

National News

Clinton acts to stop strike at Amtrak

President Clinton on Aug. 20 invoked his emergency powers under the National Railway Labor Act to impose a 30-day cooling-off period that will keep Amtrak employees on their jobs for 60 days. The move came two days after he refused to intervene, under the Taft-Hartley Act, to stop the Teamsters' strike against United Parcel Service. Unlike UPS, Amtrak is covered by the Railway Labor Act, the Federal law that allows the President to intervene in the case of regional emergencies. He had last used his powers under the Railway Labor Act last February, to stop a strike by the main pilots union at American Airlines.

Under the law, Clinton appointed a three-member panel to investigate the dispute between Amtrak and the 2,300 workers represented by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMW). The Presidential Emergency Board will have 30 days to investigate the dispute and to make recommendations. After that, the company and the union will have a further 30 days to try to work out an agreement.

"A strike on Amtrak would have an adverse effect on the travelling public and would severely hamper freight rail shipments, particularly along the northeast corridor," Clinton said in a statement. "Over 500,000 commuters and intercity rail passengers would be affected by a shutdown of Amtrak."

California politicians call for medical drug hoax

California Republican gubernatorial candidate Dan Lungren now backs an effort to study the "medical use" of marijuana, according to the *Los Angeles Times* on Aug. 28. Lungren is supporting state Sen. John Vasconcellos's bill, S.B. 535, which sets up a \$3 million research program to assess the medical benefits of marijuana. This contrasts with Lungren's previous opposition to

the George Soros-funded Proposition 215, allowing "medical use" of marijuana, which he had opposed, calling it, correctly, a smokescreen for the drug legalization movement. According to the *Times*, in response to Lungren's action, Soros crony Ethan Nadelmann, director of the Lindesmith Center, said, "When Proposition 215 gets more votes in California that Clinton did, you don't get much mileage from continuing to oppose it."

In an op-ed in the same issue of the *Los Angeles Times*, entitled "Needle Exchanges Can Be a Path to Promote Racial Healing," Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.) called for establishing needle-exchange pilot projects in 10 states, including California.

After expressing concern that "injection-related HIV transmission disproportionately affects the African-American community," Feinstein makes the highly dubious assertion that "66% of all Americans and 69% of African-Americans are in favor of needle-exchange programs," citing a 1996 Kaiser Family Foundation survey." Then she says, "A bill I am sponsoring would allow pharmacists, physicians, and other authorized individuals to provide injection equipment without a prescription in targeted California cities." She ends by saying, "President Clinton and legislators who want to do the right thing for race relations and the black community, would do well to listen to what African-Americans have to say: Lift legislative restrictions on needle exchange now. The best way to prevent a powder keg from exploding is to snuff the fuse." (See last week's *EIR* for the real story of George Soros's role in pushing needle exchange, on behalf of Dope, Inc.)

Time magazine puffs drug-pusher Soros

"Saint George and His Unlikely Crusades: Billionaire George Soros Wants to Change How We Deal with Drugs, Immigrants and Dying," reads the headline of the cover feature in *Time* magazine of Sept. 1, which features a cartoon of the Queen's global speculator giving money to the world, and

promotes him as a philanthropist in the tradition of John D. Rockefeller.

Time's article says that Soros may have made money in "ways that stir controversy and occasional outpourings of ire," but that he now is helping people by giving it away. After saying that the East bloc was his first beneficiary, the article then claims that Soros is ready to spend his largesse in his "adopted home," the United States.

While including some criticism of Soros's funding of drug legalization by people such as former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph Califano, the article attempts to present a positive image for Soros.

Frank Wolf targets China through caper in Tibet

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) revealed at a press conference on Aug. 20, that he had travelled to Tibet "undercover" as a tourist, on Aug. 8-13. Wolf declared that he had found terrible religious repression, and issued a list of demands that the Clinton administration put the issue of Tibet on the table in its discussions with China.

Wolf, the prime sponsor of the "Religious Persecution Act of 1997," also outlined a timetable for passage of his bill, which would impose severe sanctions against a host of nations, including Sudan and China, for alleged religious repression. The major countries attacked, not surprisingly, are targets of broader British intelligence operations. Wolf himself is a board member of a British intelligence front, Christian Solidarity International.

Wolf's hypocrisy was exposed at the press conference by an associate of LaRouche, who referenced the congressman's complaints about political prisoners, and the lack of access to prisons, in Tibet. When asked about the political prisoners who exist in his own district of Virginia—five associates of Lyndon LaRouche—Representative Wolf went silent.

LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus issued a press release, asking when Wolf would be acting against the political incar-

ceration of innocent LaRouche associates in his own state, as well as the denial of rights to media representatives to visit those prisons.

Senate committee seeks groups' internal records

The AFL-CIO is refusing to honor a sweeping subpoena from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, which asks for scores of internal strategy documents and correspondence with the White House and the Democratic Party during the 1996 elections. The committee is supposedly investigating whether tax-exempt groups violated Federal election laws by advocating specific candidates, and whether they coordinated their effort with the political parties.

Lawyers for the federation said in a memo sent to committee investigators on Aug. 20 that it will not comply, because the subpoena "is a virtually unlimited search mission through almost every aspect of the AFL-CIO's internal workings, and one that seeks documents of a most sensitive and delicate nature. . . . The AFL-CIO is being subjected to a top-to-bottom investigation of the type characteristic of a major criminal investigation."

The labor federation is among more than 30 non-profit organizations across the political spectrum whose records were subpoenaed by the committee. Others include the Christian Coalition, the National Right to Life Committee, and the National Rifle Association. Committee aides say some of these conservative nonprofits are also refusing to comply with the subpoenas.

Virginia clergy challenge 'ethnic cleansing' of poor

A group of more than 100 Richmond, Virginia clergy has launched a campaign of civil disobedience, beginning with a mass "feed-in of the poor" on Aug. 22, in opposition to three city ordinances adopted on July 28 by the Richmond City Council. The ordinances,

which amend the city code, forbid places of worship from feeding any more than 30 people a day, and no more than seven times per year. If a church wants to feed more, it must apply for a conditional use permit and pay a \$1,000 fee, plus \$100 per acre of affected property. The ordinance also limits feeding to the period between Oct. 1 and April 1.

Marty Jewell, a leader in the fight, called the ordinances, and the plan behind them, "the ethnic cleansing of the poor and African-Americans."

A statement issued on Aug. 21 by the coalition of religious leaders read, in part: "Many of our religious traditions share a common heritage. The words of the Prophet Isaiah convict us all: 'Woe to those who enact unjust statutes and who write oppressive decrees, depriving the needy of judgment and robbing my people's poor of their rights, making widows their plunder and orphans their prey.'

"We cannot and will not abide by these ordinances."

In addition, the Virginia branch of the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit in U.S. District Court on Aug. 21, charging that the ordinances violate the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Republican leaders bomb in Indianapolis

The Republican Leadership Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana on Aug. 22-23, was widely billed as the first "important beauty contest" in the fight for the Republican Presidential nomination for the year 2000. By all accounts, the party was divided, and the superstars flubbed.

The most promoted, and disappointing, potential candidate was Texas Gov. George W. Bush, son of the former President. Governor Bush—known as "shrub"—was heavily promoted in the London press beforehand. After his remarks, all the press were forced to admit that "George was the dullest knife in the pantry." Many commentaries concluded that Dan Quayle, Bush's vice-president, and not a man known for his intelligence, came across as the star of the show.

Briefly

OLIVER NORTH was billed as a main attraction at a fundraiser on Aug. 28 for Virginia Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Gilmore. North, who was widely exposed in his 1994 Senate campaign as a drug-trafficker, is likely to become a liability to Gilmore, who otherwise parades around as a brutal law-and-order politician. Gilmore may also suffer from his close association with snake-oil salesman Pat Robertson, who has given him \$100,000.

VICE PRESIDENT Al Gore travelled to California's Silicon Valley in late August, and holds informal meetings with groups of technology buffs every month, according to an Aug. 25 article in the *Los Angeles Times*. Joining Gore were young executives who are seeking to give Gore an understanding of the "new economy."

DENNIS SPEED, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche who has announced his candidacy against U.S. Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.), held a public meeting on Aug. 23 in Newark, where he warned that he will expose efforts to silence LaRouche's campaign against London's African genocide. The keynote speaker at the event was former Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa, with whom Payne has refused to meet.

PRESIDENT William Clinton will travel to South America in early October, and has scheduled stops in Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela. In preparation for the trip, he has announced the intention to expand free trade agreements, and asked for "fast-track" authorization from the Congress. There is expected to be a big battle over this question, fueled by the jockeying over the Democratic Presidential nomination, and the renewed vigor of the labor movement, which opposes free trade.

WILLIAM WELD has lost some of his Republican backers in his bid to win the ambassadorial post to Mexico, and there is still a good chance that his nomination will never get a hearing at all.