

National News

Whitewater instigator's personal bias exposed

Jean Lewis, the Resolution Trust Corp. employee who initiated the Whitewater/Madison investigation, was deeply biased against President and Mrs. Clinton from the beginning. During a hearing of the Senate Whitewater Committee Nov. 29, it was revealed that a month before she opened the Whitewater investigation in 1992, Lewis sent a letter to a friend calling Bill Clinton a "lying bastard."

In the course of her letter discussing the Jennifer Flowers affair, Lewis wrote, "His ability to lie surpasses that of the most astute politicians." Richard Ben-Veniste, minority counsel on the Senate Whitewater Committee, questioned Lewis about the letter, and also about her frequent calls to the local FBI office in the fall of 1992, after she had referred the Whitewater/Madison matter to the FBI for possible criminal charges against the Clintons. Lewis told the FBI agent that the Madison case could "alter history." Ben-Veniste said the investigation was planned as an "October Surprise" to damage Clinton's presidential election campaign.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) also questioned Lewis about her 1993 efforts to market a T-shirt with large letters B-I-T-C-H, with the slogan, "Bill, I'm Taking Charge, Hillary," or "Bubba, I'm Taking Charge Here." During the questioning, Lewis collapsed and was taken to a hospital, where she was admitted for observation. Her blood pressure reportedly reached 210/110.

Caterpillar strikers up against financial cartel

The prolonged contract dispute between Caterpillar, Inc. and the United Auto Workers has been driven by corporate managers more interested in financial speculation than in maintaining a vital manufacturing industry. Company records show that Caterpillar has increasingly used financial instruments to hedge losses and turn profits.

According to Caterpillar's 1995 Annual

Shareholders Meeting Notice, Financial Projects (Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation and Caterpillar Insurance Company, Ltd.) comprised 28% of the company's assets (\$4,668 million out of a total of \$16,250 million). This compares to only around 2% in 1984—\$168 million in financial assets in 1984 out of a total of \$6,253 million.

The real change began in 1990, with the appointment of new chairman Don Fites, named CEO of the year in 1995 by *Financial World* in recognition of his having destroyed the union. In 1991, Clayton Yeutter—the man credited in Cat's 1991 annual report as the "architect of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement"—was added to the Caterpillar board. Yeutter was George Bush's secretary of agriculture and headed Bush's 1992 re-election campaign. It was in 1991 that the strike actually began, as the UAW recognized that Fites' only real objective was to break the union.

Phil Gramm campaign is running out of cash

According to the Dec. 5 *New York Times*, Texas Sen. Phil Gramm's bid for the Republican Presidential nomination may be on the rocks. The *Times* reported that the Conservative privateer sent out an S.O.S. to his "steering committee" on Nov. 17, asking for "emergency donations" to cover a "cash shortfall." The letter warned, "The consequences of this shortfall are so threatening, I have no other choice but to ask for your help again."

Gramm campaign spokesman Gary Koops dismissed the letter as just a "way to motivate" the grassroots, and urged the *Times* not to take the candidate's words seriously.

Gramm kicked off his campaign in February by proclaiming, "I have the most reliable friend you can have in American politics, and that is ready money." He spent \$14 million through September, a rate of \$53,000 per day, reportedly leaving him at that point with \$3.9 million in cash on hand. His fundraising plummeted from \$8.7 million in the first quarter, to \$2.1 million in the third quarter, while the campaign reported \$4.7 million in third quarter expenses.

His Republican opponents have reportedly concluded that, whether he solves his financial problems or not, his campaign has an unsurmountable problem, "the Phil Gramm problem."

Prison population grew at record rate in 1995

The number of state and federal prison inmates grew by a record 89,707 in the 12 months ending June 30, 1995, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics Report released Dec. 3. That is the largest annual increase in American history, and the equivalent of jailing an additional 1,725 prisoners every week. The U.S. rate of incarceration is the highest in the world, among nations which maintain reliable statistics. The U.S. locks up 565 inmates per 100,000 residents; Russia is second at 558 per 100,000.

As of June 30, there were 1,004,608 state prison inmates in the United States, up 9.1% from June 30, 1994, and 99,466 federal inmates, up 6.1%. Texas, which has become the nation's "gulag," had the largest inmate growth, with an increase of 27%, followed by West Virginia and North Carolina at 26%. Nationally, a much higher percentage of African-Americans are incarcerated than whites, with 6.8% of all black male adults in prison or jail, compared with less than 1% of white male adults.

LaRouche associate confronts Kissinger

In a dramatic moment before about 500 students, faculty members, and dignitaries at the University of Akron, Ohio on Nov. 30, Henry Kissinger, the former secretary of state who admits he was a British agent, was confronted by a supporter of Lyndon LaRouche who had been distributing a leaflet on Kissinger's role in the political prosecution of LaRouche.

Kissinger was at the university to give a speech on "The Geopolitical Outlook in the Global Climate," with his standard Metternichian assertions that morality has no place

in diplomacy.

LaRouche associate Philip Valenti was the second person Kissinger called on during the question period. "Lyndon LaRouche has shown that you should go to prison," Valenti said, "for your evil role in arranging his political frameup, and because you are guilty of genocide, not only because of Vietnam, Cambodia, Lebanon, Chile, and other crimes, but because of your National Security Study Memo 200—NSSM 200—of 1974, where you demanded population control against non-white nations. Also, since you were knighted by the Queen, and you are an agent of the British monarchy—"

At this point, pandemonium erupted. Kissinger hissed back: "Lyndon LaRouche is too full of himself! I've never heard of NSSM 200 requiring population control, and all the other material suggests to me that they sent him to the wrong institution! Next question!"

Kissinger had launched the LaRouche railroad in a 1982 letter to FBI head William Webster.

Black legislators call for probe of DOJ

Several hundred African-American legislators and labor leaders gathered in Birmingham, Alabama Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, for the 19th Annual Legislative Conference of the National Caucus of Black State Legislators (NBCSL), which represents some 574 legislators in 44 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

According to the *Birmingham News*, the group adopted a resolution on Dec. 2, proposed by state Sen. McKinley Washington (S.C.), demanding that the U.S. Congress conduct investigative oversight hearings into Department of Justice misconduct. The resolution cited recent independent hearings convened by the Schiller Institute on this issue, which heard testimony on the DOJ's unjust prosecution of black elected officials, the political frameup of Lyndon LaRouche, and the cases of John Demjanjuk and former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

Addressing a panel on ethics, state Sen. Theo Mitchell (S.C.), a leader of the NBCSL since its founding, gave a report on his own

incarceration as a result of an FBI frameup. He detailed how he had been placed in prison, stripped of his committee chairmanship and, ultimately, his Senate seat, without any formal hearing, and banned from the practice of law in South Carolina.

"If you speak out," he said, "I don't care if you are black or white, they will come after you. You all know about the most famous case of a man who wrote and railed against the system, who would not be silenced in his demand for financial reorganization and a new, more just economic order. They called Lyndon LaRouche a radical. Well, let me tell you something: When my own people were too frightened to help me, that so-called radical, at great risk to himself, stepped forward and did."

Bosnian Imam aids synagogue in Illinois

A new Conservative Jewish synagogue of about 200 people, in the Chicago suburb of Northbrook, lacking a building in which to hold services for Rosh Hashanah last September, found help from an unexpected source, the *Chicago Tribune* reported on Dec. 1. They had tried in vain to rent schools, hotels, and other facilities, but all were booked up. Then they approached Imam Senad Agic, the leader of the Bosnian Muslim mosque in Northbrook. He readily agreed.

"I would like this news to be widespread and to receive some objections or reactions," he told the *Jewish United Fund News*. "According to Islamic teachings, this is not only allowed, but it's desirable." The *Tribune* quoted Agic: "I lived in an environment where Muslims lived in peace for centuries with Jews and Christians. I'm used to this; there is no prejudice."

The Jewish congregation used the mosque twice for Sukkot services as well, and the door remains open for them until they get their own permanent location.

The synagogue's Rabbi Dan Sherill told the *Tribune*: "Everybody has a view of God, and the only thing that varies is the structure practiced in a particular religion; but we all are on the same path and God is protecting and looking out for all of us."

Briefly

● **LAROCHE** campaign representatives in Denver, Colorado filed the necessary documents and filing fee on Nov. 30, to place Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. on the state's March 5 Democratic Presidential primary ballot. Colorado is one of a handful of states which require a candidate to be certified for federal matching funds as a qualification for ballot status. LaRouche was certified by the Federal Election Commission on Nov. 2.

● **THE SOLAR** and Heliospheric Observatory was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida on the morning of Dec. 2. SOHO, a joint project of the European Space Agency and NASA, is equipped with instruments to study the Sun, the solar wind, and the solar-terrestrial relationship. There will be a strong emphasis on the ultraviolet and extreme ultraviolet spectral ranges.

● **ATTORNEY GENERAL** Janet Reno and Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Arthur Levitt, Jr., on Nov. 30 announced indictments of 11 securities brokers alleged to have defrauded their clients in ten states. This is the first time that the SEC has moved beyond the application of administrative sanctions, to threaten a broker with a prison sentence.

● **DISTRICT** of Columbia municipal employees used garbage trucks and other city vehicles to shut down a major intersection during rush hour on Dec. 4, protesting plans to slash city jobs and benefits as a result of the privatization of city services.

● **JOHN ISOM**, the sheriff of Virginia's Loudoun County and anti-LaRouche operative who was defeated in the November election (see *Feature*), has been named executive director of the Virginia State Crime Commission. The commission is made up of six delegates and six senators.