

National News

Dole snubs NAACP, for baseball with Tom Ridge

When GOP front-runner Bob Dole told the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that a "scheduling conflict" prevented him from addressing their convention on July 9, he neglected to say that his "conflict" was a baseball game. Worse, Dole's partner at the All-Star game in Philadelphia was Pennsylvania's Gov. Tom Ridge. Ridge, widely mooted by the press to be Dole's choice for vice president, apparently had more difficulty balancing the popcorn, hot dogs, and Cracker Jacks at the game, than he's had balancing the state budget by cutting 220,000 medically indigent Pennsylvanians off from health insurance.

Ridge's latest outrage has been to propose that the state's survey of prevailing wages in construction contracts factor in both non-union (i.e., lower) and union wage rates. Since the state guarantees the prevailing wage on state-funded building projects, the newly calculated average would substantially cut construction wages. A spokesman for the state secretary of labor, in discussion with *EIR*, denied organized labor allegations that the new survey would lower wages by \$200 million. But in the next breath, he nervously stammered that "taxpayers would save up to \$200 million."

Clinton tells Arab daily, 'peace is my priority'

President Bill Clinton reemphasized his personal commitment "to exert all his efforts to help the issue of peace in the Mideast" in an exclusive interview with Arabic daily *Asharq Alawsat*. Clinton's remarks appeared in the London-based paper on the eve of the Cairo Arab Summit that started on June 22. Clinton stressed: "Achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East remains a foremost priority in the program of the U.S. administration and my own personal program."

In answer to a question on the relationship between Islam and the West, and the fact that such terms as "fundamentalism," "violence," and "terrorism" have scarred this relationship, he responded: "I do not see any scars in our relationship with the Islamic world. . . . We do not believe that Islam equals violence, and we don't see that there is a clash of civilizations between Islam and the western world."

With respect to Palestinian-Israeli relations, since the new Israeli government came in, President Clinton reminded both parties that he expects them to implement "their promises as being part of the temporary agreement they had concluded." He also praised the Palestinian Authority efforts against terrorism and urged the PA to continue.

La Raza, Catholic bishops blast anti-immigrant bill

Cecilia Munoz, deputy vice president of the National Council of La Raza, and John Swenson, executive director of the Office of Migration and Refugee Services for the United States Catholic Conference, denounced the pending federal immigration bill as "extremist," in their commentary in the *Washington Post* on July 5. "Reportedly, some in Congress hardly can contain their glee at the prospect that the President will sign either this dangerous bit of policymaking or open himself to attacks that he 'killed' the immigration reform bill."

The bill could lead to denial of education to undocumented schoolchildren; and would bar U.S. citizens from sponsoring their spouses or children under the legal immigration system unless they earn more than 100% of the poverty level—"hardly a rational policy for a 'pro-family' Congress," they point out. In addition, legal immigrants could be deported for participating in student aid and loan programs, prenatal care, and even certain English classes. "Where is the wisdom in a law that would deport immigrants for doing things we want them to do—such as learning English, nurturing their children and furthering their educations?" they ask.

Confederate constitution is model for 'Contract'

Columnist Jess Bravin charged that Bob Dole, Newt Gingrich, and other proponents of the "Contract on America," who rave about "states' rights," and appeal to the Tenth Amendment to justify this, are in fact "reading the wrong Constitution," he wrote in a *Washington Post* commentary on June 30. "There is another American charter that, more than a century ago, enacted much of the modern Republican agenda for the nation."

Like the Contract with America, Bravin explains, the Confederate constitution "provided for a line-item Presidential veto, as well as other sections that seem consistent with the GOP agenda." Like the Contract, the Confederate constitution also "forbade liberal boondoggles like industrial policy or social insurance. It barred Congress from spending money to spur commerce, and deleted the offensive clause that has permitted the federal government to cause so much mischief—that of granting Congress power to allocate tax revenue for the 'general welfare of the United States.'"

He concludes "Dole, Gingrich and the Republicans of today, probably don't realize that many of their ideas, rejected by the founders of the United States, were ratified by the Confederacy in 1861 . . . and that after the Civil War, rather than use the Confederate constitution as a model, the United States repudiated its values by enacting the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments."

Clinton announces new meat inspection plans

President Bill Clinton announced in his July 6 radio address that the administration is revamping the U.S. meat inspection process. "We all remember how in 1993 tragedy struck hundreds of families in the Western United States," he said. "Undercooked hamburgers served in a fast-food restaurant were contaminated with a deadly strain of *E. coli*

Briefly

HENRY ESPY, the brother of former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, was indicted by "independent" prosecutor Donald Smaltz. This is the fourth set of indictments returned in the Espy investigation. It is widely believed that the ultimate target of Smaltz's probe is not Mike Espy, but President Clinton; Smaltz's investigation is very active in Little Rock.

GINGRICHITES who have been targeted by AFL-CIO electronic media ads are howling: California's Brian Bilbray, one of the ads' targets, whined to the *Los Angeles Times*, "They're like heroin addicts. They need their power fix." According to the *Times*, labor walking tours in 76 congressional districts is "harming Republicans in close races."

INMATES in Sheriff Joe Arpaio's get-tough prison system in Maricopa County, Arizona are being punched, kicked in the head, and thrown against the walls by guards, according to a preliminary Justice Department investigation. Guards are also armed with stun guns, in this much-touted, new version of good old Southern justice.

GOODBYE OLLIE, again. A few months ago, Ollie North's radio talk show in Washington was bounced from its prime-time slot of 3-6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Now, his newsletter, *Ollie North's Front Lines*, has folded. He started the newsletter after the 1994 elections, trying to capitalize on the GOP congressional sweep, while never mentioning his own Senate defeat, organized by LaRouche associate Nancy Spannaus.

RICHARD LAMM is a better candidate than Ross Perot, croons an editorial in the *New York Times* on July 12. Why? "This is a man who not only warns about the dangers of the budget deficit, but proposes to deal with it by . . . cutting off Social Security benefits for high-income retirees, slashing veterans' benefits, making people pay more money for Medicare and imposing a huge gasoline tax on motorists."

bacteria. Five hundred people became ill, and four children died."

"Now . . . sometimes families have been exposed to illnesses because some meat and poultry shipped to our supermarket shelves contained invisible and deadly bacteria. The reason was shocking and simple: For all our technological advances, the way we inspect meat and poultry had not changed in 90 years."

Clinton's plan was given more detail that day by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. 1) The government will set standards for salmonella contamination, and the USDA will, for the first time, be responsible for its testing. Beginning this summer, no plant will be allowed to exceed the current average contamination (currently, 20% of chicken products and 49% of turkey products show traces of salmonella). 2) The processors will be required to test for *E. coli*, for which a maximum level will be set. 3) Each meat- or poultry-processing plant must identify points where contamination could occur, then check for contamination at each, subject to USDA approval. 4) All processing plants would have to adopt a written plan within three months.

Resistance grows to Kevorkian death march

Detroit's Cardinal Adam Maida launched Project Life on July 9 to counter the despair of people facing "a life-or-death decision involving abortion or assisted suicide," and to provide them with an alternative. "Before you pick up the telephone to schedule a consultation with Jack Kevorkian," he told a Detroit audience, "call Project Life." He pledged whatever resources it takes to offer alternatives. He said: "No one should feel forced—by whatever problems or pressures they face—to choose abortion or assisted suicide."

Jack Kevorkian, the self-styled "obitri-
trist," has racked up 33 victims since 1990. None of the decedents was terminal, and many did not even have fatal diseases.

On July 4, Michigan law enforcement authorities made a breakthrough in stopping

the murder spree, when the son of victim No. 30, Shirley Cline, agreed to cooperate with investigators. Kevorkian's attorney told the press that Cline was "in horrific suffering from bowel cancer," which had spread to her organs and lungs. At autopsy, it was found that there was no lung metastasis, and, although the cancer had spread, she could have continued to live for years, benefitting from new medical protocols.

Moreover, many new drugs are coming on the market to treat the effects of multiple sclerosis, a non-fatal disabling disease. Five of Kevorkian's victims have been MS patients. As recently as May 17, the FDA approved use of Avonex (Interferon beta 1-a), the first therapy shown to slow the progression of physical disability and decrease the frequency of acute relapses.

Exposé of Bush cover-up of Pan Am 103 shredded

All remaining copies of *Trail of the Octopus*, the 1993 book which exposes the efforts by George Bush and Margaret Thatcher to divert investigation of the bombing of Pan Am 103 from Syria and Iran to Libya, will be destroyed. The book by Lester Coleman and Donald Goddard, will be "pulped," as a result of an out-of-court settlement between the publishers and retired Drug Enforcement Administration officer Michael Hurley, according to the *New York Post* of July 7.

Coleman was a Defense Intelligence Agency employee assigned to penetrate and observe DEA operations in Cyprus, where Hurley was DEA station chief. Coleman's book threatened the Bush-led cover-up of the Pan Am 103 bombing, by exposing how Iranians and Syrians, with help from Monzer Al-Kassar, penetrated a DEA "sting" operation and placed a bomb aboard the plane, which blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988. *EIR* has previously reported on the considerable evidence that high-level U.S. government officials were aware that Pan Am 103, on that day, had been targeted, and failed to intervene. Were the threads of the investigation to be followed, they would likely lead to the doors of George Bush and his flunky Oliver North.