

National News

Exxon indictment is political, says Journal

The Justice Department's criminal indictment of Exxon is a "political prosecution" which violates the underlying purpose of the criminal law: to accuse and convict those with criminal intent, a *Wall Street Journal* editorial asserted March 5.

Of the two felony charges against the company, for violation of the Dangerous Cargo Act and the Ports and Waterways Safety Act, the *Journal* notes, "These are statutes aimed at regulating transport of dangerous materials and mandating competent employees on ships. Both require 'willful or knowing violations.' For centuries, indeed, the doctrine of *mens rea* [criminal mind] has separated criminal cases from civil cases by requiring some evil intent by the defendant. Does the government now ask us to believe Exxon spilled its own oil willfully or knowingly?"

The *Journal* notes that the company has voluntarily spent \$2 billion in the Alaskan cleanup which Transportation Secretary Skinner has called a "very substantial good-faith effort." The three misdemeanor charges are for violations of the Migratory Birds Treaty Act (killing birds without permission), the Refuse Act (dumping waste without a permit), and the Clean Water Act.

Drug production soars under Bush presidency

The latest U.S. State Department annual survey of worldwide narcotics production and distribution shows a growing problem during George Bush's presidency, but tries to shift the blame.

"Worldwide narcotics production reached new levels," the report said. It scored "corruption" of other governments and their failure "to exhibit a serious commitment to reducing drug production and trafficking."

"The report estimated that from 1988 to 1989, the production of opium increased by

a staggering 47%. Coca production increased 12% among the four coca-producing countries: Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador, while hashish rose 16%. Estimates of marijuana production were up 210%, most of it in Mexico, although much of that increase reflects improved methodology . . . rather than an outright increase in production, the report said," according to the *New York Times*. Continuing the Bush coverup, the report cited Syrian officials operating narco-terrorist camps in Lebanon as only mildly corrupt, and did not list any opium or heroin production in Red China.

Webster attacked for fomenting Gorbymania

The Center for Security Policy, a think tank composed of exiled intelligence officials, has called on the Bush administration to impel a review of the assumptions and conclusions of the U.S. assessment of the Soviet Union.

The call was provoked by CIA head William Webster who told Congress, "It is highly unlikely that there ever will be a reversal of the collapsing military threat from Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces in Europe, even if Soviet reformer Mikhail Gorbachev is ousted from power and replaced by a repressive hardliner."

The center's director Frank Gaffney Jr. said, "This extraordinary contention evidently is a cornerstone in the Bush administration's strategy toward the Soviet Union. . . . If the . . . judgment is wrong . . . the risks of such initiatives for U.S. and Western security are nearly incalculable."

ACLU: no fight against capital sentencing

Columnist Nat Hentoff wrote March 3 that the American Civil Liberties Union bent to political pressure from its pro-abortion membership base when it scuttled an attempt by one wing of the organization to fight against the capital sentencing of minors

approved by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the 1986-87 U.S. Supreme Court term, Henry Schwarzchild, head of the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project, prepared a brief in the case of William Wayne Thompson who was on death row in Oklahoma for a murder he committed when he was 15. Schwarzchild's brief argued that a 15-year-old is not as mentally or emotionally mature as an adult and therefore less capable of understanding the morality of his acts.

Schwarzchild's brief was never filed because of opposition from Janet Benshoof, head of the organization's Reproductive Freedom Project, whose unit had been fighting parental notification law for minors seeking abortion on the grounds that women of the same age bracket were mature enough to make such a decision for themselves.

LaRouche writes Bush on Germany, trade war

Lyndon LaRouche, candidate for U.S. Congress from Virginia's 10th district, wrote an open letter to President Bush on Feb. 27, taking sharp exception to his "unilateral action" resisting reunification of Germany. "This is a very bad policy, a very dangerous policy, and essentially contrary to the utmost vital interests of the U.S.," LaRouche warned.

LaRouche also urged Bush to drop the "insane but opportunistic Super 301 effort to virtually declare financial war against Japan and West Germany, particularly since only a Japan and a Europe revitalized by the unification of the two parts of Germany would be able to jump-start a U.S. economy now mud-sliding into the worst collapse of the 20th century."

LaRouche warned Bush of another problem, the so-called "Kissinger Syndrome. One of the great problems of the present administration is the smear of potential corruption scandal around it, and I'm referring specifically in one instance to the case of Mr. R. Mark Palmer and Mr. Lawrence Eagleburger. . . . These gentlemen are engaging in escapades in Europe, as some would do in Communist China, which have the effect of stealing money effectively

at the expense of projects which are much more viable such as those arising out of French-German-Austrian-Czechoslovakian cooperation in creating what I've described as the development triangle in Europe.

"The development triangle obviously would be the dominant feature of a European reconstruction, would mean a successful 1992 operation, as opposed to an unsuccessful one," he said.

LaRouche urged Bush to "tell Margaret Thatcher to retire," and to "cut off the Eagleburger's friends such as R. Mark Palmer from linking your policies to private ventures . . . by them which might tarnish your administration" with a scandal at a time "when you least need it during the coming mudslide of financial-related crisis about to hit the markets during the course of a half-dozen weeks or so ahead."

NDPC citizen campaigns have Dem hacks spooked

The National Democratic Policy Committee, representing the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party, announced March 6 that NDPC-backed candidates have filed for federal, state, and local offices in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Oregon as part of a movement of citizen candidates filing to run for political office.

In Virginia, 15 candidates filed on the slate led by Nancy Spannaus's campaign for U.S. Senate and Lyndon LaRouche's campaign for U.S. House of Representatives from the 10th District.

In Oregon, at least 35 candidates filed on a "Freedom for LaRouche" slate in both the Republican and Democratic Party primaries.

An undetermined number of candidates also filed in Pennsylvania.

The March 5 *Houston Post* carried a front-page story admitting the strength of the LaRouche slate in Texas. According to the article, headlined "LaRouche Factor in Local Races," Democratic candidates are being forced to "flood the area with campaign literature a week before the election" due to fear of the strength of the LaRouche Democrats.

"A number of LaRouche supporters already have won precinct chairmanships because no party regulars filed for the grassroots organizational posts," the *Post* notes.

An aide to Hugh Parmer, a Fort Worth state senator who is a token candidate to run against Sen. Phil Gramm (R), said, "We are paying particular attention to Harris County with these extra informational and political mailings because of past LaRouchite successes there, and because there are people running who are LaRouche followers."

Parmer is opposed in the March 13 primary by LaRouche Democrat Harley Schlanger. The *Houston Post* recently reported that statewide candidates, such as Parmer, can expect little or no help from the county organization.

Hemlock Society head's wife had enough death

The second wife of Derek Humphry, founder of the Hemlock Society and leader of the euthanasia movement in the U.S., said her husband abandoned her after she told him she had cancer. Ann Humphry reported that he said he couldn't handle another wife with cancer.

Humphry admitted he helped kill his first wife, who also had breast cancer, by supplying her with drugs for her suicide. Unlike Humphry's first wife, Ann Humphry refused to give up and has undergone surgery and chemotherapy, and says she is tired of death and dying.

Ann Humphry said she is still committed to the ideals of the Hemlock movement, like physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients who request it, but said this could put a "subtle but unmistakable pressure on someone to die—to simply get out of the way. Ironically, through my own experience, I have come to understand the arguments" of the anti-euthanasia movement.

Derek Humphry is claiming his marriage was always shaky and his wife's cancer went to her brain. He is spreading the rumor that "Ann is mentally ill, she has a borderline personality problem," because she is now exposing how Humphry illegally used tax-deductible contributions.

Briefly

● **U.S. MILITARY** intelligence has photographed six SS-23 launchers and 12 missiles that were deployed in East Germany in violation of the 1987 INF Treaty, according to Bush administration officials cited by the March 6 *Washington Times*.

● **NEW YORK GOV.** Mario Cuomo has been barred from speaking in parishes of the Brooklyn diocese by Rev. Thomas V. Daily, the Bishop-designate of Brooklyn, N.Y., because of his support for abortion, the Feb. 20 Catholic News Service reported.

● **THE SEABROOK** nuclear plant in New Hampshire will be allowed to run at full capacity, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ruled 3-0 on March 1.

● **IAN MACDONALD**, a former director of the White House Drug Abuse Policy Office, told a New Delhi, India seminar in February that the U.S. is not waging war against drug production. The "goal of the international effort to prevent drug abuse is to eliminate poppies. Instead we [the U.S.] have to focus on what has been termed 'user accountability.'"

● **FATHER BRUCE RITTER**, who operated a pederasty ring under the cover of a New York City runaway shelter, who is vice chairman of Americares which funneled medicine to the Contras, and is a close friend of George Bush, will not be charged with any crime, N.Y. District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said Feb. 28 while admitting there may have been violations of the law.

● **ROY FURMARK**, the long-time partner of William Casey, pleaded guilty March 1 to conspiring to sell Ashland oil company secrets to the National Iranian Oil Co. The NIOC was used to purchase arms from the U.S. Furmark faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.