

## National News

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### Bush could be called in Poindexter trial

Judge Harold H. Greene decided Sept. 11, after having considered a request from the defense attorney for former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, that President Bush and his diaries could be subpoenaed in the Poindexter "Iran-Contra" trial.

"Neither a President nor his papers are beyond the reach of the law that requires the production or the giving of evidence," Greene said. "Where a defendant in a criminal case needs that evidence, this court will enforce his right to its production."

Lawyers for Poindexter have said that any time then-Vice President Bush missed a meeting in which the Iran-Contra operation was discussed, he was later personally briefed by Poindexter.

Judge Greene said that Poindexter's claim, "if literally correct," would clearly entitle him to get what he is asking for. Greene gave Poindexter seven days to produce a secret memo explaining "precisely how the presidential and vice-presidential documents would corroborate his claims."

A source close to the defendant told *EIR* that "Poindexter is not going to make any deal. He wants to go to trial because he feels righteous about telling the truth of what happened in Irangate."

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### Over 800 lawyers back LaRouche's appeal

Baltimore attorney R. David Pembroke filed a motion with the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 13, in the pending appeal of political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in order to add additional signers to his *amicus curiae* brief. If the court grants the motion, over 800 of the most prominent attorneys in the nation will be on record demanding that LaRouche's constitutional rights be protected. The court had previously accepted the brief with 377 signers.

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and the other attorneys on the defense team

are scheduled to argue their appeal for congressional candidate LaRouche and his co-defendants in Richmond, Virginia on Oct. 6.

Among the new signers are two former U.S. Attorneys, six former district attorneys, five retired Superior Court judges, professors from eight law schools, the deans of three law schools, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia, a former Attorney General of Colorado, five public defenders, the legal counsel of the Prisoners Rights Union, two chairmen of the American Civil Liberties Union, the chairmen of 21 bar associations, a former president of the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association, three national officers of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, two national officers of American Trial Lawyers Association, the Vicar General of the Maronite Diocese of Canada, a former assistant to the mayor of New York City, the general counsel to the Phoenix House Foundation, and prominent defense attorneys.

Legal observers note that the range of viewpoints, positions, and sheer number of attorneys represented by the *amici* on the Pembroke brief, has set a record in the annals of American law.

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### Environmentalists lose to timber industry

Environmentalists suffered a defeat on Sept. 6 when the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned an injunction brought by environmentalist groups, that would have locked up over 500 million board-feet of timber, on the fallacious argument of protecting the spotted owl.

The ruling was based on a 1987 federal law, sponsored by Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), that limits challenges of virgin timber sales by the Federal Bureau of Land Management. That 1987 congressional appropriations rider forbids anyone from challenging federal timber sales with claims of new information about impact on wildlife. Logging is now only restricted in those much smaller areas where either the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service know the spotted owls live.

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### UCLA study: Condoms don't stop AIDS

A study conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles has revealed that in laboratory tests the nation's most popular condom brands permitted the AIDS virus to escape.

A copy of the 1,000-page report was obtained by the *Los Angeles Times* through a Freedom of Information Act request and covered Sept. 12.

It was found that the AIDS virus leaked in one of the 10 condoms tested in each of three brands, and six of 25 tested in the fourth. Overall, the study found that 0.66% of condoms—more than one of every 200—failed, breaking in tensile strength tests or leaking the AIDS virus. The researchers, however, still insist that "the chance of using a defective condom is small."

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### Bush clean air bill a toxic disaster

President Bush's clean air bill, which mandates a switch from gasoline to fuels such as methanol and ethanol, will create a real toxic and environmental disaster, according to experts.

Dr. Tody Litovitz of the National Capital Poison Center in Washington, D.C. found methanol to be 25 times more deadly than gasoline. According to Dr. Litovitz, "the acute hazard posed by conversion to methanol-based fuels is unacceptable due to the predicted increases in fatalities, blindness and permanent neurologic disability."

Dr. James Cannon of the environmental group Inform notes that because of methanol's toxicity and ability to be absorbed through the skin, "self-service gas stations could be a thing of the past with this fuel." Aside from detailing the fuel's potentially lethal effects, Dr. Cannon points out that it could easily contaminate water supplies, because "removal of methanol from water is virtually impossible."

The congressional Office of Technology

Assessment rates methanol as the most expensive means of reducing the source of pollution from vehicles, volatile organic compounds.

## Los Angeles mayor faces civil charges

After a six-month investigation into Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's personal finances and professional conduct, City Attorney James K. Hahn filed a six-count civil suit against the mayor on Sept. 13, and released a 1,000-page report on his findings.

Under state law, Bradley could face penalties totaling \$2 million for failing to properly report investments, income, real estate, loans, gifts, and other business dealings over a five-year period. This estimate is based on more than 100 errors allegedly found in state-required financial disclosure statements filed by Bradley.

The Los Angeles Police Department is meanwhile continuing to investigate possible criminal wrongdoing by Bradley's business partner, Juanita St. John, for her failure to account for \$180,000 in city funds that were allocated to the Task Force for Africa-Los Angeles Relations, a trade promotion organization.

## Operation Rescue activists are acquitted

Randall Terry, head of Operation Rescue, and four other anti-abortion activists were acquitted on Sept. 13 of 24 misdemeanor charges stemming from an Easter weekend blockade of a Los Angeles abortion clinic.

Municipal Judge Richard Paez declared a mistrial on three remaining charges, after jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict. Prosecutors said that they were not sure if they would refile the charges.

It was the inhumane treatment of the demonstrators by police which persuaded the jury to decide for acquittal. "They were non-violent, they tried to work with the police, and I can't believe they came down on

these people like that. Mr. McMonagle was arrested in front of the chief of police and they nearly twisted the man's arm out of the socket," said one jury member. Jurors agreed with the defense that police brutality was used selectively, targeting Operation Rescue protesters, and not the pro-abortion demonstrators, some of whom were closer to the clinic's doors.

## LaRouche associates file civil rights suit

A group of California associates of Lyndon LaRouche filed suit for violations of civil rights in Los Angeles on Sept. 6, against California Attorney General John Van de Kamp, Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner, Secretary of State March Fong Eu, Assistant Attorney Generals Steven White and Ellen Peter, Attorney General Investigator John Horton, District Attorney Investigator Ed Messinger, and Department of Corporations Investigator David Hiaroka.

The plaintiffs in the suit include the National Democratic Policy Committee and eight of its local chapters, American System Publications, the National Caucus of Labor Committees, and proponents of two anti-AIDS initiatives.

The plaintiffs demand an end to more than three years of systematic harassment of supporters, contributors, subscribers, and candidates by the Attorney General and District Attorney's offices. The suit charges that the defendants used their offices to carry out a political witchhunt against those associated with the ideas of Lyndon LaRouche, violating the plaintiffs' constitutional rights of freedom of association, freedom of speech, and freedom to petition the government for redress of grievances. Those violations included the 1986 raids on the offices of the plaintiffs resulting in the confiscation of membership and subscription lists.

KFWB, a boomer all-news radio station, highlighted a Sept. 7 press conference by Khushro Ghandhi, a plaintiff in the suit, as one of its lead news stories. District Attorney Ira Reiner, when asked to comment on the suit by KFWB, said that he would not "dignify" the suit by commenting on it.

## Briefly

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** ruled out the use of U.S. combat troops in the Andean nations' war on drugs. "Let me state clearly: None of the Andean nations have asked for U.S. troops, and there is no contemplation of the use of American armed forces in any combat role here," he told the press on Sept. 11.

● **SATANIC** "high priestess" Mary Ellen Tracy, of the Church of the Most High Goddess, who admitted performing sex acts with more than 2,000 men as part of an ancient Egyptian religion, was convicted in Los Angeles on Sept. 8 of running a house of prostitution.

● **VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE** claimed that the U.S. supports the national independence movements in the Soviet bloc on Sept. 9. "Let's hope that the Baltic states continue in the direction they want to go, and that is toward asserting their independence," he told CNN's Evans and Novak program.

● **HENRY KISSINGER** may testify in a libel suit against Seymour Hersh taken out by former Indian prime minister Morarji Desai. In his unflattering biography of Kissinger, Hersh asserts that Desai had been paid by the CIA to reveal Indian secrets.

● **DAVID DINKINS** defeated Mayor Edward Koch in the New York City Democratic mayoral primary Sept. 12. He will face former U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, who won the Republican primary. Koch has been mayor since 1977.

● **THE JUSTICE DEPT.** will probably launch an investigation of the Virginia Beach police department for alleged excessive use of force against black students over Labor Day weekend, it said Sept. 6. An estimated 100,000 students gathered at the seaside town for traditional drinking parties, following which youths looted some 100 stores, leading to 220 arrests.