

National News

Spannaus exposes Wolf, Gilmore hypocrisy

A week shy of Virginia's gubernatorial election, LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus blasted U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R) and his ally, Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Gilmore, for their rank hypocrisy, under color of "fighting for human rights" and "protecting religious freedom." Spannaus is campaigning for the congressional seat currently held by Wolf.

In an Oct. 27 statement, Spannaus called Wolf a "British tool," saying, "not only is he using phony human rights complaints to try to drive a wedge between the Presidents of the U.S.A. and China—an act which could lead to the destruction of the only available effective partnership against the British at a time of financial blowout—but he is supporting the most vicious anti-human rights regimes in the world.

"Start with Tibet," she said, referring to the pet projects of Lady Caroline Cox, head of Christian Solidarity International, whose U.S. board includes Wolf. "A close look at Tibet under the Dalai Lamas shows that it was a feudal dictatorship, where people were treated like property, mutilated for punishment, and denied nearly all access to progress. This horror show Frank Wolf calls 'freedom of religion.'

"By imposing its program of modernization of industry and agriculture on Tibet, China has actually vastly improved human rights there. And, in carrying out its war against hunger and poverty in the rest of its country, China is advancing in the area of human rights more rapidly than any other nation in the world.

"Then, there's Virginia," continued Spannaus. "Under Frank Wolf's friend and associate Jim Gilmore and Gov. George Allen, gross abuses of human rights are going on in the prisons. . . . At least five prominent political prisoners are being held—LaRouche associates Michael Billington, Anita and Paul Gallagher, Laurence Hecht, and Donald Phau. . . .

"In China, as a recent human rights delegation found out, people can inspect conditions in the prisons. In Virginia, the Allen

administration won't let any media inside—unless it's to watch an execution.

"If Jim Gilmore is elected in the upcoming gubernatorial election, Virginia is going to become even more of a fascist police state—with the prisons opened wide for private industry, to utilize a mass of prisoners who have been incarcerated with no parole. Frank Wolf supports this prison labor; he only opposes those abuses which his British bosses in Christian Solidarity International oppose."

Albright: U.S. rejects 'clash of civilizations'

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright polemicized against the the "Freedom from Religious Persecution Act," co-sponsored by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) and Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), during a speech on Oct. 23 at Catholic University, as unprincipled and damaging to U.S. foreign policy. "There are some who see, in the rivalries that exist in the Balkans and elsewhere, in the Middle East, the Gulf, Africa, and Asia, the potential for a vast future clash of civilizations, in which differences not only of spiritual tradition but of culture, history, and ideology divide the world into bitter contending camps.

"The United States has a different view," Albright declared. "We are the defender of no one faith, but the respecter of all and of the right of all to proclaim and exercise faith. We are friends with nations in which the predominant religion is Buddhist; and others where it is Christian, or Hindu, or Islamic, or Jewish. We are, ourselves, a nation of all these faiths and more. . . .

"In our policy towards other nations, we do not act or judge on the basis of religion or cultural tradition, but on behavior."

Albright said that, therefore, "we reject stereotypes." She gave examples of acts of terrorism by Hindu separatists in Sri Lanka, and Kurdish separatists in Turkey. "We have seen a Jewish man who had been raised in the United States murder 29 Arabs while they were at prayer in a Hebron mosque," adding, "we have heard Serbian leaders justify the campaign of ethnic cleansing and mass rape inflicted upon Muslims in Bosnia

as a defense, in their words, of 'Christian Europe.'"

Health care fight heats up in Maryland

In an interview on Oct. 24 with the weekly newspaper *New Federalist*, Carol Bragg, the president of the Professional Staff Nurses Association, said that the nurses voted on Oct. 23 to authorize another strike against Dimensions Health Corp., which has now replaced ten of the nurses who struck against Dimension's four hospitals in Prince George's County, on Oct. 17-18. The nurses, who have been working without a contract or cost-of-living adjustment for three years, initiated the job action over cutbacks that are threatening patient care.

Furthermore, Bragg reported that surgeons at the four facilities are supporting the fired nurses, by withholding surgeries or threatening to do so unless the nurses get their jobs back. A petition is circulating to fire the director of nurses, who has pushed for the replacement of strikers.

Meanwhile, the county, which borders Washington, D.C., is closing all of its public mental health clinics as of Oct. 30, and is telling hundreds of chronically mentally ill residents, many of them poor, to seek private treatment. At least 1,000 people must find new providers. Art Thacher, the county's health officer, told the *Washington Post* that the county's program—an excellent one in which staff was well paid and patients were well taken care of—"could not be sustained in a managed-care environment."

Amtrak strike deadline extended to Nov. 6

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees has extended its strike deadline against Amtrak to Nov. 6, at least temporarily averting a walkout that would have stranded hundreds of thousands of commuters along the Northeast corridor from Boston to Washington. This is the second time the

union has extended the deadline for a week.

The union agreed to the extension at the request of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater. Congress appears ready to approve legislation that would force the two sides to submit to binding arbitration, in case a settlement is not reached. Congress is also considering measures which would repeal labor protections for some 20,000 Amtrak workers, according to the AFL-CIO. The Maintenance of Way employees are seeking a wage increase similar to that recently gained by similar employees at the nation's major freight railroads.

After the first extension, on Oct. 21, BMW chairman Jed Dodd released a statement, saying: "We have been without a new agreement for almost three years. For three years Amtrak has stalled and shown nothing but bad faith, while the standard of living of our membership continues to decline. . . . Our desire is to reach an agreement, and if we can avoid a strike by extending the deadline an additional week to reach an agreement, it is worth the additional delay."

In August, a threatened strike was averted, when President Clinton appointed a Presidential Emergency Board to make recommendations to resolve the dispute, and established a cooling-off period.

Earth First! terrorizes Congressional staffers

Sixty environmentalist terrorists from Earth First! assaulted the Eureka, California office of U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs, on Oct. 16, because he supported water-management legislation. Barry Clausen, an investigator who, at one time, had infiltrated Earth First! and exposed its relationship to Greenpeace, reported, "There was a loud boom in the lobby of the office. The boom was loud enough to shake the building and rattle windows." One staff member said he had thought "a bomb had gone off" and this was "Oklahoma City all over again." Another staffer called the police.

The Earth First! commando was hooded and wore black combat fatigues. Clausen's report quoted one witness: "I went around the corner of the building to witness a white

male reach up to his face and pull 'something' off his head. I concluded it to be a ski mask. The white male held a walkie-talkie and said, 'It's a green light. It's a "go." Let's go.' "

According to Clausen, "the loud boom that was heard was a very large, very heavy tree stump that had been carried into the office and dropped." In addition to the tree stump, the terrorists covered the offices with six inches of sawdust and woodchips. Police drove the eco-terrorists from the building with pepper spray and arrested four.

Texas bishops condemn death penalty

All 21 of Texas's Roman Catholic bishops issued a statement on Oct. 20 calling on Texas to abandon the death penalty. The statement charged that Texas is "usurping the sovereign dominion of God over human life" and thereby contributing to "a climate of violence." "We sympathize with the profound pain of the victims of brutal crimes. Nevertheless, we believe that the compassionate example of Christ calls us to respect the God-given image found even in hardened criminals." The bishops also said the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime, has racist overtones, and costs millions of dollars.

So far in 1997, Texas has executed 31 men, the highest number in the state's history and by far the most in the United States. Five more are scheduled to die this year. A spokeswoman for Gov. George W. Bush would only say that "Governor Bush is committed to upholding the law of Texas."

In Massachusetts, Cardinal Bernard Law wrote a commentary for the *Boston Globe* on Oct. 27, titled "Death Penalty Is No Answer," anticipating a state House of Representatives vote to re-instate the death penalty in that state. He emphasized that capital punishment "cannot be a collective act of revenge. . . . The frenzy of the lynch mob cannot be forgotten. . . . We must not allow ourselves to be caught up in the spiral of violence. Violence begets violence. Capital punishment is really no answer."

SPINELESS former Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder (D), the nation's first black governor, refused to endorse the Democratic candidate, Don Beyer, against Confederate Republican Jim Gilmore, even at the request of President Clinton. Wilder is widely known for his refusal to act on the well-supported petition of clemency for political prisoner and LaRouche associate Mike Billington, which came before him before he left office.

BOB WOODWARD is writing a new book on Al Gore, reported the *Wall Street Journal* on Oct. 24. Gore's allies are concerned that one part of the book will focus on Gore's lobbyist friend Peter Knight, says the *Journal*.

PAULA JONES refuses to settle her phony sexual harassment suit against President Clinton out of court because she would lose lucrative publishing and movie contracts. "I honestly think the plaintiff and those who are really controlling her have decided the best possible marketing plan for books or movies would be a circus trial," said Robert Bennett, the President's lead counsel, on Oct. 23.

'NATIONAL REVIEW' editor John O'Sullivan abruptly resigned his position in October, to go work for the New Atlantic Initiative, co-chaired by Margaret Thatcher and Henry Kissinger. Since 1979, O'Sullivan has passed from the Heritage Foundation, to the London *Daily Telegraph*, to the *New York Post*, to being an adviser to Thatcher, before ending up at William Buckley's *National Review*.

JACK KEVORKIAN'S latest gruesome proposal is to cannibalize the bodies of his victims to sell their organs for transplant, he announced on Oct. 23. The plan would involve having Geoffrey Fieger, Kevorkian's attorney, arrange the sale of the "harvested organs" to the highest bidder.