

National News

Boston School Committee rejects cuts

In its last official action on the budget, the Boston School Committee in December angrily rejected a proposed school budget that would have cut \$16.5 million through implementation of 500 layoffs. "I'm not going to sit here and decimate our school system," said one member of the committee.

The cuts, however, will likely be put through anyway because, as of Dec. 31, the elected school committee no longer exists. In collusion with Boston Mayor Ray Flynn, Massachusetts Gov. William Weld got the legislature to pass a law permitting the mayor to appoint a school committee. The committee will now be stacked with "fiscally responsible" members unaccountable to anyone but the mayor and Weld, who are expected will rubberstamp such cuts.

N.Y. Democrat ouster called political frame

Mel Miller, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, was convicted Dec. 13 of fraud charges and expelled from the legislature. Miller termed the prosecution against him as "a disgrace. I think it was a political witchhunt," the *New York Times* reported.

Miller was the third out of the four last Assembly Speakers to be indicted.

Republican Andrew J. Maloney, the U.S. Attorney in Brooklyn, denied that his case against Miller was politically motivated, since it grew out of a 1988 investigation by Democrat Elizabeth Holtzman, the Brooklyn District Attorney. The prosecution thus reflects the alliance between Bush Republicans and Anti-Defamation League-tied Democrats; seasoned observers used to call this the "bankers' CIA."

Miller was convicted of carrying out real estate deals as a private attorney and failing to inform some of his clients who might have profited from the deals. According to the *New York Times*, "The trial took an odd turn when Meyer Rosenbaum, described by the prosecution as the principal fraud vic-

tim, testified that he was happy with the way Mr. Miller had, in fact, made money for him. "Another satisfied [prosecution] witness . . . who was supposedly victimized . . . said . . . he would have been 'delighted' if he had known" what Miller was doing.

The prosecution's chief witness was Avi Cohen, who himself participated profitably in the deals. According to the *Times*, defense lawyers portrayed Cohen "as a devils real-estate dealer and wealthy tax cheat, [and] they accused him of arranging the transactions, hiding any fraud from the defendants and then lying about them to obtain immunity for himself."

Califano: euthanasia most divisive debate

The debate over euthanasia will stir up the U.S. public in coming years more than any other issue before, predicted Joseph Califano, the former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, at a New York City panel of the German Bertelsmann Foundation in December. "The present-day conflict over abortion will appear lukewarm if compared with that," he said, according to a report in the Dec. 14 German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Califano's remark came in the context of a debate on the future of "costly, high-tech medicine," which a so-called U.S. medical expert said was challenged by the increasing conflict between "limited resources and unlimited claims." The more resources were put into medical care, the less they were available somewhere else, so that the only consequence would be to put an end to the Hippocratic ethics—"saving a human life irrespective of the costs." He demanded a new definition of basic values.

Files show Noriega aided DEA in anti-drug war

Gen. Manuel Noriega collaborated for five years, from 1983 to 1987, with a secret Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) operation, "Operación Negocio," under which

many of the convicted drug dealers that have testified against Noriega in Miami, were arrested. The information was made public Dec. 15 by *New York Newsday*.

Prosecutors claim they just learned the week before about the operation, "whose existence and last minute revelation could undermine the government's case in the ongoing drug conspiracy trial," reported *Newsday*.

"Well-placed government sources say the prosecution fears it is facing what amounts to sabotage from within the government designed to damage the case and make a conviction impossible," *Newsday* reported. On Dec. 16, *Newsday* reported that "members of the prosecution team have expressed concern that the disclosure of added cooperation [by Noriega with DEA] at this late date could jeopardize the entire case" against Noriega.

According to the Dec. 16 *Washington Post*, the prosecution has failed to provide a "smoking gun" against Noriega and that it all but abandoned efforts to prove one of the original charges against Noriega revolving around his meeting with Fidel Castro. Justice Department officials concede that the new evidence about Noriega's cooperation with the DEA Operación Negocio damages their case.

"Failure to secure a conviction of Noriega, officials concede, would be a public relations disaster for the Bush administration, raising anew questions about the President's decision to order a military invasion that cost the lives of 23 American soldiers and hundreds of Panamanians and brought angry denunciations from many Latin American countries," the *Post* reported.

Test every American for AIDS, says doctor

Dr. A. T. Hall of Merryville, Tennessee argued that every American should be tested for the AIDS virus in a letter published in the Dec. 10 *Washington Post*. Hall demands what presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche had called for several years ago.

"I am a medical doctor and I write this to encourage Americans to be tested for the HIV virus that causes AIDS. During the 1940s when syphilis and other venereal dis-

eases were rampant in our Armed Forces and the civilian population as well, the law required serology tests of every man and woman who intended to marry before they could be married. All people who came to doctors' offices or hospitals had admission serology tests. In the case of every positive test, the patient was required by law to reveal all recent sexual contacts and get mandatory treatment for the disease.

"I was at John Gaston Hospital and University of Tennessee Clinics in Memphis, and we had a patient who tested positive. He was told to be at the clinic the next day. He got on a train that evening for Chicago. The police were notified and they met the patient and sent him directly back to Memphis for treatment. These mandatory procedures saved thousands of lives. No one refused. My question is, when we people of the United States and other nations are being exposed to people with AIDS daily, why can't we get all the people tested to protect the rest of the population? I am sure that Magic Johnson would have had the courage to say 'no' if he had been informed that his sex partner or partners tested positive. Are we as a people going to let the embarrassed AIDS carriers continue to condemn to death our whole society?"

Bush directive will reshape intelligence

A new Bush administration National Security Directive issued Nov. 15 "envisions a reshaping of the nation's intelligence-gathering functions to include a greater focus on shortages of natural resources, global health problems, and other issues that have not previously been considered central to ensuring national security," the Dec. 23 *New York Times* reported.

The directive states that the collapse of the Soviet Union demands a redefinition of priority intelligence tasking from "watching Soviet operational readiness to wondering about the control of Soviet nuclear weapons." It asks, "Will we need more and different intelligence information on international aspects of the environment, natural resource scarcities (such as water), global health problems, international research and devel-

opment efforts and so on? . . . What kind of economic intelligence do we need?"

"The directive has been sent to 20 agencies and departments of the government," the *Times* reported. All bureaus and agencies will respond to the directive by mid-January and submit their recommendations to the NSC for review. Director of Central Intelligence Robert Gates will then present the comprehensive report to the National Security Council on March 20.

Churches to petition against death penalty

Protestants across Massachusetts will be asked to register their opposition to Gov. William Weld's proposal to restore the death penalty in that state.

The Roman Catholic archdiocese of Boston expects to announce a similar initiative after the Christmas holidays, said Msgr. William Murphy, secretary for community relations and director of the office of social justice.

Petitions will be mailed out to the state's estimated 1,600 congregations right after Christmas, said Rev. Diane C. Kessler, executive director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, which represents 16 Protestant denominations.

"It's an issue that has been of longstanding importance to the Massachusetts Council of Churches and to many of our member denominations and to many church people," Kessler added.

Scientists critical of 'DNA fingerprinting'

FBI and Justice Department officials have launched a campaign of intimidation against scientists who have questioned the reliability of "DNA fingerprinting," a forensic method of identification becoming widely used in criminal cases.

Scientists and expert defense witnesses have been threatened, and two were pressured to withdraw a scientific paper from the journal *Science*; their paper shows that the claims of reliability of the DNA method are greatly exaggerated.

Briefly

● **EL SAYYID NOSAIR**, accused of killing Rabbi Meir Kahane, was acquitted on Dec. 21 in New York City. He was convicted on lesser charges. Defense lawyer William Kunstler argued that Kahane was the victim of internal intrigue inside the Jewish Defense League.

● **WILLIAM GRAY III**, the former House Majority Whip and head of the Congressional Black Caucus, is the target of a probe by the U.S. Attorney's office in Philadelphia, the Dec. 12 *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported. Gray left Congress on Sept. 11, 1991 under threat of a Department of Justice investigation.

● **LIVING WILLS** have increased since a new federal law went into effect Dec. 1 requiring hospitals to inform patients about their "right" to die. The Maryland Attorney General's office reports that about 800 people have requested "living will" forms whereas only about 50 requests would come in during an average week previously.

● **THE MILWAUKEE** National Association for the Advancement of Colored People passed a resolution in December in support of the milk lift by U.S. farmers to aid the starving children in Iraq. The resolution also said that "farmers need a fair price" for their product.

● **RONALD ROSKENS**, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, will be given a presidential award for his "efforts to combat world hunger." Roskens was removed as president of the University of Nebraska in shadowy circumstances in 1989.

● **LYNDON AND HELGA** LaRouche were named "Couple of the Year" by the November *Voice of Freedom*, a publication of the Friends of Pakistan and of the Southwest Asian Society in Houston, Texas. Publisher Col. John Shike emphasized their fight for freedom and development for the "civilized and underdeveloped world" in announcing the decision.