

# National News

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## Witchhunt Against House Democratic Staffer

In a move reminiscent of the 2002-03 silencing of the House and Senate intelligence committees' attempts to probe intelligence concerning the buildup to the Iraq War, and the war on terrorism, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Peter Hoekstra (R-Mich.) suspended a Democratic staffer on suspicion of leaking a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) report on terrorism to the *New York Times*. The NIE was a big blow to Bush, because it showed that the terrorist threat has increased because of the Iraq War.

The only "evidence" is that Rep. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.) said that the staffer had requested a copy of the NIE three days before it was leaked. LaHood's sophistry was that "coincidence" in Washington is "rare."

Democratic ranking member Jane Harman of California is protesting, claiming that Hoekstra is taking revenge on her for releasing a report on disgraced ex-Congressman Duke Cunningham (R), who was convicted of taking bribes.

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## 'Wage Insurance' Meets Democratic Opposition

Together with expansion of Medicare into a more universal health insurance, some economists with the Hamilton Project are pushing for a Democratic economic policy which embraces globalization and free trade, and uses new forms of "wage insurance" to compensate for outsourcing and the service economy—accepting both as inevitable and beneficial for growth.

The proposed Democratic policy, as explained in several Hamilton Project pamphlets (viz. "Fundamental Restructuring of Unemployment Insurance"), would establish a universal payroll tax, building up a fund to pay workers temporary "wage compensation" when they lose well-paying jobs and have to take lower-paying service jobs. The "wage insurance" can also apply to disability or illness job loss; and in some ver-

sions of the proposal, would entirely replace the 1935-vintage Federal unemployment insurance program.

Since the idea is a new universal payroll tax, workers would, in effect, take a small pay cut, to partially, and temporarily, insure themselves against—a large pay cut.

Basically, the idea and its sponsors accept the loss of skilled and well-paying industrial jobs to outsourcing and globalization, as irreversible and positive for the economy. The idea is generating opposition from labor, and in Congress.

On Oct. 19, Democratic Congressional aides reported to LaRouche PAC a "revolt from below against globalization" among many veteran aides who are anticipating Democratic victories in Congressional elections. This, they say, is supported/joined by some few senior Democrats in the House, but not by the Democratic leadership.

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## Bush Red-Lines Defense Authorization Bill

On Oct. 17, the same day that President Bush held a televised ceremony to sign the torture bill, he quietly accompanied his signing of the 2007 Defense Authorization Act with the issue of a "signing statement" objecting to no fewer than 17 provisions of the bill. Among requirements that Bush asserts he may ignore, are one that his defense budget submissions include Afghan and Iraq War funding and a detailed justification of the war funds. He also objected to the requirement that he name a special coordinator of policy for North Korea within 60 days, and that he provide Congress with a report on the program to replace some nuclear warheads on Trident submarine-launched ballistic missiles with conventional warheads.

The statement says, as do they all: "The executive branch shall construe these provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President deems necessary and expedient."

Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich), the ranking

Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, was unaware of the signing statement until he was told about it by a reporter at a press conference the next day. Asked about the requirement that funding for the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars be included in the regular defense budget, Levin said, "I'm very dubious he'll abide by it. He's ignored it when we've stated it before." Levin pointed out that this was "a bipartisan expression about responsible budgeting . . . to ignore them in the regular budget is to be irresponsible. But that's the way he's handled the funding of this war."

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## John 'Torture' Yoo Targets Supreme Court

In an op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal* on Oct. 18, former Justice Department official John Yoo, author of some of the DOJ's worst memos advocating torture of "enemy combatants," claims that the judiciary was the big loser with the signing of the Military Commissions Act, which he calls "a stinging rebuke to the Supreme Court."

Yoo calls the Supreme Court's *Hamdan* decision an unprecedented attempt to "intrude into war policy," and "a stunning power grab." Yoo gloats that Congress and the President told the Court to get out of the war on terror, and stripped the courts of *habeas corpus* jurisdiction.

Lyndon LaRouche's comment was on the Yoo article was: Don't these people remember the Nazis? The Nazis passed laws announcing measures like those now presented by Bush. What happened after the war? The Nazi regime was declared an unlawful state! This so-called law has no more authority than the measures that were ruled at Nuremberg to be crimes against humanity. They transferred the responsibility from the courts of the offending nation to an international forum, to rule on crimes against humanity. No U.S. law can exempt Bush and Cheney from prosecution under those conditions. You want to be a Nazi, you'll get the treatment of a Nazi. Walk like a Nazi, talk like a Nazi, you'll fry like a Nazi. Bush has declared himself to be a fascist, although he can't spell it yet.