

National News

U.S. rabbis pay visit to Jordan

A group of 80 American rabbis arrived in Jordan on Jan. 19 in order to "point out the vast potential of peace."

"We will inform the Jewish public opinion that there is excitement and enthusiasm for a new age in the Middle East and the vision of peace," Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, told reporters. "To my knowledge there has never been such a delegation to any Arab country in the Middle East."

The group met with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan and government officials.

According to Rabbi Hirsch, the Association of Reform Zionists of America represents 850 synagogues in the United States with over 1.5 million American Jews affiliated, allowing it "to reach directly to the Jewish community."

D.C. concert celebrates Dr. King's memory

An audience of 150 celebrated the 65th birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan. 15, at a concert sponsored by the Schiller Institute and held at Bible Way Temple in Washington. The concert, "Martin Luther King: Classical Christian and Christian Classicist," consisted of Classical music works of which Dr. King was particularly fond, including selections from George Frederic Handel's *Messiah* and a stunning a cappella presentation of "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

The Schiller Institute and singers Marilyn Moore-Brown (soprano), Janice Jackson (mezzosoprano), Reginald Pindell (baritone), and John Sigerson (tenor), accompanied by Marvin Mills at the piano, also drew attention to the identity, in content and intention, of the African-American spiritual, with the Handel selections. The institute has recently placed great emphasis on the work of 19th-century Czech composer

Antonin Dvorak to establish a National Conservatory of Music and his contention that in the African-American spiritual are to be discovered the essential elements required for the founding of a "great and noble school of music."

Bible Way Temple's late founder, Rev. Smallwood E. Williams, was one of the few ministers to open the doors of his church to Dr. King in the early days of the civil rights struggle.

Amelia Boynton Robinson, vice chairman of the Schiller Institute, board member of the Martin Luther King Center For Non-Violent Social Change, and central organizer of the 1960s' Selma Right to Vote Movement, greeted those present, saying, "Pieces of the dream have been picked up by people like Lyndon LaRouche," one of the institute's founders.

Court upholds RICO vs. pro-life movement

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously to allow the use of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act against pro-life demonstrators on Jan. 24, overturning the act's requirement that an economic motive be established for a racketeering suit to be brought.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) and three abortuaries initially filed a class action suit against Joseph M. Scheidler (Pro-Life Action League) and Randall Terry (Operation Rescue), among others, in June 1986, and amended it to include the RICO charges in February 1989. The defendants were never proven to have violated RICO, and the case now goes back to the federal court in Chicago which dismissed it for lack of evidence in 1990. Proven civil violations carry a penalty of treble monetary damages.

Since the complaint was filed, NOW has regularly accused pro-life demonstrators of violence, arson, and murder: At a Nov. 28, 1988 press conference, Molly Yard, then-president of NOW, said of the defendants, "They have burned and bombed many clinics," although later, NOW's then attorney Patricia Ireland admitted that "there's no evidence of bombing or arson." Now the

group's president, Ireland has insinuated that Scheidler is "linked to arson."

Last fall, as Congress conducted hearings on a bill that to make picketing outside abortuaries a felony, the abortion lobby announced that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms found that the majority of clinic arson and bombing cases they had solved were carried out by pro-lifers. The BATF stated to *EIR* and other organizations that they had never found such evidence nor made any such statement.

LaRouche associate files habeas motion

Attorneys for Richard Welsh have filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia seeking to have his 1990 state conviction for securities fraud overturned, because prosecutor John Russell and Judge Clifford Weckstein were polluted. Welsh is also asking the court to order an evidentiary hearing where his attorneys can subpoena documents and question current and former state officials under oath about their illegal actions.

Welsh charged that his Fifth Amendment rights were violated when Russell, Loudoun County Sheriff's Deputy Don Moore, and the Virginia prosecutorial team illegally had access to Welsh's immunized testimony in the federal railroad trials against LaRouche. The petition also charged that Judge Weckstein was biased and should have recused himself because of his contacts with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which during that time was an active member of the prosecutorial team. ADL leaders Ira Gissen and Murray Janus sent Weckstein ADL hate literature on LaRouche, and offered him the ADL's support for an appointment to the Virginia Supreme Court.

Welsh's petition states that Virginia officials had access to documents based on his testimony, jointly interviewed witnesses with federal agents, attended court hearings where his testimony was discussed, and that they obtained copies of the transcript of his testimony. The petition also stated that,

after he was fired from the sheriff's office, Don Moore had 16 file cabinets at his home which contained law enforcement documents relating to the "LaRouche" cases, some of which contained information obtained from Welsh's immunized testimony. Moore is currently under federal investigation in connection with a kidnapping related to the Cult Awareness Network.

Va. school superintendent expresses views on sex ed

Virginia's version of sex education, called "Family Life Education," would become an elective program rather than a mandatory one from which students can "opt out" if they choose, if the new school superintendent has his way. In a wide-ranging interview with this news service on Jan. 22, which will appear in the weekly newspaper *New Federalist*, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. William C. Boshers said that, at his confirmation hearing, "I actually opposed public school divisions being responsible for Family Life Education, with the belief that families and churches should be the primary providers, because those issues are very difficult to teach in the absence of value judgments."

Boshers is well known in the state for having successfully fought to keep prayer at the graduation ceremonies in Henrico County public schools last year, where he was superintendent.

GOP on 'lock 'em up' anti-crime rampage

Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), who may become the next House Minority Leader in 1995, told the winter meeting of the Republican National Committee on Jan. 21 that the government should build "stockades" on surplus military bases to incarcerate violent criminals instead of allowing their early release to prey on Americans. "We should announce that as of June 1, no violent crimi-

nal need be released early anywhere in America for lack of space," Gingrich ranted. "We should build as many stockades as necessary and as quickly as though this were wartime, and people were dying—because they are."

Gingrich said the stockades would be devoid of the comforts of air conditioning or television and would be designed to hold violent criminals on a temporary basis. He also called for a two-year crash program to build as many prisons as necessary.

Gingrich's sentiment was echoed by Virginia Gov. George Allen, who said he will call for a special session of the Virginia legislature to consider how to abolish parole, with the goal of having violent offenders serve their full sentence instead of being released early.

Drug control czar lays out interdiction plan

Director Lee Brown of the Office of Drug Control Policy told "Meet the Press" on Jan. 23 that the Clinton administration, which will soon release its plan to fight drugs, believes it is more cost-efficient to stop drugs at the source in Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia. While he did not spell out what this would entail, he said that it was less costly than trying to interdict drugs in the "interim zones."

He noted that the budget for the Drug Enforcement Administration was the highest ever under President Clinton, covering interdiction, prevention, and treatment. But, he said, he had asked President Clinton in the final budget to include more money for treatment in order, ultimately, to cover treatment for all who need it.

Asked about the calls by former Secretary of State George Shultz and current Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders for legalization of drugs, he said that President Clinton has no intention of allowing legalization. He added that Dr. Elders said that she was just expressing her own opinion; however, Brown confirmed that he was expressing the views of the President, when he said no to legalization.

Briefly

● **PRESERVATIONISTS** and the state of Illinois plan to turn the former Joliet Arsenal in the north of the state into "prairie-land" with the help of the federal government. Groups like the Nature Conservancy envision turning the arsenal's 40-mile tract into a "restored prairie," stocked with bison and visited by tens of thousands of tourists.

● **PAT BUCHANAN** headlined his syndicated column "Second Thoughts on School Vouchers" on Jan. 22. In discussing a ballot initiative in California last year which lost, Buchanan noted that vouchers would destroy the independence of Christian schools, and that most of the proposition's leading proponents are "individuals who dominated educational policies in the Reagan and Bush administrations."

● **LOUDOUN** County, Virginia's school board decided on Jan. 18 not to appeal a court ruling in a lawsuit to forbid student-led prayers at graduation. An injunction, issued by federal Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr., was overturned last spring, allowing the students to hold non-proselytizing prayer. Five years ago, Bryan presided over the railroad trial of Loudoun resident Lyndon LaRouche.

● **GEORGE BUSH** gave his first major interview since leaving office a year ago in the February issue of *Washingtonian* magazine. He is currently helping develop the "George Bush School of Public Service" at Texas A&M University. He says his main political interest now is in electing his sons, George and Jeb, as governors of Texas and Florida.

● **TWENTY-EIGHT** congressmen have announced that they will not return to office after the 103rd Congress adjourns, according to a Jan. 22 UPI wire. Of those, 15 plan not to seek any other elective office. Six members of the Senate are also leaving. Rep. Austin Murphy (D-Pa.) is the latest casualty, the fourth House member in 1994 to announce his retirement.