

National News

Fed court overturns Va. election provision

The Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a decision handed down on March 22, overturned a provision of Virginia's election law that had been used by a member of the federal-state "Get LaRouche" task force. In the case of *Greidinger v. Davis et al.*, a three-judge panel unanimously struck down provisions in the election law that require voters to give their Social Security numbers (SSNs) to the Board of Elections when they register, and that allow registration to be open to public inspection. This latter, the court said, "creates an intolerable burden" on an individual's voting right, "as protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments," violating a voter's right to privacy.

Former Loudoun County, Va. Sheriff's Deputy Don Moore boasted that, in 1985, he obtained LaRouche associates' voter records in order to get their SSNs: "I've got burned copies of every voting card they ever submitted. A gal from voting registration helped me do it. . . . When the time came, I had Lyndon LaRouche's voting registration card. . . . Burning copies left and right, just like part of the registrar."

Gorbachov gets the word on LaRouche and SDI

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov's tour of Virginia this month was followed closely by demonstrators highlighting the April 2 Russian proposal for U.S.-SDI cooperation. Ten years ago, the Soviet government rejected the SDI proposal and demanded that the U.S. imprison statesman Lyndon LaRouche, who had initiated it. Gorbachov's tour culminated on April 13, with a keynote speech at the University of Virginia commemorating the 250th birthday of the school's founder Thomas Jefferson.

On April 10, demonstrators unfurled a 10-foot-long banner before the thousands coming into the Richmond Forum to hear Gorbachov. The banner read "LaRouche

Supports Russian SDI Offer—What Does Gorbachov Say?"

On April 12, Gorbachov spoke at Virginia Commonwealth University and received an honorary degree. There, LaRouche partisans again held up signs featuring the Russian SDI offer. Gorbachov appealed for backing for the Gorbachov Foundation and other Project Democracy-style operations.

The Richmond Forum which sponsored Gorbachov's tour is funded by leading Confederate families and corporations such as Philip Morris, which has been linked to drug-trafficking in the former communist states of eastern Europe. Gorbachov fits into a series of washed-up geopoliticians hosted by the Richmond Forum: last year, Margaret Thatcher and next year, George Bush.

Gorbachov received \$70,000 for his speech at the Richmond Forum, \$25,000 for a speech at the University of Richmond, and \$10,000 for a speech at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Birmingham, Ala. mayor hails violinist Brainin

Birmingham, Alabama Mayor Richard Arrington, Jr. declared March 24, 1993 as "Dr. Norbert Brainin Civil Rights Commemoration Concert Day" in tribute to the world-famous violinist and to civil rights leader Rev. James Bevel. Dr. Brainin and pianist Günter Ludwig had performed two concerts in the United States in honor of the civil rights movement and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In motivating his desire to pay homage to the civil rights movement, Dr. Brainin had cited it as an inspiration to the Germans who fought peacefully to bring down the Berlin Wall in 1989.

The concert was performed at Birmingham's Sixteenth St. Baptist Church. The mayor's proclamation recalled that "1993 marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Birmingham 'Children's March,' in which thousands of citizens of the City participated in a peaceful action on behalf of the Civil Rights Movement. . . . The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. . . . said of the Birmingham March, 'I am sure that without Birmingham, the March On Washington

wouldn't have been called'. . . .

"Three weeks following the March On Washington, four children of the congregation of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church were killed in a bombing that became notorious worldwide as a reprehensible crime. . . . That crime was non-violently responded to by means of the Right to Vote Movement in Alabama that was participated in by many courageous people, including citizens of this city."

The mayor cited the fact that Bevel, "who directed the Children's March and formulated the Alabama Right to Vote Movement," and others are "launching a new, international Civil Rights Movement" that was founded in Germany. He proclaimed "Dr. Norbert Brainin Civil Rights Commemoration Concert Day, in Birmingham, in honor of this great musician, and the cause for which he gives this concert."

Texas Senate passes harsh 'hate crimes' bill

The Texas state Senate passed a hate crimes bill sponsored by Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) by voice vote this month. Ellis called the bill a "clear mandate to send racists and bigots who commit hate crimes to prison." The bill would require a minimum prison term of 10 years for anyone convicted of murder, first-degree aggravated assault, or first-degree arson, who was shown to be motivated by the victim's race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation. The bill was approved over the lone objection of Sen. O.H. Harris (R-Dallas), who warned that the bill is unconstitutional because the wording is too broad and would violate the right to free speech. The bill now goes to the state House of Representatives.

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments this month on Wisconsin's hate crimes law, which also uses "sentencing enhancement" and was effectively drawn up by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "Thought crimes" laws have already been definitively overturned in Minnesota and Ohio (see interview p.60).

The Texas bill's passage was aided by the outrage over the light sentences recently given to three teenage skinheads in Fort

Worth who were convicted of murdering a black man. Ellis referred to this after the bill's passage, saying, "Under this bill, the skinhead who got a free ride in Fort Worth would be going to jail instead of going to counseling."

World mourns loss of singer Marian Anderson

World-famous contralto Marian Anderson passed away on April 8, at the age of 96.

In Washington, D.C., many people remember her Easter 1939 concert, when 75,000 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to hear Anderson sing Verdi, Handel, Schubert, and American spirituals. Through her lifelong efforts to achieve racial justice, Anderson broke the color bar to black Americans singing classical music. She was the first African-American to sing at the Metropolitan Opera in Italian opera, which she did in her 50s.

A spokesman for the Schiller Institute, which launched the international fight to return the tuning fork to the classical pitch of middle C=256 Hz said, "What better way to honor her life and art than the Schiller Institute's efforts to revive bel canto in her native land and to bring down the statue [of Ku Klux Klan founder Albert Pike in Washington, D.C.] representing those who sought her silence."

Penn. prof. exposed as Serbian war criminal

Former West Philadelphia NAACP President O.G. Christian and an Albanian-American author and journalist joined Schiller Institute organizers for several hours of leafletting at the University of Pennsylvania on April 8. The demonstrators charged that Prof. Mihailo Markovic is a war criminal, and called on University President Sheldon Hackney to formally condemn and repudiate him. Dozens of students and others have signed a petition to Hackney demanding action against Markovic.

At a press conference, Schiller Institute spokesman Philip Valenti told reporters: "As recently as December of 1992, Markov-

ic is quoted in two *Philadelphia Inquirer* articles as a spokesman for [Serbian dictator Slobodan] Milosevic, and is identified both as a member of the governing board of Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party and as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Moreover, Markovic is listed in the current 1992-1993 Graduate Admissions Catalogue as a member of the faculty. His philosophy classes are still listed in the 1992-1994 Undergraduate Admissions Bulletin.

"Of course, Markovic is not teaching in Philadelphia now, since he is busy participating in war crimes in Europe. Will the university assure the public that Markovic shall never return there in any capacity?"

The delegation was formally received by Associate Dean Beeman on behalf of Hackney (who incidentally has been selected by President Clinton to chair the National Endowment for the Humanities). Beeman read an official statement: "Mihailo Markovic, who served as a part-time professor of philosophy and political science for nine years, has not taught at the University of Pennsylvania since 1990. His contract was terminated in 1991. It has always been the university's position to neither condemn nor condone the views of current or past faculty. It has always been university policy not to comment on the political views of its faculty, students or staff."

ATF agent urged Waco raid be canned

An undercover agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) reportedly urged his superiors to abort the Feb. 28 raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas only minutes before four agents were killed and 16 wounded in the assault, according to an article in the April 8 *Houston Chronicle*.

An unidentified source reportedly said that the agent told the ATF strike force, "They know you're coming, and you better hold up." According to UPI, the undercover agent reportedly was stunned minutes later to learn the raid had not been cancelled. The *Chronicle* said the undercover agent gave an extensive, sworn, tape-recorded account to the Texas Rangers, who are investigating the slaying of the ATF agents.

Briefly

● **'VECERNJI LIST'** newspaper of April 10 devoted two pages to an interview with Lyndon LaRouche conducted by Srecko Jurdana, headlined "Dialogue: Lyndon LaRouche, the Most Famous Prisoner in the U.S.A.: The Cultural Roots of the War." It is a leading Croatian newspaper.

● **'GAY' EDGAR HOOVER** was the butt of jokes by President Clinton and Sen. Bob Dole at a recent press dinner, according to the April 5 *Los Angeles Times*. Clinton remarked that it would "be hard to fill J. Edgar Hoover's pumps," if he had to nominate a new FBI director. Dole, meantime, asked UPI reporter Helen Thomas if her "lovely dress" was from "the new J. Edgar Hoover collection."

● **THE EMIRATE OF KUWAIT** hosted former President George Bush for three days this month, in order to express its "gratitude" for his actions during the Gulf war.

● **LEWIS DU PONT SMITH** and his wife Andrea Diano-Smith plan to tour Europe in late April to publicize the "Get LaRouche" task force kidnapping operations against them, documented in the *EIR's* recently released book *Travesty—A True Crime Story*.

● **THE WHITE HOUSE** signaled on April 8 that President Clinton plans to snub Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma when he visits the U.S. later this month, in protest against Ukraine's failure to ratify the START nuclear arms treaties. In Kiev, a senior Ukrainian government source said Kuchma has postponed his trip.

● **REV. BEN CHAVIS** was elected April 9 to head the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. On April 7 Jesse Jackson had announced that he was withdrawing to avoid a "fratricidal political battle" that could weaken the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group. UPI quoted civil rights sources in Atlanta stating that Jackson withdrew to avoid almost certain rejection.