

National News

Ex-governors say voters will reject GOP 'reforms'

A roundtable interview with former Governors Mario Cuomo (D-N.Y.), Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.), and Ann Richards (D-Tex.) in the March 19 *New York Times Magazine* produced a consensus that the Republican Party's November electoral victory may be short-lived, as voters see that the GOP's solution to the economic and moral crisis in America is really no solution at all.

Cuomo told *Times* interviewer Todd Purdum: "The people who won in 1994 now have to come forward with purported solutions. I've always believed that on the economy—the first of the two problems which are the economy and cultural corrosion—you have to do a lot more with infrastructure, a lot more with high-tech, a lot more investing. We couldn't convince people to do that. The Republicans now have a different proposal: 'We'll give you a [capital] gains tax cut, a middle-class tax cut that will take care of the economy.' I think that's a lot of baloney and that will very, very quickly become clear."

"I do not wish ill will to the Republicans at the expense of hard times for the American public," added Ann Richards. "I think it's a hard price to pay . . . and [those measures] are going to be felt in a lot of ways across this society, not just by the poor, but by all of us."

Texas needs more inmates to balance its budget

The lawful consequence of the Texas private prison-building boom of the early 1990s has arrived—Texas counties are now scouring the nation to find prisoners to fill their jails. This is what is behind the inhumane shipment of a planned 800 Virginia prisoners to a private prison in Newton County, Texas; 150 Virginia inmates have already been shipped.

All the counties that invested money to build or expand jails "will want to contract for out-of-state prisoners," said Newton

County Judge Lon Sharver, in an interview in the March 7 *Houston Chronicle*. "There are plenty of them that want to. They're all out looking for prisoners now." The available prison space will also prompt state authorities to imprison more misdemeanor offenders, in order to help pay the costs of prison construction, according to the article.

In early March, Virginia Gov. George Allen, during his statewide Virginia tour, took time out to praise Texas officials for their "fortunate" overbuilding of prisons, which he said has allowed Virginia to ease its overcrowding problem. The Texas prison system expects to open 55,000 new spaces this year.

Gingrich allies cash in on Vince Foster death

The controversy surrounding the 1993 death of Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster has become "a lively business" for conspiracy buffs, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on March 23. And behind the "conspiracy buffs," are some of the money-bags who finance Newt Gingrich and the Conservative Revolution.

One of the most visible groups peddling videotapes and other anti-Clinton propaganda is the Western Journalist Center (WJC), founded by Joseph Farah; among his biggest contributors are Richard Scaife (the Mellon heir and top financial backer of the Heritage Foundation, buddy of Gingrich, and founding member of the "Get LaRouche" task force), and Arianna Huffington, a top activist in Gingrich's Progress and Freedom Foundation.

Farah has also been running full-page ads, from which he has already collected \$500,000, which is then used for more ads and to develop a contributor list. Farah's ads feature reporter Christopher Ruddy, whom the *Journal* calls "the king of Foster conspiracy theorists." Ruddy now covers the Foster case for a Pittsburgh paper owned by Richard Scaife. Wrote the *Journal*, "Ruddy was propelled to conspiracy superstardom by James Davidson, who produced the WJC-distributed video." Davidson is the business partner of Lord William Rees-Mogg, a leading British mouthpiece for the assault on the

Clinton presidency, and the co-editor with Rees-Mogg of *Strategic Investor* newsletter.

Another British hand in the anti-Clinton conspiracy, *Sunday Telegraph* Washington correspondent Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, wrote on March 19 that "the ghost of Vincent Foster is coming back to haunt the White House," claiming that Foster was actually working on "top secret" matters at the White House, and that these may have included a clandestine operation run by the National Security Agency involving an Arkansas computer firm and the pirated Promis software.

Thousands circulate exposé of 'Contract'

The national weekly newspaper *New Federalist* released the first 100,000 copies of its pamphlet exposing the content of the Conservative Revolution's Contract with America on March 23. Before the campaign is finished, millions of copies will be circulating throughout the United States.

The pamphlet will be distributed by an existing core of 5,000 citizen activists who have already blanketed the country with 6 million pamphlets demanding the exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, and have been getting out *New Federalist* pamphlets on LaRouche's Ninth Forecast on the economy, the pattern of British assassination plots against U.S. Presidents, and the fight to preserve quality public education. Plans are under way to expand the networks rapidly to include more than 10,000 individuals.

The mass education campaign on the Contract is geared to break through the brainwashing which has overtaken Americans, and Congress, on major social and economic policy issues. The pamphlet demonstrates that the Contract's provisions will attack the living standards of 80% of the American population: the millions who make only minimum wage, senior citizens who depend upon Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid, veterans who use government services, farmers who are forced to sell their produce below cost, and the poor and marginalized.

Briefly

● **'EIR TALKS,'** the popular weekly radio interview with Lyndon LaRouche, began broadcasting over shortwave frequencies on March 26. The hour-long program will air on WWCR at 5 p.m. Eastern Time Sundays (2200 UTC) on a frequency of 12.160. The program will continue broadcasting at 5 p.m. Eastern, when the United States switches to Daylight Savings Time on April 2, which becomes 2100 UTC.

● **'SUPERPATRIOT'** Oliver North exposed himself on March 21 during his radio program as a hopeless Anglophile: While trying to denounce President Clinton for attending the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe in Moscow, rather than London, North proclaimed that British Prime Minister John Major was "America's most important ally."

● **ARIZONA'S** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and the Environment voted on March 22 to send a bill to the full Senate, which would permit the manufacturing, sale, possession, and use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The bill, which was voted out of committee by 7-1, has already passed the House. CFCs, which will be officially banned on Dec. 31, 1995, are critical for refrigeration and firefighting.

● **WHITEWATER** special prosecutor Kenneth Starr has reportedly deployed FBI agents to make a door-to-door sweep at the Clintons' former Whitewater real estate development, according to Associated Press on March 25. The FBI told one homeowner that investigators expect to be in the area five or six months "until they investigate everything."

● **PAT BUCHANAN** threw his support behind South Carolinians who want to keep the Confederate flag flying at the statehouse. "To me, the Confederate flag represents valor, honor, courage, and the willingness to die for your country," Buchanan, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said.

Bosnia's Ganic in D.C.: 'No' to new cease-fire

Secretary of State Warren Christopher attempted to get the Bosnian government to extend the cease-fire in the Balkans, during ceremonies celebrating the first anniversary of the Washington-brokered Federation between Bosnian Croats and the Muslim-led Bosnian government on March 16. At the State Department with Christopher were representatives of the Bosnian Croats and the Bosnian government, as well as Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. Speaking at the National Press Club the next day, Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic rejected extension of the cease-fire. "Please don't ask us that any more. . . . We lost 200,000 of our citizens, and something has to be changed. We're not going to provide the certificates to Karadzic's Serbs that they can just sit there and receive every four months a certificate from us that we accept their occupation of 70% of our territory."

The Clinton administration is also anxious to firm up the Federation, and to broaden cooperation between the Federation and the Republic of Croatia. There has been tension in the alliance since the disappearance of a Croatian general whom some Bosnian Croats suspect was kidnapped by elements of the Bosnian Army. Ganic expressed his concern: "I am very sorry for this officer. . . . Maybe somebody did that from the outside to disturb these solid relations between Croats and Bosnians."

The Croatian press has documented that earlier military clashes between Croats and Bosnians were fomented by British intelligence circles. The British were particularly upset last year when the Clinton administration brought together the Bosnians and Croats.

N.Y. mayor, governor move to drive out poor

The Contract with America's ugliest side is surfacing in New York City, where on March 14, New York City Mayor Rudolph

Giuliani cut \$400 million from the Medicaid budget. Two weeks earlier, Gov. George Pataki had cut \$800 million from the state's portion of Medicaid, and \$1.2 billion from other programs for welfare and the poor. Many of the governor's cuts directly affect New York City.

According to a March 19 article in the *Washington Post*, entitled "Honey, I Shrunk N.Y.; Does Mayor Giuliani Have a Secret Plan to Drive the Poor Out of the City?" Giuliani's cuts aim at forcing 2 million poor out of New York City. The article points out that for every 25¢ the city puts up for Medicaid, it gets 25¢ from the state, and 50¢ from the federal government.

Post columnist Malcolm Gladwell further recalls that a similar plan was launched by Roger Starr, then New York City housing director, in an article in the *New York Times Magazine* 20 years ago, "an article that some City Hall watchers swear has been dusted off, photocopied and circulated around the upper echelons of the Giuliani administration."

Three dead in Illinois gambling suicides

Legalized gambling in Illinois has officially claimed at least three lives in the last eight months. Suicides documented to have resulted from gambling include: A 40-year-old woman shot herself on Feb. 1 after her family was evicted because, unbeknownst to her husband and two children, she hadn't made mortgage payments for 17 months; a 41-year-old man shot himself on Oct. 30 last year, after losing his \$13,000 credit line in a two-day spree at a riverboat casino in Elgin; and, a 19-year-old Iowa man, who played the no-limit casinos in Illinois, shot himself last June 2, when he couldn't meet his car payments.

Illinois had promised \$400,000 for a gambling addicts hot-line, but never appropriated the funds. A bill now pending calls for warnings on all gambling machines, but it is opposed by Michael Belletire, director of the Illinois Gaming Board, as being "overkill."