

# National News

## Michigan doctors move toward legalized murder

Michigan Medical Society delegates voted on May 3 to withdraw the society's previous resolution condemning the murder of patients by doctors. A statement on Jan. 15 by the society's board had called for "physician-assisted suicide" to be made a felony.

The doctors urged that the issue get more discussion and study, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported. The new resolution said that simply opposing these murders would "preclude meaningful participation" in such discussion by doctors.

A bill making such murders a felony has passed the Michigan State Senate, but the corresponding bill in the Michigan House is stalled. "That bill will never see the light of day," a spokesman for the society told *EIR*. He said the anti-murder bill is being blocked by Rep. Perry Bullard of Ann Arbor, who "adamantly opposes" government interference in physician-assisted suicide.

The society's actions on the issue is being managed by Dr. Howard Brody, chairman of the Committee on Bioethics and head of the Center for the Study of Ethics and Humanities at Michigan State University. Under Brody's leadership, no line is expected to be drawn against murder, suicide, or euthanasia.

## Poultry irradiation technology advances

The Department of Agriculture on May 6 published in the *Federal Register* its proposed regulations on the irradiation of poultry, in what the USDA termed a good example of protecting public health. After a 60-day comment period, the USDA will finalize the regulations, at which point approved commercial companies can begin to irradiate poultry to control the bacteria that cause food-borne illnesses. Conservative estimates are that 40% of U.S. raw poultry is contaminated with salmonella and campylobacter, which cause millions of illnesses annually.

The draft regulations had been held up for several months in the Office of Management and Budget, which reviewed them for "cost effectiveness." The 12-page proposed regulation notes that irradiation of poultry has a cost-benefit ratio greater than one: "For every dollar expended on irradiation, there will be more than a dollar of medical and productivity costs avoided." The USDA estimates that if only 10% of U.S. poultry were irradiated, "net public health benefits would range from \$35-50 million annually."

Approval of the process had been granted by the Food and Drug Administration in May 1990, after three years of review of the extensive research.

Food irradiation supporters said they intend to keep up the postcard campaign to President Bush urging his support for poultry irradiation "until the poultry regulations are finalized." One activist said that in the five years since the approval for poultry irradiation was applied for, "approximately 50,000 Americans have died from food-borne illnesses that probably could have been prevented."

## Government misconduct grows in LaRouche case

A newly released letter shows more government misconduct in the case against Lyndon LaRouche and his codefendants. A July 1988 letter to the Justice Department from U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia Henry Hudson shows that Hudson's office lied to the court in its effort to move the case from Boston to Alexandria, Virginia.

Shortly after the indictment of LaRouche and six associates in Alexandria in October 1988, LaRouche's attorneys sought to have the case transferred to Boston, where LaRouche and his co-defendants had fought the government to a standstill in an earlier case, resulting in a mistrial on May 4 of that year.

When defense attorneys argued that the two cases were essentially the same, Hudson's office denied that there was any significant overlap, and, in the government's papers, Hudson argued that the two indictments were "quite distinct." The only over-

lap was with respect proving the "intent" of the defendants; it was "no more than that."

But in the letter to the Department of Justice, which sought to have Boston prosecutor John Markham deployed from Boston to Alexandria, Hudson confirmed defense arguments. (The two prosecutions "involve extensive overlap of legal and factual issues," wrote Hudson. In fact, "virtually the entire trial record in Boston (15,000) pages will have relevance in the Alexandria prosecution. . . . Perhaps the most important is the overlap in witnesses.")

Alexandria Judge Albert Bryan denied the defense motion to transfer the case to Boston, on the grounds that the two cases were substantially different, thus clearing the path for the Alexandria railroad.

## Clinton represents only himself, says columnist

"Whatever Happened to the Democratic Party?" is the headline of a syndicated column by Richard Reeves in the *May 7 Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Reeves's conclusion, citing William Greider's book *Who Will Tell the People—The Breakdown of American Democracy*, is that "the true center of the Democratic Party is a few dozen lobbyists and lawyers in Washington, including one former party chairman, Robert Strauss, now President Bush's ambassador to Moscow, and the current chairman, Ron Brown, who lobbied for Toshiba, Hitachi, Mitsubishi. . . ."

"It's a sad turn in American politics—and a long road for Bill Clinton," wrote Reeves. "Because of the system and the decline of his party by its own hand, the Democratic candidate for President represents only himself."

Reeves pointed out that there are no leaders in the Democratic Party because of the 1972 McGovern rule changes, which were "left by the party after its attempted suicide in 1972." He denounced the way the conventions now revolve around television prime time, thus eliminating the possibility of multiple ballots or deadlocks at a convention in order to avoid inconveniencing the networks.

Reeves wrote that "the Democratic Na-

tional Committee . . . has no records, no names of the people who are supposed to be the party. . . . There are only about 100,000 people who could be called 'members of the party,' based on the number of responses to DNC [Democratic National Committee] fundraising mail. The average age of those respondents is 70."

## Environmentalists tout 'eco-fascism' openly

Fascism was explicitly endorsed by "environmental economist and writer" Christopher Juniper in a column entitled "Ecofascism," in the March-April issue of *Buzzworm*, a glossy environmental magazine of 100,000 paid circulation. Fascism was justified in the name of "restrictions on an individual's ability to damage ecosystems through consumption."

Juniper wrote that his wife calls him an "environmental fascist," but he justifies his "police state" views in order "to ensure some future viability. . . . I want freedom from a dying planet instead of freedom to destroy it."

Juniper proposes "environmental degradation units" (EDUs) be issued for all products. This allocation would then be cut 10% every year for five years in order to ensure conservation. If additional EDUs were not provided for children, this "could also help ratchet down population growth."

## U.S. Court again restricts habeas corpus

In a recent ruling in *Keeney v. Tamayo-Reyes*, the U.S. Supreme Court further restricted the right of defendants to a *habeas corpus* hearing, even when the Court agrees that a severe error has occurred at the state level.

The ruling overturned a 1963 opinion in the case of *Townsend v. Sain*, written by Earl Warren. The Congress amended the law in 1966 to guarantee that such cases would get a hearing in federal courts. Writing for the majority, Justice Byron White

argued that judicial economy, i.e., cost, is a prime reason for limiting federal review of *habeas* cases. White was joined by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Antonin Scalia, David Souter, and Clarence Thomas.

In this case, the defendant, a Cuban immigrant with no knowledge of English, pled guilty to a manslaughter charge. Sandra O'Connor dissented on the grounds that the defendant's plea, if true, is a valid basis for *habeas* relief. O'Connor emphasized that *habeas* proceedings are not another form of appeal, but are an original civil action in federal court, and the defendant is entitled to a hearing to determine the facts upon which the conviction was based.

"Under the guise of overruling 'a remnant of a decision' . . . and achieving 'uniformity in the law' . . . the Court has changed the law of *habeas corpus* in a fundamental way by effectively overruling cases decided long before *Townsend v. Sain*," she wrote.

Approximately 40% of death penalty cases which make it into federal *habeas corpus* review are overturned on review.

## Court sanctions grand jury railroads

A U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of *U.S. v. Williams* asserts that failure to present exculpatory evidence to a grand jury is not a prosecutorial error which merits dismissal of an indictment. The majority argued that a grand jury is an inquisitorial, *ex parte*, i.e., secret, proceeding, which would become judicative if the prosecution is required to introduce exculpatory evidence.

Writing in dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens, joined by Harry Blackmun, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Clarence Thomas, said, "The Solicitor General asked us to decide the legal question whether an indictment may be dismissed because the prosecutor failed to present exculpatory evidence. Unlike the Court and the Solicitor General, I believe the answer to that question is yes, if the withheld evidence would plainly preclude a finding of probable cause."

Justice Stevens said that he was "firmly opposed to the Court's favored treatment of the government as a litigator."

## Briefly

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** received a copy of a report on the bombing of Pan American Flight 103, prepared by former CIA employees for the airline, from Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, Qaddafi revealed. "We know the authors of the bombing, which totally clears our country. Contents of the report, which are indisputable and objective, or the very existence of the report, were never once mentioned before members of the U.N. Security Council," Qaddafi said, according to reports in the May 7 European press.

● **EXXON EXECUTIVE** Sidney Reso disappeared from his home in New Jersey on April 29, and is believed to have been kidnaped by eco-terrorists. Reso heads Exxon operations outside the United States. An unknown group called the Rainbow Warriors has taken credit for the kidnaping, and is making ransom demands, the May 7 *New York Post* reported.

● **ROSS PEROT** is no Washington "outsider," despite the image he has peddled in his unofficial presidential campaign. President Nixon considered him a "financial angel," according to AP on May 7. Former Nixon aide Peter Flanigan, who met with Perot more than 40 times, said, "This business about his being an outsider is nonsense. . . . He was the ultimate insider."

● **DAVID IFSHIN**, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) general counsel who has been an adviser to Bill Clinton for several years, has become a senior political and foreign policy adviser to the Clinton campaign.

● **TOM PAINE**, the administrator of NASA during the Apollo program era, died of cancer May 4. Dr. Paine came into the space program as deputy administrator in January 1968, shortly before the first manned Apollo flight to orbit the Moon. In 1985, he was appointed by President Reagan to head the National Commission on Space, which revived the Moon-Mars mission after 15 years.