

National News

Pentagon chief outlines new stance toward Russia

A shift away from Les Aspin's utopian defense posture was reflected in a speech by Secretary of Defense William J. Perry on March 13 at George Washington University. Perry outlined two very different possibilities for Russia: The best possible outcome would be a fully democratic and market-oriented Russia, but one which would still have its own interests—just as with other allies, “we would have rivalry and competition alongside our partnership.”

The worst-case scenario would be one in which Russia “will emerge from her turbulence as an authoritarian, militaristic, imperialistic nation, hostile to the West. In such a situation, we could indeed see a renewal of some new version of the Cold War, Russia without the Warsaw Pact, but still with a formidable nuclear arsenal.”

The United States cannot control the outcome, he said, “only Russians can control that.” We can try to influence this in a positive way, but “we must also have a strategy which hedges against the possibility of a negative outcome.” For that reason, the Pentagon should continue nuclear and ballistic missile defense programs, he said. He also urged continued efforts to obtain the nuclear disarmament of the former Soviet republics. Perry stressed his intention to maintain “a minimum essential defense infrastructure so that we have the capability to reconstitute key elements of our military forces should that ever be required.”

Virginia Senate race taking new twists

The Virginia Senate race is heating up as incumbent Chuck Robb (D) attempts to recoup lost ground against Republican front-runner Oliver North. On March 17, Republican Sen. John Warner released the contents of a letter from Ronald Reagan in which the former President said he was “pretty steamed” about North's claims that Reagan knew all about the secret Iran-Con-

tra deals; North also boasted about private meetings with Reagan, which, the latter wrote, “just didn't happen.” Most GOP stalwarts are backing former budget director Jim Miller for their party's nomination.

Warner, the senior senator and ranking member on the Armed Services Committee, said North should withdraw his Senate bid “if he has any hint of adherence” to his Marine oath of duty, honor, and country.

On March 10, Robb issued a letter admitting he made mistakes when he was governor. Nancy Spannaus, the LaRouche Democrat running for that party's Senate nomination, issued an immediate response to Robb's letter: “I want to be the first to take up Senator Robb's March 10 proposal that the Senate campaign move on immediately to, in his words, ‘a campaign where real issues are discussed and debated.’ Let the senator name the times and the places, and I'm ready to be there to begin that process. . . .”

“I have already put the major issues in this Senate campaign on the table—the world depression collapse, the disastrous IMF [International Monetary Fund] policy toward Russia, our toleration of genocide in the Balkans, the treasonous assault by British intelligence against our presidency.”

On March 22, former Democratic Gov. Doug Wilder confirmed that he may enter the Democratic primary or may choose to run as an independent. Wilder had surprised the party by withdrawing from the race shortly before leaving office as governor in January.

Michigan students protest school privatization

Two hundred high school students from Pinckney, Michigan rallied on March 9, chanting “You Can't Sell Us,” in protest over plans to privatize their school. The students have received the support of their teachers.

The Pinckney School Board, beset by the financial calamities which have engulfed the former industrial powerhouse of Michigan, was wooed by Education Alternatives, Inc. (EAI), which is offering to cut costs and run schools “efficiently.” The Minnesota-based EAI already runs schools in Dade

County, Florida and Baltimore and is setting its sights on Washington, D.C.

At a March 14 assembly at Pinckney High School, EAI spokesmen presented themselves to answer student questions. Carrying signs like “EAI Loots,” parents picketed outside in support of the students and distributed a leaflet which said, “Shut Down Tesseract Rip-Offs; Schools Are for Teaching, Not Stock Market Speculation.” According to student leaders, EAI refused to answer the tough questions about its union-busting efforts at other schools it has taken over, and how the profit-seeking interests of the investors would destroy education.

Washington teachers union members and other unionists signed a support telegram to the Pinckney students saying, “America's 150-year-old commitment to universal public education must not fall victim to the short-term speculators' greedy scheme.”

Hard-core ‘safe sex’ porn given to New York teens

According to a column by Mona Charen in the March 17 issue of the *New York Post*, the Gay Men's Health Clinic (GMHC) used the excuse of educating children on “safe sex” to hand out literature to teens attending a Feb. 12 conference sponsored by the New York City Board of Education. The circulars include pictures of “lesbian fisting,” which, GMHC cautions, should be performed with latex gloves. Other perversities are graphically described. According to Charen, “the section entitled ‘welts and blisters’ advises kids to ‘wear latex gloves and be sure to clean your canes, crops, whips etc. See section on sex toys.’”

The conference on “Teaching Youth about HIV/AIDS” was aimed at young adults ages 12-24 and was held at New York University Medical Center, and parents were explicitly excluded, despite objections from the Catholic Archdiocese.

In a related development in Boston, the School Committee voted 6-1 on March 16 to make condoms available to high school students who have parental permission. The vote was hailed as a victory by the AIDS Action Committee and the National Organi-

zation for Women, and denounced as an abdication of moral responsibility on the part of school officials by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

Study shows immigrants are good for California

The Tomás Rivera Center of Claremont, California has completed a study on the economic impact of immigrants in the state. The report "How Much Do Immigrants Really Cost?" was released on Feb. 22, and was commissioned to counter the statistically flawed report conducted by Donald Hubble for the Carrying Capacity Network, a Washington D.C.-based zero-population growth group.

The latter study, which is being used by Gov. Pete Wilson and others to justify their racist attempts to close the U.S. border with Mexico, is entitled "The Net Costs of Immigrants to California," and concludes that immigrants cost California \$18 billion a year.

The Tomás Rivera Center study, conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Passel from the Urban Institute, indicates that immigrants actually generate substantial revenues, amounting to a net contribution of more than \$12 billion a year to the California economy.

Trade Center verdict raises many questions

On March 4, a federal jury in New York City found all four defendants in the Feb. 28, 1993 World Trade Center bombing case guilty. During the five-month trial, prosecutors had presented testimony from over 200 witnesses and introduced over 1,000 exhibits, but at no point did they produce a single witness who saw any of the defendants at the scene of the crime.

Attorneys for the four defendants presented no defense case, and the attorney for Mohammed Salameh stunned everyone in court by admitting in his closing statement that his client was involved in the bomb plot, but merely as a dupe.

The Trade Center case left many ques-

tions unanswered, largely centering around the role of U.S. and Israeli agencies in creating the preconditions for the terrorist act, and in covering up the actual nature of the bomb plot.

Two defendants, Mahmud Abouhalima and Ahmad Ajaj, were both involved in the CIA-sponsored Mujahideen war against the Soviet Army in Afghanistan. All told, thousands of Islamic militants received military training in camps in Pakistan in the course of the CIA's decade-long \$3 billion effort, many under the command of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a pro-Iranian fundamentalist deeply implicated in the Golden Crescent heroin trade.

Village Voice reporter Robert Friedman reported that Ajaj was also a double agent working for the Israeli Mossad.

Is nation's capital facing 'Big MAC'-style looting?

According to a major feature, titled "D.C. Bailout Called Inevitable," in the *Washington Post*, on March 20, Washington, D.C. officials are planning to try to borrow from the U.S. Treasury, because the percentage that the U.S. government pays each year—a mere one-fifth of the District's operating budget—does not make up for the severe decline in the tax base. "Increased financial dependence on the federal government could undermine the District's efforts to seek greater political independence," said the *Post*, "and could also mean that some kind of stringent control mechanism could be imposed on the city, forcing drastic cuts in services and increases in local taxes."

"Stringent control mechanism" is a nearly universal code word for the kind of harsh austerity that Felix Rohatyn imposed on New York City, on behalf of Wall Street, under the Municipal Assistance Corp., or "Big MAC."

The *Post* also interviewed Rohatyn, who said that D.C.'s problems are "worse" than those in New York in the 1970s; however, he warned that "simply cutting the budget and making services less available when people need it" means "crime epidemics, and an unemployment crisis and a school crisis, [and] is kind of eviscerating yourself."

Briefly

● **JDL TERRORIST** Rochelle Manning was found dead on March 18 in an Israeli prison while awaiting extradition to the United States where she is wanted in the 1980 mail-bomb murder of a Manhattan Beach, California secretary. The cause of death was said to be a "heart attack," although she had no history of heart problems.

● **HOUSTON'S JEWISH** Federation co-sponsored a recent address by Dr. Franz Müller, who joined Germany's anti-Nazi White Rose resistance movement as a 17-year-old. His trip was sponsored by the Goethe Institute. The federation is also sponsoring a White Rose exhibit at the Jewish Community Center.

● **GOV. GEORGE ALLEN** of Virginia announced on March 8 that he will change state policy, to allow the family of murder victims to watch the execution of the convicted individual. The state legislature turned down legislation in February that would have allowed this. Attorney Gerald Zerkin, a leading death penalty opponent, said this is like "throwing the match on the gasoline."

● **LAROCHE** Democrat David Kilber, who is running for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, addressed a March 11 demonstration in San Diego to demand that the Bush-Thatcher embargo against Iraq be lifted. Kilber briefed the demonstrators on the connection between the geopolitics of Bush and Thatcher, and the British crowd that wants to bring down President Clinton through the Whitewater scandal.

● **MARGARET SANGER** was exposed as a racist who backed abortion as a means of reducing so-called undesirable races, in an editorial in the March 11 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Sanger started "the Negro Project" because, she wrote, "the mass of Negroes . . . still breed carelessly and disastrously, with the result that the increase among Negroes—even more than among whites—is from that portion of the population least intelligent and fit."