

# National News

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## FBI apologist smears King family, LaRouche

David Garrow, who has written extensively on the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover's dirty operations against Martin Luther King, Jr., showed his true colors in a vile article featured on April 28 in the internet magazine *Salon*. Entitled "Triumphant in Death," the kicker sneers, "James Earl Ray is laughing all the way to hell, thanks to the King family's perposterous belief that he didn't kill Martin Luther King Jr."

"Since 1969," Garrow scribbled, "a bizarre susceptibility to outlandish claims of Ray's innocence has slowly spread throughout Martin Luther King's circle of aides and associates. The first to succumb was the mercurial and once-brilliant James Bevel, who began championing Ray in 1969 before moving on to subsequent alliances with Lyndon LaRouche, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and Louis Farrakhan."

Garrow pronounced the new evidence of Ray's innocence, cited by Ray's lawyer William Pepper, as "nothing more than fabricated stories told by people motivated by the expectation of Hollywood movie riches and, in some instances, actual up-front cash payments." Garrow, now the shameless apologist for the FBI, claimed that Ray destroyed the credibility of the King family.

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## 'Religious persecution' act dubbed unacceptable

President Clinton criticized the proposed Religious Persecution Act, a hobby horse of U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.), and similar legislation, which imposes automatic sanctions on countries for various actions that are alleged to be objectionable. Clinton, speaking to 60 evangelical Christian leaders at the White House on April 27, said that such legislation puts pressure on the Executive branch to "fudge" or overlook violations, in order to carry out U.S. foreign policy without threatening or levying sanctions. He spe-

cifically cited the Religious Persecution Act, sponsored by Wolf in the House and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) in the Senate, as unacceptable. Clinton also singled out punitive legislation against Russia, Iran, and Cuba as instances of Congressional initiatives designed to undercut his ability to make foreign policy.

On April 28, White House press secretary Mike McCurry elaborated on the President's objections to such legislation: "When it comes to foreign policy-making . . . we need the flexibility required to conduct our diplomacy in a deft manner. And to have . . . Congress in effect constituting itself as 535 Secretaries of State is not a good way to conduct the foreign policy of this country."

For all his hot air about religious persecution, when so-called Christians launched a racist crusade in his district early this year, to stop the construction of an Islamic academy, Wolf and his Christian Solidarity gang were deafeningly silent.

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## S. Dakota Dems disown slander of Wiczorek

A former South Dakota Democratic Party candidate has circulated a slander against Congressional candidate Ron Wiczorek, a LaRouche Democrat who is running in the state's June 2 primary. The slander follows the ID format used in 1996 against Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche by Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler. Steve Dick, the state Democratic Party executive director, and Wiczorek's opponent in the primary, Jeff Moser, have both distanced themselves from the slander, but so far have refused to issue a statement denouncing it. Moser said that he has no affiliation with Phil Cyre, who signed the letter and enclosures mailed to party officials throughout the state, stating, "I have great respect for Ron."

Democratic Party officials from around the state began reporting to Wiczorek that they had received the scurrilous letter shortly after he had addressed the state party meeting in Huron on April 18.

Cyre's letter tells "Fellow Democrats":

"I thought you might be interested in knowing a little bit about some of the things that Lyndon LaRouche has said and done. I hope that you will pass this information onto other active Democrats before the June 2 primary." An enclosed leaflet refers to LaRouche as "neo-fascist" and "anti-Semitic," and repeats lies about him from the *Washington Post* and *New Republic*. This ID format regarding LaRouche was first invented in 1983 at a New York salon hosted by banker John Train, and financed by Richard Mellon Scaife, the money-bags now underwriting the assault against President Clinton.

According to party executive Dick, Cyre is not an official of the Democratic Party, although he was a Democratic candidate for State Senator in 1996. Dick claimed that the party did not endorse or finance the anti-Wiczorek mailing, and had no intention of endorsing either candidate in the primary.

Given the stringent laws governing Federal election campaigns, Wiczorek is now evaluating the filing of an official complaint with the Federal Election Commission regarding the mailing.

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## Black former Marshal wins suit against DOJ

Matthew Fogg, who heads the U.S. Marshals against Racism and Corruption, was awarded \$4 million in damages and reinstated into the service at the Chief Deputy Level, after he sued the Department of Justice charging that its Marshals Service was run in a racially charged, hostile environment against African-Americans. The Washington, D.C. court, under Federal Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, found the DOJ and Attorney General Janet Reno liable for racism and discriminatory treatment of Fogg, which forced him to leave active duty in 1993.

At a press conference on April 29 in front of the Federal Court House, Fogg emphasized that the "bureaucracy in the Marshals Service must be changed, and another view of law enforcement must be taken. . . . This

is not about money, although the amount of money sends a message. Something has to be done to stop the discrimination against those who are standing up for justice.”

Fogg told Schiller Institute representative Angela Vullo that this victory against the permanent bureaucracy was the beginning of a larger fight.

## Globalization is bringing sweatshops home to U.S.

“Sweatshops are proliferating because of mounting pressures created by the global labor market,” the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported on May 3, in a story on the U.S. garment industry.

“With companies hopscotching the world in search of cheap labor, there is more pressure than ever on U.S. clothing factories to produce more apparel more cheaply,” the *Inquirer* said. In 1997, some 63% of about 100 garment factories investigated in New York City were in violation of minimum-wage and overtime-pay provisions, according to the Department of Labor; the department recovered more than \$3 million in back wages in FY 1997 for nearly 8 million garment workers, as part of its “No Sweat” anti-sweatshop campaign.

“Sweatshops abroad press down on wages and working conditions in the United States,” Harley Shaiken, of the University of California at Berkeley, told the daily.

## Forbes backs Social Security privatization

Monetarist and former Presidential candidate Steve Forbes, editor-in-chief of *Forbes* magazine, put in his parsimonious two cents on behalf of Social Security privatization in the April 6 issue, under the promising headline “Making Every Man and Woman a Millionaire”: “The Dow Jones Industrial Average in this century has increased more than 120-fold despite cataclysmic wars, depressions, recessions and inflations, and is now at about 8500. If it does as well in the next

100 years, it should reach the 1,000,000 level around the 2090s. . . .

“Given that perspective, why shouldn’t we phase in a new Social Security system for younger people, in which the bulk of their payroll taxes would go to their own retirement accounts?” These retirement accounts would be invested in the stock market, according to Forbes.

What billionaire Forbes doesn’t say is that this Conservative Revolution strategy is aimed at soaking up payroll taxes in order to keep the overblown stock market bubble from bursting.

## States defeat anti-union ‘payroll deception’ acts

The AFL-CIO announced on May 1 that, more than midway through the state legislative cycle, anti-labor organizations such as the American Legislative Exchange Council and the Business Roundtable have introduced legislation to limit the ability of trade unions to influence elections in only 27 out of their target of 50 states, and they have been stopped in 13 of those states. The legislation, known by its proponents as the “Payroll Protection Act” and by organized labor as the “Payroll Deception Act,” would force unions to get written permission from individual members before any money could be spent in support of a candidate, or even on voter education.

The only state where an initiative has qualified is California, where Proposition 226 will be on the June 2 primary ballot. It would force unions to obtain a written, signed statement from every member before a penny of that member’s dues could be used anywhere in the political arena. Gov. Pete Wilson (R) has pledged to raise \$10 million for the initiative, and anti-labor groups have pledged more than \$22 million. Business outspent labor 11-1 in the 1996 Federal elections.

So far, the legislation has been defeated in Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia.

**STEELWORKERS** from Pueblo, Colorado, who own stock in Oregon Steel, took their grievances to the April 30 shareholders meeting. Oregon Steel’s subsidiary CF&I forced more than 1,000 steelworkers out on strike last Oct. 3. In response to the protest, Oregon Steel chairman Tom Boklund abruptly adjourned the meeting and left the room.

**NEW YORK** Governor George Pataki (R) was in Israel in early May to give aid and comfort to his fellow right-winger, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. “I think it is counter-productive for the United States to try to dictate policy toward the people of Israel,” he told the daily *Ha’aretz* on May 4. Pataki’s friend, Ron Lauder, of the Estée Lauder cosmetics fortune, who bankrolled Netanyahu’s campaign, has just purchased 20-25% of the daily, *Ma’ariv*.

**LOUISIANA** State Rep. Charles Hudson and three co-sponsors introduced a bill into the House of Representatives on May 5, which would impose a 1% tax on securities transactions in the state. Similar legislation has been introduced in New Hampshire and Pennsylvania.

**SOROS FACULTY** scholars Drs. Diane Meier and R. Sean Morrison have published “A National Survey of Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia in the United States,” in the April 23 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The bias of the survey can be discerned from an earlier article in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* by Meier, which extolls the “potentially superior” features of self-inflicted terminal hydration over “physician-assisted suicide.”

**A PENNSYLVANIA** legislator reports that, in a recent hearing on school districts’ losses of \$70 million from derivatives investments, he told the other legislators, “Lyndon LaRouche warned us about this a long time ago, and he was right. When you’re right, you’re right.”