

National News

'Exonerate LaRouche,' ex-prisoners urge Clinton

The delegates to the Jan. 21-22 Budapest conference of the International Association of Former Political Prisoners and Victims of Communism sent the following resolution to President Clinton, asking for Lyndon LaRouche's exoneration. The resolution was approved by acclamation by the participants of the conference.

"Dear President Clinton,

"We, participants of the Fourth International Congress of the Associations of Former Political Prisoners, meeting in Budapest, Hungary, on Jan. 21-22, 1995, address to you the following urgent appeal:

"As former political prisoners in communist dictatorships, we know the importance of inseparability of justice and the state of law. We, who in part are still fighting for our own exoneration, are convinced, that these principles may not be violated in any country.

"Therefore, we urgently appeal to you and Attorney General Janet Reno, to immediately take all appropriate measures necessary for the full exoneration of American politician and economist Lyndon LaRouche, who was released on parole from a U.S. prison on Jan. 26, 1994."

Arizona reinstates use of CFCs

Arizona's House Environment Committee has passed a bill that would "allow the possession, use, manufacture, transportation or sale of CFCs in Arizona" after the federal ban on production of takes effect, according to an Associated Press wire. Chlorofluorocarbons, such as freon, are most known for their uses as refrigerants and in fire extinguishers; they are set to be banned in the United States, under the aegis of the 1987 Montreal Protocol, which codified the unsubstantiated claim that man-made chlorine products are depleting atmospheric ozone.

The AP wire noted that the state committee decided on Jan. 27 that "Arizona should

defy the federal government and much of the rest of the world" in taking this action. "I am essentially making an effort here to get the attention of Congress," said the Republican sponsor of the bill, Rep. Jean McGrath.

Federal bills to take the United States out of the Montreal Protocol are expected to be introduced into the House and Senate this year.

Neo-cons choose name of 'New Federalists'

A study group of neo-conservative freshman congressmen proclaimed themselves the "New Federalists," after House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) recommended that colleagues read *The Federalist Papers*. According to *Roll Call*, a semi-weekly distributed on Capitol Hill, they are using *The Federalist Papers* as their text.

Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-Fla.) told *Roll Call* that he would personally "look into tearing down the entire federal education bureaucracy," which, of course, is counter to the intent of the constitutional framers who wrote *The Federalist Papers*.

A commentary in *Roll Call* by Washington and Lee University professors William F. Connelly, Jr. and Robert A. Strong adds their own unique corrective:

"What they have in mind, however, may actually make them the 'New Anti-Federalists' . . . The proponents of the Constitution called themselves Federalists. That was a misnomer. They were, in fact, nationalists who wanted to create a powerful central government to replace the weak one under the Articles of Confederation. Their opponents were left with the awkward and inaccurate label of Anti-Federalists. . . .

"Opponents of the Constitution were the real friends of federalism. They thought that most political problems, other than foreign policy and defense, were best handled at levels of government closest to the people. They questioned the wisdom of granting the new Congress broad powers over taxation, regulation of commerce, and printing of money that were at the heart of Article I. . . .

"In the 1780s, the Anti-Federalists lost

their debate over the Constitution, in part because the two sides of their attack on the Federalists—the suspicion of government power and the demand that government take responsibility for nurturing republican virtues—were in conflict with each other. But tensions are often present in complicated political positions and may be inherent in any 'conservative revolution.' "

High court turns back in death penalty case

The Supreme Court's recent march toward hell in its *habeas corpus* and death penalty rulings took a slight turn back toward truth on Jan. 23, when it ruled that Missouri death row inmate Lloyd Schlup was free to present new evidence of his innocence. Schlup had been granted a reprieve by Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan in November 1993, just nine hours before execution, because a videotape was produced—which had never been brought to trial—showing that he was in a prison cafeteria food line just minutes after the murder for which he was convicted had been committed.

His original trial was a textbook study in how a lawyer can throw a case: virtually no evidence was presented, no witnesses interrogated.

The majority of the court, with Chief Justice Rehnquist in sharp dissent, ruled that the lower courts had misapplied Supreme Court precedent in setting an extremely high standard for Schlup to meet before he could even get a hearing to present his evidence to a federal judge. The lower courts had ruled that Schlup must show "by clear and convincing evidence" that "no reasonable juror" would have found him guilty except for a constitutional error at his trial.

The majority opinion, written by Justice John Paul Stevens, said that, in order to gain a hearing before a federal court, Schlup should be required to show that "a constitutional violation has probably resulted in the conviction of one who is actually innocent." "Probably" is a less severe standard than "clear and convincing evidence."

Just to make clear that they are not giving up their march to hell, the majority also wrote that this case differs from the 1993

Herrera decision. In that case, Texas inmate Leonel Herrera, who was executed, didn't claim that his trial had been constitutionally defective, but rather that it would be unconstitutional to execute an innocent person. As long as you get a "fair trial," if you're found guilty, you can be executed, no matter how innocent you may be.

Say budget amendment must spell out cuts

Senate Democrats introduced a "right-to-know" resolution to require an accounting that spells out cuts and tax increases necessary to balance the budget, before a balanced budget amendment is passed. Forty Democrats made the same demand in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole. "Without the 'Right to Know' I think that it would be very, very difficult to pass" the amendment in the Senate, said Sen. John Breaux (D-La.), who as chief deputy whip counts votes for Democrats. The amendment needs 67 votes to pass and there are only 53 Republicans.

President Clinton added to the senators' demand: "Let the people know what is involved, both in the short run, what will have to be cut, and what if any down sides there are. . . . The people need more information about this before the [state] legislatures vote on it."

Perry: Budget amendment would mean defense cuts

A balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution would entail major defense cuts, Defense Secretary William Perry told Associated Press on Jan. 25. "If you imagine a balanced budget amendment would be accompanied by a resistance to increasing taxes and by resistance to cutting programs like Social Security, then you're led inevitably to an arithmetic which says there has to be very major cuts in the defense budget," Perry said.

He continued that he would prefer to

trim the number of Army divisions, Navy ships, or Air Force planes, rather than reduce funds used to keep the military trained and combat-ready. "I would rather have a highly ready small force, than a large force that is poorly equipped or poorly trained," he said. A smaller force, he argued, means that the nation would "not be able to take on as many commitments in the world as we're now taking on," nor would the Pentagon be able to carry out its strategy of being able to fight one major regional conflict and then immediately take on another.

Perry spoke after giving testimony on Capitol Hill, where he and Gen. John Shalikshvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, asked Congress to approve a \$2.5 billion emergency bill to prevent further erosion in the military's fighting capabilities. Flight training, Army field exercises, and ship maintenance will be cut sharply within months if Congress fails to quickly approve the money, they said.

Bundy: Test ban treaty should be permanent

McGeorge Bundy wrote that President Clinton must "fix his mistake" and make the nuclear test ban treaty permanent, rather than allowing it to come up for renewal every ten years as it does now, in a commentary in the Jan. 25 *Washington Post*. Former National Security Adviser Bundy, called the "Dean of the Eastern Establishment" and now listed as "Scholar in Residence at the Carnegie Corporation in New York," argued that a ten-year limit to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty fatally weakens the case for indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is coming up for renewal this year.

"The United States wants an unlimited extension" of the NPT, said Bundy, "and so do most of its northern friends. But many others, led by a 'non-aligned group,' want a shorter extension so that they can hold the treaty hostage from time to time to advance whatever new positions they may favor. . . . American insistence on a 10-year exit clause for the CTB is now gravely damaging the campaign of Americans and others for unlimited extension of NPT."

Briefly

● **DAN QUAYLE** was the featured speaker at an Amway convention of 35,000 in January. Amway in turn donated \$2.5 million to the Republican National Committee. *EIR* sources report that Amway makes its money by paying state taxes on its products based on their wholesale prices, but collects the taxes from distributors based on retail prices and pockets the difference, as much as \$1,200 in the case of one individual.

● **THE MAYOR OF CHESTER**, Pennsylvania is asking the state to declare the city "financially distressed." The city was over \$10 million in debt at the end of 1994. The city council has been unable to pass a budget, and expenses for 1995 are \$1 million over expected revenues. The school district, which has a \$5.8 million debt, has already been taken over by the state, which is directly managing it.

● **THE SMITHSONIAN** Institution's National Aeronautic and Space Museum has decided to cancel its exhibit of the Enola Gay, the bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. The exhibit became an object of controversy when its curator first planned to justify the bombing, and then reversed himself and admitted that Japan was known to be on the verge of surrender.

● **LAROCHE ALLY** Sheila Jones, who is running for mayor of Chicago in the Feb. 28 election, turned back an effort to challenge her petition signatures in January. Challengers gave up the attempt after scrutinizing only half of the signatures to place Jones's name on the ballot, when they realized they could not find sufficient invalid signatures to disqualify Jones.

● **A VIRGINIA** federal judge refused to accept the appeal on Jan. 23 of death row inmate Dana Ray Edmonds, although he admitted "this man did not receive effective assistance of counsel." As a result of the ruling, Edmonds became the first Virginian to die by lethal injection the next day.