

National News

Espy seeks to bring water to rural homes

At a Sept. 19 meeting of the National Rural Water Association, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced a project to bring clean water to the 580,000 U.S. homes that don't have it. "In the wealth and abundance of the United States, thousands of our citizens live in Third World conditions," said Espy. Under the terms of an Agriculture Department proposal, the rural homes with either no or inadequate plumbing will be fixed by the year 2000. Espy estimated the cost at \$26 billion, saying it requires financing by banks as well as the government.

Adam Golodner, a deputy administrator with the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), is quoted by Associated Press as saying that, outside of large urban areas, sections with the most problems obtaining clean water include the Mississippi River Delta, Appalachia, the border region with Mexico, Indian reservations, and much of Alaska.

The problem is believed to affect at least 1.2 million Americans, some of whom must depend upon tanked water, for which they must drive for miles to obtain, or upon water from dirty pits and streams, said Espy. Espy also said that bringing more rural homes on to modern water systems will require updated wastewater treatment facilities just after the turn of the century.

George Bush endorses Oliver North's Senate bid

Former President George Bush endorsed Oliver North's bid to become the next U.S. senator from Virginia, according to the *Washington Times* on Sept. 17. North, whose intimate knowledge of massive drug-trafficking under his and Bush's watch during the "Contra re-supply" operations is being widely exposed, has been dubbed by thousands of bumper stickers as a "Son of a Bush."

"I would be pleased to endorse you if

that would help you in any way," Bush wrote to North in an Aug. 19 letter. "Good luck to you. It's important that you win the race and that we get control of the Senate." North said that Bush will provide a formal letter of endorsement later in the campaign. "We have a letter in the works," North said.

The subject of Iran-Contra and Bush was also brought up by the *Washington Times*. The *Times* notes that Bush is endorsing North even though the latter, in his diaries, made "more than 20 references to Mr. Bush and aides he [North] said knew about the [illegal arms] trading, which mushroomed into the Iran-Contra scandal." The article notes that North withdrew his claim that President Reagan knew about the details of the scandal when Reagan disputed this, but has not withdrawn his implication of Bush. "The former President [Bush] still doesn't understand why Mr. North made that allegation, according to Bush spokesman Jim McGrath," the *Times* reported.

Phila. public schools face OBE-style reforms

On duty less than a month, Philadelphia Public Schools Superintendent David Hornbeck announced on Sept. 19 plans to "radically change the high school experience" at the first of 10 "reform" forums, reported the Sept. 12 *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Cynically saying the city needs to "dispel the notion that the Philadelphia high school diploma is meaningless," Hornbeck put forth a plan of phasing in "higher standards," along with some "academic achievement incentives."

Hornbeck said that "performance standards" (a euphemism for outcome-based education, or OBE) for middle and high school students must be raised by the end of the 1995-96 school year, although they would not become graduation requirements for 12 years, when today's 1994-95 first-graders become high school seniors.

The new evaluations, consisting of a "more complex evaluation of what a student knows and can do" rather than traditional assessment methods, would begin at age 16, or at the end of 10th grade, and would be repeated until the student is able to "make

the grade." Those "passing" receive a "Certificate of Initial Mastery," allowing them to proceed in various tracks.

Hornbeck also urged that schools and students be judged on post-graduate success: "holding a job for 12-18 months at higher than minimum wage, or finishing the first year of college and beginning the second."

Virginia legislature meets on parole 'reform'

As expected, a riot broke out on Sept. 19 at the Virginia maximum security prison at Greensville, as the legislature went into special session to consider various proposals for abolishing parole. The riot was subdued with attack dogs, and two inmates required minor treatment. The prison is now in lockdown.

The project to abolish parole is the brainchild of Gov. George Allen (R) and three members of his commission on "parole reform," former U.S. Attorney General William Barr, and former U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern District of Virginia (the so-called "rocket docket") Richard Cullen and Henry Hudson. All three were involved in the federal-state-private effort to imprison Lyndon LaRouche. In addition, Barr, under the pseudonym Robert Johnson, has been implicated in the cocaine-running operations of the Contra resupply pilots.

The legislators met for one day, and will now fan out across the state to hold hearings on the legislation. Numerous legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, denounced Proposal X, both for its outrageous costs and the fact that eliminating parole will not solve the crime problem. The staff of the House budget committee issued a report that the cost of Allen's proposal is at least twice his estimate of \$1 billion by the year 2005. Del. William Robinson (D-Norfolk), a signer of the call for Lyndon LaRouche's exoneration who is a leader of the black caucus, denounced Allen's plan: "To say, in essence, I've got the only solution, suggests an ego problem." The caucus has denounced the legislation and put forward its own alternative proposal.

Allen told the legislators, "You are here in this session to make a choice—compassion for criminals versus compassion for victims and law-abiding citizens." Sen. Benjamin Lambert (D-Richmond) responded, "If we can spend billions of dollars to lock up people and throw away the key, and not spend a few dollars to study prevention, then I think you're absolutely crazy."

U.S. may accept limits on non-proliferation treaty

According to news reports from India, the United States is indicating that it is willing to settle for the limited goal of extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) another ten years, and not indefinitely, as suggested earlier, due to opposition from the non-aligned countries to an indefinite extension. According to the *Washington Times*, the United States is also ready to accept a test ban to make the treaty more acceptable to some of the non-aligned members who have signed on, but look askance at its extension without such a ban.

However, the U.S. National Security Council wants to hold out for an exemption on hydro-nuclear testing. The procedure for hydro-nuclear tests is carried out at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and involves a small quantity of deuterium (heavy water) and tritium (very heavy water) to create tiny nuclear explosions under laboratory conditions.

Cult kidnapper's conviction overturned

According to news accounts, the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has overturned the kidnapping conviction of Cult Awareness Network kidnapper Galen Kelly, who was convicted for the May 1992 kidnapping of Debra Dobkowski. According to the Sept. 20 *Washington Post*, the reversal is based on grounds that the prosecution failed to turn over to the defense

certain pages from the diary of Kelly's victim.

In December 1993, Kelly and four others were acquitted, essentially under direction from the judge, of charges stemming from a kidnapping/deprogramming plot against Lyndon LaRouche associate Lewis du Pont Smith. One of Kelly's co-conspirators in the Smith case, former Loudoun County, Virginia Sheriff's Lt. Don Moore, pleaded guilty in the Dobkowski case.

The Fourth Circuit decision is the latest chapter in the corruption-ridden trial of Kelly. The diary pages in question were actually seized from Dobkowski by government agents working surreptitiously to torpedo the prosecution of Kelly.

Since Kelly's conviction, two other co-conspirators also pleaded guilty, and all three co-conspirators have agreed to assist prosecutors in any retrial of Kelly.

Landsat used to predict risk of Lyme disease

Landsat satellite images are being used by a joint project of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and New York Medical College to survey suburban areas in Westchester County, New York and predict the rate of transmission of Lyme disease, which is one of the most rapidly spreading insect-borne diseases. The imagery should help improve future infectious disease surveillance and prevention.

Scientists are combining satellite imagery with overlays of related canine infection data, to map the transmission paths of the disease. Lyme disease, first discovered in nearby Lyme, Connecticut, is transmitted to humans and animals via tiny deer ticks. The disease, if not treated early, can cause a crippling arthritic-type condition.

Using the satellite data saved the cost of sending teams throughout the 450-square mile area being surveyed. Landsat data have also been used to track the routes of insects carrying other diseases by surveying regions to determine if moisture, soil chemistry, and other characteristics make them candidates for harboring such insects.

Briefly

● **LAROCHE** associate Lewis du Pont Smith won 25,000 votes in his primary bid to unseat Attorney General Hubert "Skip" Humphrey's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party candidacy. Smith campaigned hard on Humphrey's organized crime connections and collusion with the illegal "Get LaRouche" task force.

● **JUDGE SENTELLE** is the focus of a second complaint accusing him of improper and partisan behavior in approving the appointment of Kenneth Starr as independent counsel in the Whitewater affair. Sentelle headed the Washington, D.C. three-judge panel that replaced special prosecutor Robert Fiske with Starr, who was George Bush's Solicitor General.

● **A NEEDLE EXCHANGE** program has been approved by Santa Clara County, California, which includes San Jose, ostensibly to combat the spread of AIDS. A number of counties in the San Francisco Bay Area already have similar programs, which are largely a cover for the drug legalization lobby.

● **CONRAD BLACK**, the Canadian-based owner of the *Chicago Sun Times*, attacked President Clinton in a profile of the daily's new owner in a recent Sunday edition. Black, whose Hollinger Corp. has led the British assault on the U.S. presidency via Whitewatergate and other phony scandals, told the paper that "President Clinton is indulging in self-pity."

● **POPE JOHN PAUL** has had to postpone his October visit to the U.S. for a year. He was to address the U.N. General Assembly.

● **TWO DAUGHTERS** of the late W. Averell Harriman have filed suit against Pamela Harriman, their father's last wife, and managers of his estate, for squandering the family fortune.