

National News

Don Eret, LaRouche ally, challenges Nebraska GOP

Former Nebraska State Sen. Don Eret (D) is running unopposed for the Democratic nomination to challenge incumbent U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter, as part of the drive by the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party to take back Congress from the Conservative Revolution. Bereuter, who sits on the House Banking Committee and chairs the International Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, has supported every neo-liberal economic measure which has accelerated the collapse of Asia's economies.

Senator Eret, by contrast, has been a collaborator of Lyndon LaRouche since the latter launched his Food for Peace effort a decade ago. In 1997, Senator Eret joined hundreds of parliamentarians and political leaders internationally in signing the Call to President Clinton to Convene a New Bretton Woods Conference, at precisely the same time that Bereuter's subcommittee was showcasing the "Asian tiger" economies, all of them now fatally stricken by currency assaults.

Eret decided to run, after Bereuter led a vote in Congress last year which denied food aid to the starving nation of North Korea. Months before that, Eret had used his experience as a farmer and retired NASA engineer, to contact American and Korean political, religious, and farm leaders to work out an emergency plan to solve the desperate North Korean situation.

North bashes Clinton for China satellite deal

Oliver North, hypocrite extraordinaire, took up cudgels in the *Washington Times* of April 26 to bash President Clinton's decision to allow aerospace manufacturer Loral to launch a commercial satellite on China's Long March rocket. At issue are allegations that Loral and the Hughes satellite company had previously given to the Chinese rocket technology that allegedly could be applied

to their missile program, or exported to what North dubbed "rogue nations," such as Pakistan.

North (who can honestly say that his own illegal sales of TOW missiles to Iran during the war with Iraq, involved no dual-use technologies) frets that "it's too bad that Mr. Starr won't be able to include this Clinton-China space caper within the scope of his investigation," when Starr presents his results to Congress in June. North ticks off some "dual-use" technologies—jet engines, communications equipment, and supercomputers—which have been sold to China, huffing that the "Clinton administration's indifference to the arming of China" is "simply stupefying." North apparently doesn't think the cocaine and opium marketed by his Contra and Afghansi buddies was "stupefying."

Spannaus campaign gains steam in Virginia race

The effort of LaRouche associate Nancy Spannaus to become the Democratic challenger to Rep. Frank Wolf (R) in Virginia has picked up steam, as Democrats in the 10th Congressional District begin to elect delegates to the district party convention on May 30. On April 23, she addressed a meeting in Prince William County, hitting hard at the McCarthyite fear-mongering used against her delegates in Rappahannock County, which, she said, was also keeping those present from backing her as the best candidate to rebuild the party and defeat Wolf.

Meanwhile, on April 27, attorney James Schoener wrote a letter to the attorneys for Virginia's Democratic Party, which is a defendant in Lyndon LaRouche's Voting Rights Act suit against former party head Don Fowler et al., after Fowler had forced the party to deny seating at the 1996 National Convention to all LaRouche delegates. Schoener's letter notes: "There have been some allegations that hinted at threats against delegates' employment or business opportunities if they continued their support for Mrs. Spannaus. I am sure that you would not condone such unlawful and unethical actions on the part of your party members, and

that you will see that the Party officers in that County are advised that we will not tolerate unfair tactics being used against Mr. LaRouche's supporters.

"As we advised the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in our brief and at oral argument, we were concerned that changes in voting practices without preclearance would happen again and that our contentions were *not moot*. Since there are 13 more caucuses scheduled over the next two weeks, if there is further evidence of discriminatory actions against LaRouche supporters, we will be inclined to report the same to the Court."

Bush says Secret Service should not testify

Former President George Bush sent two letters recently to Lewis C. Merletti, the head of the Secret Service, regarding the effort by "Get Clinton" prosecutor Kenneth Starr to force Clinton's Secret Service agents to testify before his grand jury, according to a report in the *New York Times* on April 25. It is not clear whether both letters were sent on the same date.

The first letter, dated April 15, was submitted by the Clinton administration to a Federal judge, as part of its sealed filing, petitioning the court to grant executive privilege to Secret Service agents being compelled to testify before the Starr's grand jury. In that letter, Bush wrote, "I feel very strongly that U.S.S.S. agents should not be made to appear in court to discuss that which they might or might not have seen or heard. What's at stake here is the confidence of the President in the discretion of the U.S.S.S. If that confidence evaporates, the agents, denied proximity, cannot properly protect the President." Bush told Merletti that he was free to "use this letter with proper authorities in the special prosecutor's office, or should the matter go to court, with the proper officers of the court."

Always one to cover his back, however, Bush also sent a cover letter to Merletti, denouncing the "orchestrated attacks" on Starr as "vicious and outrageous." He noted that, if Starr is personally pushing for the agent testimony, Merletti could show him the

POPE JOHN PAUL II will visit the St. Louis diocese next January, after his visit to Mexico City, the Vatican announced in mid-April. St. Louis Archbishop Joseph Rigali, a longtime personal friend of the Pope, had extended an invitation for him to visit St. Louis whenever he had an opportunity. The Pope will arrive in St. Louis on Jan. 26. It is not yet known if he will be visiting other U.S. cities.

PAT ROBERTSON has signed on to the "Clinton is a killer" line coming from James Dale Davidson. Robertson linked Clinton on his "700 Club" broadcast to the deaths of Vincent Foster, Ron Brown, Mary Mahoney, Barbara Wise, Victor Raisner, Paul Tully, Jim Wilhite, Stanley Heard, Bob Wilcher, Kathy Ferguson, Bill Shelton, and Jerry Parks.

PRISON PRIVATIZATION was defeated in Tennessee's Senate, marking a significant blow to the Tennessee-based Corrections Corporation of America. CCA's net income per share doubled between 1995 and 1996, while the rate of assaults and murders at its Youngstown, Ohio facility have begun to raise an outcry.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE Service is still investigating six tax-exempt groups linked to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, including two Georgia colleges which hosted his "Renewing American Civilization" courses, and the Abraham Lincoln Opportunity Foundation, which worked closely with Gingrich's GOPAC. The investigation centers on whether these groups violated their tax status to sponsor political activities.

OREGON has the lowest in-hospital mortality rate in the country, not because it has the best care, but because it has become so adept at "avoiding hospitalization at life's end by planning for their deaths," gloated Susan Tolle, head of the Center to Improve the Care of the Terminally Ill. Oregon leads the nation in the "medical use of morphine."

cover letter, so he would realize that Bush "initiated this letter idea," is "furious about the mindless attacks" on Starr, and hopes "he will not compel the agents to come forward." Bush also offered to "talk personally to Ken should he so desire." The *Times* published both letters without comment.

British press push Gingrich for President

Both the London *Sunday Telegraph* and the *Sunday Times* ran articles promoting a U.S. Presidential bid by House Speaker Newt Gingrich for the 2000 elections. The Hollinger Corp.'s *Sunday Telegraph*, the British oligarchy's flagship publication for the "Get Clinton" operation says that Gingrich "is now all but certain" to run for the Republican nomination. "With his latest physical and political 'makeover,' the leaner yet kinder one-time Bonaparte of the Republicans' 1994 revolution has seen his approval rating soar."

The *Sunday Times* (owned by Rupert Murdoch) notes that, until recently, the prospect of Gingrich running for President "would have provoked chortles of disbelief." But now, the "softer, nicer Newt" is criss-crossing the country, including Iowa and New Hampshire, promoting his new book. Gingrich is showing "uncharacteristic restraint" these days, demurred the *Times*, not even attacking Clinton around the ongoing sex scandals—which may have to do with problems in Gingrich's own private life.

Boston Globe highlights grand jury abuses

The tactics of Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr, in using his grand jury to harass and intimidate witnesses, were cited in the *Boston Globe* on April 26. The parade of witnesses before Starr's Washington grand jury "has cast harsh light on the largely unfettered powers of the Federal grand jury," said the *Globe*. It added that grand juries were originally conceived

by the Framers of our Constitution as a protection against tyranny. Many states have restrictions on grand juries, such as allowing defense lawyers to be present in the grand jury room with their clients, allowing only legally obtained evidence, and allowing a defendant to appeal, if the indictment is based upon insufficient evidence.

But there are no such checks on Federal grand juries, and the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to exercise any supervision, deferring instead to Congress. Thus, the *Globe* wrote, 70 members of the House of Representatives have endorsed a bill requiring Federal prosecutors to adhere to the ethical rules of the states in which they practice, which defense lawyers say would curb some abuses, an apparent reference to the "Citizens Protection Act," co-sponsored by Pennsylvania's Joe McDade (R) and John Murtha (D).

State budgets hooked on stock market bubble

A recent study showed that Virginia and Maryland have become increasingly dependent on personal and capital gains tax revenues to fund their state budgets, and face being wiped out if the stock market bubble doesn't continue to bloat, reported the *Washington Post* on April 17. The study by Mark Zandi, chief economist for Regional Financial Associates (RFA), showed that between 1998 and 2000, Virginia expects to raise \$16.9 billion in personal tax collections (including wages and capital gains). Were the stock market to be flat over that period, Virginia would lose \$700 million in projected revenue; were the stock market to fall 30%, Virginia would lose \$1.6 billion, or one-tenth of all projected revenues from personal tax collections.

Maryland is currently anticipating \$12.6 billion from personal taxes. If the market is flat, RFA found that Maryland would lose \$350 million in projected capital gain tax revenue, and if it were to fall 30%, Maryland would lose \$800 million in revenue.

Lawmakers in several states are proposing securities transactions taxes, especially to fund education.