

# National News

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## Washington State says, food urgent for N. Korea

Washington State's Secretary of State Ralph Munro, following a week-long trip to North Korea, has issued a call for the international community to act quickly to help keep millions of Koreans from dying of starvation this summer. "The country is out of food, there is hunger everywhere," he said. Munro said he was "shocked" to learn that a group of schoolchildren who sang for him were not 3 to 5 years old, but were actually between the ages of 6 and 9, and showing signs of stunting due to malnutrition.

The May 9 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* printed more than two pages on the North Korean famine, and the potential for serious destabilization or war. The coverage also emphasized how the lives of every Washington State resident would be affected. In addition to tens of thousands of military personnel who would be the first to ship out in a crisis, more than 700,000 of the state's 2.8 million jobs are directly or indirectly dependent upon international trade. South Korea is the second largest trading partner in the world for Washington, after Japan.

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## Sen. Hollings objects to FBI's global police role

Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) raised strong objections to the posting of increasing numbers of FBI agents overseas, during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on counter-terrorism on May 13. Much of the hearing was devoted to explanations by the heads of the FBI, Justice Department, and CIA about how well they are all coordinating their counter-terrorism efforts.

During his round of questions, Hollings said that there is a "misplaced coordination" regarding overseas operations. Citing his own experience with the CIA in the 1950s, and then with the FBI, he said that the problem of coordination is not "the coordination between the love-in that the director of the CIA and the director of the FBI are having,

but it's the coordination with the host country."

Citing the case of Mexico, Hollings continued, "I wouldn't countenance five minutes of a Mexican agent coming up here to enforce the law on drugs. And why should Mexico, in turn, countenance any DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] agents or otherwise running around Mexico enforcing laws? It makes them look like a second-rate country. It's the arrogance of the United States. I happen to agree with Mexico on that point." Hollings added that the primary role of intelligence-gathering overseas should remain with the CIA, "not with FBI agents running around."

Attorney General Janet Reno responded that the CIA is not trained to develop evidence that is admissible in U.S. courts. "When a man can sit in his kitchen in St. Petersburg, Russia," she said, "and steal by his computer from a bank in New York City, we have got to have a law enforcement capacity that can make sure that those people are held."

Hollings interrupted her to ask if "we should have an FBI officer there, ready at St. Petersburg . . . to arrest him?" Hollings said that the State Department has the primary responsibility for terrorism overseas. "And I'm trying to get that coordination because that goes right to the heart of the foreign policy of the United States. We're trying to make friends. We're trying to hold some alliances together. But we're not going to do it if we have that FBI agent roaming around in St. Petersburg looking for crime."

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## Motion submitted to free Susan McDougal from jail

An attorney for Whitewater victim Susan McDougal filed papers in Federal court in Little Rock, Arkansas on May 19, arguing that she should be released from jail, where she is being held for contempt of court—aside from her conviction in the Whitewater witch-hunt—because she has refused to testify or cooperate with Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr. Attorney Michael Kennedy argued that McDougal has endured conditions as harsh as any inmate in America, yet she stands firm in her refusal

to testify.

Ironically evoking the medieval doctrine, that persons accused of witchcraft must submit to torture until they confess, Kennedy declared, "The question for the court is how much more public torture will we cause to be inflicted on Susan McDougal before we say: 'Enough! The witch will not confess?'"

Her brother, Jim Henley, replying to messages of support sent to McDougal during her 300 days in prison, has written that, for her "crime of silence," she remains "in an isolation cell in a jail for violent criminals, the Sybil Brand Institute in Los Angeles. Susan is steadfast in her belief that the investigation by Kenneth Starr is not interested in the truth. . . ."

"Susan has served the longest sentence of anyone charged by the State of Arkansas for civil contempt. She remains locked-down in an area of the jail reserved for murderers and child abusers—and they have more privileges to move around, see visitors, or go outside than she does. Susan has been subjected to strip searches, shackled, handcuffed to a filthy toilet, and even denied the right to participate in religious services or have a Bible."

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## Legalized gambling now a \$500 billion operation

The rapid spread of U.S. state lotteries, licensed casinos, and related forms of legalized gambling, has led to an explosion in the amount of money wagered—from \$17 billion in 1974, to \$330 billion in 1992, to over \$500 billion in 1995, according to various estimates. Thirty-eight states now have lotteries; and casino gambling is legal in 23 states, putting 75% of the U.S. population within 300 miles of a casino.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, which maintains a nationwide help hotline, reports that in 1995, calls to the hotline increased 86%; that the average gambling debt of the callers was \$28,315, compared with an average annual income of \$33,410; and that 11% of the callers were unemployed—the second-highest "occupational" category after sales. State lotteries, widely promoted as a quick fix for

budget deficits, pay an average of only 34¢ in revenue for every dollar wagered. Some of the states have also been caught timing their lottery advertising blitzes to coincide with the mailing of Social Security and welfare checks.

State lotteries, moreover, are run by private corporations, whose directors are typically drawn from the ranks of Anglo-Dutch and Wall Street financiers. According to the May 19 issue of the *New Republic*, the board of GTECH Holdings Corp., of West Greenwich, Rhode Island, which operates 29 of the 38 state lotteries, includes Britain's Lord Moore of Lower Marsh, a member of the Queen's Privy Council and a former cabinet minister (1987-89), who chairs several Cr dit Suisse investment subsidiaries as well. The GTECH roster also features Anthony Ruys, a member of the executive board of Heineken; a chairman of a subsidiary of the Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette investment bank; and a former official of R.H. Macy & Co.

## Advisory panel says U.S. must fund maglev systems

The Clinton administration's Maglev Advisory Committee, appointed to help design a U.S. program for magnetic levitation rail systems, has recommended that Federal funds be provided to finance pilot projects for the revolutionary transportation technology. The committee's formal report will be submitted in June, but Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater had asked for an earlier indication of their recommendations, because debate has begun on reauthorization of the six-year Surface Transportation Act. None of its current versions provides funding for maglev demonstration.

A May 1 letter to Secretary Slater from the Maglev Advisory Committee, made available to *EIR*, reminds the secretary that the Federal government has played a "catalytic" and decisive role in introducing new modes of transportation technology in the United States, for waterways, rail systems, Federal highways, and airports. It points out that airport flight delays and congested highways "remind us continually that we are straining the capacity of our present trans-

portation system."

"Maglev is *not* the next generation of high-speed rail," the letter declares. It is an entirely new mode of transportation, due to its top speed of 350 miles per hour; rapid acceleration and deceleration, which allows for more frequent stops; climbing, tilting, and turning capabilities which enable it to adapt to existing rights-of-way; and separately powered vehicles, which will maximize point-to-point service. The advisory group recommends that two or three pilot projects be built, which could later be extended to form networks of maglev systems — at least one each for the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

The advisory committee's letter states that the projects should give "the new mode the national visibility necessary to provide the foundation for a major new Federal program." Some members of the committee have been fighting for this visibility for nearly 20 years.

## Shutdown of Ex-Im Bank could cost 600,000 jobs

Efforts by the Conservative Revolutionaries in Congress to shut down the U.S. Export-Import Bank by not renewing its charter, could deal a major blow to the U.S. economy, according to a report by the Economic Strategy Institute released on May 13. The report projects the United States would lose \$40 billion in trade, \$119 billion in Gross Domestic Product, \$23.9 billion in tax revenue, and 600,000 jobs in the next ten years, without the Ex-Im Bank's credits and loans to assist U.S. international trade.

In response to a reporter's question about the motives of the bank's opponents, Lawrence Chimerine, one of the authors of the new study, slammed their penny-wise, pound-foolish mentality: "What motivates the argument by the critics, I think, in some cases — in most cases, it's pure ideology. As I said earlier, a lot of the people we spoke to, who criticize the bank, in many cases, they don't even know what the bank does! How they operate. Why they exist. How long have they been here? So, again, as I said, it is a combination of budget and ideology."

**THE ALABAMA STATE** legislature voted on May 19 to create a joint interim committee to study a \$300 million "Black Belt Infrastructure Development Project," with funding from a securities transfer tax. The plan would build and repair roads, sewers, and water systems in Alabama's 10 poorest counties, rural areas with a predominantly African-American population, where the average unemployment rate is 12%.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON** declared that a vaccine against AIDS should be science's "first great triumph of the 21st century," during his May 18 commencement address at Morgan State University in Maryland. Clinton announced that a new AIDS vaccine research center will be created within the National Institutes of Health, to develop such a vaccine within ten years.

**EXECUTIONS IN TEXAS** are at a record pace under Gov. George W. Bush. Daily executions scheduled for May 19-22 pushed this year's total to 23, already topping the record of 19, set during all of 1995. The judicial bloodbath follows a recent ruling by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, upholding a state law designed to limit the appeals process.

**AMERICAN JEWISH** groups are reducing their financial support to Israel. The San Francisco Jewish Federation will cut its annual contribution this year from \$6 million to \$5 million — reportedly in response to an Israeli bill to make Orthodoxy the only recognized form of Judaism. Jewish federations in Boston, Newark, Cleveland, and several Florida cities are also cutting donations to the United Jewish Appeal.

**U.S. DRUG POLICY** Director Gen. Barry McCaffrey told the U.S. Conference of Mayors on May 20, "We're not going to arrest our way" out of the drug problem. He decried the growth in the nation's prison population, which now exceeds the size of the U.S. military forces.