

National News

U.S. passivity on Bosnia draws fourth resignation

Croatia desk head Stephen Walker on Aug. 23 became the fourth career Foreign Service officer to resign from the State Department over Washington's footdragging on intervention to stop Serbian genocide against Bosnia. Walker told an interviewer that U.S. support for the British-run peace talks charade in Geneva "puts a gun at the head of the Bosnian government and tells it: 'Sign, or else.'" Walker's resignation was accompanied by an open letter to Secretary Warren Christopher which blasted U.S. policy as "misguided, vacillating, and dangerous."

"Genocide is taking place again in Europe, yet we, the European Community and the rest of the international community stand by and watch," Walker wrote, adding: "We have been publicly committed to Bosnia-Herzegovina's territorial integrity and sovereignty, yet we now tacitly approve of its forcible dismemberment and division along ethnic lines. . . ."

"The United States has a full menu of options at its disposal, even at this late hour: lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia, the use of U.S. and allied air power to compel Serbian compliance, and a wide range of diplomatic options that we have not even begun to explore fully."

Most Americans favor food irradiation

A poultry producer and a retailer in California reached an out-of-court settlement with a customer who suffered salmonella poisoning, on the basis that the poultry company "did not use all the technology available" to prevent salmonella contamination. *EIR*'s industry sources report that this is first case that has indicated that food irradiation, which kills salmonella, could have prevented the illness.

The anti-technology lobby's arguments against food irradiation are so absurd that even recent Gallup Poll found that over 50% of Americans are "favorable" to irradiated

foods, even when no details of the technology's benefits are argued. The findings pleasantly surprised the industry group that commissioned the study, a source in the food safety industry told *EIR*. Another poll, conducted by the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, found a majority of the 1,000 persons polled in favor of food irradiation. A third study, conducted by a graduate student, polled 200 people before and after seeing a short film on food irradiation and before and after tasting irradiated strawberries. The percentage of people in favor of irradiation jumped to 90% after seeing the film, and to 99% after tasting the strawberries.

ADL tries to sandbag Air Force appointee

Just before Dr. Sheila Widnall was unanimously confirmed in August by the Senate Armed Services Committee as the new secretary of the Air Force, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) tried to scuttle her appointment by trying to smear her as an anti-Semite — its usual tactic — by circulating the story in the press that her husband belonged to a Boston yacht club that discriminated against Jews.

Michael Lieberman of the ADL's Washington, D.C. office began calling local press, while an aide to Sen. Connie Mack (R-Fla.), Saul Singer, began lobbying members of the Armed Services panel to block her nomination on the basis of the "press accounts." Ultimately, Singer convinced committee member Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) to confront her, to which she responded that not only were a number of the club's members Jewish, but moreover, the incoming commander was also Jewish.

The ADL's animus stems from the fact that Dr. Widnall, while an adviser to the USAF Matériel Command, had written a highly critical report of Israel's anti-ballistic missile program and urged the Air Force to cut off funds. She verbally told the command: "It's time for [the Israelis] to start putting away some of those toys and start becoming an engineering organization that has a couple of aims in life."

Republicans lash out against habeas corpus

The theme of an Aug. 23 hearing of the House Republican Conference on the Republican anti-crime bill, according to Rep. Henry Hyde (Ill.), was that "we need more jails, more police, more prosecutors, more courts and more judges." In his opening statement, Hyde bragged that the Republican crime bill H.R. 2782 attacks *habeas corpus* appeals in capital cases much more strongly than President Clinton's proposal. He said that long delays in executing death sentences "undermine public confidence in our criminal justice system and prevent the death penalty from serving as a deterrent to future violent crimes."

The bill places a one-year limitation on the time a defendant may file for a writ of *habeas corpus* in a federal court after the judgment of a state court, and requires that federal evidentiary hearings in *habeas* procedures be based on evidence actually argued in state court, except where state action violated the Constitution or when factual evidence could not have been discovered in time for state post-conviction review.

NAACP veteran joins LaRouche committee

Rev. Wade Watts, former president of the Oklahoma National Association for the Advancement of Colored People issued a statement on Aug. 18 hailing the announcement that an exploratory committee was forming for a 1996 presidential run for Lyndon LaRouche. Watts was joined at a press conference in McAlester, Oklahoma, by Amelia Boynton Robinson, vice chairman of the Schiller Institute and a 60-year veteran of the civil rights struggle. Watts said in his statement:

"I have just been informed of the effort by associates of Mr. Lyndon LaRouche to form an Exploratory Committee to give Mr. LaRouche a voice, as a possible future candidate, on the most important issues facing us today as American citizens.

Briefly

● THE FEDERAL ELECTION

Commission is appealing to the Supreme Court a recent appeals court ruling that it illegally denied the 1992 presidential campaign of Lyndon LaRouche matching funds. The FEC was ordered to pay owed matching funds. The appeal is a direct response to the announcement of an exploratory committee on LaRouche's behalf for 1996.

● WASHINGTON, D.C. Mayor

Sharon Pratt Kelly has announced that legalized casino gambling is "under study" as a means to fund the construction of the stalled Washington Convention Center. Strong opposition has come from city council chairman John Ray.

● ROBERT GATES, former Director

of Central Intelligence, expressed his fears to journalists at a conference organized by *U.S.A. Today* that the West's anti-terrorism efforts might be viewed by the Islamic world as a primarily American campaign against Islam, especially given the prominent and contradictory postures of the U.S. in Iraq, Somalia, and Bosnia.

● FIFTEEN ILLINOIS citizens

have filed to run in school board elections around the state, on a program of opposition to "outcome-based education," which Lyndon LaRouche has called spiritual child abuse. In 1986, two LaRouche associates won Democratic primary races for secretary of state and lieutenant governor.

● TWO MEMBERS of the European

Parliament visited former Virginia death row inmate Joe Giarratano on Aug. 15, and the following day presented Gov. Douglas Wilder's office with a petition signed by 560 notables asking for a new trial for Giarratano. *EIR* interviewed Giarratano shortly after Wilder commuted his sentence because there was strong reason to think he was innocent. However, then-Attorney General Mary Sue Terry refused to allow him a new trial.

"I know Mr. LaRouche well, and fully support this effort. Even though he is still in jail, as a result of a frameup — what I call an old-fashioned Negro trial — he has continued to offer guidance for our country. He has not let his personal hardship of being a political prisoner stop him from concerning himself with issues such as stopping genocide against the people of Bosnia, or fighting for jobs and justice and quality education for the people of America.

"I served on the Advisory Committee for his 1992 presidential campaign, and am honored to be asked to continue in that capacity with the LaRouche Exploratory Committee which has just been founded. I thought he was the most qualified candidate for President then, and I still believe that to be true. It is my hope that this committee will make his views and ideas known to the people of Oklahoma, so they can make informed decisions in the critical months ahead."

N.Y. Times lies that SDI tests were faked

The Aug. 19 issue of the *New York Times* was caught lying again about the Strategic Defense Initiative, claiming that in 1984, the Reagan administration developed a costly SDI test to hoodwink the Soviets into believing that the SDI was a viable technology, and force them to engage in expensive "catch-up." Congress, the *Times* claimed, was "fed" other "phony data" on the SDI; this "crossed the line of normal Pentagon misrepresentation. They denied the Congress the information it needed to exercise its constitutional authority over spending.

"Congress would be foolish to allow that to happen again," wrote Tim Weiner, apparently in an oblique reference to the Russians' offer of a joint ballistic missile defense experiment to President Clinton in April.

"The whole history of the SDI is now thrown into question," the *Times* continued. "Millions of Americans are now walking around with the impression that SDI was designed to protect them. But to some of its original proponents, such as President

Ronald Reagan's National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, SDI was always an elaborate ruse to induce the Soviet Union to divert money and manpower into space-based defenses. . . . Whether or not disinformation to deceive the Soviets was fair play in the game of nations, defrauding Congress was not."

Lyndon LaRouche, who developed SDI on the basis of what both Washington and Moscow acknowledged were "new physical principles," remarked that the *New York Times* had also polemicized against Thomas Edison's light bulb, the Wright brothers' concept of heavier-than-air flight, and Robert Goddard's contribution to rocket science. Its most recent embarrassing diatribes have been aimed at flood control levees in the Midwest.

Hentoff asks: Does Dr. Elders back eugenics?

"A Surgeon General Who Accepts Eugenics?" asked the headline on Nat Hentoff's Aug. 21 column in the *Washington Post* about Dr. Joycelyn Elders's support for aborting children who may be defective. Hentoff pointed to the views of the Surgeon General nominee as indicative of "how the American *Zeitgeist* is moving toward an acceptance of eugenics." Hentoff cited her May 23, 1990 Senate testimony on the Freedom of Choice Act: "In stressing that 'abortion has had an important, and positive, public health effect,' she pointed out — by way of celebratory example — that 'the number of Down's syndrome infants in Washington State in 1976 was 64% lower than it would have been without legal abortion.'"

Hentoff advised reporters who "cover the man who nominated Dr. Elders," i.e., President Clinton, to ask him "whether he believes eugenics is the way to go." He concluded, "In any case, Dr. Elders's credo — and the reactions to it — are not about the general abortion debate as such. The chilling prospect in *this* debate is having a surgeon general who believes that one of her missions is to perfect future generations in this way. Which defect would be next, according to the surgeon general?"