

National News

N.J. Dem urges Clinton: Address economic future

Gordon McInnes, Democratic state senator from Morris County, N.J., in a March 10 op-ed in the *Newark Star-Ledger*, warns that this is no time for President Clinton to be "arranging the seating chart for a Second Inaugural." Despite the disarray among Republicans, McInnes points out that "overconfidence and too much cleverness" from Clinton's "campaign technologists" may undermine his campaign. "There is still an argument and a campaign to be won."

Clinton "should respond to the sense of economic insecurity and income deterioration that Buchanan has tapped into," McInnes declares, adding that "Democrats should stake out the territory that reconnects our party with the aspirations of working and middle class Americans. . . . Even if Clinton has announced the end of big government, he can still lead the effort to maintain and expand federal investments in our economic future. . . . He needs to ensure that the nation has a highway, rail, air, and water transportation network that is efficient and contemporary. Clinton must remind us of the enormous benefits that have flowed from the nation's great research universities and medical centers, both of which are threatened by Republican proposed budget cuts."

Furthermore, McInnes urges, "Clinton should declare the Republican Revolution dead and name the killers—American voters. The 'Contract on America' was built on the lie that the enemy of economic opportunity, civility, and social morality was the national government. Citizens weighed in with a powerful 'no thanks.'"

Spannaus demands rivals condemn Va. frameups

Nancy Spannaus, candidate for the Virginia Democratic Party nomination for U.S. Senate, issued a call March 6, for her opponents

to show their moral qualifications for office, by condemning the imprisonment of five LaRouche associates still being held as political prisoners in Virginia. The five—Michael Billington, Anita Gallagher, Paul Gallagher, Laurence Hecht, and Donald Phau—were jailed as a result of raw political corruption, under the Attorney Generalship of the now-eclipsed Mary Sue Terry.

"There is no question but that the overall witch-hunt against the LaRouche movement was run by a permanent bureaucracy in the Department of Justice, in alliance with private forces like the ADL [Anti-Defamation League], at the behest of political circles linked to George Bush, Henry Kissinger, and their British mentors. The federal prosecutors knew that LaRouche and his co-defendants were innocent of the charges—a fact for which the evidence sits in Richmond, never having been heard by the courts. Nor is it deniable that the policies of [Republican Gov.] George Allen on corrections, are cut from the same cloth as the Nazi policies of Newt Gingrich and his advisers William Barr and Henry Hudson, and thus are a major impediment to their release from prison."

Spannaus emphasized, however, that "the Republicans did not send LaRouche's associates to prison in Virginia. That crime was committed by leading members of the Democratic Party, and the moral stain for such actions remains on the Virginia Democratic Party, until it begins to take action against this atrocity."

Reviewing the basic facts of the case, Spannaus declared that Virginia Attorney General Terry launched a prosecution "which even the FBI noted to be 'politically motivated.' At Terry's behest, arrests were made for a crime which had never before existed—the classification of political loans as 'securities.' . . . Yet, although the State Corporation Counsel did not rule the loans were securities until after the arrests, the Commonwealth proceeded to charge the LaRouche associates with knowingly conspiring to commit a crime, before it was declared a crime!"

"To secure the convictions, the Commonwealth relied upon avowed enemies of LaRouche in the ADL and Cult Awareness Network, which worked through the press,

and even contacted the Roanoke judge who handled all but one of the trials. As a result, these defendants were denied fair trials and received sentences of from 25 to 77 years."

Spannaus concluded, "This situation must now change, and leadership must be exerted by those who aspire to national office. So, I call on my fellow candidates for Senate: Join me in fighting for the exoneration of LaRouche, and the freedom for these five political prisoners. Such a fight for justice is a moral qualification for office."

Michigan jury acquits 'Dr. Death' of murder

After ten days of brainwashing, a Michigan jury—reflecting the U.S. population's tolerance of explicit Nazi extermination policies toward the sick, old, and disabled—acquitted Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian of violating a Michigan law against so-called "assisted suicide."

This latest case heard against the euthanasist and serial-killer charged him for his role in the deaths of Merian Frederick, 72, on Oct. 22, 1993; and Ali Khalili, 61, on Nov. 22, 1993. Both victims were found in Kevorkian's apartment. The deaths were declared homicides, not suicides, because they resulted from acts by someone other than the victims. The term "assisted suicide" is a legal nonentity.

At the time, a Michigan "law" made it a felony, punishable by four years of imprisonment, for anyone to provide the physical means for a suicide, or to participate in causing a suicide. During the recent trial, Kevorkian's attorney Geoffrey Fieger and Circuit Court Judge Jessica Cooper both focussed attention on a loophole in the law. The immoral statute exempted those who caused the victim's death, if their intent was only to relieve pain. "Dr. Death" claimed he only wanted to "relieve his patients' pain," not kill them, by gassing his "patients" with poisonous carbon monoxide!

During testimony on March 4, Kevorkian compared his role to that of an executioner. "When an executioner pulls the

switch on the electric chair, is his wish to kill a human being," Kevorkian asked, "or to fulfill his duty to implement justice and uphold the law? What's his aim?"

N.Y. Times touts casinos to replace manufacturing

The March 9 *New York Times*, in the same issue concluding its seven-part series on the "downsizing of America," hailed the conversion of once-proud manufacturing towns into gambling dens. The *Times* feasted on the case of Joliet, Illinois, where tax revenues, once generated by local industry, are now reduced to the flow from riverboat casinos.

The *Times* toasted Joliet's City Manager John Mezera for guiding its recent "revitalization" based on gambling revenues. "It's our time right now," says Mezera, while acknowledging that good times will last only as long as gamblers keep flooding the town. Joliet's four riverboat casinos, running two-hour cruises for 22 hours a day, attract a daily average of 17,757 gamblers, betting a total of \$1.1 million. Since the floating crap games began in June 1992, the city has received one-quarter of the 20% the state takes from betting revenues.

According to the *Times*, casino corporations are now the biggest employers in Joliet and Will Counties, paying \$100 million yearly in wages to 4,000 workers. Total tax revenues to Joliet, based upon riverboat gambling, is projected to reach \$90 million this year, accounting for 20% of all revenues. Despite some objections from local officials, who prefer modern factories to "gaming," Joliet's director of community and economic development believes that "you've got to deal with reality and take what you can get. . . . When entertainment came along, it was perfect. We were looking for something that would change the image of Joliet. And it did."

The *Times* conceded that the scheme to reduce the economy to a roll of the dice has its critics. Even a University of Illinois economics professor, Earl Grinols, has concluded from two studies of the state's gam-

bling enterprises that "the net gain is virtually zero. There is a job lost or a job not created for every job you see in the casinos. There's very little economic growth going on in riverboat areas. . . . But city councils get euphoric over the taxes they're collecting."

Falling productivity is nation's 'basic problem'

Addressing the 34th annual Goddard Memorial Symposium of the American Astronautical Society on March 6, University of Maryland President William E. Kirwan challenged some current assumptions about declining federal support for scientific research and development. "Why is this happening to us?" Kirwan asked the audience attending the meeting outside of Washington, D.C.

"A common response," he said, "is that it is the Conservative Revolution in the federal government that is forcing a reduction in the size of government and, in particular, a decline in federal support for research. I don't believe this assessment is entirely accurate. What we are now experiencing has been building for a longer period of time, and is rooted in an unsettling fact about the economic underpinnings of American society."

Instead, Dr. Kirwan claimed, "Our basic problem lies in the steady decline of our nation's per-capita productivity. Throughout the 1950s and '60s, the per-capita productivity increased on average 3% annually. During the 1970s it fell to 2%. This past decade it dropped to 1%. . . . The effects of the decline in per-capita productivity since the 1960s have been masked, until recently, by the near doubling of the proportion of women in the workforce; and by turning the U.S. from the world's greatest creditor to its greatest debtor nation."

Dr. Kirwan added that, "without significant change in our level of per-capita productivity, there simply will not be the funds available to support the levels of federal expenditures we have become accustomed to, including the current level of federal appropriations for research."

Briefly

NEWT GINGRICH claims that the 171-point drop in the Dow Jones index on March 8 shows that the economy "is very fragile," and needs another dose of his ruinous federal budget cuts. The House Speaker told reporters in Georgia March 9, "We really need to get lower taxes and a balanced budget for lower interest rates, just in order to avoid a recession."

LABOR SECRETARY Robert Reich, following an address to the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention March 7, declared, "Corporation executives, whether they know it or not, have a public trust. If companies are not generating benefits for society, but instead are imposing enormous social costs, then governments and societies have every reason to change the rules, laws, and tax incentives for corporations."

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY, former doyenne of conservative Republicanism, wrote off free trade in a *Washington Times* op-ed March 9. It "does not improve our quality of life in America but lowers it." She denounced "the incessant and orchestrated demand that America compete in a global economy with hundreds of millions of unemployed and underemployed people around the world who are willing to work for 25¢ an hour. That's what 'free trade' means, and there's nothing fair about it."

THE COALITION to Defend America said March 8, that its new Citizens Advisory Panel on Missile Defense will be headed by a "legendary figure in pop culture, two-time Grammy award winning guitarist in superstar rock bands Steely Dan and the Doobie Brothers, Jeff 'Skunk' Baxter."

THE FEDERAL Aviation Administration has sent letters to 33,225 licensed airplane pilots in southern Florida, warning them that a "cease and desist" order was signed March 1, increasing the penalties that will be imposed on any pilots violating Cuban air space.