

National News

Oregon puts euthanasia up for vote once again

In the November 1994 election, Oregon voters passed Measure 16, the first law in the nation to legalize Nazi euthanasia, more politely known as physician-assisted suicide. Since then, the law has been challenged in the courts, and on June 9 of this year the Oregon legislature voted to repeal Measure 16—but to place the issue of physician-assisted suicide on the ballot again, in a special election in November.

The major challenge to Measure 16 comes not from medical associations, but from a group of patients who say that their lives will be endangered should Measure 16 go into effect. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on whether this group of citizens has legal standing to challenge the law. Should the Supreme Court refuse to grant the patients' petition, a lower court order to enforce Measure 16 would stand. Unless there is another legal challenge to Measure 16, the Oregon Attorney General's office says that it is possible that Measure 16, now repealed, would take effect in the interim, until voters again decide the issue in November.

Pentagon: 'Nature parks' should replace borders

The national borders of Central and South America should be replaced by nature parks under armed guards, says Timothy Wirth, the State Department's undersecretary for global affairs. Wirth was the featured speaker at a "Western Hemisphere Environmental Security Conference," held June 3-4 in Miami, co-sponsored by the U.S. Army's Southern Command and the Defense Department's deputy undersecretary for environmental security. It was the third South-Comm conference this year for Ibero-American military officers.

The first brought in George Soros's narco-terrorist activists to lecture the military on "human rights"; the second featured

British academics and Inter-American Dialogue assets speaking on "democracy." This latest conference was perhaps the most lunatic of all. According to Brazil's *O Globo* of June 5, some 300 Ibero-Americans, mostly military officers, were lectured by Pentagon officials on how they should become "ecological warriors."

Wirth used his speech, according to *O Globo*'s account, to announce that the State Department is drawing up a plan for the creation of an international system of parks, for the borders of Central and South America, where soldiers will function as park guards. "Military confrontation between various nations along their borders, has cost us an enormous amount of money. It is very sensible to create a national park in these areas. For this reason, the protection of natural resources is today a legitimately military matter."

Lyndon LaRouche, in his 1995 Presidential campaign document, *The Blunder in U.S. National Security Policy*, specifically warned: "If the resolution of a border dispute is taken out of the sovereign hands of the nation-state parties by some supranational or other external agency, the disputed area becomes a region of 'extra-territoriality,' in which terrorist/separatist operations thrive. . . . For most of the areas which the [Department of Defense] report designates for border conflicts, there are well-known terrorist operations in place, ready to exploit the drug-trafficking and other beauties of de facto extra-territoriality."

Robert Reich lashes Maastricht, austerity

Robert Reich, secretary of labor during President Clinton's first term, delivered another blow against Europe's collapsing Maastricht austerity pact, in a June 7 interview with the influential Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*. "If the state budget must reduce the deficit to 3% of the GNP, countries will have not enough money to make investments," Reich declared, and "that is not the solution for sure. The combination of high unemployment levels with a rigid labor market and economic austerity leads nowhere. At

the end, it leads to a situation in which people revolt against politics. We have seen what happened in France."

Reich pointed to the worsening poverty in the United States. What the latest official employment figures "do not say [is] that in the U.S.A., along with a very low unemployment rate, there is a lot of poverty: Forty million Americans have no health care. The economy is growing, but the disparities are growing as well; and the majority of the middle class feel less secure than before. It is not true that average salaries and benefits increased: Forty percent of the workers had a steady decline of real wages."

He added that "the government does not invest as it should, in education, skills, day-care, and public transportation. This is President Clinton's intention, but the Republican Congress is doing everything to prevent it. And then, there is budget balancing, which has become a real obsession for everybody."

TVA budget cuts reach new low in absurdity

At the beginning of this year, Craven Crowell, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority—the largest electricity producer in the United States—announced that the TVA would forgo \$106 million in annual appropriations from the Federal budget. According to the June 6 *Wall Street Journal*, Crowell was attempting to deflect criticism from privately owned electric utilities, with whom the TVA would have to compete under deregulation, that it is government "subsidized." The funds were for non-power-related expenditures, such as land management and flood control.

But, at hearings before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Water Resources on June 5, Crowell was roundly criticized for summarily announcing the TVA would forgo Federal monies, without even consulting with the TVA Caucus, made up of representatives from the seven states served by the TVA. Worse yet, Crowell's proposal did not even stipulate who would run the non-power projects TVA would be dumping. Crowell said he believed the U.S. Army Corps of En-

LAROCHE Democrat Nancy Spannaus, running for Congress against Virginia Hunt Country Republican Frank Wolf, held a rally outside the Virginia headquarters of Baroness Cox's "Christian Solidarity International," on June 12. CSI, whose board includes Wolf, is one of the leading engines of the holocaust in Africa.

GEORGE BUSH has been profiteering in the genocide in Zaire, says *Africa Confidential* magazine. In 1996, Bush's Barrick Gold Company staked out gold concessions in Haut Zaire province; and Bush also helped the Tenke Company obtain a crucial cobalt mine in Zaire. In May of this year, this same Tenke Company made a critical \$50 million payment to Laurent Kabila, which helped secure military victory for the mass-murderer.

NEWT GINGRICH says British Prime Minister Tony Blair is an example of "right-wing leftism." In a *Washington Times* interview on June 9, Gingrich gushed, "Blair . . . may well be a Thatcherite. . . . If you have a Thatcherite Labour leader at a movement level, a man who has written a Christian manifesto, which he has—I'm not sure exactly how you explain this as a defeat for the movement." The manifesto Newt referred to, was in praise of Pontius Pilate.

HALEY BARBOUR, the former Republican National Committee chairman, is now reaping "premium" lobbying fees from some of the biggest contributors of soft money to the Republican Party. Thirteen top-dollar companies—including the big five Anglo-American tobacco giants, telecommunications, and insurance companies—have joined the client roster at Barbour, Rogers & Griffith.

THE CHRISTIAN Coalition, which is still contending for Federal tax-exempt status as a charitable organization, rented one of its mailing lists to Oliver North's 1994 U.S. Senate campaign in Virginia, the June 5 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported.

gineers could do so; but committee members pointed out that this would not obviate the need for federal funds, just shift them around.

Rep. Bob Clement (D-Tenn.), a former TVA board member, in response to Crowell, asked, "Do you realize the significance of what you did?" According to the *Journal*, Clement explained that Congressional opponents of the TVA have used Crowell's proposal, to further their arguments that it should be completely privatized. In response to the criticism, Crowell said that there would have to be some compromise on his proposal, but he was not withdrawing it. Crowell has also implemented manpower and other cuts at the TVA, trying to prove how "efficient" the authority is.

GOP still seeking ways to chisel workfare wages

To circumvent recent rulings by the Clinton administration, House Republicans unveiled a plan on June 4 to change the welfare law, to avoid having to pay workfare recipients a living wage. The proposal, outlined by Rep. E. Clay Shaw, Jr. (R-Fla.), the chief author of the so-called Personal Responsibility Act of 1996, would allow states to include the value of Medicaid benefits, child-care, and public housing assistance, when calculating minimum wage payments for public or non-profit jobs.

The Clinton administration, which ruled in May that workfare recipients are entitled to the minimum wage, claims that the law only allows states to use welfare cash payments and food stamps, in calculating how much to pay a beneficiary toward the federal minimum wage of \$4.75 an hour. Shaw argued that his proposal would not be binding on the states, but would give them greater flexibility to meet their welfare needs.

Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), the ranking Democrat on Shaw's Human Resources Subcommittee of Ways and Means, said, "People who are moving off welfare into work shouldn't be receiving a wage closer to a Third World wage than a decent wage." The effect of Shaw's proposal would be to force workfare laborers to work longer hours

to "work off" their checks.

On June 5, the GOP welfare chiselers went ahead and voted to exclude workfare laborers in government or non-profit organizations from the Fair Labor Standards Act—including minimum wage, civil rights, and occupational safety protections.

Judge denies transplant for James Earl Ray

In a June 9 ruling, a Tennessee state judge turned down a request by James Earl Ray, to be allowed to travel to Pittsburgh for tests in order to see if he can receive a liver transplant. Ray's lawyer, William Pepper, said the ruling was tantamount to a death sentence, and suggested that the decision was part of a continuing coverup of the actual conspiracy in the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King. The King family recently called for a trial for James Earl Ray, who originally pleaded guilty under threat of the death penalty. Ray later withdrew his confession.

With evidence which now points to the involvement of at least two other people in the murder, Ray's lawyer says that the original state and Federal "lone assassin" theory, has now been discredited. In addition, the results of new DNA tests on the alleged murder weapon are still pending. Pepper asked the court, "Why are they afraid to let this man live? What is it they fear? Why do they have to react in lock step this way, when there's nothing the state of Tennessee can lose?"

Without a transplant, says Pepper, Ray will continue to suffer a "lingering death," and will not live until a new trial can take place. Ray has been near death several times in recent months with fatal liver disease. Tennessee officials say the state does not finance extraordinary medical procedures for prisoners, but Pepper claims that the University of Pittsburgh Hospital's Transplant Center is prepared to accept Ray for an evaluation. If his age and condition would warrant such surgery, it would be financed by private funds which Pepper plans to raise. Pepper was seeking a reversal of the court decision within ten days in the Tennessee Court of Civil Appeals.