

National News

N. Y. area governors warn of austerity

Governors of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut warned in their state of the state messages on Jan. 5 of imminent, severe fiscal austerity.

"We must close . . . an anticipated gap between projected revenues and expenditures of more than \$2 billion—\$2 billion," emphasized New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, which will mean a "budget for next year that will grow . . . under the rate of inflation" and "will require you and me to raise hundreds of millions of dollars more in new revenues."

New Jersey is facing a budget deficit optimistically estimated at \$290 million, as estimates of tax revenues continue to be scaled downward. State projected increases of 8.9% in sales tax revenue, 22.4% in corporate taxes, and 13.8% in income taxes have now fallen to increases of only 3.3%, 3.6%, and 7.7% respectively. Gov. Tom Kean and his aides pointed to the increase in corporate debt due to the takeover binge and leveraged buy-outs, as a major factor for the sharply reduced tax payments.

Connecticut Gov. William O'Neill said, "We will have to say 'no' when what we, as elected officials, really want to say is 'yes.'" Estimates of the state's deficit have grown monthly, and it is now projected at \$882 million, out of a budget of \$6.3 billion—a 14% shortfall. "Clearly we have now entered a period of retrenchment. . . . We now have to face the realities. . . . There are going to be cuts."

AIDS infection threat to 5.3 million workers

Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin warned a conference on AIDS and Health Care Workers on Jan. 9 that an estimated 5.3 million Americans at 600,000 work sites risk AIDS infection in the workplace.

These workers, she said, can "potentially be exposed to the AIDS or Hepatitis B viruses if they do not receive adequate pro-

tection." Americans who work in health care, sanitation, fire, and rescue are the "front-line fighters" who "deserve the best protection we can offer them against AIDS and other blood-borne diseases," she said.

McLaughlin's warnings came as the *Washington Post* reported on Jan. 10 that new cases of AIDS attributed to heterosexual contact or "undetermined causes" doubled in 1988 over 1987, and grew from 7% of cases reported in 1987 to 9.5% of cases reported during 1988.

Supreme Court refuses to hear securities case

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Jan. 9 that it has denied the petition of three organizations and individuals associated with former presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche which sought to overturn a Minnesota state court's finding that political loans are securities.

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear this case now raises the possibility that all political organizations and candidates can have their fundraising efforts, specifically loans, curtailed by overzealous political opponents who control state offices at the time.

On June 4, 1986, the Minnesota Securities Commission issued a Cease and Desist order preventing the taking of political loans by Caucus Distributors, Independent Democrats for LaRouche, and Campaigner Publications. Minnesota Attorney General "Skip" Humphrey, who had been waging a political vendetta against LaRouche Democrats in the state, made his vendetta clear three months after this decision, when he stated in written form on stationery bearing his letterhead, "We must show the nation that Minnesota will not tolerate the LaRouche fringe."

The Supreme Court decision ignores two critical First Amendment issues. First, do the First Amendment rights of politically oriented organizations and the individuals who support them prevent a state from using securities law to inhibit the fundraising activities of those organizations? And second, can a state preempt federal laws regulating presidential campaign committees?

John Silber, president of Boston University, will give the keynote address, "Ethics in the Practice of Medicine." Silber, nominally a right-wing conservative Catholic, recently commented, "The patients who are dying, we'll let them die."

Another speaker is infamous neurologist Fred Plum, who created a new diagnosis, to make killing unconscious patients more palatable: He calls them vegetables or labels them in a "persistent vegetative state."

The Knights of Columbus is underwriting the event.

Greenpeace wins battle in War for Drugs

The environmentalist movement Greenpeace "has won a battle with the Reagan administration, this time over the War on Drugs," reported *Newsweek* in its Dec. 19 issue.

Newsweek reviews the history of the attempt by Peru to use the chemical "Spike" which destroys coca plants, and the successful efforts to block its use on the part of the environmentalists and the narco-guerrillas. Most interesting is *Newsweek's* crediting Greenpeace with the success against the country of Peru.

Newsweek also acknowledges that the environmental damage from the chemicals being used to refine the coca leaves into coca paste are destroying plant and fish life in large areas of the Amazon, while rain forest is being cut to grow upwards of 5 billion coca plants.

Bishops to promote 'ethical' euthanasia?

The Massachusetts-based Pope John XXIII Center has launched a major effort to have American bishops promote and export Nazi euthanasia as Catholic policy. Bishops from Canada, the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, the Philippines, and the United States will attend a conference, "Critical Is-

sues in Contemporary Health Care," to be held Jan. 30 through Feb. 3 in Dallas, Texas. It will include a debate over the benefits and "burdens" of feeding patients.

Speakers include euthanasia advocates such as Rev. Kevin O'Rourke, O.P., director of the Center for Health Ethics at the St. Louis School of Medicine. O'Rourke says that the purpose of life requires "cognitive-affective functioning." If a patient lacks that, there is no obligation to save him. And if a patient is treated (given food and water) and is still unable to achieve the purpose in life, then the therapy (food and water) is "useless" and "burdensome," and the patient should be starved to death. O'Rourke tells families to starve their seriously ill or unconscious relatives if keeping them alive causes the family "psychic pain" or if the money could be "better" spent elsewhere, like a child's college education! The Right to Die Society uses O'Rourke's material in their newsletter.

Court questions fines on LaRouche groups

In oral arguments Jan. 9 before the U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston, a three judge panel questioned whether a federal judge should have imposed \$21 million in fines on four organizations associated with Lyndon LaRouche.

The fines had been imposed in February 1987 by Federal District Court Judge A. David Mazzone because the organizations allegedly refused to comply with subpoenas from a grand jury, convened by former U.S. Attorney William Weld, for documents beginning in 1985. At the time the fines were imposed, hundreds of thousands of documents had in fact been produced.

Defense lawyers argued, among other things, that Mazzone was required to hold a hearing before imposing the fines to inquire into the financial wherewithal of these entities, whether compliance with the subpoenas had occurred, and the harm which would result to the companies versus to the government. Mazzone had failed to hold any hearing.

The three judge panel became combative at the point that the unprecedented question of whether or not contempt fines can be imposed after the grand jury had expired was argued. The government argued that the expiration did not matter, since the documents could be produced to the government instead of the grand jury at any time as long as an investigation was ongoing, a position which would abrogate the grand jury system.

Recognizing this unwholesome precedent, the Court told Justice Department attorney Patti Stemmler, "with such openness" the keeping open of an investigation would be left to "the whim of the government." Therefore, what would prevent the fines from continuing to run? The Court also asked, "Wouldn't this mean every time an agent opens a file" the investigation could be kept open? Stemmler argued that "the order to produce is not tied to the grand jury."

The judges then rhetorically asked Stemmler, "To whom does a subpoena command that documents are delivered to?" Evading the issue, Stemmler contrived a technical argument that the clerk of the court issues the subpoena.

The First Circuit Appeals Court usually takes two to three months to render a decision. Defendants have asked the court to vacate the fines or remand the case to the district court for a full and fair hearing.

Bush completes cabinet appointments

President-elect George Bush completed the nominations for his cabinet on Jan. 12, announcing Adm. James Watkins as his choice to become Secretary of Energy. Bush stressed his strong support for nuclear power in announcing Watkins.

Admiral Watkins pointed to his experience working with nuclear power in the Navy, and said he is "firmly convinced that safety, the environment, and nuclear power can exist in harmony."

Bush also announced that he has chosen former Secretary of Education William Bennett to fill the newly created position of "Drug Czar."

Briefly

● **THE NATIONAL** Economic Commission was ordered by U.S. Federal District Judge Joyce Hens Green Jan. 6 to keep all of its meetings open to the public. Judge Green said that since Congress must deliberate policy before the public, so should the NEC. The lawsuit to open the meetings was brought by an advocacy group called Public Citizen.

● **WILLIAM REILLY**, George Bush's pick to head the Environmental Protection Agency, is co-sponsoring a "Clean Air Inaugural Ball" on Inauguration Eve, which is designed to "raise public awareness" of the phony "greenhouse effect." Among the key groups sponsoring the event is Renew America, which recently held a press conference in Washington advocating zero population growth.

● **FEDERAL JUDGE** Albert Bryan denied motions filed by Lyndon LaRouche and his six co-defendants on Jan. 9 asking the court to overturn the Dec. 16 jury-verdict conviction against them, and to either acquit them, or hold a new trial.

● **THE SPACE** Shuttle *Discovery* is set for a Feb. 23 launch, according to a NASA statement from Houston Jan. 12. The shuttle's mission, which will carry a crew of five, will include launching a communications satellite, and various biological experiments.

● **THE 'U.S. Needs Nuclear Power'** is the title of a *Christian Science Monitor* editorial Jan. 11. It argued that "the U.S. economy is going to need any power it can get in the next decade," and therefore, the United States should adopt a national policy for nuclear power. "After some 30 years of operation, no deaths or injuries have been directly linked to radiation from a nuclear power plant," the paper argues.