

National News

Leading black weekly blasts Paula Jones suit

The Call And Post, a black weekly in Cleveland editorialized that Paula Jones's sexual harassment suit against President Clinton was "An Assault on the President," and insisted, "Enough is enough!" *The Call and Post* editorialized that "the Jones case is now becoming a circus that could damage not only President Clinton, but weaken the Presidency itself. Paula Jones and her attorneys are entitled to their day in court. However, we can see no compelling argument that convinces us that Ms. Jones's rights would be somehow compromised if that day in court occurred sometime after the President leaves office in the year 2001."

President Clinton's attorneys filed a motion on Aug. 15 asking the Federal court in Little Rock to dismiss Jones's suit which accuses Clinton of sexual harassment, and which the President had adamantly denied in a July 3 pleading.

AFL-CIO launches media ads in organizing drive

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney on Aug. 11 announced the beginning of a new ad campaign to "bring the faces and voices of today's union members into today's living rooms." The campaign includes four TV ads featuring union members talking about how proud they are of their work and how important the union is in improving job skills and giving workers a voice in workplace safety and health benefits. The message is aimed at non-union workers who are undecided or uninformed about unions. Sweeney said the ads will run as a pilot project in five cities, Baltimore, Milwaukee, San Antonio, Seattle, and St. Louis, accompanied by community outreach.

Meanwhile, the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 599, whose members make auto parts in Flint, Michigan, took out a full-page advertisement attacking environmen-

talism, in the Aug. 11 *Wall Street Journal*. Entitled "Clearing the Air," the union argued, "Poverty is more dangerous to our children than the current low levels of air pollution. Congress must stop the EPA's [Environmental Protection Agency] new, unhealthy barriers to economic growth."

The ad makes the salient point, that the new proposed clean air standards will "have the effect of devastating many minority communities which have just begun to have new hope. . . . If factories are forced to close by the EPA, millions of children will be in danger of growing up without health care, in poverty-stricken—and sometimes dangerous—neighborhoods."

Berger suggests open dialogue with Iran

National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said that the United States is willing to have an "unconditional" dialogue with Iran, in which nothing is excluded, speaking on the "Evans and Novak" program on CNN on Aug. 16. Berger was asked if the United States "will change its policy in any way as a result of the election in Iran and the fact that the new cabinet clearly reflects a more moderate policy?"

Berger responded that President Clinton "has described the election as hopeful, but he's skeptical. I think that's a pretty good three-word posture. That is, obviously [Iranian President Mohammed] Khatami is someone who, at least from the perspective of daily life in Iran, reflected a less repressive view. But the real question is, are they going to do anything about their sponsorship of terrorism? Are they going to do anything about their development of weapons of mass destruction? Are they going to do anything about their violent subversion of the Middle East peace process? And that's the real test of whether our relationship will change."

Correspondent Ralph Begleiter then said that the real question for the United States is, "why not engage in an unconditional dialogue" with Iran? Berger answered that the United States has said for years "that we would engage with the Iranians." He contin-

ued, "We'll have a conversation. They can talk about what they want to talk about. But you cannot have, it seems to me, a sensible conversation with Iran that doesn't deal, from the Americans' perspective, with their sponsorship of terrorism. That is a serious problem for us. We're prepared to have an unconditional conversation with the Iranians. Unconditional means nothing is excluded."

No criminal indictments in Ruby Ridge murders

After a two-year investigation, directed by Philadelphia U.S. Attorney Michael Stiles, the Department of Justice announced on Aug. 15, in a carefully worded eight-page press release, that there will be no criminal indictments against four senior FBI officials, including FBI Deputy Director Larry Potts, for their handling of the Ruby Ridge incident, in which the wife and son of Randy Weaver, and a Weaver family friend, were killed by government sharpshooters in late 1992. The four officials have been on paid leave of absence for the past two years.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and committee member Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) blasted the DOJ decision, vowing to convene new Ruby Ridge hearings as soon as the Senate reconvenes after Labor Day. Specter said that the committee would demand that the DOJ turn over all of the investigative files from the two-year probe, including a 92-page report that was delivered to Attorney General Janet Reno, largely focusing on the role of Potts and one of his chief deputies. The DOJ is saying that the files cannot be released to the Senate yet, because they have been turned over to the DOJ's Office of Professional Responsibility, which will decide whether administrative sanctions should be levied against any of the four. Specter attacked this move, denouncing the OPR as untrustworthy.

While it can be expected that the Republicans, especially Specter, will tend to spin the DOJ decision in an anti-Clinton direction, the revival of the Ruby Ridge scandal,

THE AMERICAN BAR Association reversed its decade-long opposition to Nazi euthanasia, adopting the Supreme Court's amoral stance of allowing states to determine the legalization of physician-assisted suicide. The ABA only urges the states to include monitoring systems ostensibly to protect vulnerable patients.

FOOD IRRADIATION was termed "the fourth leg" of a table for ensuring public health, by Minnesota state epidemiologist Dr. Michael Osterholm. The other three legs are pasteurization, chlorination, and immunization. In the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Osterholm wrote: "Irradiation provides the greatest likelihood of substantially reducing bacterial and parasitic causes of food-borne disease."

THE PRISON SYSTEM expanded 41% between 1990 and 1995, with the inmate population in Federal and state prisons growing by 43%, according to a new Justice Department report. As of mid-1995, there were 1,500 such institutions with a capacity of 976,000 beds. The inmate population rose from 716,000 to 1,024,000 (this doesn't count municipal jails) in the same time period.

NANCY SPANNAUS, the LaRouche Democrat who is running for Congress in Virginia against incumbent Frank Wolf (R), appointed Dr. W. Ferguson Reid as an adviser for her campaign, on Aug. 18. Dr. Reid was "the first African-American to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates in the post-Reconstruction period, [serving] . . . between 1967 and 1973, [and] was also the founder of the Richmond Crusade for Voters, an organization which did a heroic job to bring African-Americans into the political process in Virginia."

SECRETARY OF STATE Madeleine Albright granted Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams a visa to come to the United States in early September. Accompanying Adams will be Sinn Fein officials Martin McGuinness and Caoimhghin O'Caolain.

which was covered up by both the FBI and the permanent bureaucracy at the DOJ, will reopen the issue of this central feature of DOJ corruption—the most egregious case of which is the railroad of Lyndon LaRouche.

Rep. Oberstar criticizes U.S. infrastructure

Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.) attacked the recent budget agreement because it shortchanges long-term infrastructure projects upon which the economy depends. He wrote in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* in July. The transportation program scheduled to be reauthorized by Sept. 30, was provided \$124 billion over five years, which is no increase over the previous five years, while the overall infrastructure requirement of the nation is in excess of \$300 billion, he said. (*EIR* puts the estimate at over \$5 trillion.)

"But our system is national. Our economy is national. . . . Transportation costs account for 17% of the costs of goods and services in the United States," he said. "Imagine our economic nightmare if costs skyrocket because our aging roads, bridges, and transit systems fall apart beneath us."

Oberstar visited China, Japan, and Hongkong in April, with the delegation of House Transportation Committee Chairman Bud Shuster (R-Pa.). In the Aug. 1-14 issue of *Asian Pages*, Oberstar provided a breathtaking account of what the Chinese are doing. "In seven days, we saw the massive infrastructure projects fueling the region's economic growth. . . . The realities of this experience ranged from enlightening to mind-boggling." He described projects including the Three Gorges Dam, and the five-year plan to expand 35 airports in 35 cities. "Seventeen percent of the world's construction cranes are in use on building projects in Shanghai," he said. "More than 22,000 sites have broken ground." In Hongkong, "ten major infrastructure projects being worked on simultaneously . . . represent \$20 billion of infrastructure investment, including rail lines and road projects," he said. "While we fight here in the U.S. to fund the Airport Im-

provement Program at a mere \$1 billion nationally, Japan and Hongkong move forward with single projects of \$10 and \$20 billion."

Such efforts in the Pacific rim economies offer vast opportunities for U.S. companies to expand their sales, he said. But to remain competitive, the U.S. will have to increase investment in highways and railroads that serve our ports, and we need to dredge our ports to world-class depths to accommodate the new generation of larger and deeper draft ships, and new technologies to speed the movement of cargoes.

Brit charismatics send 'missionaries' to U.S.

A feature in the Aug. 16 *Houston Chronicle* gives a detailed description of the British effort to subvert religion in the United States, focussing on a "long-haired evangelist from South Africa," named Rodney Howard-Browne. At one Fort Worth church, "a woman laughed uncontrollably. A man leapt from a front pew of the church and began spasmodically jerking, his arms flying up and down. 'In the name of Jesus, let it bubble up. Let it bubble up out of your belly,' encouraged Rodney Howard-Browne . . . who calls himself 'the Holy Ghost bartender.'"

In an Internet advertisement for his Revival Ministries International, Howard-Browne writes that "the Lord had told him in a world of prophecy. . . . 'As America has sown missionaries over the past 200 years, I am going to raise up people from other nations to come to the United States of America.'"

According to the London *Guardian*, a Las Vegas entrepreneur named Daxx Edder plans to build a virtual reality religious theme park, complete with a 33-story statue of Jesus. The virtual religion will include a holographic Hell, and Bible scenes including the parting of the Red Sea and Noah's Ark. Edder, head of Quorum International, and his Canadian partner, Stephen Veczel, want to build on a site in Mesquite, Nevada, because it is an old Native American holy ground, and the desert area, says Edder, has the "feel" of Israel.