

National News

Sweeney calls on ILO to ban child labor

AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney, speaking in Geneva, Switzerland on June 12, called on the International Labor Organization to ban child labor, and to act effectively to end the exploitation of 200 million children worldwide. Speaking, he said, "as a citizen of the world," Sweeney declared: "The best way to promote world peace is to advance the cause of economic security and social justice, not only in the most prosperous societies but everywhere on this planet."

Referring to the estimated 200 million children who work under shameful conditions, Sweeney added, "It is not our oldest traditions that produce this injustice, but the demands of the modern marketplace, untamed by the values and standards that humanity has developed over the ages. If there is anything that is universal to the human race and inspired by our Creator, it is our love for our children and our willingness to do whatever is necessary to guard their safety and nurture their promise. That is the cause we must serve in our deliberations here today."

Ridge hails passage of 'discardable worker' law

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge celebrated the passage of the state's brutal Workers Compensation bill June 20, calling it "the single most important thing state government could do to create and retain jobs for Pennsylvanians. Together with our tax cuts and other measures we have taken to eliminate red tape, this bill allows us to say louder than ever that Pennsylvania is open for business."

Ridge's Nazi policies, already on display in his push for health cuts which he knows will kill people, have been challenged by a movement to impeach him, led by Lyndon LaRouche. This new bill abolishes the no-fault system of compensation which had operated since 1915, under which workers

received rapid payment of medical bills and lost wages, in return for giving up their right to sue their employers.

In addition, a provision of the law eliminates benefits after 500 weeks for workers who are less than 50% disabled, as determined by the American Medical Association. The AMA standards award only 40% disability for the loss of an entire leg, while compensation for neck or back injuries, including herniated discs, ranges from 10 to 15%. The new law, however, also sets inconsistent standards of eligibility, shifting decisions to the employer's side, to such an extent that expensive lawsuits filed by workers to gain compensation for injuries will be inevitable.

Under the old law, an employer seeking to end workers compensation payments, had to prove that the employee had recovered; and benefits continued while the case was pending. Now benefits will be suspended as soon as the employer files a review petition. The burden of proof will then be on the employee to prove that he or she is disabled in order to win back the benefits.

"This legislation kicks working people in the face," said William M. George, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO president. The new bill treats "people like commodities to be discarded if they are unfortunate to become injured or ill on the job. Workers with legitimate injuries will be denied eligibility and compensation."

Hearings show Bushmen took FBI security files

In hearings before the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee which began June 17, witnesses testified that the departing administration of President George Bush took all the FBI files used for security clearances. As a result, President William Clinton's incoming administration had to re-create the entire file system from scratch.

Craig Livingstone, the head of the White House personnel security office, resigned June 26, after an orchestrated campaign of Republican accusations that he was creating an "enemies list" by ordering FBI files. Livingstone testified to Congress that all the FBI

files had been sent to the Bush Presidential archives, at the end of Bush's term. He also said that he and others in the incoming Clinton administration were instructed how to re-create the files, by the very people who had run the system used by the Bush administration.

Anthony Marceca, who worked with Livingstone, also described how he was told what to do by Nancy Gemmell, who had worked on the files in the Bush administration. The project of re-creating the files was known as "Project Update," and is apparently done by any incoming administration. The Republican members of the committee produced no witnesses who could testify to the contrary; but the result was the elimination of yet another Clinton official serving in a sensitive position.

AMA hedges its bets on care for patients

The American Medical Association's House of Delegates reaffirmed on June 25 its opposition to "physician-assisted suicide," more correctly termed Nazi euthanasia. The AMA's 430-member policy-making body was nearly unanimous, in its vote to recommend the organization to fight efforts in state legislatures and courts to make it legal for physicians to actively take part in killing their patients.

Nancy W. Dickey, M.D., head of the AMA's Board of Trustees, declared, "The medical profession will not tolerate being put in a position to judge the value of the lives of the patients we are trained to heal, comfort, and care for." She added: "To allow or force physicians to participate in actively ending the lives of patients, would so dramatically and fundamentally change the entire patient/physician relationship, that it would undermine the principles we, as a society, hold most dear."

However, the AMA has already opened the door to euthanasia, by supporting a patient's right to refuse medical treatment such as life support systems. And, an AMA press spokesman told *EIR* June 26 that the association expects to receive a significant grant from a major foundation, for a "comprehen-

sive physician education" program in "end of life" care.

The grant would support a three-year project in which every physician in the United States, from medical students to doctors who have been practicing for 30 years, would receive training in this emerging "specialty." The AMA would thus appear to be willing to decide which patients, whether elderly, chronically ill, or seriously ill, are at the "end of life."

Lamm continues rampage against sick and elderly

Former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm, the would-be Reform Party Presidential candidate, told an audience at Harvard University June 22, "I understand health care is a diamond, but it's also a curse." In an appearance billed as a debate on "care near the end of life," Lamm raved that "volcanic" health care costs, and interest on the national debt, would soon consume almost the entire federal budget.

Lamm noted that his wife is a cancer survivor; but, he declared, voters will have to decide whether government should continue to pay for "expensive" medical procedures for the critically ill and the elderly, or divert those funds to children's health care and other social programs. "We're not talking about getting rid of National Public Radio," Lamm said; "we're talking about a series of decisions that will make our moral compass gyrate."

Richard Lamm teamed up with Ross Perot in 1992 to wage a vicious campaign against the elderly, through an organization pointedly called "Lead or Leave," which rallied "Generation X" fascists around the charge that America's elderly were robbing the younger generation blind, through "excessive" Social Security and Medicare payments.

With substantial seed money from Ross Perot, Lead or Leave functioned as the de facto youth auxiliary of the Concord Coalition—a national organization founded by investment banker Peter Peterson, Washington attorney Lloyd Cutler, and former Presidential candidate Paul Tsongas, to

lobby for draconian cuts in Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlement benefits for the elderly.

In late 1992, when Lead or Leave first surfaced in public, Lamm was serving on the group's 12-member national advisory board—along with Nazi-austerity pusher William Weld, governor of Massachusetts; the decaying California state representative Tom Hayden, a founder of Students for a Democratic Society; New York Episcopagan Bishop Paul Moore; and Richard Dennis, the moneybags behind the pro-legalization Drug Policy Foundation, who also threw a few bags to Lead or Leave. Tsongas served as the national advisory board's co-chairman.

Eco-freaks force U.S. to turn to imported timber

The growing success of environmentalists in imposing bans on logging in the United States, have forced the paper, pulp, and forest products industries to begin importing timber from South America and Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, the large forests of the Upper Great Lakes region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, which have barely been harvested for six decades, now contain over 46 million acres of large hardwood trees. These trees are now beginning to compete with each other for ground, nutrients, and sunlight.

Jack Pilon, a marketing specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, told the June 16 *Chicago Tribune* that, "if nothing is done, these trees will thin themselves naturally. Only the best trees through natural selection will grow into big trees. We can do the same thing, but by getting products out of them."

John Heissenbittel, senior policy director at the American Forest and Paper Association, states that "if we're forcing part of demand to be met offshore, that used to be met on the Pacific Coast or elsewhere in the U.S., where will those logs come from? We have the toughest environmental laws in the world and the most enlightened forest management. Isn't it better that we produce the logs and paper here?"

Briefly

CALIFORNIA'S new anti-alien legislation would eliminate state health care benefits for 830,000 immigrants living in California, predominantly Latino women and children, according to a UCLA study reported June 24. The cutoff of Medi-Cal benefits, under immigration law changes approved by Gov. Pete Wilson, now being considered in Congress, would leave more than 25% of the state's non-elderly population without health insurance.

LOUIS FARRAKHAN, leader of the Nation of Islam, was named "Bad Person of the Day" June 20 by *Bildzeitung*, for criticizing the Queen of England. The German mass-tabloid reported that, during his recent visit to Jamaica, Farrakhan told the Jamaicans that "the Queen is a relic of your colonialist slavery. How can you bend your knees before her?"

ASTRONAUTS from Ukraine have begun training at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Under an agreement signed earlier this year between the U.S. and Ukraine, two astronauts selected by the National Space Agency of Ukraine are preparing for an eventual flight on the Space Shuttle.

THE LAROUCHE VOTE in the March 26 California primary has been officially reported as 173,953, nearly 12,000 more than the earlier unofficial tally. The final total raises LaRouche's statewide vote to 6.9%, and brings his total vote in the 1996 Democratic Presidential primaries to 600,890, with official tallies for some states yet to be issued.

DAVID SCHINE, longtime intimate of Roy Cohn, was killed in an airplane crash in California June 19. The London *Guardian* ran a lengthy obituary June 22, citing Schine's work with Cohn in orchestrating Sen. Joe McCarthy's infamous witch-hunts in the early 1950s. It also noted that Schine owned the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, where Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968.