRouche's right to a jury trial was

violated by denying the defense the ability to conduct a meaningfully probing selection of jury (*voir dire*), when LaRouche and his political organizations had been portrayed historically by the media in prejudicial and inflammatory terms and when prospective jurors could very well have had personal encounters with his political associates.

- "The imposition of a 15-year sentence by the trial judge on LaRouche was impermissibly harsh.

- "This case is an outgrowth of a many-year program of a national multi-agency 'Get LaRouche' task force."

Dixy Lee Ray blasts 'greenhouse' fraud

Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, former governor of Washington state and former head of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), denounced the scientific consumer fraud regarding global warming, the so-called "greenhouse effect," in a syndicated column printed in the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner* on June 23.

Ray notes that after *Time* magazine prophesied a doomed Earth in its 1988 "Planet of the Year" feature, Alaska experienced its worst cold weather ever in January 1989. "Proponents of the 'greenhouse-effect-is-here-global-warming-has-begun' theory were strangely quiet during those weeks," she said.

Ray points out the statistics on observed warming, 0.3 to 0.7°C in the last 140 years, are quite different from the 1 to 5° predicted by scientists' computer models. Natural processes such as recent increases in solar activity, and volcanic activity, such as Mount St. Helens' pumping out profuse quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, also play major role in producing "greenhouse gases."

She concludes, "John Maddox, editor of the British journal *Nature*, says 'these days there . . . seems to be an underlying cataclysmic sense among people. Scientists don't seem to be immune to this.' Well, they ought to be. What we need most in the greenhouse debate is a dose of healthy skepticism."

Briefly

- **FORMER SENIOR U.S.** officials have urged President Bush to consider "restraints" on developing the Strategic Defense Initiative. The group includes Harold Brown, James Schlesinger, Melvin Laird, Cyrus Vance, and Richard Helms. Their proposal is contained in a paper issued by the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute.

- **LYN NOFZIGER**, White House aide to President Reagan, had his conviction reversed June 27 by the U.S. Court of Appeals on three criminal counts of illegal lobbying. The panel ruled that the prosecutor failed to prove that Nofziger knew that his conduct was illegal.

- **MANDATORY AIDS** testing as a pre-marriage requirement has been dropped by the State of Illinois, with the support of Republican Gov. Jim Thompson. This was one of the few mandatory AIDS testing programs ever established in the United States.

- **THE HEMLOCK** Society is sponsoring a group called Washington Citizens for Death With Dignity, which will try to file an initiative next January to legalize euthanasia performed by physicians.

- **VIRGINIA** Attorney General Mary Sue Terry hailed a Supreme Court decision denying death row inmates free legal counsel as "a victory for the people of Virginia and a vindication for our fine judicial system."

- **IMMIGRATION** and Naturalization Service Commissioner Alan C. Nelson has proposed that Congress enable his agency to establish a nationwide data bank to verify the identity of all job applicants, to prevent the use of fake IDs by illegal aliens. The measure would be accompanied by the issuance of a national ID card, and increased enforcement of existing laws designed to prevent employment of "illegals."