

National News

LaRouche addresses Oklahoma state legislature

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche made a surprise appearance before the Oklahoma State Legislature the afternoon of Feb. 9. He spoke for 10 minutes each before separate sessions of the House and Senate.

LaRouche was introduced to the Senate by Senator Stipe, dean of the body, and to the House by Rep. John Monks, head of the Appropriations Committee.

LaRouche said that what happened in mid-October 1987 was the beginning of a financial crash comparable to the 1929-32 period, but this time, it would be worse. Any attempted bailout "would be insane." Tulsa newspapers and television newscasts, in reporting on his remarks, headlined LaRouche's denunciation of the "idiots in Washington" on this issue.

LaRouche called for using the regulatory powers of government to defend the dollar, keep the local banks functioning, defend U.S. bonds, and using tariffs and other regulatory means available to the government to protect the economy. Then, he said, we can move forward toward economic recovery. "What is required to crank up the U.S. economy is \$5 trillion of federal credit at 1-2% interest rates, restricted to capital improvements in infrastructure, particularly those in agriculture and industry, and to help finance U.S. exports."

We are facing a 50% collapse of federal, state, and local tax revenues, said LaRouche. This could cause a disaster at the state and local level, since state and local governments cannot operate with a deficit. Lendable credit must be used to maintain the tax base.

"State and local government institutions, businesses, and investors must be involved in determining how to channel this credit to vital infrastructural projects, as necessary to maintain the tax base. It is this kind of cooperation between federal, state, and local governments that will get us out of the depression and prevent a full-scale economic collapse."

One of the legislators moved that LaRouche's comments be entered into the permanent record of the state assembly.

Galvin: Arms pacts don't save money

NATO Supreme Commander Gen. John R. Galvin has announced that Americans should not expect agreements on nuclear and conventional arms control to save money, the *New York Times* reported.

Saying that some people see such agreements "as something that is going to take from their shoulders this necessity for bearing the burden of security," Galvin asserted, "I would caution them and everybody else that . . . that's not a reasonable position and it could be very dangerous."

Galvin, who spoke at the Pentagon, said that the price of agreements on arms control should be modernization of both nuclear and conventional forces, including continued production of MX missiles, the Stealth bomber, and a number of other programs.

"If we think we can flatten out things right now and be assured of pretty good security," Galvin said, "I think we are dead wrong."

He added that a new military strategy would have to be devised if Congress did not appropriate funds for modernization. "We will have to adjust the strategy to the realities of this world," he observed.

Asked whether that would mean cutting the 350,000 troops in Europe or reducing U.S. commitments elsewhere, Galvin said, "I don't know whether I really want to speculate on that. I think that would be a little dangerous."

SDI test launched after five-day delay

An ambitious, \$250 million test flight of a Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) system lifted off at 5:07 p.m. EST on the evening of Feb. 8 from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

There had been a five-day delay in the launch. The test was pronounced a success by the SDIO, which said it had accomplished all its goals.

The test rocket was a specially modified Delta-181. It carried a complex 6,000 pound instrument package in its second stage.

The instrument package included multiple sensors and 15 small satellites that were ejected in space. The mission lasted 12 hours and covered eight orbits.

Officials called it the most complex mission ever attempted by the SDI program. Its primary goal was to determine how well the space sensors could distinguish between the small satellites—which were designed to simulate Soviet warheads—and potential decoys.

According to Army Col. Raymond Ross, speaking while the mission was in progress, the payload was to "perform over 200 complex maneuvers while conducting sensing operations . . . related to the detection and tracking of ballistic missiles. Approximately 100 ground-based radars and aircraft around the world are monitoring the mission."

Another SDI Delta flight is planned for later in the year.

Ross, a top SDI official, said the mission was within the bounds of current treaties with the Soviet Union.

Court says Army can't bar homosexuals

A three-judge panel in California has ruled that the armed forces can no longer ban homosexuals from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Incredibly, the court saw fit to compare the Army ban on homosexuals to laws against interracial marriages, and called the ban unconstitutional.

The panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in California has ruled that discrimination against homosexuals who wish to serve in the armed forces violates the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

Judge William A. Norris, who wrote the 60-page majority opinion, ordered the Army to consider the application for re-enlistment

of a 14-year Army veteran, Sgt. Perry Watkins, "without regard to his sexual orientation."

"Laws that limit the acceptable focus of one's sexual desires to members of the opposite sex, like laws that limit one's choice of spouse [or sexual partner] to members of the same race, cannot withstand constitutional scrutiny absent a compelling government justification," Norris wrote.

All three judges on the panel, who handed down their decision Feb. 11, were appointees of President Jimmy Carter.

The Army said it will appeal for the decision to be referred to the 9th Circuit's full 11-judge court, and, if necessary will take its appeal all the way to the Supreme Court. The armed forces have traditionally held that the presence of homosexuals in the ranks has a bad effect on the morale of troops.

Army plans germ warfare lab in Utah

The U.S. Army plans to construct a laboratory in Utah to conduct sophisticated experiments with deadly germ warfare agents. The Pentagon made the announcement on Feb. 4, saying that the laboratory would be one of the most secure in the world, and that the program involved was defensive in nature.

The Army plans to build the \$5.4 million facility at Dugway Proving Ground in the Utah desert. It will be used to test equipment being developed for defense against enemy biological warfare attack.

Among the organisms to be studied are those capable of causing anthrax, Q fever, tularemia, and encephalitis.

Air Force cancels ASAT program

The U.S. Air Force, without formal announcement, has canceled the U.S. anti-satellite (ASAT) program due to what Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci has called "fiscal

realities," i.e., budget cuts, coupled with congressional opposition to effective testing of ASAT systems.

The Soviet Union currently has two operational ASAT systems.

Carlucci made the decision known in a letter to Sen. Jesse Helms. "I take this action reluctantly," Carlucci wrote. "I continue to believe that the United States needs an operative ASAT to deter the Soviet Union from exploiting its present ASAT monopoly and space-based targeting capabilities . . . [but] the inability to test effectively prohibits us from pursuing a meaningful operational ASAT ALMV program."

Carlucci wrote the letter in response to a request from Helms for a new fighter squadron for the North Carolina National Guard. Carlucci said that "fiscal realities" prevent its formation at this time.

"As I expect you are aware, the amended FY89 budget request will be reducing the active Air Force by two tactical fighter wings, and reserve units by an equivalent of another wing," the secretary said.

Congress super liberal, says ADA

The Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), an ultra-liberal lobbying organization, found the U.S. Congress to be far more liberal in 1987 than in any other recent year.

The ADA annually rates all senators and congressmen according to their voting record on a range of issues.

After rating for the past year was completed, ADA executive director Marc Pearl told the Washington press corps, "The pendulum has surely swung back our way." Both Houses of Congress, he said, posted rating averages of greater than 50% for 1987.

During the past 12 years, the highest either House had registered was 49%. Never have both Houses of Congress reached even that level in the same year.

The ADA found that each chamber had more members scoring an ADA 100% rating than in any of the last dozen years.

The ADA, said Pearl, considers anyone with a 70% rating or better to be "a liberal."

Briefly

● **MAYOR ED KOCH** of New York was in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil through Feb. 18 for the Carnival festivities, Brazil's equivalent of Mardi Gras. He spent Carnival in the box of Rio prefect Saturnino Braga. Among the sites he visited was the Benedictine monastery of São Bento.

● **THE COAST GUARD** has announced that its expenditures for drug enforcement patrols for the balance of 1988 will be slashed by 55%. In addition, 11 of its 157 search and rescue stations will be closed by March 1, and 14 of its 61 marine safety units will be closed by March 31.

● **SEN. ALAN CRANSTON** estimates that there is a "50-50 chance" that the Democratic nominating convention will be "brokered." Cranston made his remarks on John McLaughlin's "One on One" television show on Feb. 7.

● **JAMES BEGGS**, the former NASA administrator who was forced from his post by a spurious Justice Department investigation, has been named chairman of Spacehab, Inc., a Washington-based corporation that plans to develop laboratory modules for manufacturing and research aboard the Space Shuttle. Spacehab's modules will be used to process semiconductor crystals, polymers, protein and optical crystals, thin films, and other materials, using the advantages of the low gravity in space.

● **THE JUSTICE** Department's Office of Special Investigations is stepping up its "investigation" of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, even though an international historians' commission has found him innocent of war crimes charges. An OSI official has been sent to Yugoslavia to scour archives in search of Waldheim's name. An OSI official said it is "possible" that Waldheim's name will turn up. OSI does this sort of thing, when the Kremlin demands it.