

National News

New York kills assisted suicide legalization

The New York State Task Force on Life and the Law released a report on May 25 that rejected the legalization of doctor-assisted suicide. The executive director of the influential panel, Tracy E. Miller, said, "We are sending a clear warning signal to the nation that legalizing assisted suicide would be profoundly dangerous to many patients." Dr. Mark Chassin, the state health commissioner and a commission member, said, "When you consider doctors' poor records at diagnosing and treating depression and our failure to adequately treat pain, you have to worry that patients would be inappropriately granted assisted suicide instead of having their depression and pain treated without being killed."

The report is particularly important because this task force, which includes Rev. Donald W. McKinney, chairman emeritus of Choice in Dying, has ruled in favor of the right to die and living wills and has been influential in their national acceptance.

In a related development, Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders told a Detroit television show on May 11 that she does not consider Jack Kevorkian a criminal. Kevorkian faces murder charges in the 1991 deaths of two women, one of whom showed no evidence of physical illness. Elders nonetheless referred to Kevorkian's victims as "his patients."

Panel recommends U.S. abandon flood control

A committee formed in January by Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy released the preliminary draft on May 26 of their report, which effectively urges the United States to abandon serious efforts at flood control, especially the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' longstanding reliance on dams and levees. The panel, comprised of officials from several federal agencies recommended a commitment to "watershed management," which controls flooding not only with dams and levees, but also by restoring and pre-

serving the wetlands that are said to act like sponges to absorb excess rain. The report calls for greater efforts to promote the evacuation of those living on flood plains, the relocation of businesses and farms to higher ground, and the restoration of "natural flooding cycles." The Corps of Engineers and Congress are expected to rely heavily on the panel's recommendations.

The committee consulted with various environmental groups, including American Rivers, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the National Audubon Society. Changes in flood control policy had begun gaining acceptance last year as the Midwest floodwaters receded, and the administration began talking of converting entire towns and farms to wetlands instead of rebuilding levees to protect them.

Steve Faber, spokesman for American Rivers, said "the report signals an end to more than two centuries of flood control policies that have relied on levees and engineering solutions" and "would be a sharp turnaround for the Army Corps of Engineers."

James Earl Ray denied parole after long hearing

James Earl Ray's application for parole was rejected on May 25 as he went before a parole board for the first time since his sentencing in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. nearly 26 years ago. Ray has never been tried in the murder, and pleaded guilty after his attorney convinced him that a jury would convict him and sentence him to death.

The board heard three and a half hours of testimony in which Ray argued that he didn't kill King, and two of King's colleagues in the civil rights struggle testified that the truth behind King's assassination will never be known with Ray behind bars. "By keeping Ray in jail we will forever conceal and camouflage the real killers of Martin Luther King, Jr.," the Rev. Hosea Williams told the parole board, according to Associated Press. The Rev. James Lawson also spoke on Ray's behalf.

Ray, 66, said that his lawyer in 1968 convinced him that he'd already been convicted by the news media, and that pleading

guilty in return for a 99-year sentence was better than risking a trial and possible death sentence. "First, I didn't kill Dr. King," Ray said. "I wasn't involved in any type of collusive activity."

He said he thought it was a "tragedy" that King was shot. He told the board he knew little about the civil rights leader before the assassination.

Missouri sneaks riverboat gambling in the back door

On May 20, Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan (D) signed a bill passed by the legislature designating craps, video poker, and blackjack legal "games of skill," not illegal "games of chance," so that the multimillion-dollar casino riverboats could open on Memorial Day weekend in St. Louis and nearby St. Charles. On April 5, voters had made Missouri the first state to turn down a constitutional amendment legalizing riverboat gambling at the polls. The gambling sponsors demanded a recount, but the anti-gambling vote came out higher.

Gambling partisans will start petitioning to put the "games of chance" amendment back on the Missouri ballot for Nov. 8. A lawsuit has been filed challenging the legislators' new law redefining "games of skill."

Calif. candidates blast anti-immigrant measures

LaRouche associates Mark Calney and Ted Andromidas, running in California's Democratic primary for governor and U.S. Senate respectively, held a press conference on May 26 to denounce the rising "immigrant bashing" in the state as a "cover for genocide." The preceding week, a ballot initiative was submitted, called the "Save Our State" initiative, that would deny illegal immigrants and their children access to public social services, health care, and school attendance.

In their statement, "Who Wants to Kill Mexicans?" Calney and Andromidas blasted the initiative as "another attempt to blame the financial collapse of California on illegal

immigrants, instead of the financial swindlers who have stolen the state blind through junk bonds, drug-money laundering, derivatives market scams, and other forms of usury and speculation." The statement referred to studies on the costs of illegal immigration, such as the Huddleston Report which is regularly cited by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson, as "statistical frauds." That report, they point out, was financed by a zero population growth organization in Washington, D.C. called the Carrying Capacity Network.

"The Tomas Rivera Center study . . . has upset the genocide lobby, because it demonstrates that immigrants actually make a net annual contribution of over \$12 billion to the California economy. . . . By contrast, Orange County Treasurer Robert Citron lost \$140 million of the public's money last April in the derivatives market," they pointed out.

'Anti-Klan' group runs cover for Cairo '94 killers

The Center for Democratic Renewal (CDR), an Atlanta-based "anti-Klan" organization with ties to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, has embarked on an aggressive organizing campaign for the U.N.'s depopulation conference in Cairo this September. The CDR, which has run numerous operations against the LaRouche movement, belongs to the official U.S. non-governmental organization (NGO) outfit mobilizing for Cairo '94, the U.S. Network for Cairo.

Program Director Loretta Ross told a journalist that the CDR is monitoring the convergence of the Klan and neo-Nazis with Catholic and Protestant organizations that are opposed to Cairo '94 specifically, and population control, abortion, etc. more generally. "It's pretty ironic that the KKK, which used to hate Catholics, is finding so much common ground with their former enemies," she said. "The old lines that separated these groups are disappearing." She said that she had given State Department official Tim Wirth a copy of a neo-Nazi magazine which attacked him for helping destroy the white race, by pushing the Cairo population control policies. The KKK has adopted a

similar line toward Cairo, she said.

"I'm expecting there will be a lot of activity coming from these quarters over the next few months," Ross commented, indicating that the CDR will be monitoring this closely.

FBI denies EIR access to files on Palme murder

The FBI denied permission under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to *EIR* to have access to Bureau files on the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme relating to Viktor Gunnarsson, who was briefly held in connection with the killing. He was never charged. Several years after Palme's murder, Gunnarsson moved to North Carolina, and in January 1994, his body was found in the woods near his home.

EIR filed an FOIA request for "any information from the Palme assassination file which names or otherwise concerns" Gunnarsson, under the procedure that allows access to records about a deceased person. On May 24, 1994, the FBI denied access to *EIR* because "the Palme assassination file is a pending law enforcement investigation."

Roughly three days after Palme's death, news media throughout the world began reporting the false allegation that Lyndon LaRouche or his associates were linked to Gunnarsson, a defamation repeated in the Soviet Union. In the United States, NBC producer Pat Lynch, working with Irwin Sull, head of the Anti-Defamation League Fact-Finding Division, circulated and broadcast this lie. In 1992, former East German secret police disinformation expert Herbert Brehmer admitted that he had concocted the story.

The slander against LaRouche was repeated periodically in 1986 and 1987. Sull even travelled to Sweden in the summer of 1986 to meet with Swedish authorities and reported back to the FBI. In November 1986, one month after U.S. officials conducted a paramilitary raid on the offices of LaRouche-associated publications, Pat Lynch acted as a liaison between Swedish and U.S. authorities to revive the discredited story.

Briefly

● **TOM GERARD**, the rogue ex-San Francisco cop who funneled thousands of confidential police and Department of Motor Vehicles files to the ADL through Roy Bullock, pleaded no contest to renewed criminal charges on May 27. As the result of the plea to accessing confidential police computers, Gerard was fined \$2,500, put on three years probation, and ordered to serve 45 days on a work crew run by the San Francisco police department.

● **CHICAGO MAYOR** Richard Daley "has privatized about 35 services, ranging from water-customer billing to drug and alcohol treatment. Services privatized in 1992 and 1993 include sewer maintenance, window washing, salvage of city equipment, and health care services at selected city clinics," according to *Privatization*, a newsletter of the pro-drug legalization Reason Foundation.

● **NEW JERSEY'S HATE** crime law was declared unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court on May 26. The court reluctantly ruled that the state laws target expressions of hatred that are protected under the First Amendment. However, the court upheld the "sentencing enhancement" portion of the statute.

● **A 'GAY PROM'** was sponsored by the Los Angeles Unified School District for about 200 students, an event unprecedented even in California. The district's "Project 10" counseling program, headed by Virginia Uribe, has been a national model for recruiting children to become homosexuals.

● **STRANGE PRIORITIES:** After a mountain lion killed a mother of two who was jogging in California early last month, a fund was set up for her two children and husband, a school janitor. A second fund was set up for the mountain lion's cub after the animal was destroyed by authorities. The fund for the children has received \$9,000. The fund for the lion cub has received \$21,000.