

# National News

## Charge N.J. bank chief tied to Dope, Inc.

Campaign supporters of former presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche are blanketing New Jersey with a flyer on some of the charges that will be used by LaRouche campaign lawyers in a court battle against the First Fidelity Bank of New Jersey. The case involves the bank stealing \$200,000 from two LaRouche campaign accounts. Robert R. Ferguson, president of First Fidelity Bank of New Jersey, has been ordered to appear for deposition by LaRouche lawyers Dec. 12.

The bank is still holding \$170,000 of Independent Democrats for LaRouche funds, arguing that they are security against credit card "chargebacks." The bank, however, has admitted that there was no pattern of high chargebacks on the IDL credit card account. They "debited" the account because they were called by the FBI.

The bank had been unsuccessful in its attempt to prohibit the distribution of the leaflet by obtaining a temporary restraining order. A judge decided that to prevent its distribution—under the title, "Is New Jersey First National State Bank president linked to Dope, Inc.?"—would be to interfere with First Amendment rights.

"Who is Robert R. Ferguson, Jr.," the leaflet begins. "Probably the most important thing about him is that he has been a political front man for the casino gambling interests in New Jersey for years. Given that these interests, in particular Resorts International, are centers of dope-money laundering, what does that make Robert Ferguson?"

"Ferguson got in on the ground floor as a member of Gov. Brendan Byrne's committee to open up New Jersey for casino gambling. When some legislators proposed higher taxes for the casinos, Ferguson campaigned heavily to prevent this assault on the casinos."

The leaflet explains that Resorts International was first funded "with millions transferred from the Geneva-based Banque de Crédit Internationale—one of the biggest

dope-money laundering operations in the world—and the Investors Overseas Services of swindler Bernie Cornfield."

## Will Mondale-Ferraro crimes be washed away?

Both Walter Mondale and his mob-tainted vice-presidential candidate, Geraldine Ferraro, were found in violation of law, in separate government-agency findings the first week in December. Whether any governmental agency will exercise its responsibility to call them to account remains to be seen.

The Federal Election Commission's handling of the Mondale campaign charges is clearly a whitewash. The FEC ruled against Mondale for accepting \$350,000 in illegal campaign contributions, having "found reason to believe" the Mondale campaign broke the law. However, the commission fined Mondale all of \$18,500. This is in marked contrast to the \$15,000 penalty it imposed on Citizens for LaRouche in 1980 for alleged infractions involving only \$10-15,000. Furthermore, by a 4-2 vote, the FEC agreed to take no further action against the Mondale campaign or the delegate committees, despite the fact that there is ample evidence indicating that criminal violations of campaign financing statutes were involved.

FEC Commissioner Frank Reiche, who dissented from the decision, charged that the commission should have imposed a much stiffer fine and called the decision "without precedent."

The evidence amassed by the House Ethics Committee in the Ferraro case may yet fuel probes by the Justice Department or—less likely—the FEC, even though the House committee decision represents only a "technical reprimand" of Ferraro. The bipartisan House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct concluded Dec. 2, by an 8-2 vote, that the three-term congresswoman had violated the Ethics in Government Act at least 10 times through improper filings on financial disclosure forms.

Last summer, Rep. George Hansen (R-

Ida.) was sentenced to a prison term for doing essentially the same thing.

According to Washington attorney John Banzhaf, who months ago petitioned the Justice Department and the FEC to scrutinize Ferraro's tangled finances, the Ethics Committee vote represents "an open invitation" to the FEC and Justice Department to pursue inquiries into Ferraro. The Justice Department confirmed Dec. 3 that it has the Ferraro matter "under review."

## AIDS cases in U.S. up 73%

As of Nov. 26, 1984 a total of 6,993 cases of AIDS have been reported in the United States and 3,342 of these individuals have died. This represents a 48% fatality rate and the number of reported cases has risen 74% over the number reported in the same period last year. The fatality rate is higher among affected children, and is 73% among victims diagnosed before January.

Four states—New York, New Jersey, California, and Florida—account for 75% of the reported cases. The disease has remained primarily confined to four major risk groups and the proportion of adult patients outside these groups has remained stable. The risk groups continue to be male homosexuals, intravenous drug users, Haitian immigrants, and hemophiliacs. "Although the number of AIDS cases being reported continues to increase in all patient groups, the rate of increase among Haitian AIDS patients is significantly less than among the remaining groups," according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta.

Discovery of viruses known as HTLV-3 and LAV, which are believed to cause AIDS, was announced by U.S. and French scientists in April. This has led to a blood test which detects exposure to the virus. Initial results of studies of exposure are "very disturbing," according to Dr. Harold Jaffe of the CDC. Exposure to the virus is quite high among certain groups and may approach 30-50 times the number of presently reported cases. Between 5 and 20% of these persons

will develop the disease over the next five years.

## D.C. Baptists ministers hear Schiller spokesman

Dr. Cleveland Sparrow addressed a meeting of the Washington, D.C. Baptist ministers' conference Dec. 3 on the deficiency of "relief efforts" in dealing with the Africa crisis. Sparrow is a founding member of the Schiller Institute, and a Baptist minister who has been battling "Global 2000" genocide policies in the nation's capital.

Sparrow reported on some of the conclusions reached on the Africa question at the Schiller Institute's Third International Conference, convened near Washington Nov. 24-25. He polemicized against the commonplace notion of "relief" efforts for the continent: "If you give these agencies money for food aid, it might be like giving a drunk a dollar. . . . We have to change the policies which have prevented high-technology development of the continent."

At the end of Sparrow's presentation, he was given a "vote of appreciation" by the ministers' body.

## LaRouche candidates win 80 Washington precincts

Candidates backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee won 80 precinct committee positions in the state of Washington in this year's general election, it was announced Dec. 3; 78 were Democrats, 2 Republicans. The NDPC had fielded 140 candidates for the posts in the Nov. 4 election.

On Dec. 8, county Democratic Party reorganization meetings will be held for King County (Seattle) and Pierce County (Tacoma), which will elect county party officials, state central committee members, and legislative district officials. In King County, LaRouche Democrats will field a slate of six

candidates, and plan to introduce resolutions backing a crash program for beam weapons and putting into effect economic policies corresponding to the "inalienable rights of man."

Three years ago, when the NDPC succeeded in introducing a resolution against the usurious interest-rate policies of Fed Chairman Paul Volcker, the state party leadership, led by Karen Marchiaro, passed a new rule requiring that at least 25 precinct committeemen sign any proposed resolution. "We will obviously have no problem with these kind of formalities at this point," said Mark Calney, head of the state NDPC.

## Cure for 'bubble boys,' says Texas doctor

According to Dr. William T. Shearer of the Texas Children's Hospital, the recovery of a child from a once-incurable immune-deficiency disease is credited to techniques learned in treating the disorder that killed "David," Houston's famed "bubble boy," last February. Dr. Shearer made the claim in *American Medical News*.

He cited 18-month-old T.J. Davis of Caldwell, Idaho, as the first "graduate" of the David Center, named for the 12-year-old who suffered from the same severe combined immune deficiency, who died while T.J. was at the Houston hospital. Now, T.J. is living at home with his parents, Shearer said. T.J. received, and his body apparently has accepted, the marrow from his father, Terrance J. Davis, Sr.

David, never publicly identified beyond his first name, spent all but the last few weeks of his life in a sterile bubble to protect him from exposure to germs his body could not counter. He contracted an infection during a bone marrow implant and died Feb. 22.

The advances that saved T.J. and hold out hope for many other children were based on the knowledge Houston doctors gained in 12 years of treating David, Shearer said.

The "pull the plug" crowd headed by Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm has not commented on Shearer's report.

## Briefly

● **HENRY KISSINGER**, in one of the stranger episodes in a city famous for its strange episodes, was given the "Man of the Year Award" by the New York City Police Department's Honor Legion Dec. 2 at a special reception.

● **DR. ROBERT COOPER**, director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, has admitted on the record that the Soviets lead the United States in most areas of advanced beam defense technology, including x-ray lasers and the optics required for boost-phase defense. Cooper told senators at closed-door Armed Services Committee hearings on Soviet ABM programs Dec. 5 that the Soviets have deployed interceptor defenses and ABM radars in a "conventional" breakout of the ABM Treaty.

● **ROBERT JASTROW**, founder of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies and a renowned astrophysicist, issued a withering attack on American scientific networks opposed to the Strategic Defense Initiative, charging that their opposition to the beam-weapons program is based on ideology, not reason. "As with the rest of us," he charged, "in matters on which they have strong feelings, their rational judgments can be clouded by their ideological preconceptions."

● **FBI DIRECTOR** William Webster got workers at abortion and "family planning" clinics around the country mad when he said 20 incidents of bombing and arson recorded against such facilities did not fit the bureau's definition of terrorism. *EIR*, while not wishing to interfere in the fight between the FBI and Planned Parenthood, proposes that federal funding be cut off to both.