

National News

LA seeks Croatia, Slovenia independence

The Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution recognizing the independence of Slovenia and Croatia July 9. Similar resolutions have also been passed recently by the Cleveland City Council and the Pennsylvania state legislature.

The Los Angeles City Council resolution, sponsored by Councilwoman Joan Milke Flores, notes that "in 1990, four of the six republics in Yugoslavia elected non-communist, democratic governments," that "the vote for democratic governance in Croatia and Slovenia was over 90% of the electorate in free, open elections," and that the lives of family members of Los Angeles citizens are "at risk . . . due to military actions of the communist controlled Yugoslav Army in its efforts to suppress democracy and self-determination, to the end of restoring communist domination."

The resolution resolves on behalf of all its citizens that the city "recognizes the new nations of Croatia and Slovenia, their sovereignty and right to exist free from external threat or force of arms," and calls upon President Bush and the Congress "to immediately recognize the nations of Croatia and Slovenia and to use all diplomatic means possible to forestall further military actions against these two nations."

Mining leader scores environmentalist 'assault'

John A. Knebel, the president of the American Mining Congress, America's leading mining trade association, denounced the environmental movement Sept. 7. He asserted that "there's an assault underway in America on mining, as well as the entire natural resource industry, including agriculture and timber."

Speaking before the Nevada Mining Association's annual meeting, Knebel said, "The attack is pressed by well-funded but ill-advised organizations that range from Earth First! to the Environmental Defense Fund to the Sierra Club." He said that the

combined budgets of these and similar organizations totaled "well over \$200 million."

According to Knebel, who participated with Rep. Barbara Vucanovich (R-Nev.) in an earlier panel on the General Mining Law, the heart of the problem "is a lack of information on the part of most Americans, who for the most part are unaware of what mining means to this nation and how it affects their daily lives." He said the result has been laws and regulations that "have placed much of our potential natural resources off-limits to mining." Knebel also charged that "excessive environmental protection regulations are raising mining costs far above what industry can reasonably bear, forcing some companies either to curtail operations or close down."

R.I. depositors hold Boston-style tea party

More than 500 angry victims of the Rhode Island banking crisis staged a modern-day Boston Tea Party at the Rhode Island Statehouse Sept. 4. They demanded that the state unfreeze their accounts in credit unions and banks closed by Gov. Bruce Sundlun Jan. 1, UPI reported.

The demonstrators, mobilized by the Citizens for Depositors Rights, marched through the Statehouse throwing tea bags, yelling, "We want our money!" The protesters were joined by some 50 low-income mothers and their children, who had camped out in front of the building to demand that the state give welfare parents \$75 each to buy school clothing for their children. After marching on the Statehouse, the protesters visited the offices of Sens. John Chaffee (R) and Claiborne Pell (D).

Weld moves to take over Chelsea

Massachusetts Gov. William Weld asked the state legislature Sept. 6 for authority to name a state receiver to take control of the bankrupt city of Chelsea, which closed its schools and municipal offices earlier in the week, UPI reported. The emergency mea-

sure would be the first of its kind in Massachusetts since 1934 during the Depression.

Mayor John Brennan said he was forced to seek receivership because residents refused to approve higher property taxes, and union contracts prevented him from cutting the city's payroll. The fiscal crisis was triggered by the refusal of the state Finance Control Board to approve an interim one-month city budget.

Under the bill, the mayor would be replaced by a Weld-appointed receiver. All other elective offices in Chelsea would become advisory positions, including the city council (called the Board of Aldermen). The receivership is opposed by the Aldermen, who voted 6-3 Sept. 5 to demand the mayor's resignation, but the mayor refused to resign.

Weld said the receiver would be given extraordinary powers to deal with Chelsea's extensive financial problems, including the right to alter or possibly void existing union contracts.

Is ADL pushing Dems to support Thornburgh bid?

In a campaign appearance at the Pittsburgh airport Aug. 27, former Attorney General Richard Thornburgh was escorted on a tour of the \$700 million Midfield Terminal expansion project by a prominent Democrat and Anti-Defamation League (ADL) fellow traveler, County Commissioner Tom Foerster.

Foerster is a collaborator of Pittsburgh ADL boss Phil Baskin, which means organized crime. Baskin is also a leading Pittsburgh Democratic Party figure. In 1986, Baskin was the lead attorney for a New York City construction firm owned by the Gambino organized crime family in a bid to construct another part of the expanded Pittsburgh airport complex. When the identity of Gambino front-man Nicky Sands was revealed in the Pittsburgh media, the Gambinos ducked out of the deal, leaving Baskin and the ADL publicly exposed as syndicate front-men.

Now, the Baskin-Foerster Democrats appear to be jumping on the Thornburgh bandwagon in his Senate bid against Democratic Party nominee Harris Wofford. Wof-

ford, a former John Kennedy aide, is presently serving as the interim senator. A special election is scheduled for Nov. 5 to choose a permanent replacement for John Heinz, who was killed in a plane crash in April of this year.

Senator Robb fears revolution in U.S.

Sen. Charles Robb (D-Va.) warned that if we do not do something about the growing disparity between the fate of blue collar workers and corporate executives, "we are sowing the seeds of discontent, if not revolution or anarchy" in the United States. Robb made his remarks during an address to Loudoun County, Virginia Democrats on Sept. 6.

Robb, generally pessimistic about the instability in the former Soviet Union and the U.S. economic situation, noted how Yugoslavia could be the harbinger of even worse chaos in the former U.S.S.R. if economic problems were not solved. But his reiteration of support for a "fiscal conservative" policy for the U.S. did not indicate any insight into how the International Monetary Fund helps foster such instability. Robb is a founding member of the Democratic Leadership Council.

Columnist says Bush should face impeachment

Bush should answer to an impeachment inquiry, wrote Anthony Lewis in the *New York Times* in early September.

"After the [Moscow] coup failed, the plotters were charged with criminal offenses and all who worked with them made subject to investigation. . . . Just a few years ago, men close to the President conspired to violate laws passed by Congress. It would be hard to think of anything more plainly *anti-constitutional*. Oliver North made it clear that he would not let the Constitution stand in the way of what he deemed the national interest.

"In a constitutional state, the law should surely have called those men to account.

The President should have had to answer to an impeachment inquiry. . . .

"Madison and the other framers of the U.S. Constitution knew that long ago. That is why they created a system of divided powers. But in recent years their system has been distorted by the unrelenting grab for more and more presidential power. How far the tendency has gone was clear in the run-up to the Persian Gulf War. The White House claimed that the President could go to war without approval by Congress."

Bush backing hated 'Batistas' in Cuba

George Bush and his son Jeb are backing the "collaborators of the hated Batista dictatorship," and by doing so, could cause the Cuban population to rally behind Fidel Castro, resulting in the sell-out of an emerging Cuban nationalist movement, charged Ernesto F. Betancourt, former head of Radio Marti, in a commentary in the Sept. 7 *International Herald Tribune*.

Betancourt wrote that the conditions are ripe for the demise of Castro, "but U.S. policy is hindering rather than encouraging that outcome. Unfortunately, President George Bush is subordinating his Cuba policy to Florida politics by favoring one rightist exile group . . . the Cuban American National Foundation."

Betancourt claims that "as a result of the U.S. policy of favoring the foundation, disenchanted Cubans . . . fear that Washington intends to impose on Cuba the advocates of revenge."

Betancourt warned that the Jeb Bush-backed "economic reconstruction plan" for Cuba means simply looting the country's assets, and true Cuban nationalists will never tolerate that.

At its recent annual meeting, "Jeb Bush . . . hosted the meeting, and former President Ronald Reagan attended. . . . If you were Cuban, wouldn't you think Washington was preparing a blueprint for Cuba, and that the administration had chosen the rightist foundation to carry it out? The group claims to have buyers willing to pay \$15 billion for 60% of Cuba's assets. Nobody gave the foundation the authority to sell the island."

Briefly

● **JESSE JACKSON** will not run for President in 1992, but will become a talk show host for Cable News Network, the Sept. 8 *Washington Post* reported.

● **LI LU**, one of the top 21 pro-democracy "counter-revolutionaries" on Beijing's list, ended his hunger strike in front of the Chinese mission in Washington after the U.S. officially called on China Aug. 30 for the medical treatment of political prisoners Wang Juntao and Chen Zeming.

● **PRESCOTT BUSH'S** crony Summu Ishii, the "godfather" of one of Japan's largest organized crime syndicates, died Sept. 2, the day the Japanese government told the Parliament it was upgrading its official investigation into charges of illegal share price manipulation between Ishii and the Nomura brokerage. The death of Ishii is regarded as highly suspect.

● **THE SENTENCING** to three and a third years in prison of James Tayoun, a former Philadelphia city councilman and state legislator who had pleaded guilty to racketeering, mail fraud, tax evasion, and obstructing justice, is the latest in a string of federal "corruption" prosecutions in the city's first electoral district.

● **RAMSEY CLARK**, the former U.S. Attorney General, reported in Kuala Lumpur "on U.S. violations of international law" in the Gulf war, the Sept. 4 Malaysian *New Straits Times* reported. To George Bush, "the war was only a means . . . by using technological superiority to destroy a defenseless country," he said.

● **REPS. NANCY PELOSI** (D-Calif.), Ben Jones (D-Ga.), and John Miller (R-Wash.) were briefly detained by Chinese police after holding up a banner of mourning in Tiananmen Square in Beijing for pro-democracy protesters killed there in 1989, UPI reported Sept. 4.