

National News

Rehnquist squeamish on overloading courts

U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist has asked the House Judiciary Committee to reject a proposal sponsored by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) which would make all murders committed with a gun federal and capital offenses.

Rehnquist made the unusual request in a letter in his capacity as head of the Judicial Conference of the United States. A Judicial Conference letter accompanying the Rehnquist letter said the bill "will swamp the federal courts with routine cases that states are better equipped to handle."

Rehnquist made the request despite his record that the Supreme Court will not put any obstacles in the way of states killing poor and minority defendants.

D'Amato said last July that he hoped the federal system would become "so over-clogged" that Congress would have to provide more judges and prisons. Some observers believe that Rehnquist felt the tactic could back-fire, resulting in less respect for a hamstrung judicial system.

William Weld peddles abortion

Massachusetts Gov. William Weld has proposed legislation to liberalize the state's abortion laws, including easing of parental consent requirements for teenagers seeking abortions.

"In my mind, freedom of choice goes to the heart of the principles embodied in our Constitution, freedom from government interference in the private lives of citizens," said Weld.

Current Massachusetts law requires women under age 18 to get consent from both parents for an abortion; Weld's bill would lower the need for consent to under the age of 16, and require consent from only one parent.

In addition, the proposal would repeal a law barring the use of Medicaid to fund

abortions, allow public employee health insurance to cover abortions, and bar anyone from blocking access to abortion clinics, a move aimed at stopping right-to-life demonstrations. The bill would also rescind the designation of October as pro-life month.

Weld's proposal was harshly denounced by Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law in a rare press conference. George Bush campaigned for Weld during the election.

R.I. depositors getting angrier

Nine months after Rhode Island Gov. Bruce Sundlun closed 45 bankrupt banks and credit unions and promised people they would get their money back, 200,000 Rhode Island depositors still haven't received their money, and many are destitute. Their activities portend growing anger at the collapsing economy.

"The anger here, the frustration, is just incredible," said a local pollster. "It's at fever pitch. Middle-class America is out in the streets, and they're angry. I've never seen anything like it in my life."

The *Boston Globe* commented: "Perhaps the most striking aspect of this tension-filled drama is that its principal players are not ideologues or political activists, but regular folks; a majority of them appear to be middle-aged and many of the most fervent are elderly. Few of them may ever have considered participating in public protests before. But nothing had ever come between them and their money quite so directly before.

"The object of their ire has not been only Sundlun," the *Globe* reported. "There is clear, widespread discontent with politicians in general." This has reached the point where each time Sundlun renews his promises or announces new "plans," the protests grow. Demonstrations and spontaneous outbursts are occurring frequently. For example:

- Protesters have had almost daily rallies, with placards comparing Sundlun, who is Jewish, to Adolf Hitler.
- During the first week of September, 250 protesters blocked a highway for two

hours outside a closed credit union in Warwick. Seven were arrested. On another day that week, 400 marched into the State House, with a dozen people chasing the House Speaker down a hallway.

- On Sept. 6, a crowd of 1,000 surrounded Sundlun's car when he went to a political event.

- On Sept. 7, some 1,500 demonstrators at a State House rally screamed epithets at Sundlun and demanded his resignation. Rhode Island's longtime U.S. senators Claiborne Pell (D) and John Chaffee (R) were booed, with people yelling at Pell: "You're sending all our money to Israel."

Hashemi death questioned by Kunstler

The strange death of Cyrus Hashemi is recounted in a letter to the editor by attorney William Kunstler, published in the Sept. 17 *New York Times*. Hashemi supposedly died of "acute leukemia" in London in July 1986, although medical experts say the cause is highly improbable. He had passed a full physical exam days before his death.

Hashemi's role in the arming of Iran under the ayatollahs during the Carter and Reagan administrations has been reported on extensively only in *EIR*.

Hashemi's body was sent to a cemetery in New Jersey, and then moved to Connecticut shortly after Kunstler (who represented arms trader Nicos Minardos in the Sam Evans/Aviem Bar Am "merchants of death" case) filed a motion in court for an exhumation. At this point, the U.S. government moved to dismiss the charges against Kunstler's client and his co-defendants.

Kunstler wrote, "To prevent exhumation, the government falsely informed the trial judge in open court that the body had been cremated." Cyrus Hashemi's brother Jamshid believes he was murdered by the CIA and the Mossad, added Kunstler, who called for an investigation to determine if Hashemi was killed to prevent him from talking about the "October Surprise"—that the Reagan-Bush campaign conspired to delay the release of American hostages held in Iran until after the 1980 elections.

Briefly

● **RONALD REAGAN** was the person who made German reunification possible through his demands that the Russians tear down the wall, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Sept. 16 in Washington. Kohl gave no indication that he thought George Bush in any way responsible.

● **U.S. DISTRICT** Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr. of the Eastern District of Virginia, has announced that he's retiring to "senior status" in December, the Sept. 16 *Washington Post* reported. Bryan, 64 and a Nixon appointee in 1971, presided over the railroad of Lyndon LaRouche to prison in 1989.

● **THE UNITED STATES** has been asked to provide information on the deaths of Iraqi soldiers who were buried when U.S. tanks, fitted with ploughblades, crushed Iraqi trenches. A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said its president, Cornelio Sommaruga, had passed to the U.S. ambassador an Iraqi request for details on the incidents.

● **SEN. TOM HARKIN** (D-Iowa) declared his candidacy for U.S. President Sept. 15 with a promise to reverse the "greed and selfishness" of the Republican economic policies. On his credentials for being President, he said, "All I ever needed to know I learned growing up" in Cummings, Iowa, which has a population of 150.

● **HENRY HUDSON**, the corrupt U.S. Attorney who prosecuted political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche and six associates, may soon be appointed by George Bush to be head of the U.S. Marshals Service, the Sept. 19 *Washington Post* reported.

● **A NAVAL** blockade would be used to prevent a mass exodus from Cuba if unrest sparked an emigration similar to that of 1980 when around 125,000 refugees poured into Florida, the Sept. 20 Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel* reported.

Washington State Dems fear big LaRouche vote

Democratic Party officials in the state of Washington are worried that candidates associated with economist Lyndon LaRouche could win a sizeable primary vote. The officials are claiming that this would be due to Republicans voting in the Democratic primary. In Illinois in 1986, officials ignored warnings by party pollsters showing that LaRouche candidates were getting a high percentage of the vote. That year, LaRouche candidates won the Democratic Party primary for the statewide offices of lieutenant governor and secretary of state.

Strategies, the quarterly newsletter of the Washington State Democratic Party, has reported that one possible result of a first-ever primary for Washington State "could be a massive Republican vote for someone like Lyndon LaRouche. Wouldn't the Republicans just love to see us with some 'LaRouchees' in our National Convention delegation?"

Democrats are demanding that the Republican secretary of state require voters to state that they wish to participate in the primary as Democrats; that is, state their party allegiance, instead of merely requesting a ballot, which they fear would allow cross-over voting by Republicans.

Court pressures FBI to produce documents

At a status conference held Sept. 20 in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit brought by *EIR* counterintelligence editor and Lyndon LaRouche associate Paul Goldstein, Judge Thomas P. Jackson was told by the FBI that it would begin turning over documents to plaintiffs after an FBI review to be concluded in 15 days. While it is expected that some documents will be released, many more are expected to be withheld. Jackson ordered the government to file an index of withheld documents.

In June, Judge Jackson told the FBI to

make partial releases to Goldstein as they processed the records.

Goldstein told the court Sept. 20 that not one piece of paper had been turned over since that hearing. The files at issue in the case to-date have revealed a "Do Not File" file document and the North-Secord telex revealing infiltration operations against LaRouche as late as 1986. It was also in this case that the FBI—after LaRouche was railroaded to jail—admitted that it has maintained a file on LaRouche compiled under the authority of Executive Order 12333.

'Make Israel the 51st state,' says columnist

A tongue-in-cheek commentary by syndicated columnist Richard Reeves published in the Sept. 16 *Richmond Times Dispatch* argued that Israel should be made the 51st state since it is the only way to "cut back on aid to our friends."

He continued, "States—the old 50—are getting less and less money from Washington each year, and Israel gets more and more. We could go even further, since Israel's not very big, and make it a city. Call it, say, 'Detroit,' and the people who live there would not get a penny, much less \$10 billion loan guarantees to build townhouses for newly arrived homeless people from the Soviet Union. . . ."

"(The United States, incidentally has a \$25 million limit on loan guarantees to foreign governments, but Israel is now exempted from the law. The \$10 billion is 400 times the legal limit for the rest of the world.) . . ."

"If we make Israel the 51st state, there would be peace because an attack on Israel would be an attack on the mighty United States. Then President Bush could tell Gov. [Yitzhak] Shamir that there is no point in throwing money at the problems, that welfare dollars produce nothing but dependency, and any real economic trouble can always be eliminated immediately by reducing capital gains taxes and seeking among a thousand points of light. And as a bonus, when the Soviet emigrants say they want to go to America, Shamir can say: 'You're here. Welcome to the Promised Land, the U.S.A.'"