

# National News

## Appeal to Pope to attack euthanasia

Some 100 leading pro-life Catholics called on Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to come out with a major statement condemning euthanasia practices in the hospitals. The appeal was published in a full-page advertisement in the Catholic periodical the *Wanderer* early in August.

The signers of the ad are asking for a papal statement publicly condemning "the starvation and dehydration of the gravely ill and disabled," a policy in many U. S. hospitals, and which is especially widespread at Catholic hospitals in the United States. "Regrettably, even some Catholics have argued that the teachings of the Popes and the Catholic Church allow the starvation and dehydration of persons who cannot feed themselves. Such arguments must be refuted by the Papacy and the Catholic Church. The true teaching of the Popes and the Church, that all persons must be provided with basic care—food, water, proper room temperature, and bed rest—must be restated publicly and dramatically. We respectfully urge that you state the true position of the Church in this matter."

## Hotline announced for environmental terrorism

A telephone hotline for reporting acts of environmental terrorism has been established by the Mountain States Legal Foundation in Denver, Colorado. The opening of the hotline, which may be reached by dialing 1-303-TESTIFY, follows the foundation's establishment on July 1 of a national clearinghouse for information regarding the activities of environmental terrorists.

Speaking before a gathering of public land users in Safford, Arizona, William Perry Pendley, president and chief legal officer of the foundation, stated, "Men and women who work on and enjoy the public lands of

the West are increasingly at risk from the activities of a small band of radical environmental terrorists. From the 'spiking' of trees, to the cutting of ski lift cables, to the issuing of death threats, these environmental racketeers are placing fellow Americans in grave physical danger."

"We are studying these episodes with an eye to bringing a lawsuit against this band of environmental zealots," Pendley said. "But, we need more facts to establish participants, patterns, and to determine the existence of a conspiracy on the part of those who would kill fathers in the name of Mother Earth. We ask those who have such information to call us.

"The people of the West cannot and will not be held hostage to environmental terrorists . . . while our Constitution guarantees that there is room in America for expression of every view, there is no room in America for those who . . . seek to deprive their fellow Americans of their property, their liberty, and even their lives."

## Los Angeles Times: Rescind RICO statute!

In an editorial on Aug. 16, the *Los Angeles Times* called for the Congress to repeal the notorious Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), which is one of the principal means by which police-state rule is being instituted in the United States.

Entitled "It's Time to Rescind RICO," the editorial states: "From the moment of its passage, civil libertarians and legal scholars have warned that the . . . so-called RICO statute is an open invitation to prosecutorial abuse." The widening application of RICO "makes it imperative that Congress erase this law from the books."

The editors state that RICO has failed to meet the goals for which it was created, and instead is being used as a "convenience of the state."

"Any law whose language can be construed, as RICO's has, to cover the conduct of Mafia loan sharks, Wall Street financiers, Chicago commodity traders, and Los Angeles slumlords is vague and overly broad.

Equally important, its harsh forfeiture penalties and lengthy prison sentences are, in most cases, disproportionately severe and cruelly coercive. . . . The law is so loosely worded that any two instances of illegal conduct within a 10-year period—even if relatively trivial—can, if they involve use of the mail or telephone, be prosecuted as a 'pattern of racketeering activity.'"

The *Times* also attacks RICO's provision which allows the government to freeze the assets of the accused *before* trial. It concludes, "The way to deal with stock manipulators is to prosecute them for violating the securities regulations; the way to deal with hoodlums is prosecute them for committing crimes, not talking about them."

## Kissinger under fire for China policy

The Aug. 14 issue of the *Los Angeles Times* published several angry letters to the editor responding to a syndicated column by Henry Kissinger, published July 29, in which he praised Red Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. The letters included:

- Zhenguyan Fu, of the University of California at Irvine, wrote, "It is perhaps not surprising that a few voices calling for sympathy for the perpetrators of the human carnage would appear in the American media. What is surprising, however, is that such attempts at whitewash should come from people who consider themselves experts on Chinese affairs."

- Martin Colman, of the Washington, D.C.-based American Foundation for Resistance International, wrote, "Perhaps Kissinger has been in the company of totalitarian dictators so long that he has forgotten the basic principles of democratic society."

- Eugene J. Carroll, Jr., of the Center for Defense Information, wrote, "Kissinger's spirited defense of Deng Xiaoping and condemnation of Congress for enacting sanctions against China raises serious questions concerning his motives and priorities. . . . It is not known whether he represents clients with a financial interest in U.S. policy toward China."

## Briefly

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### Rhode Island gives tax break to witches

The Rhode Island State Division of Taxation has ruled that witchcraft is a legitimate religion, and its covens are entitled to the same tax breaks as those of established religions, the U.S. Army newspaper *Stars and Stripes* reported Aug. 10.

Under the title, "Witches Resting Easy For a Spell," the paper quotes Joyce Siegrist, "high priestess" of the Rosegate Coven, "With this ruling, we witches will definitely be able to come out of the closet and take our place in society."

Under the ruling made by tax administrator R. Gary Clark, the coven, known as Our Lady of the Roses Wiccan Church, will no longer have to pay state sales tax for supplies.

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### LaRouche honors Congressman Leland

Lyndon LaRouche, candidate for Congress in the 10th District of Virginia, released a statement Aug. 14 calling for a memorial for the late Rep. Mickey Leland (D-Tex.). Leland, chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, had been missing during a relief mission to Ethiopia. His plane was discovered on the morning of Aug. 13 to have crashed; Leland and 15 others were on their way to a refugee camp.

"I knew Mickey, briefly. I'd met with him for about an hour in his office in Washington, D.C. in 1981," LaRouche said. "In a quite relevant meeting, we discussed precisely this matter of famine and related conditions in Black Africa, and, despite our disagreements on many other questions, this seemed to be a consistent theme of agreement over the years.

"I think that we should say that Mickey, while serving as a congressman, died in the line of duty, in the interests of the United States, and in the interests of the honor of the United States, on his way to further a

humanitarian policy, with which we should all be in sympathy.

"I would hope that someone comes up with an appropriate memorial to Mickey, something which is dedicated to the purpose for which he gave his life and which is a memorial to the fact that he did sacrifice his life, as a servant of morality in the pursuit of that cause."

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### Soviets hold political prisoners, Rep. says

Congressman Chris Smith (R-N.J.) reported back Aug. 15 from his trip to Perm 35, a Soviet camp for political prisoners in the Ural mountains, which he took in his capacity as a member of the Helsinki Commission, together with Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.). The visit was arranged through the office of the Soviet Procurator General.

Smith confirmed that in spite of Gorbachov's claims, the Soviets do have political prisoners, Perm 35 being one of a reported 200 such camps in the U.S.S.R. Most of the prisoners at this camp were charged with violations of Article 64 ("Treason Against the Motherland") or Article 70 ("Anti-Soviet Agitation and Propaganda") of the Soviet legal code. Many of them had in fact simply tried to escape from the Soviet Union.

Smith visited the isolation cells used as punishment for infraction of rules or for harassment, where prisoners are subject to the extremely cold conditions of the Siberian climate. Prisoners had told him that many had fallen ill and died while in the isolation cell.

Smith believes that increased pressure on the Soviets by the Helsinki Commission will convince the Soviets to shut down their political concentration camps. The Perm 35 camp had 200 prisoners previously, but now there were only 35 people there.

When asked by *EIR* if he didn't think the Soviets had many more such camps, possibly with worse conditions, and that the Perm 35 visit was window-dressing for the benefit of the Western observers, Smith commented, "They might very well have. I have no way of determining that."

● **GEORGE BUSH** signed a pardon Aug. 14 for Soviet agent Armand Hammer, who had pleaded guilty to making illegal contributions totaling \$45,000 to Richard Nixon's 1972 presidential campaign. He had been sentenced to a year probation and a \$3,000 fine.

● **A SOVIET MISSILE** flew over Hawaiian air space Aug. 11, the State Department acknowledged. The Soviets ignored U.S. statements of concern and requests that Soviet test plans be modified.

● **THE ABDUCTION** of two young children from a Harlem playground is part of a conspiracy to sell children, New York Police believe. The police made the announcement after 19-month-old Shane Walder disappeared on Aug. 10.

● **RICHARD THORNBURGH**, U.S. Attorney General, appointed William Lucas to be his "personal representative" to law enforcement and civil rights groups on Aug. 12, following the Senate Judiciary Committee's rejection of Lucas's nomination to be the head of the department's civil rights division.

● **NELLIE HESTER**, wife of slain New York City tenant activist Bruce Bailey, accused the press of a smear campaign depicting her husband as a sinister, corrupt individual, and an informant for Lyndon LaRouche, as a means of covering up for his murder. "There has been zero coverage on the connection of the real estate industry as possible suspects in his brutal death," she said.

● **THE VOYAGER 2** spacecraft will encounter the planet Neptune on Aug. 24, when it will pass within 3,000 miles of Neptune's north pole. Launched 12 years ago, it will return what are expected to be spectacular pictures of a planet never before seen close up. Voyager has already discovered four unknown moons of Neptune.