

National News

Lugar calls on Clinton to arm Bosnians

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged President Clinton on July 15 to ignore U.N. resolutions if necessary and to provide military backing for the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the *Washington Times* reported.

Lugar told the Defense Writers Group that Secretary of State Warren Christopher should meet again with European leaders and tell them "that these are things that we need to do. And . . . if you don't do them, we will do them."

Lugar declared that Clinton's insistence on acting only with an international consensus "has pretty well excluded everyone, including ourselves, from any meaningful action." The alternative to taking more forceful measures, Lugar said, is "perpetual agony and continual warfare" for the Bosnians.

Virginia town polarized around Confederate flag

A growing controversy over the removal of the Confederate flag from a local historic site in Danville, Virginia has turned into a political hot potato, with gubernatorial candidate Nancy Spannaus intervening against efforts to restore the flag.

On July 14, Spannaus held a press conference in front of the Danville Museum of Art, an old Victorian house known as "the last capital of the Confederacy," where Jefferson Davis and his cabinet stayed during the last week of the Civil War, after their retreat from Richmond. Also present at the press conference was Rev. William Keen, Southwest Virginia chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who had run the successful campaign to remove the flag.

Spannaus said that contrary to much

popularized mythology, the Confederacy was "treasonous . . . a contradiction to the ideals of the American Revolution." At a public forum on July 12, Reverend Keen recalled the scene in Danville in April 1965, the 100th anniversary of "president" Davis's stay there. Whites held a huge parade, in full Confederate regalia, while blacks, paid to dress as slaves in chains, brought up the rear of the parade. He also noted that even today, virtually no black people work indoors in office jobs in Danville, and construction of a public swimming pool remains blocked for fear of "race mixing."

Spannaus took the occasion to attack the pro-Confederacy policies of her opponent, former Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry, who played a key role in the illegal jailing of 1992 presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and who has completely disregarded the criterion of justice in her application of the death penalty.

Texas wants funds for high-speed rail

The Texas High-Speed Rail Authority, which is overseeing the planned construction of a "bullet train" system linking Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio, has announced that it will seek \$10 million in federal funding to pay for planning for the system. This money is part of the \$140 million that the Clinton administration has put in the 1994 budget to fund high-speed rail projects around the country.

The announcement immediately encountered opposition from Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tex.), who sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Barton opposes the plan, because the franchise to develop the system had been granted to Texas TGV Corp., a French-U.S. consortium, with the understanding that no government funds would be used in building the system, which will utilize French TGV technology.

The use of government money for high-speed rail is also opposed by Southwest Airlines, which expects to lose business to such

a system.

Another obstacle to obtaining federal funds for the project is the requirement in the Clinton \$140 million proposed budget package that funds will only go to high-speed rail projects that are receiving funding from state governments. Since the followers of Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) in the Texas legislature succeeded in stipulating that no state funds would go to the project, the Texas High-Speed Rail Authority will be forced to lobby Congress to eliminate that provision in the Clinton package.

Government bans animal control in West

On April 10, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ordered all states in the western United States to cease all animal control activities in lands under their control and in National Forest lands. This means that State Animal Damage Control offices may no longer monitor diseases in BLM areas, or exterminate disease-carrying animals.

The magnitude of this decision is only now beginning to be understood in light of the new hantavirus in the Southwest, and predictions of the emergence of other, possibly even more deadly viruses.

The BLM controls more than one-third of the entire land area of the United States, and more than 50% of all the land in most western states. According to a leading official in the Sheep Industry Association, the BLM decision is going to lead to an explosive and uncontrollable spread of plague, rabies, and other deadly diseases. Since most of the areas with high concentration of plague and rabies are on BLM lands, the decision will mean coyotes and other predators will have enormous tracts of land as "safe havens," from which they can spread these diseases throughout federal lands and onto private lands.

To provide an idea of the magnitude of plague infestation in the western part of the United States, the *Denver Post*, in a recent article, pointed out that just in the past few months, several hundred thousand prairie

Briefly

● **A HEROIN SURGE** is under way nationally, fed by marketing of a much more potent form of the drug—50-60% purity as opposed to the former 5%—resulting in an increase in deaths from overdoses. In Connecticut alone, 75 people have died from overdoses over the past 15 months.

● **HOMOSEXUALS** may now serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, but are still not allowed to flaunt it, President Clinton announced to a silent military audience on July 19. Clinton “suggested that if the military leadership knew homosexuals personally, their opposition to removing the ban would ease,” according to the July 20 *Washington Post*.

● **THE NEW ORLEANS** City Council voted 6-1 on July 15 to remove the so-called Liberty Monument, which commemorates a racist mob uprising in 1874 against the city’s white and black Reconstruction government.

● **GEORGE BUSH** and Henry Kissinger Associates, Henry Kissinger’s private consulting firm, have been subpoenaed to testify in the trial of Christopher Drogoul, who says that the Bush government encouraged him to launder loans from the Italian Banca Nazionale del Lavoro to Iraq.

● **THE STATUE** of KKK founder Albert Pike in Washington should be removed, according to a resolution adopted at the national conference of The Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, Prince Hall Origin, National Compact.

● **PERJURY** may have been committed during testimony of U.S. officials during Senate hearings on Americans listed as missing in the Vietnam War, according to Sen. Robert Smith (R-N.H.). Smith, who recently traveled to Vietnam with former Marine POW Robert Garwood, has asked the attorney general to begin a special investigation.

dogs have died of plague in central Wyoming. Plague epidemics have been documented in eight other western states. So far this year, six persons have died of plague in the United States, the largest number of plague deaths for any single year in this century.

One of the greatest concerns of health officials in the West is that the plague infection is reaching a density where it may become airborne (aerosol transmission). At that point, there will be an explosive spread of the disease among both animals and humans.

Sessions fired as FBI head in coup

On July 19, President Clinton announced that he was dismissing FBI Director William Sessions, effective immediately, on the grounds that Attorney General Janet Reno had “reported to me . . . that he can no longer effectively lead the bureau and law enforcement community.”

Following the announcement, Sessions gave a final press conference in which he lashed out at what was in effect a “Cointelpro” operation mounted by neo-Hooverites to force his removal: “It is because I believe in the principle of an independent FBI that I have refused to voluntarily resign,” he said.

Sessions has charged that there was a virtual coup d’état against him by what others have termed “neo-Hooverites,” whose ringleader is Deputy FBI Director Floyd I. Clarke, especially because of Sessions’s policy to overturn the byzantine hierarchy of the Bureau, which discriminates against women and minorities. Last year, as a result of the rejection of this approach by racist neo-Hooverites, secret denunciations by those familiar with the details of Sessions’s office had prompted the Office of Professional Responsibility to open an investigation. This gave Bush Attorney General William P. Barr a handle, when Sessions criticized the Justice Department for covering up the true nature of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) scandal in Atlanta to

protect Bush higher-ups. On his last day in office, Attorney General Barr endorsed a report finding Sessions guilty of ethical lapses and recommending the FBI director’s removal.

President Clinton clinched the coup by appointing Clarke as Sessions’s successor.

On July 19, Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) commented that “Bill Sessions was cut down by intriguers in the FBI. . . . This is a shameful example of the rawest kind of internal agency political chicanery.”

Bisexuality is now ‘in’ for American teenagers

The Washington Post on July 15 carried a front-page story on how American teenagers—increasingly influenced by “sexually ambiguous” stars like Madonna and Michael Jackson, and by “the climate of openness” to homosexuality in the schools—are “questioning their sexuality.” The article interviews a number of junior high and high school students. Some of those interviewed reported that bisexual experimentation is now the trend, since it protects one from harassment for being a homosexual or for being a heterosexual! Said a 16-year-old from the well-to-do Virginia suburb of Falls Church, “For people who are heterosexual, (saying they’re ‘bi’) is to protect themselves from being just normal. It’s a form of rebellion.” And a 13-year-old from Bethesda, Maryland said, “A lot of my friends are like, ‘Bisexuality rules.’”

The article reports that the problem of sexual identity crises is becoming so common, that guidance counselors held a system-wide meeting in Fairfax County, Virginia, one of the nation’s largest school systems, last spring. School officials “urged counselors not to make judgments, to encourage teenagers to explore their feelings, and share them with their families.” Several teachers are quoted saying that the phenomenon of homosexual youths taking each other to school dances and proms is now common, as is the sight of these children kissing and necking in school hallways.