

National News

Bush fears secrets inside Iraq agriculture ministry

There is a special reason that George Bush is so desperate to get into the Agriculture Ministry in Iraq: "Iraq-gate" documents are located there, a highly informed Middle East expert told *EIR* recently. "Bush's main policy toward Iraq is to step up funding and support for covert operations against Saddam," the source said. "However, there is one 'wild card' in the Baghdad situation, which is this Ministry of Agriculture. You know why he's so concerned about that? Remember, the aid to Iraq in the 1989-1990 period was agriculture-food help, and all the documents on the U.S.-Iraqi deals were channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture. Bush is desperate to get his hands on what is in there. If it was the Ministry of Health, he wouldn't care less. It all has nothing to do with chemical weapons plans."

Virginia aid to dependent children faces deep cuts

A "carrot-and-stick" program that targets destitute parents of schoolchildren is now in operation in Virginia. The pilot project, called Virginia Incentives To Advance Learning (VITAL), will pay an additional \$30 per month to those families receiving Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) if their children do well in school; and, using existing statutes, the program will allow courts to eliminate a parent's entire portion of the family's ADC allowance if a child is chronically truant. An average family allowance is \$291 per month for a single parent with two children.

The program spends \$600,000 to track children, whose families will benefit or suffer by their behavior. It is beginning in selected communities chosen by the state government. DeAnn Lineberry of the state Department of Social Services told *EIR* that the penalty provision is not new, but is being used for the first time.

The *Washington Times* quoted the pro-

gram's main legislative backer, Delegate Steve Martin (R-Chesterfield), that "without sanctions there will be no incentives to keep [students] in school." Delegate William P. Robinson, Norfolk Democrat and chairman of the House black caucus, denounced the pilot project as "draconian, regressive and racist." State Sen. Mark Earley, (R-Chesapeake), told the *Times*: "We need to stop subsidizing irresponsibility."

ADL 'minstrel show,' shocked black worker

"Black Worker at the ADL Charges League with Racism," was the headline of an article in the June 20 issue of the *New York Amsterdam News*. The article comes in the wake of an ADL report released in mid-June, entitled "Black Demagogues and the Rise of Anti-Semitism," which attacks numerous African-American leaders, including Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan and *Amsterdam News* publisher Wilbert Tatum.

The front-page article continued: "A black female employee at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) accused the organization of being racially insensitive and overzealous in its pursuit of anti-Semitic behavior.

"Cheryl Hamilton, a fundraiser assistant, asserts that the ADL allowed a modern minstrel show to occur during the Fashion Accessories Torch of Liberty ceremonies last November. 'I was shocked,' Hamilton told the *Amsterdam News* in a telephone interview. . . . 'I missed some of the performance,' she said, 'but I was there when the lights changed and the dancers—blonde and blue-eyed teenagers—were suddenly transformed into black-face modern minstrels. Then, to add insult to injury, they passed out white gloves to members of the audience. I refused to take one and admonished the waiter, 'Don't you know this is a minstrel show?' I asked him. 'So what?' he replied.

"Hamilton, 31, has been employed at ADL as a temporary secretary for six months and reports hearing all sorts of racist remarks and innuendos from the white employees and supervisors. 'I find it very

strange that an organization so on guard for bigotry does not practice what it preaches,' she said."

Gephardt rival blasts health care 'containment'

Leif Johnson, LaRouche Democratic candidate for Congress in Missouri's 3rd C.D., charged that the new "Health Care Cost Containment and Reform Act of 1992," introduced by Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, will reduce health care for millions of Americans. "This bill would put all health providers, whether they accept federal, private insurance, state, or private payment, under federal 'cost containment' controls," Johnson said in a July 16 statement.

"My opponent's new bill would cap health costs at the yearly percentage growth of the Gross Domestic Product. In this depression, that imposes an overall reduction in health funds, which will reduce health care for a great number of Americans, particularly those with fixed or low incomes," said Johnson, who is Gephardt's only active opponent in the Aug. 4 Democratic primary election.

"Gephardt's co-sponsor, Rep. Pete Stark (D-Calif.), admits this would reduce health care expenditures by \$250 billion by the year 2000."

Johnson declared, "On June 25, Gephardt told reporters, 'Cost containment is the linchpin of health care reform.' I say the good health of every American is the linchpin of health care reform. People, not dollars or the federal bureaucracy, come first—always."

Supreme Court upholds FDA ban on abortion pill

In a brief three paragraphs, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 to uphold the Food and Drug Administration's ban on RU-486, the chemical abortifacient that was first legalized in France. The ruling defeats the abortion lobby's attempt to test the legality

Briefly

of the federal laws that prohibit the import of RU-486 for personal use. On June 29, Leona Benten, 29, traveled to England to purchase the drug, and returned to the U.S. to abort her baby. Her trip was paid for by the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, which is also providing her attorneys. Abortion rights fanatic Lawrence Lader alerted the FDA of the intention to bring the drug into the country. Benten and her attorneys then moved with a planned lawsuit when Customs confiscated the drug at JFK International Airport.

The FDA allows the use of non-approved drugs for research and when an individual is terminally ill or no cure exists for a serious illness. But Benten and her attorneys argued this "discretionary" policy should include exceptions for the personal use of RU-486 as an abortifacient. The FDA argued the point that the only reason RU-486 is not approved is because its manufacturer, French pharmaceutical firm Roussel-Uclaf, has refused to conduct the necessary safety tests on the drug in the U.S.

Justices Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens dissented on the grounds that the government's interest in protecting Benten by avoiding a health risk associated with the pills was not sufficient reason to create an undue burden to Benten's "right" to abortion.

The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy reported that Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) planned to introduce a bill in Congress to try to obtain the pills for Benten.

Neo-Confederates still attacking United States

The July 19 issue of the *Washington Times's* *Insight* magazine gave prominent coverage to the "neo-Confederates" who are still fighting for "the principles of 1860." *Insight* cited the fact that three presidential candidates are from the South, adding, "In a year of widespread voter anger, intellectual partisans of the Confederacy think they detect a wider audience for their views."

Ludwig von Mises Institute head Llewellyn Rockwell, a leading proponent of reviving the Confederate Constitution, com-

pared Abraham Lincoln's fight for equality to Stalin, according to *Insight*: "Lincoln philosophically incorporated the Declaration of Independence, with its statement that all men are created equal, into the Constitution, which made equality 'the idea of the state,' says Llewellyn Rockwell. . . . After idealizing equality, 'Stalin is the next stop down the line.' . . . We should celebrate the diversity of human nature.' "

Rockwell also told *Insight*, "I think there is a cultural war coming up. We're in a race war right now."

Thomas Fleming, editor of *Chronicles* magazine, told *Insight*: "The thing I like about the South" is its similarity to the Middle Ages, which were "gritty and dirty with people fighting for what they believed in on a day-to-day level. The thing I love about medieval politics was that it was people in the street rioting day-to-day."

Judge 'moved' by Noriega statement

Federal Judge William Hoever of Miami, who sentenced Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega to 40 years in prison, told the July 19 Ft. Lauderdale *Sun Sentinel* that he was touched by Noriega's sentencing speech on July 10.

During the seven-month trial, Hoever had forbidden the defense to mention the invasion of Panama or present any "political" evidence, including the general's information about the drugs-for-weapons operations carried out by White House operatives in Central America, which Noriega had vigorously opposed. His gag order preordained Noriega's conviction. Even at the sentencing, Hoever upheld prosecutors' objections and forbade Noriega to talk about some U.S. covert operations.

"Whatever happened outside the four corners of this courtroom is somebody else's burden, not mine," he told the *Sun Sentinel* "I always have difficulty with sentencing," added Hoever. "I always do, but I suffered more with this one than I usually do," he said. "I sometimes wonder who we are to judge what happens to the lives of others."

● **AL GORE**, as a congressman in 1979, co-sponsored a resolution making April 27-May 1 "Appropriate Technology Week" which proclaims: "We need to spend less capital, provide more jobs by creating more labor intensive technology."

● **AN FOIA SUIT** brought against the Boston U.S. Attorney's office by The LaRouche Campaign's 1984 treasurer Edward Spannaus went to trial on July 15 in a highly unusual move. The suit, brought before Judge Robert Keeton seeks documents concerning then-U.S. Attorney William Weld's contacts with government and private agencies including NBC and the Anti-Defamation League during 1983-84. Of 5,000 FOIA cases, only a handful have ever gone to trial.

● **UTAH'S** Supreme Court on July 17 again denied the appeal of William Andrews, a black man scheduled to be executed on July 30 for murders which he did not commit. The only recourse now is for his sentence to be commuted by the Utah Board of Pardons.

● **ROCHELLE ASCHER** filed a petition before the U.S. Supreme Court on July 16 to overturn her 1989 conviction on trumped-up charges of "securities violations" in Virginia. Ascher, who is currently serving a 10-year sentence, was originally sentenced to 86 years as part of the "get LaRouche" effort.

● **AN EXTRADITION** request by the U.S. to Nigeria for an accused drug dealer has been rejected by a Nigerian court, according to a wire from the News Agency of Nigeria. Magistrate Sam Adelana, quoted by NAN, said on July 18: "A fugitive offender can only be surrendered when the magistrate was satisfied that a *prima facie* case had been made against him, but could not be surrendered when it appeared that the trial would be prejudiced."