

# National News

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## Disarmament lobby hits weapons production

A coalition of anti-nuclear, arms control, and disarmament groups are gearing up a major lobbying campaign to press the Bush administration to conclude a superpower treaty limiting production of materials for new nuclear weapons instead of refurbishing old or building new U.S. weapons plants.

Representatives of 12 groups, including Public Citizen, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and the Environmental Policy Institute, wrote Congress in late February to oppose the administration's request for \$100 million to begin building two new reactors for tritium production.

Costs are currently estimated to be \$59 billion over 20 years for new and upgraded production facilities, and \$29 billion for cleanup of toxic wastes at current facilities. But Raymond Berube, deputy assistant energy secretary for the environment, told the House Armed Services Committee on Feb. 24, "It's a strong possibility these costs will go higher."

The groups hope to capitalize on the circumstance that all U.S. production facilities for plutonium, tritium, and highly enriched uranium are closed down and need extensive repairs before they can resume production.

The disarmament groups claim the Soviets are also having production problems, which could set the stage for some accord. But even the *Washington Post* reported on Feb. 24, "Some U.S. intelligence analysts believe the Soviets can produce needed quantities of tritium and plutonium in civilian reactors, however, and some analysts say construction of a new military plant in the Ural Mountains began last year."

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## Bush administration in an 'astonishing mess'

The Bush administration "is in an astonishing mess less than halfway into the legendary first 100 days, when the tone is meant to be set," writes *Financial Times* of London

Washington commentator Anthony Harris Feb. 27.

First, Bush has staked his prestige on John Tower, who will make a gravely weakened Secretary of Defense, even if confirmed against the odds. By doing this, Bush has alienated many, including the Republican right wing, which blames him now for being "weak-kneed" in responding to Ayatollah Khomeini.

Second, there is chaos on the economic-financial policy front, including the discussions with Congress and the fight with the Federal Reserve over interest rates.

Third, Secretary of State James Baker III "came back empty-handed from his NATO tour," and the normally diplomatic officials of the State Department are complaining about his management style to every journalist willing to listen.

"Meanwhile, Baker's public squabble with Mr. Boyden Gray, ethics supremo, over his bank shareholding, has seriously dented his prestige and gossips are talking about a power struggle."

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## New AIDS commission to include sodomists?

The new 15-member national AIDS commission mandated last year to advise Congress on political and health issues related to the AIDS epidemic will reportedly include a promoter of sodomy.

Among the five Senate nominees to the commission is reported to be Larry Kessler, an open homosexual and director of the Massachusetts AIDS Action Council. The council backs wide distribution of pornographic materials in grade schools and community centers to promote "AIDS education."

Other Bostonians expected to be named to the panel are Dr. Vernon Mark, a Harvard neurosurgeon, who is chairman of the conservative group called Americans for a Sound AIDS Policy, as well as Dr. Norman Zinberg, a Harvard advocate of legalizing drugs.

The *Boston Globe* reports other Commission members are expected to include: Rep. J. Roy Rowland (D-Ga.), a physician; Rev. Scott Allen, a Dallas clergyman; Don-

ald Goldman, president of the National Hemophilia Foundation; Diane Aherns, a county commissioner from St. Paul, Minnesota; Dr. June Osborn, dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health; and bioethicist and AIDS researcher Peter Carpenter.

Finally, since what would "science" and politics be without Hollywood, pop singer Dionne Warwick will be a member.

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## NDPC testifies on Bennett nomination

The National Democratic Policy Committee submitted testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee March 1 on the nomination of William Bennett to become the first National Drug Director. The political action committee which Lyndon LaRouche helped to found in 1980 warned Bennett, the Bush administration, and the Congress that there never has been a war on drugs and could not be until fundamental policy flaws are corrected.

The NDPC warned, first, that the anti-drug effort must be funded. "If all that the nation is to be offered is a macho version of the ridiculous 'Just say no to drugs' campaign, it is better to be honest rather than demoralizing people by leading them to think something serious is being done when it is not.

"Second, there must be a definitive break from the ideological commitment that was rampant during the Reagan-Bush administration, and which was manifested more recently by Vice President Dan Quayle's endorsement of the work of Peru's Hernando de Soto and the 'informal economy,' to equate the black market economy, i.e. the drug economy, with the production of real wealth.

"Third, there must be a ruthless attack on drug money laundering which is being conducted by banks and financial institutions. Senator Bentsen recently admitted that one of the reasons that Congress was not more aggressively clamping down on leveraged buy-outs, for example, was the fear that such action could precipitate a general financial crisis. It seems that there is a sim-

ilar fear if the \$500 billion or more of drug laundered funds were to be denied to the major money center banks. This is an intolerable situation, where people and institutions engaged in this vile activity are able to blackmail and subvert the national interests."

The NDPC reviewed the scandal surrounding the case of former Assistant Attorney General William Weld and his protection of the drug banks, and finally warned Mr. Bennett that "efforts to cut off drugs at the source of supply must be pursued with the utmost respect for the national sovereignty of our Ibero-American neighbors. Yes, the cutoff of drugs must be conducted as a real military operation. Yet, proposals for supranational police and military bodies which would impinge sovereignty are offered to the nations of Ibero-America, while the most basic equipment allowing their own forces to conduct the war are denied them."

The NDPC statement concluded with Lyndon LaRouche's 15-point plan for a war on drugs.

## Major interest in anti-Satanism forum

An overflow crowd of over 800 residents attended a meeting Feb. 21 called by the Hillsdale, Michigan police on the spread of devil worship. The overwhelming interest in curbing the growing danger of Satanism reflects a nationwide pattern.

Police had expected only about 50 or 60 people to attend the meeting, held at Hillsdale High School.

Sgt. Jim Klebanowski said that police have discovered ritual sites in the city, a suburb of Detroit, remains of sacrificed animals, destruction of cemetery property, and vandalism. Slides of skinned animals with their hooves removed and insides gutted were shown. He explained how these were part of Satanic rituals he learned about through attending seminars for the last two years.

Klebanowski said that the meeting wasn't intended to "start a panic" but rather to inform parents, because they sometimes write off indications that their children are participating in Satanism as "just a phase."

## Judge dismisses LaRouche Boston case

Over the objection of attorneys for Lyndon H. LaRouche and other defendants, Judge Robert Keeton on March 2 granted a government motion to dismiss 124 of the 125 counts of the Boston case *U.S.A. v. The LaRouche Campaign et al.* LaRouche's attorney said that the dismissal violated his client's constitutional right to confront his accusers and to be vindicated of the charges against him.

The government filed a motion to dismiss the Boston case on Jan. 27, the same day that LaRouche and his codefendants in Alexandria, Virginia were sentenced to long prison terms. The government claimed that the Boston prosecution was no longer necessary because defendants LaRouche, Edward Spannaus, and Michael Billington had been convicted in Alexandria and the government had shut down and seized the assets of three businesses, two of which were also defendants in Boston.

## Judge halts water contracts renewal

U.S. District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton issued a temporary restraining order on Feb. 23 barring the Federal Bureau of Reclamation from renewing 40-year federal water contracts because the environmental impact must be studied.

The insane ruling came after a suit by 12 environmentalist groups led by the Natural Resources Defense Council to stop the automatic renewal of bureau contracts beginning with the Orange Cove, California Water District.

This contract will set the precedent for 300 contracts from Redding to Tehachapis for 7 million acre-feet of water, one-third of all river water used in California cities and farms. The ruling stands against the ruling by the Interior Department that the impact studies were not necessary or legal.

## Briefly

● **'NEW AGER'** Dr. Jean Houston will keynote the National Catholic Education Association convention for 15,000 Catholic educators in Chicago March 27-30. Author of *The Varieties of Psychedelic Experience*, she admits having used LSD. "In our own experience, the evidence would seem to support the contentions of those who assert that an authentic religious experience may occur within the context of the psychedelic drug state."

● **'SATAN'S Black Market: Sex, Slaves, Porn, and Drugs'** was the title of a March 1 program on television's "Geraldo" show, which featured experts on the growth of Satanism in the United States. Host Geraldo Rivera displayed a catalogue which offered human body parts for sale. According to undercover investigator "Rex," the Satanists are involved in ritual sacrifice, child pornography, and snuff films. They use the body parts in their murderous activities, or sell them to other Satanists.

● **'THE TUBERCULOSIS** problem seems to be worsening," Dr. Dixie Snider, director of the division of TB control at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, said at a conference on tuberculosis in Houston Feb. 25. "The AIDS epidemic has had a marked influence on the increase in tuberculosis. . . . We are finding that many AIDS victims have TB, and we are now recommending that all TB patients be tested for AIDS."

● **STEPHEN ROSENFELD** of the *New York Times* attacks those who oppose a "New Yalta" in a Feb. 24 commentary entitled "Partners with Moscow?" "The very idea strikes deep alarm in the hearts of those who see any such talks as inviting a 'second Yalta,' a great power deal gratuitously confirming East Europe as a Soviet sphere of influence and disposing of its fate without consulting its members." He allows, "It is plainly an idea with an insistent logic behind it."