

National News

American Spectator caught lying—again

The August issue of the *American Spectator*, the recycled propaganda rag for the British Hollinger Corp., has come up with another “complete and utter lie” against the Clinton administration, according to a recent Internet posting on the White House Bulletin Board.

The current issue includes a lengthy diatribe against Department of Commerce (DOC) Secretary Ron Brown, attacking the department’s export licensing program. The article charges “that the DOC approved the export of an aircraft carrier to India that was then sent on to China, all without Department of Defense approval. This is a complete and utter lie,” the reply on the Internet declares.

The author of the reply states that he is “a director of Resource Recovery International, the company that bought the vessel from the Department of Defense. The vessel was cut down to the hull at the Port of Port Angeles, Washington before it was exported to India. Once there, it was cut into scrap, as fully documented by a television camera team. Naval Sea Systems Command and the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations approved this export a full eight months before the export occurred. . . .

“Navy inspectors certified that the hull had no value other [than] reclamation of the metal content thereof. The Department of Commerce merely certified . . . that the hull was scrap that did not require a validated export license.”

Meatpacker cartel under USDA price-fixing charge

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has charged IBP, the nation’s largest meatpacking company, with price discrimination in purchasing cattle from feedlots. The USDA complaint against IBP—which, along with Cargill, ConAgra, and Farmland Foods, controls 80% of the U.S. meatpacking in-

dustry—was announced Aug. 3 by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

This latest move by the Clinton administration against the food cartels follows anti-trust actions against the leading grain monopolies, including Archer Daniels Midland, Cargill, and Tate and Lyle. The charges and ongoing investigations may reflect growing concern over the prospect of global outbreaks of famine this fall, as well as the threat to national security posed by the international cartels’ control of food supplies even for the United States.

The Lincoln, Nebraska *Star* reported on Aug. 4, “Glickman, in a statement and in recent speeches, said the department has become increasingly worried about industry concentration that has given four firms control of 80% of meat packing. . . . The department is undertaking a larger review of packer concentration. The issue has become more critical because of the record-low prices that beef cattle producers [farmers and ranchers] have been receiving for their products.”

Riverboat casinos are starting to go under

Riverboat gambling casinos, touted in recent years as a “quick fix” for public budget deficits, have already sunk in a number of instances, and are listing badly in many others. Two riverboat casinos in New Orleans recently shut down, for lack of business, just nine weeks after opening.

A feature story in the Aug. 6 *Washington Post* claimed that casino “industry analysts” have been forced to concede that “casinos are not a panacea for politicians hoping to revitalize a failing city or finance a state government while cutting taxes.” Another land-based casino in New Orleans has earned only \$12 million, about one-third of the \$33 million a month its owners had projected.

Other riverboat casinos around the country were also suffering from a lack of business, until state legislatures rescued them by relaxing restrictions on their operations. In Davenport, Iowa, a riverboat casino earned \$14 million last year, after its operating hours had been increased and a

rule limiting a gambler’s losses in one day to \$200 was dropped.

In Missouri, six riverboat casinos earned money after the state allowed them to install slot machines. The Missouri attorney general has ordered a grand jury investigation of the state’s House speaker, for accepting thousands of dollars from casino companies before the laws were changed.

The casinos’ financial difficulties are prompting officials in Virginia and Maryland, as well as in the District of Columbia, to have second thoughts about legalizing gambling. The *Post* also claimed that some studies show that casinos hurt the local economies in which they operate. A 1991 study by the state of South Dakota found that, while overall taxable revenues did not decline “appreciably” after casinos opened, there were “significant declines” registered by other businesses, especially clothing stores and auto dealerships.

Gonzalez hits ‘rigged’ Whitewater hearings

Prior to the Aug. 7 opening of House Banking Committee hearings on Whitewater, several Democratic members of the committee denounced the proceedings as a “kangaroo court” and a “witchhunt.”

Former committee chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) charged at an Aug. 4 press conference that “the Republicans have shamelessly rigged next week’s so-called Whitewater hearings.” Gonzalez said that the only witnesses who are scheduled are those who support the Republican claims. “So we’ll have a week of accusations,” he continued, “followed by an announcement that more hearings are needed, because we have to have ‘full disclosure.’” And, he added, “Why should we be staging a week-long mud show?”

According to the Aug. 6 *Washington Post*, committee Democrats planned to introduce a letter from the Republican-appointed U.S. Attorney in Little Rock, Arkansas, declining to open a Whitewater case against Bill and Hillary Clinton in 1992, on grounds of insufficient evidence. Bush appointee Charles Banks, the U.S. Attorney

at the time, wrote a letter to the Little Rock field office of the FBI on Oct. 16, 1992, rejecting the FBI's demand for a criminal investigation of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan.

U.S. Attorney Banks wrote that "the insistence for urgency in this case appears to suggest an intentional or unintentional attempt to intervene into the political process of the upcoming presidential election." He warned that the issuing of grand jury subpoenas would lead to immediate news media inquiries, which often seek to "legitimize what can't be proven." In fact, Banks told the FBI, opening such an investigation a month before the election would amount to "prosecutorial misconduct."

Banks was concerned not only about the proximity to the elections, but also about the lack of evidence. "While participation of some or all of these witnesses certainly suggests poor judgment, possible conflicts of interest, or ethical infractions, proving specific intent or knowing criminal conduct would be a prosecutorial burden that could not be carried beyond a reasonable doubt."

Judge strikes down Oregon's 'suicide' law

A federal judge has ruled that the Oregon statute, legalizing murder under the guise of physician-assisted suicide, is unconstitutional. According to preliminary reports, the 40-page opinion, issued by U.S. District Court Judge Michael R. Hogan, declares that the law enacted as Ballot Measure 16 in the November 1994 election, violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

On Nov. 8, 1994, Hogan issued a temporary restraining order to block the state of Oregon from enforcing the Nazi-like measure. The order was issued in response to a lawsuit on behalf of terminally ill patients, who claimed that they would face imminent and irreparable loss of their constitutional rights, including their right to life.

The American Civil Liberties Union attempted to have the lawsuit dismissed, and was joined in its efforts by the "mercy killing" maniacs of the Hemlock Society and

the Oregon Right to Die Committee, who had sponsored Ballot Measure 16.

On Dec. 27, 1994, however, Judge Hogan issued a preliminary injunction against the law, which declared, "Death is overwhelmingly final and not subject to reversal, mitigation, or correction. Although death may be viewed as a release from suffering, it is nevertheless the end of life. . . . An erroneous decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment . . . is not susceptible of correction."

Gloomy over GOP in '96, Brit puffs Huffington

Deepening gloom among President Clinton's British enemies, over prospects for defeating his bid for reelection, is producing some strange hallucinations in the London press. London *Times* columnist James Adams, in a review on Aug. 6 of the Republican Party's sagging fortunes, even claimed he had a vision of Arianna Huffington as the new star on the GOP horizon.

Huffington is the London-bred wife of Conservative Revolution darling Michael Huffington, the failed GOP challenger for Democrat Dianne Feinstein's Senate seat in 1994. Arianna, Adams claims, has transformed herself from a bizarre New Ager to such a right-wing heroine, that she will host the gala "Dark Ages Weekend" for Republican conservatives this year-end in Miami.

Adams concedes there may still be a bit of an image problem. He notes that Huffington currently co-hosts a television show with Camille Paglia, "a supporter of drug legalization, homosexuality, pornography and paganism." So, she "may be the acceptable face of the Newt revolution inside the Republican Party, but whether her exotic appeal will spread to the country at large remains to be seen."

Meanwhile, Adams reports, President Clinton's 47% approval rating in the polls is better than that of either Ronald Reagan or Richard Nixon, before their "crushing" reelection victories. Worse yet, Adams notes, the proportion of Americans who hold a very negative view of Clinton has dropped from 25% last year to 17% currently.

Briefly

● **CLEVELAND** National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President George Forbes said of Newt Gingrich's "Contract on America" on July 31, "What he is doing is exactly how Hitler got started with his persecution of Jews, and Gypsies, and other groups in Germany. We are sending a message that he can't do the same thing with blacks in America." The NAACP, the Nation of Islam, and the Urban League were among a dozen groups protesting Gingrich's appearance before the Cleveland City Club.

● **PHILADELPHIA** officials are reviewing the records of over 1,100 arrests, after five officers in the 39th Police District admitted to illegally framing dozens of innocent people over a number of years. The district attorney has already overturned 42 convictions, on the grounds that they were based on falsified and planted evidence, and perjury by the officers.

● **SERBIAN BUTCHER** Radovan Karadzic, justifying the genocide against Bosnia, told David Frost in an interview aired on National Public Radio on Aug. 2, "We used to live together in Yugoslavia, but Bosnia never existed as a nation, and Henry Kissinger said, 'It never existed and it would never exist.'"

● **EMMETT TYRRELL**, editor of the *American Spectator*, apparently cannot wait for the New Year's weekend "Dark Ages" gala featuring Newt Gingrich. The August opener of Tyrrell's syndicated newspaper column—a staple item of Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post*—may have waxed beyond Icarus, describing Newt as "sunshine and showers on the wasteland," and the man who is "ushering in the new epoch."

● **GEORGE BUSH** nearly sank to new depths, during a fishing trip to Newfoundland in July. Landing by helicopter, Bush had barely touched ground, when he walked off and fell into a bog up to his elbows within seconds. Secret Service agents rescued him.