

National News

Prison chain gangs likened to slavery

"Let there be no mistake about it: There is an unambiguous historical connection between chain gangs and slavery," wrote Tracey L. Meares, an assistant professor at the University of Chicago Law School, in a March 15 editorial page commentary in the *Chicago Tribune*. "Advocates of the modern chain gang in Southern states trade on this historical connection. Anyone who disagrees need only consider the comment of one Alabama roadside chain gang spectator: 'I love seeing 'em in chains. They ought to make them pick cotton.'"

Meares declared, "Lowering recidivism rates, deterring crime, and allowing human beings to retain some semblance of dignity are the true goals of imprisonment. Humiliation of prisoners that necessarily depends on our country's sad history of enslavement of human beings is not."

ADL makes a 'mockery' of its own book award

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has been accused of gross hypocrisy, for attempting to overturn an independent judging panel's decision in the ADL's own Janusz Korczak Literary Competition last December. The panel conferred the prize for *Did the Children Cry?* on Stanley Lukas, who documents how Gentiles helped Jews in Poland against the Nazis, including the fact that the Polish underground smuggled food into the ghettos, and helped to organize secret schools for Jewish children.

According to the April 16 *Washington Times*, the ADL tried to block the award, claiming that the book overestimated the help which Poles provided for Jews, and underestimated the extent of Polish anti-Semitism. In his book, Lukas claims that as many as 5 million Poles assisted Jewish attempts to escape the Nazis.

The ADL notified Lukas in December

that he had won; but on Jan. 10 rescinded the award, asserting that the notification was an administrative error. Abe Foxman, executive director of the right-wing, racist hate-group, personally vetoed the decision of the judging panel.

Following a torrent of protests, and the threat of a lawsuit, the ADL reinstated the award on Feb. 28. But the formal award ceremony was canceled; instead, the ADL mailed a \$1,000 check to Lukas.

Among those coming to Lukas's defense was author Danuta Mostwin, a founder of the award and longtime member of the judging panel, who said she was "truly shocked" that Foxman vetoed the award. "I don't think it was a legitimate criticism. Mr. Lukas portrayed the children just as children: not Jewish or Christian children, just children." Lukas asks, "What if I had been a Jewish scholar and an organization did this to me? You can almost hear the chorus of 'anti-Semitism' that would have been heard across the country."

"The ADL made a mockery of the process," said Joseph Kutrzeba, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, and producer-director of the film *Children of the Holocaust*. "Mr. Foxman wants to look under every stone for anti-Semitism."

Sen. Kerry introduces 'economic security' bill

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) submitted a bill entitled "The American Family Income and Economic Security Act" on April 18. In his statement on the floor, Kerry reviewed the statistics that supposedly show how strong the U.S. economy is; but added that "this economic growth is best reflected in corporate boardrooms. . . ; but, in living rooms across Massachusetts, there is extraordinary anxiety about jobs, health care, education, wages, and retirement."

He also pointed to the substantial increase in consumer debt during the last five years, and strongly attacked the Republicans for failing to address it. "They will not even raise the minimum wage," he said, "in fact, they have downsized the American dream

for millions of hardworking families, but voted time and again to increase corporate welfare and give huge tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans."

Besides raising the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour, Kerry's bill would also zero-out capital gains taxes for young families forced to sell assets because of a catastrophic illness in the family. It would also allow early distribution of private pension benefits—to finance education, first-time home buying, medical bills, and long-term unemployment.

Kerry also proposed measures to provide direct assistance to high-growth, high-wage, job-producing businesses. The bill would also eliminate the capital gains tax for "investors who hold stock for more than 10 years in qualified small, high-growth, job-creating, critical technology companies that do at least 75% of their business in the United States."

Dole deep into trough of ADM grain cartel

According to the April 16 *New York Times*, Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole is the chief beneficiary of political contributions made by Archer Daniels Midland, the notorious grain cartel indicted by the federal government for price-fixing and other illegal trading practices. The *Times* claims that Dole received, all told, \$228,000 from ADM and its chairman Dwayne Andreas, over two decades—especially for the preferential treatment he provided through federal subsidies for ADM's lucrative ethanol production.

In an April 19 editorial, entitled "The Payoff from Ethanol's Donations," the *Times* declares, "With 50% of the American ethanol market, Archer Daniels realized an estimated 10% of its \$12.6 billion in revenues last year from ethanol." Ethanol is exempt from 5.4¢ per gallon of the 18.3¢ a gallon Federal gasoline tax. The *Times* complains, "Even the budget-slashing, subsidy-questioning House Republican freshmen have failed to crack the ethanol lobby. Last September the House was ready to end the

\$1 billion a year subsidy, but Speaker Newt Gingrich, informed by Mr. Dole that the bill had no future in the Senate, had the bill killed."

In its April 16 front-page story, the *Times* alleges, "The first major federal outlay for ethanol, a \$60 million loan program for new distilleries, was passed by Congress in 1977 over the objections of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Dole was one of the bill's sponsors, and ADM started ethanol production that year."

Spannaus: Va. officials violate Nuremberg code

Nancy Spannaus, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate from Virginia, issued a call to citizens of the state on April 23, to mobilize against a policy which will deliberately cause wrongful deaths among the prison population.

"It is now official," Spannaus declared, "that Virginia prison authorities, under Department of Corrections head Ronald Angelone, are removing electric fans from the cells of prisoners held in maximum security units. These fans are the only source of circulation in these prisons, which have no air conditioning. Besides being inhumane, this policy will predictably, and necessarily, lead to the death of inmates, especially older ones, as inside temperatures climb to 120° Fahrenheit in the summer.

"Virginia citizens are now faced with a test of their humanity. Will they permit this policy to go ahead? If they do, and prisoners die, the policy will be shown to have violated the Nuremberg standard, under which Nazi leaders who 'knew, or should have known' that their policies would result in wrongful deaths of human beings, were tried and convicted of 'crimes against humanity.' Are Virginians prepared to be complicit in such a violation of law?"

Spannaus further charged, "The policy of taking away fans is just one of the anti-human, murderous policies being implemented, or proposed. It's not a question of money—the inmates purchase their own fans. Department of Corrections officials

say that prisoners with medical conditions will *not* be given exceptions. . . . In the United States generally, even livestock are provided with air circulation. But Angelone and company plan to treat prisoners as less than beasts, at least until they are able to sell their labor in the new 'factories behind walls.'

"We are judged by how we treat the least of these, our brethren. Let's stop these crimes against humanity *before* they kill."

Hollinger Corp. hypes eco-terrorism in U.S.

The April 18 London *Daily Telegraph*, the Hollinger Corp.'s propaganda conduit for British intelligence, relayed a threat of further environmentalist terrorism to be launched against the United States. The article, filed from Billings, Montana, also attempts to provide cover for the World Wide Fund for Nature's eco-terrorist apparatus, run by Britain's Prince Philip.

According to the *Telegraph*, "Federal officials believe the Unabomber's reign of terror is finally at an end. But his violent attempts at environmental protection are echoed by many other self-styled crusaders living in the Montana wilderness. Around the hamlet of Lincoln [where Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski lived]. . . environmental activists are girding for what they believe may be a last stand. Bands of khaki-outfitted, armed warriors traverse the forest and mountains, in order, they say, to save the land from destruction by logging and mining interests."

The article centers on Ric Valois, founder of the Environmental Rangers, while omitting his direct connections to Earth First! and Native Forest Network terrorists. The *Telegraph* quotes Valois: "There could be a war. . . . We are fighting to protect and preserve our planet. Many of us may be killed but we will never give up."

U.S. law enforcement agencies have logged a long list of environmentalist terrorism including sabotage, trip-wire trail bombings, and the dynamiting of electrical transmission towers, over the past decade.

Briefly

MEMBERS of the House of Representatives recently returned "to find a whole new way of legislating: not by hearings and committee work, but by special theme weeks like the 'Era of Big Government is Over Week' . . . [or] 'Individual Freedom vs. Government Bureaucracy Week,'" says Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-Ohio). He recalled watching the Mickey Mouse Club—adding that "when people ask the musical question 'Who's the leader of the club that's made for you and I?,' we can answer: 'R-i-c-h-a-r-d-A-r-m-e-y.'"

THE FEDERAL RESERVE still sees no need to tighten regulations on offshore banking, the *Washington Post* claimed April 17. The Fed is continuing an "internal study," said to be initiated in the wake of the Daiwa Bank scandal, of U.S. and foreign banks operating in the lightly regulated Cayman Islands, to "gain insight into the purposes they serve and what, if any, supervisory risks they might pose."

SIR RUPERT MURDOCH'S *Boston Herald* flashed British hatred for the American System in an April 17 editorial, attacking Sen. Edward Kennedy's bill to restrain corporate assaults on the well-being of the American population. The *Herald* applauded the layoffs of U.S. steel workers to improve "efficiency," and compared Kennedy's call for corporate responsibility to "a revolution. . . along the lines of Mussolini's Italy."

THE LAROCHE campaign filed for the June 4 New Jersey Democratic Presidential primary on April 11. Petitions were submitted to place LaRouche delegates on the ballot in all 20 state Congressional Districts. The slogan which will appear under each candidate's name is "It's the Economy! LaRouche for President."

PAT BUCHANAN ranted against President Clinton's China policy April 17 as one of "accommodation and appeasement," and demanded that the U.S. Congress repeal Most Favored Nation trading status for the People's Republic of China.