

National News

NAWAPA covered as solution to drought

The idea for a North American Water and Power Alliance, to bring half-again as much water from Canada and Alaska as is currently used by the lower 48 states, was covered front page by the June 21 *Los Angeles Times*.

NAWAPA, designed by the Ralph W. Parsons Co. and backed by Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, could supply the water needs of the western portion of North America "for at least the next hundred years," according to Nathan W. Snyder, director of technology for the Parsons Co.

The *Times* reports that Parsons is starting once again to lobby in Washington for the project, which was designed nearly 30 years ago.

Marchetti attacks ADL, organized crime links

New American View, a fortnightly newsletter published by Victor Marchetti, attacked the Anti-Defamation League in its June 15 issue in an article entitled "Anatomy of a Nightmare—The ADL Has Grown to Frightening Proportions."

The article reviews much of the material first published by *EIR* on the ADL's links to the Meyer Lansky organized crime empire and its current links to international drug-money laundering.

The newsletter reports that former ADL national chairman—now honorary chairman—Kenneth Bialkin, "is one of the most powerful attorneys in America today—and probably one of the most corrupt." "Today, Bialkin is a senior partner in the world's largest law firm, Skadden Arps, which was deeply involved in the looting of the American stock market and savings and loan industry. . . . Some of these schemes . . . are believed to have been cover for the laundering of drug money.

"The ADL's vast power in American politics and society today is grounded in the wealth and influence of its leadership and

the police-like operations of its professional staff. The staff is organized along the classic lines of a secret intelligence service, bearing a remarkable resemblance to the CIA—from which the ADL has recruited some of its members. . . . The ADL's clandestine arm is euphemistically known as the Fact Finding Department. It is this component which operates the ADL stable of secret agents—informants, infiltrators, instigators, et al. In a number of instances over the past 20 years, the ADL has been implicated (although never prosecuted) in murders, provocation of riots, bombings and other serious crimes," the newsletter read.

Corporations giving millions to greens

In an exposé on May 7, *Legal Times*, a Washington newsletter, reports that major corporations are giving millions of dollars to environmental groups to set a profitable agenda for themselves.

According to *Legal Times*, Dean Buntrock, head of Waste Management, Inc., has given over \$1 million over the past three years to environmental groups, including \$135,000 to the National Audubon Society "to support lobbying for more stringent regulation of industrial wastes," and \$117,500 to the National Wildlife Federation "to investigate the potential for strengthening pollution control laws in Latin America."

In exchange for contributions to the National Wildlife Federation, NWF head Jay Hair has lobbied for legislation that would benefit the corporation, and set up private meetings between Buntrock and EPA head William Reilly. Following one of these meetings, the EPA intervened in a North Carolina court on behalf of Waste Management.

S&L suit first test of illegal takeover

An upcoming trial in Topeka, Kansas, in a suit brought by Franklin Savings and Loan, will provide the first opportunity for a major

S&L to challenge government actions in the illegal takeover of the thrift industry.

The suit is against the actions of Office of Thrift Supervision regulators who moved against Franklin on the basis of OTS "predictions" that it would fail within a year. The bank has been transformed into a large operation dealing in junk bonds and futures contracts—all according to rules set out by Congress—and continues to have a positive net worth despite the legal and administrative costs imposed by the government seizure.

Franklin chairman Ernest M. Fleischman, a tax lawyer and financial "whiz kid," claims that he simply succeeded at what deregulation demanded, and the government shut him down anyway. Franklin is the second largest institution owned by the RTC, and is five times larger than Charles Keating's Lincoln Savings and Loan.

Europe asks U.S. for death penalty stay

A resolution passed by the European Parliament on May 17 appealed to the United States to halt the use of the death penalty, and specifically asked Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder to reopen the case against Joseph M. Giarratano.

The resolution states that Giarratano "has been on 'death row' in Virginia since 1979, was condemned to death on the basis of very controversial testimony," and called upon "the Governor of Virginia, L. Douglas Wilder, to Giarratano is reopened and that the fresh evidence is assessed in open court in order to avoid the possibility of executing an innocent man."

The resolution also refers to the death sentence imposed on Dalton Prejean in Louisiana, "a 30-year-old black U.S. citizen, who was sentenced in May 1978 for the murder of a white policeman." It notes "that evidence to the effect that Prejean had suffered brain damage, was borderline mentally retarded and under the influence of alcohol and drugs at the time of the murder was not present at the sentencing hearing." Stressing that the Louisiana Board of Pardons and Paroles has recommended that his

sentence be commuted to life imprisonment, the resolution appeals "to the Governor of Louisiana to commute the death sentence."

The resolution also calls "on the various States of the Union in which capital punishment is still used to review their legislation with a view to abolishing the death penalty."

Silverado closure hung on Bush election

Kermit Mowbray, the former president of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, Kansas, testified before the House Banking Committee June 19 that officials in Washington ordered him to delay closing the bankrupt Silverado Savings and Loan until after the 1988 election in which George Bush won the presidency, the *Washington Post* reported.

Mowbray testified that on Oct. 21, 1988, the Colorado thrift commissioner informed him that the state-chartered thrift would be closed by the end of the month. He relayed the information to Washington; three days later, on Oct. 24, 1988, unnamed officials in Washington asked that the closing be delayed for two months, he testified. The politically motivated delay added substantially to the cost of salvaging the thrift.

Bush's son Neil Bush sat on the board of Silverado, but federal regulators also reportedly delayed closing the bankrupt First Republic Bank Corp. of Texas until after the Texas primary in 1988 to avoid embarrassing George Bush.

Supreme Court rules opinion can be libelous

The Supreme Court ruled June 21 that opinion can be libelous. The majority opinion was written by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. It said several lower courts have been wrong when they assumed that statements of opinion were automatically shielded from libel suits and ruled that expressions of opinion can be the subject of libel suits if they contain "false and defamatory" facts.

In another decision June 21, the Court ruled 6-3 that evidence seized by police who search a home without a warrant can be used at trial if the police were admitted by someone they reasonably believed had the authority to consent to the search—even if it turns out later that they were wrong.

In another case, the Court ruling hit the political patronage system, ruling 5-4 that the Constitution forbids use of partisan considerations as the basis for hiring, promoting, or transferring most public employees. Many believe that the ruling will be used to break any independent political machine that would be considered unfriendly by the unfolding administrative police state.

Bush policy is to end timber industry

Bush administration policy is "the elimination of the timber industry," Bill Dennison, the president of the California Timber Association, charged in a statement released following the administration's June 22 ruling that the spotted owl is a "threatened" species.

Speaking for the industry, Dennison declared that "7.1 million acres of productive forest land in Northwestern California and the Sierras face total shutdown on July 23" unless Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan and Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yetter reject the ban on timbering proposed to "protect" a bird that has thrived during more than a century of timber harvesting. "If the worst case plan is put into place by the U.S. government, 111,000 could be unemployed" in California alone, he said.

"Our only chance to stop this is to make the decision makers inside the Washington, D.C. Beltway understand that real people are going to suffer for their reluctance to stand up to the truth. . . . The Endangered Species Act was not meant to be the California Rural Poverty Act of 1990."

Dennison warned that "if politically inclined bureaucrats seek to bend the Endangered Species Act to serve other ends, specifically the elimination of the timber industry, then either the law has to be tightened, or new people need to be brought in to administer the act."

Briefly

● **IN AN ADL** move for gun control, Edward Weidenfeld, vice chairman of the Anti-Defamation League's Washington Affairs Committee, said June 5 that "Jewish security concerns are best served by making firearms more difficult for extremists to obtain, rather than by encouraging their proliferation among the general population."

● **GEN. MANUEL NORIEGA** can pay his lawyers after U.S. prosecutors agreed to unfreeze up to \$6 million in funds in European banks. Their alternative, to prove that all Noriega's funds were drug monies, would have revealed U.S. government payments to Noriega.

● **JESSE JACKSON** "must have a magnetic attraction for the camera" because he pops up for every media event, Tony Kornheiser wrote in the June 24 *Washington Post* in a spoof on Jackson's ego, "No matter who's making news, Jesse is right there at his side. . . . You can't crop him out of the photo."

● **USDA DAIRY** analysis section head Charles Shaw said we should "kick the dairy farmer out of business," the June 22 *Pennsylvania Coatesville Record* reported. The paper called Shaw's remarks "obscene, a perversion of the spirit of America. . . . The small farmer was the backbone around which America was built."

● **THE BISHOP** Msgr. John J. Fitzpatrick, Brownsville, Texas, has charged that his diocese "is part of the Third World," with some communities so poor that they don't have running water and some with up to 95% of their citizens carrying hepatitis.

● **WILLIAM SAFIRE** suggests breaking up the U.S. in a commentary in the June 25 *New York Times*. The U.S.A. is really three countries, Safire claims: the Northeast corridor; the "Confederacy Plus" including California; and "God's Country," the Great Plains and upper Middle West stretching to the Northwest.