

# National News

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## DiGenova: Israeli spy Pollard must stay in jail

On Nov. 17, Joseph DiGenova, who had prosecuted the espionage case against Jonathan Jay Pollard in 1985, told a seminar at the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine that Pollard should stay in prison. In about 30 minutes, he demolished any argument that Pollard's crimes were less serious than other famous spy cases because he was spying for a U.S. ally.

Among the points he made were: Our allies frequently have interests that are significantly different from ours. They would like to have better intelligence so they can stop us from doing what they don't like. And, an ally may decide to trade stolen intelligence to an opponent of the United States, in exchange for something the ally wants.

DiGenova declared that Pollard "has nothing to do with peace," and "to link him to an important process [such as Middle East peace] is an insult to those conducting the negotiations and to those who have died on both sides."

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## Billington files appeal with Supreme Court

Michael Billington, who has been a political prisoner in Virginia for more than seven years, filed a petition on Nov. 17 with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the Court to throw out his conviction on state charges of securities violations, because his lawyer went berserk on the eve of trial, and tried to have Billington declared mentally incompetent for wanting to prove his innocence before a jury. At issue, is whether the Constitutional right to a loyal attorney, and the right to testify on one's own behalf, extends to political associates of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., like Billington. Billington is serving an outrageous 77-year sentence.

Billington had hired the late Brian Gettings to represent him, with the understanding that Gettings would present Billington's

case to a jury. A few days before the trial, Gettings had a closed-door meeting with the Judge, Clifford R. Weckstein, and prosecutor John Russell, where Gettings was pressured to have Billington waive his right to a jury trial. Weckstein threatened that he would not reduce any sentence meted out by a jury. Russell's handwritten notes, made public years after the trial, revealed that Gettings broke the attorney-client privilege, giving the judge and prosecutor privileged, and sometimes false, information about Billington's case. When Gettings conveyed this threat, Billington refused to buckle, insisting that he wanted to prove his innocence.

Gettings then tried to have Billington declared mentally incompetent, charging that he was being "directed" by others, including LaRouche, for insisting on a jury trial. After a psychiatrist found Billington perfectly sane, Gettings tried to force him to undergo another psychiatric examination by a center tied into the FBI and Virginia Attorney General's office, i.e., the very apparatus that had done the footwork for the "Get LaRouche" operations.

With Gettings, the judge, and the prosecutor all working together, Billington asked for another lawyer to represent him; Weckstein refused. At trial, prosecution witnesses were coached to lie, false evidence was presented, Russell frequently made false representations in court, and massive amounts of exculpatory evidence was withheld. Finally, because of Gettings's disloyalty, Billington was unable to testify in his own defense.

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## Thousands of children go hungry in Massachusetts

A 70-page report made public on Nov. 16 by U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II (D-Mass.), indicates the depth of the economic depression in the United States. The report, put together by Project Bread, will be formally released on Dec. 1. Statewide, there are 60,000 children who go hungry every day and 15,000 children who are chronically malnourished, according to the findings of the year-long study by doctors and

hunger specialists.

Some 63% of emergency food programs told researchers that the demand for food aid rose in 1997; 35% of clients are children; 27% of clients have a job. The study's interviews indicate that many families strapped with low wages, high rents, and mounting bills sacrifice food to meet other demands.

Worse, on Dec. 1, some 7,000 families are slated to lose welfare benefits, as part of the 1996 federal welfare bill. Nationwide, 6 million adults and children have been cut from welfare, according to Manpower Demonstration Research Corp., which tracks welfare statistics.

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## Scaife lawyer attacks LaRouche defense

Mark Levin, the president of the Richard Mellon Scaife-bankrolled Landmark Legal Foundation, took a swipe at Lyndon LaRouche in the Nov. 18 *Washington Times*, in a review of James Carville's new book *And the Horse He Rode In On—The People v. Kenneth Starr*. Levin calls Carville's book a "demagogic diatribe" which, he says, "insists that Mr. Clinton's legal and ethical problems are not of his own making, but are the creations of his 'enemies,' which include philanthropists Richard Mellon Scaife and Peter Smith, the Rev. Pat Robertson and the Rev. Jerry Falwell, Paula Corbin Jones, Sens. Jesse Helms and Lauch Faircloth . . . David Hale, the *American Spectator*, Landmark Legal Foundation, and scores of others in and out of government."

"The only person missing in his anti-Clinton conspiracy," Levin continues, "seems to be the Queen of England. This is the stuff of Lyndon LaRouche, is it not?"

Last Jan. 30, Levin attacked LaRouche and *New Federalist* weekly newspaper for saying that Landmark Legal Foundation had paid Kenneth Starr to write an *amicus curiae* brief for Paula Jones. (It turns out that Starr didn't have to be paid by Landmark to prepare the *amicus* brief; Starr was doing it for free.) Levin whipped out his laundry list about whether Bill Clinton had committed perjury, obstructed justice, etc. He concluded: "The longer journalists chase Mrs.

## Briefly

**JAMES CARVILLE** told CNN that the Republicans had “forgotten the rule of holes.” He said that the Republicans’ assault on the Presidency has gotten them “in a jam, they don’t know how to get out. . . . And the rule of holes stated thusly is: ‘When you’ve dug yourself in a hole, the first thing you do is, stop digging.’”

**DEVIANT DEMOCRAT** Paul McHale (Pa.) has led a fight to award Teddy Roosevelt with the Congressional Medal of Honor for his charge up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American war. But, as the *Wall Street Journal* of Nov. 13 points out: “A decade-long effort by Congress to honor forgotten black war heroes has culminated in a strange result: Theodore Roosevelt . . . may soon receive the Medal of Honor—for a battle some historians say was won by black soldiers.”

**THE ANTI-DEFAMATION** League was ordered by a California Appeals Court on Nov. 17 to disclose documents it obtained illegally or used for illegal purposes. In 1994, San Francisco police discovered that the ADL had been spying on some 10,000 Americans, including allies of Lyndon LaRouche, and turning illegally obtained police records over to Israel and South Africa.

**THE ‘TENNESSEE** Tribune,’ a black weekly in Nashville, ran the headline “Call for Clinton to Appoint LaRouche Economic Adviser Gaining Media Attention,” as its editorial page lead in the Oct. 29-Nov. 4 issue.

**JOHN KENNEDY’S** assassination has had new light thrown on it by the release in early November of nearly a half-million pages of records, newly compiled by the Assassination Records Review Board, to the National Archives. The board’s staff reported that in examinations of the brain allegedly removed from President Kennedy’s body, two different brains may have been used, implying that the substitute brain was the one that proved the “lone assassin” theory against Oswald.

Clinton’s and Lyndon LaRouche’s nonexistent right-wing conspiracy, the longer these questions will remain unanswered.”

### Social Security changes would cut black males

The new AFL-CIO website on Social Security points out that the average life expectancy of African-American males is 66.1 years, as compared to 73.8 years for white men. Since every major proposal to privatize the system would raise the age at which full benefits can be collected to 70, most African-American males will never collect full benefits.

The AFL-CIO is highlighting the Social Security privatization fight because it was a major issue in the Nov. 3 mid-term elections and will be a major focus of the 106th Congress. Hearings began on Nov. 20 in Congress on the raft of legislation now pending. President Clinton is going to host a White House conference on Social Security on Dec. 8-9, at which privatization is expected to be on the agenda, together with other proposals.

### Expose Scaife funding of ABA security committee

At the mid-November annual conference of the American Bar Association, the new chair of the Standing Committee on Law and National Security took the unusual step of publicly acknowledging Richard Mellon Scaife’s funding of the committee. Elizabeth Rindskopf, the committee chair (and former General Counsel to both the National Security Agency and the CIA), cited “a generous grant from the Scaife Foundation” in her welcoming remarks.

Also at the conference was Jerome Shestack, the immediate past president of the ABA, who has been publicly critical of Kenneth Starr and his ties to Scaife. Shestack is now the official liaison from the ABA to the Standing Committee. *EIR* asked Shestack about the Scaife financing. “I am con-

cerned,” he replied, adding that he does not like a lot of the things done by the Scaife Foundation; he indicated that he will make some inquiries about the Scaife involvement. *EIR* also asked Rindskopf if she had any concerns about Scaife, in light of his activities against the President. “Absolutely not,” she repeated, three times for emphasis.

The Standing Committee was founded in 1962 by a group which included Morris Liebman, Lewis Powell, Dan McMichael, and Frank Barnett (the latter was associated with the Smith Richardson Foundation and the Scaife-funded National Strategy Information Center of New York.) As *EIR* has reported, Executive Order 12333, which enabled the “Get LaRouche” task force, as well as George Bush’s dirty Contra war, was a project of the Standing Committee.

### Health experts call for universal health coverage

On Nov. 17, the American Public Health Association held a press conference to call on Congress to pass the Patients’ Bill of Rights that Congressional Democrats were blocked from bringing to the floor during the 105th Congress. APHA President Dr. Quentin Young specifically identified the entry into health care of venture capital during the Reagan years as the source of the problem in for-profit managed care. He called for-profit managed care a “tragic failure” that has not only failed to cut costs, but has also seen the number of uninsured people climb from 37 million in 1993 to 43.9 million today.

Executive Director Dr. Mohamed Akhter called this an issue of “human dignity.” He said that the underlying principle is that the physician will do his best to bring the patient back to health. “If you insert anything else into that relationship, you break the 5,000-year-old covenant between the patient and the physician.”

However, both Dr. Young and Dr. Akhter admitted that the legislation only helps those who already have health insurance. “The real solution,” Dr. Akhter said, “is universal coverage.”