

National News

Opposition to Weld nomination growing

According to a report in the Aug. 26 *Boston Herald*, the war between William Weld and Sen. Jesse Helms over Weld's nomination as ambassador to Mexico escalated, when a spokesman for the senator said that Helms would not be "insulted" into holding hearings on the nomination. Commenting on Weld's "diplomatic" approach to trying to claw his way into the Mexico assignment, and his announcement on Aug. 25 that he would resume public attacks on the senator, Helms's aid Marc Thiessen is quoted as saying, "If we send him to Mexico he'd probably start another war."

Meanwhile, the Washington press reported on Aug. 27 that Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee for the Western Hemisphere, criticized Weld's "confrontational" fight for the position, and is opposing confirmation, as well. Coverdell is quoted in the press stating that "whoever serves as ambassador to Mexico must also be seen as having an absolutely unquestioned commitment to the war on drugs. I do not think all of Governor Weld's public actions and statements on this issue square with that requirement."

Weld not only favors "medical" abuse of marijuana, but, while in the Justice Department, played a leading role in covering for money-laundering operations by the Bank of Boston.

Fowler's DNC responds to LaRouche suit

Almost 600,000 Democrats are considered "unaffiliated" with the Democratic Party, according to an appeal brief filed by attorneys for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and its former chairman, Don Fowler, responding to the plaintiffs' appeal filed in the Voting Rights Act case of *LaRouche et al. v. Fowler et al.*, filed Aug. 27 with the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Joining Fowler and the DNC were state Democratic officials from Louisi-

ana, Virginia, Texas, Arizona, and the District of Columbia, all of whom were sued in August 1996 by LaRouche and nine of his supporters.

Fowler et al. also argue that the case is moot, and that the Voting Rights Act (VRA) does not apply to the DNC and its chair.

LaRouche and the nine supporters, all of whom are minority voters as defined by the VRA, sought to enjoin the opening of the Democratic Party national nominating convention in August 1996, because Fowler and the DNC refused to seat LaRouche-pledged delegates. The case was dismissed by U.S. District Judge Penfield Jackson, and then appealed by LaRouche and his co-plaintiffs. LaRouche's appeal brief, was filed this past July, and excerpted in *EIR's* Aug. 15 issue.

Much of the Fowler argument relies on two decades of case law precedent granting the party the right to define its membership—the so-called "private club" position. Variations on this theme were used to justify all-white primaries up until the hard-fought battles of the Civil Rights movement brought about passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

LaRouche's attorneys will file a reply brief on Sept. 12, and oral argument will occur on Oct. 14.

Neo-cons hold 'First International' conference

A full-page ad in a recent issue of the *National Review* announces that, from Sept. 27-28, the First International Conservative Congress will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. The co-chairs of the event will be former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and William F. Buckley, Jr. This is clearly a mobilization of the New Atlantic Initiative crowd: All of the key players that *EIR* exposed in a *Strategic Studies* report on April 11, 1997, are going to be present. The event's sponsors are: The American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the Claremont Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the Hoover Institution and the *National Review*. Confirmed speakers include: Sen. John Kyl (R-Ariz.), who hosted the most recent New Atlantic Institute shindig in Phoe-

nix; race scientist Charles Murray; Joshua Muravchik; George Will; Pete du Pont; John O'Sullivan of the *National Review*; Peter Brimelow; Irving Kristol and his father, William Kristol; R. Emmett Tyrrell of the *American Spectator*; Oliver North buddy Elliott Abrams; Mona Charen; Peter Rodman; and Stuart Butler, the resident British Fabian at the Heritage Foundation.

It is noteworthy that the current issue of the Rupert Murdoch-bankrolled *Weekly Standard*, has a cover story on the "Crack-Up of Conservatism Worldwide," which is in the form of a round-table discussion by a dozen leading conservative luminaries.

Hearings find health cuts by Gov. Ridge are deadly

The deadly impact of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge's medical cuts was documented in a dramatic six-hour public hearing convened in Philadelphia on Aug. 28. An estimated 220,000 unemployed, poor, and disabled Pennsylvanians were cut from the state medical assistance rolls by Ridge's Act 35, signed into law on May 16, 1996.

The hearing was called by the Republican-controlled House Health and Human Services Committee, after months of persistent pressure by Rep. Harold James, chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, and other Democratic legislators, including Rep. Frank Oliver, Democratic chairman of the committee. James submitted an updated report on the impact of Ridge's cuts, documenting 59 cases where death, injury, and threats to life resulted from Ridge's actions.

Several witnesses also revealed the shocking testimony, that the Ridge administration is scheming to eliminate still more medically needy people from public assistance. Despite the evidence of inhuman treatment of innocent citizens, Ridge intends to cut up to 15,000 additional persons from public assistance as of Oct. 1. These are persons dependent upon "life-sustaining medications," such as heart patients and those with mental illnesses, who are being reclassified as "able to work," in order to terminate their benefits and "save" the state about \$9 million.

VIRGINIA'S Department of Corrections is refusing to allow attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union to tour M Building at Powhatan Correctional Center, where the most violent inmates are held, under conditions described as inhuman, according to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* of Aug. 27. Prison officials disingenuously gave as a reason the "potential risk to the safety of staff and those on a tour."

KENNETH STARR, the White-water special prosecutor has subpoenaed the galley proofs for a book by one of his victims, former Justice Department official Webster Hubbell. The subpoena asks for "manuscripts, computer disks, notes, recordings," as well as all records relating to financial arrangements for the book.

TWO BOMBING SUSPECTS arrested on July 31 in Brooklyn, whom the media dubbed "Hamas suicide bombers," were indicted by a Federal grand jury on Aug. 29. The indictment does not specify any motives for the alleged bomb conspiracy, and Federal investigators have said that an "intensive, worldwide" investigation has found no connection between the two and any terrorist group.

REP. HAROLD JAMES, chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, issued a statement on Aug. 29, that: "Although it is too early to endorse anyone for President, I welcome Mr. LaRouche's announcement, because if he, or any other Democratic candidate, raises important issues relating to the economy, drugs, racism, and U.S. policy towards Africa, their inclusion in the Democratic nomination process will benefit the Democratic Party and the nation as a whole."

ORRIN HATCH (R-Utah) and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) are cosponsoring a bill to imprison, or even invoke the death penalty against union members for actions in support of *lawful* goals, where violence resulted, calling it the "Freedom from Union Violence Act of 1997."

James Earl Ray allowed to continue appeal

An appeals court in Tennessee rejected a prosecution motion on Aug. 29, which would have stopped James Earl Ray from attempting to prove that he was not the assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr. The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals will allow Ray to continue his appeals, but it also criticized two state court judges, saying they overstepped their authority.

The appeals court said that Judge Joe Brown had exceeded his authority in ordering the FBI to turn over bullets it tested from Ray's rifle in 1968, although Brown may continue to allow tests—but they must be paid for by Ray. The appeals court also criticized Judge John Coulton, who wanted to appoint a special prosecutor to subpoena witnesses and take testimony about a possible conspiracy to kill King. Judge Brown had also suggested that he might appoint a special prosecutor because the State of Tennessee was "vigorously opposed" to finding the "true facts" of the case.

Ray is gravely ill with liver disease, and, late in August, doctors gave Ray only four to six months to live, unless he receives a liver transplant.

Khmer Rouge gets backing from GOP

Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.), member of the House International Relations Committee, has notified Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that he intends to grill U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Kenneth Quinn, when the latter returns to Washington after Labor Day. Rohrabacher has already complained about Quinn's actions during the early July crisis in Phnom Penh, and has demanded copies of all diplomatic cables and other communications—"in classified and declassified form"—between the embassy and Washington, from March through mid-July.

Rohrabacher's beef is that Quinn may

have overly "favored" Cambodia's Hun Sen. Rohrabacher, whose letter to Albright is quoted in the Aug. 30 *Washington Times*, said he was "troubled" that Quinn and his staff "have not only sent the wrong signals to Hun Sen but have denied sanctuary for advocates of democracy who have sought refuge from Hun Sen's post-coup dragnet."

A State Department spokesman expressed more than mild concern over Rohrabacher's request, warning it could compromise sources in Phnom Penh, but said Quinn would make himself available to Congress.

Farmers protest losses as media push 'markets'

U.S. farm losses and farmer protests are growing, but, as Congress was about to return from recess after Labor Day, the *Washington Post* reported just the opposite on Aug. 28, headlining its front page, "It's Feast, Not Famine, So Far Under New Law in Farm Belt." Among the latest signs of protest—all of which are blacked out in the *Post*, is the "Fly-In" on Sept. 6-10, to the nation's capital by farmers associated with the National Farmers Union, to deliver petitions from the public asking for emergency federal action to set a "milk floor price" for what farmers receive for the milk, which is currently below their costs of production. The NFU plans to see President Clinton, and they will hold a press conference Sept. 9.

As schools are reopening, serious milk shortages are expected to appear in locations in Florida, Georgia, and other Southeastern states, from the loss of regional dairy farmers. State officials in New England have formed a "Compact," decreeing a regional floor price to milk producers, and a "Southern Compact" for those states is also in the works.

All of this counters the "free-market" concept of the 1996 "Freedom to Farm Act," which, after 18 months, is already an obvious national disaster. Notwithstanding, the *Post* declares the new law a "success," based on the fact that farmers (who signed up last year), are getting "market transition payments" each year, in declining amounts, and will be "weaned" from government support.