
National News

Bush Wants \$70 Billion More For Iraq War

The *Washington Post* on Oct. 26 reported that the Bush Administration will seek \$70 billion more to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to a number of Congressional, Pentagon, and White House officials interviewed by the newspaper, by early next year, President Bush will seek \$70 billion in additional war funding from Congress, if he is re-elected.

Already, Pentagon officials are scrambling to come up with the supplemental request, which is to be finalized shortly after the Nov. 2 elections. This \$70 billion supplement to the \$25 billion and \$87 billion that Congress approved in the past year, brings the "official" cost of the Iraq and Afghan military operations to date to \$225 billion. However, this figure represents only a portion of the total military cost, as it does not include the replacement costs of ammunition and other materiel, and other huge budget components.

GOP's DeLay, Cantor Lash Out at LaRouche

The National Republican Campaign Committee on Oct. 21 sent out a press release, headlined "Congressman Eric Cantor Calls on Texas Democrats to Apologize for Connection with Anti-Semitic Lyndon LaRouche; Calls on Morrison, Frost, and Pelosi To Disavow LaRouche Involvement in House Campaigns."

Cantor (R-Va.) demanded an apology from Texas Democrats, including candidate Richard Morrison, who is running against the embattled ultra-conservative House Majority Leader Tom DeLay; Martin Frost (D-Tex.); and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.).

Cantor offered no evidence to support his libelous and absurd charge that LaRouche is an "anti-Semite." He went on to say that "Richard Morrison's choice to

host events coordinated and apparently sponsored by Lyndon LaRouche indicates that Texas democrats are either comfortable with LaRouche's anti-Semitic ideas, or are so incompetent that they should not be trusted to lead our nation."

Up until this communiqué, DeLay had refused to even acknowledge that he had an opponent. His voter support has been slipping in the polls.

Then, on Oct. 27, the *Pasadena Citizen*, a Texas newspaper, published an article headlined "DeLay, Morrison Swap Charges." DeLay is quoted saying, "LaRouche is a con felon and all I can tell you is that Mr. Morrison has supported and campaigned with LaRouche followers." Morrison is quoted replying that DeLay is using his connections in Washington to fight his own battles. Morrison attacked DeLay for not addressing the issues facing voters in the district, and challenged him to come forward and address his recent legal and ethical problems openly, "instead of using his Washington friends to lodge attacks."

Lyndon LaRouche characterized DeLay's response as "a big mistake," adding that he is "obviously in a lot of trouble."

Conservative Theologian Nails Bush Economics

Glen Harold Stassen of Fuller Theological Seminary, a conservative theologian, attacked the Bush Administration for economic policies that promote abortion, in a commentary in the *Houston Chronicle* on Oct. 17, titled "Why Abortion Rate Is Up in Bush Years."

Abortions were at a 24-year low when Bush came to the Presidency. Federal abortion statistics only go to 2000, and some states do not report, but Stassen and co-author Gary Krane got data for 16 states from Minnesota Citizens for Life, which uses the Guttmacher Institute's studies. Extrapolated to the nation, they project, for example (in an Internet exchange after publication of the commentary), an increase in abortions for 2002 of 21,500, instead of a decrease of 28,000 expected from the steady downward

trend of the preceding years.

But the core argument is not statistical: "Two-thirds of women who have abortions cite 'inability to afford a child' as their primary reason. In the Bush presidency, unemployment rates increased half again. Not since Herbert Hoover had there been a net loss of jobs during a presidency. . . . Average real incomes decreased, and for seven years the minimum wage has not been raised to match inflation. . . . Half of all women who abort say they do not have a reliable mate. And men who are jobless usually do not marry. . . . As male unemployment increases, marriages fall and abortion rises.

"Economic policy and abortion. . . form one moral imperative. Rhetoric is hollow, mere tinkling brass, without health care, insurance, jobs, child care, and a living wage."

Stassen is an initiator of the theologians' attack on Bush's "theology of war."

Ohio Judge Rips Voter Disenfranchisement

The Federal judge who, during the week of Oct. 11, issued an injunction against Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell for ordering election officials to unlawfully restrict provisional balloting on Nov. 2, chastised Blackwell for issuing confusing instructions to local officials which would disenfranchise many voters, the *Toledo Blade* reported on Oct. 21.

After Judge James Carr had enjoined Republican Blackwell from enforcing his previous order to local officials, Blackwell then submitted a revised order for the court's approval on Oct. 20. The judge was no happier with Blackwell's new order, charging that "Blackwell apparently seeks to accomplish the same result in Ohio in 2004 that occurred in Florida in 2000."

"By [failing] to inform election officials that they must permit persons to vote provisionally even when they believe such persons are not eligible to vote, Blackwell's proposed directive would disenfranchise all such individuals," the judge said.