

National News

Judge denies habeas to LaRouche associates

U.S. District Court Judge Jackson Kiser of Roanoke, Virginia dismissed the Federal *habeas corpus* petitions for LaRouche associates Anita and Paul Gallagher and Larry Hecht on Oct. 8, who are serving 39, 34, and 33 years on phony charges of violating Virginia's securities laws. (The Virginia judicial persecution of LaRouche and his associates was documented in *EIR*, on Oct. 16.) In dismissing the *habeas* on mostly procedural grounds, Kiser ignored the more than 100-page petitions, backed up by volumes of evidence proving that Gallagher, Gallagher, and Hecht, were totally innocent of the charges, and were the victims of a political frame-up. Kiser's ruling is so brash, that he didn't even wait for the Nov. 20 oral argument before dismissing the case.

The ruling, once again, demonstrates the fear on the part of the Federal and state judiciary in Virginia, of allowing a full hearing on the LaRouche cases. That hearing would show, what a growing number of citizens and statesmen around the world know: that the same enemies of humanity who are attempting a coup against the President were behind the railroad of LaRouche and his associates.

Kiser's ruling will now be appealed to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge gives 'Chinagate' prosecutions black eye

Federal Judge Paul Friedman, who is presiding over the criminal prosecution of Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie, an Arkansas restaurateur and friend of President Clinton, ruled on Oct. 9 that the Justice Department had seriously misinterpreted the law regarding election campaign contributions by foreign nationals. The judge ruled that foreign citizens are only prohibited from making "hard money" contributions (which directly support individual candidates), but that foreigners are not barred from contributing "soft money" to parties or organizations (which is used for general purposes, not to elect

specific candidates).

Experts noted that this takes a major chunk out of the Justice Department's case against Trie, and that it will also affect the case against Thai businesswoman and Democratic Party fundraiser Pauline Kanchanalak.

The ruling "goes a long way to restoring sanity to this whole campaign finance investigation," said Trie's attorney Reid Weingarten. "I'm hopeful that the Justice Department will take this opportunity to reevaluate the prosecutions they've already brought."

The same judge had dismissed five of six charges brought against another Democratic fundraiser, Maria Hsia in September. In the instant ruling, Friedman said that Justice prosecutors had stretched the law in a way that "defies logic."

'Loudoun Loonies' fail to turn Dems vs. Clinton

The faction of the Loudoun County, Virginia Democratic Committee known as the "Loudoun Loonies" failed in its effort to squash a support resolution for President Clinton on Oct. 10. This faction has attempted to oust LaRouche Democrats because they are allegedly not "bona fide" Democrats, the argument used in 1996 by former Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler against LaRouche's Presidential candidacy. That exclusion is the subject of an ongoing Federal suit by LaRouche and some of his 1996 Presidential campaign delegates. The irrationality of the Loudoun Loonies has embarrassed both the state and much of the local party.

At the Oct. 10 meeting, the Issues Committee, controlled by the Loudoun Loonies, had killed a resolution defending the President, and had no plans to mention their decision, until longtime Committee member Anne Curley demanded an explanation. Committee chair Don Tenney said they had decided that the resolution, "wouldn't help us win elections." A visibly angered Curley said that if this matter couldn't be considered, then "perhaps it was time not to be a member of this Committee anymore."

Loudoun party chairman Dave "Whitless" Whitmer told Curley that she could make a request of the whole Committee for

action. Ann Robinson made a motion calling for Congress to treat the issue of impeachment with "fairness," "dignity," and "and impartiality," and to act "expeditiously"; the motion was amended to add that Loudoun Democrats did not believe that any of the charges against the President rise to impeachable offenses. The resolution was passed overwhelmingly.

Earlier, "Whitless" Whitmer and Vice Chair Til Bennie frantically pulled literature distributed by the LaRouche Democrats from people's hands and tore it up, claiming that they had made a rule that political literature couldn't be distributed to committee members.

Glenn's Shuttle flight sparks national optimism

Sen. John Glenn (D-Oh.) and the nation, are gearing up for the Oct. 29 launch of the Space Shuttle flight on which he will be a crew member, and, at 77, the oldest person to fly in space. At an Oct. 8 press conference at Cape Canaveral, Glenn chastised the press for covering the "personal aspects" of the mission, and ignoring the science: There are 83 experiments scheduled for the nine-day mission, some of which relate to the parallels between the processes of aging and adaptation of microgravity, in which Glenn will be a key subject.

At the Kansas Cosmodrome in Hutchinson, senior citizens are taking Space Shuttle training and participating in mission simulations. The American Federation for Aging Research is airing TV spots, featuring Glenn, who discusses the importance of space research to help keep seniors healthy and productive.

On Oct. 8, the *Washington Post* "Style" section reports that media carping "got drowned out," and describes Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962, as an "authentic, untarnished hero." The effect of his going back into space has been a kind of "reverse Rip van Winkle," the *Post* says, since "it is as if his astonishing return to space had reawakened a whole segment of society." *Life* magazine features Glenn in Shuttle training photos taken by an 80-year-old photographer who had covered Glenn in 1962.