

National News

Kevorkian attorney wins gubernatorial primary

Geoffrey Fieger, the attorney and accomplice of Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian, won Michigan's Democratic gubernatorial primary on Aug. 4. In a field of three Democratic candidates, Fieger took 41% in Michigan's open primary. There are certainly political figures among both Democrats and Republicans who back "assisted suicide" (even if they sanctimoniously denounce the ghoulish Kevorkian), and also back the November ballot initiative that would legalize this form of euthanasia. Nonetheless, a Republican contingent cynically crossed over to vote Fieger in as the Democratic candidate, in order to assure the reelection of Republican incumbent Gov. John Engler for a third term.

The Michigan Democratic Party, which had stupidly backed Fieger, and sanctioned any other Democratic candidate for attacking fellow party members on the basis of principle, would not return calls from the press about Fieger's win.

Murdoch's 'Post' backs Britain's super-NAFTA

The lead editorial in Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* backs the call of Conrad Black the Canadian owner of the Hollinger media empire, demanding that "Britain Should Join NAFTA":

"In a lecture delivered last week to the London Center for Policy Studies, the publisher Conrad Black made a brilliant argument for a fascinating idea: Britain should pull away from the developing European superstate—with its penchant for socialism, bureaucratic regulation and anti-Americanism—and join the North American Free Trade Agreement instead.

"There have been various plans to expand NAFTA to include various South American and even Scandinavian countries. But Britain would make much more sense as

the new addition to the free trade bloc. . . ."

After denouncing the so-called federalism of the European Union as a Franco-German, anti-American plot, Murdoch harkens back to the long-dead Anglo-American "special relationship": "There is more than jealousy of America's superpower status in this anti-Americanism. There is also a deep hostility to the so-called 'Anglo-Saxon' democratic capitalist values that have served Britain and North America so well for so long. . . . Because Great Britain—unlike most nations on the continent—lives and breathes these values, it has always been on the periphery of a new European order. Whereas, as Black points out, Britain is at the center, geographically, culturally and politically, of an Atlantic community." The *Post* points to avowed British agent Henry Kissinger, and free-trade maniacs Newt Gingrich and Phil Gramm, as among those "now questioning the old orthodoxy of supporting Euro-integration," concluding that, "For putting this idea in the map, America and Britain owe a debt to Conrad Black."

'Managed care' wrecks mental health treatment

A recent case study of Montana, published by the federal Health Care Financing Administration, found that mental health care has all but disappeared under the regime of so-called managed care, according to the *Washington Post* of Aug. 5. The number of inpatient days dropped by 96%, residential services dropped 85%, partial hospitalization visits dropped 45%, intensive outpatient services dropped 25%, and outpatient visits declined 76%. Mental health providers complained that most requests for authorization for care from health maintenance organizations were denied or took too long to clear. School-based programs were cut as well. Montana is among the 40 states that have turned to managed care to operate their Medicaid programs.

Robert Gabriele, senior vice president of the National Mental Health Association, told the *Post* that states are "more interested in saving money" than giving care. In Ten-

nessee, he said, 60,000 people in the community mental health system "completely lost their care" under managed care. Gabriele cited the case of onetime Montana resident Russell Eugene Weston, Jr., who killed two Capitol Hill policemen during a shootout on July 24, "a horrible, tragic, and public example that has played itself out hundreds of thousands of times throughout the country. . . . Many of those people have been re-hospitalized at a much greater cost, both human and financial."

FBI 'sting' target files to have case dismissed

Ohio State Sen. Jeff Johnson, chairman of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, has filed in Federal court to have charges dismissed that were brought against him as the result of an FBI sting. Defense motions scheduled for an Oct. 1 hearing charge the government with "entrapment and outrageous governmental misconduct." The defense quotes from transcripts of 178 hours of video and audiotapes of FBI informant Aly Hamed talking with Johnson, secretly recorded between 1994 and 1996.

The tapes show Hamed offering cash and trips to Cancún, Mexico in exchange for preferential treatment in obtaining liquor licenses, and food stamp permits for his and other Arab grocery stores. Johnson is shown responding: "I don't play like that—what are you trying to do—end my career before it starts? What I can do for you is to find out what the procedures could be to obtain a license. I am not breaking any laws. I am not for sale. I am a public official."

As a result of the indictment, Johnson was defeated in his Congressional bid for the seat being vacated by the retiring Rep. Louis Stokes. Now, with the primary over, and Johnson out of office at the end of the year, the case may be dismissed.

According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* on Aug. 8, the IRS and Agriculture Department (USDA) had wanted to prosecute Hamed for drug trafficking and illegally trafficking in food stamps during the FBI sting against Johnson, but the FBI shielded

him. When USDA and IRS agents protested, they were threatened with prosecution for obstruction of justice.

Private prison employees indicted in beatings

On July 30, four Texas employees at a prison run by Capital Correctional Resources in Brazoria County, have been indicted by a Galveston grand jury in connection with the beatings of Missouri inmates who had been housed in the Texas facility. The beatings and abuse were videotaped, and shocked the nation, when they were aired nationally.

The four face prison terms of up to 30 years, on charges of violating the prisoners' civil rights. Those indicted include a Sheriff's Department jailer, two former deputies and a former employee of CCRI. The CCRI employee had been convicted in 1983 on Federal civil rights violations when he was a Texas Department of Corrections major for beating a Texas state inmate. He had served five months in 1988 as the result of that conviction, yet still was hired by CCRI to work at their facility in Brazoria County.

Federal civil suits have also been filed by the Missouri inmates, one in Galveston, Texas, and about a dozen others in Missouri. The Missouri inmates were returned to Missouri, and the Brazoria prison has been shut down.

Eret endorsed by former Czecho-Slovak official

Dr. Jozef Miklosko, who was the vice-premier in Czecho-Slovakia's first non-communist government, endorsed the Congressional campaign of LaRouche Democrat Don Eret in Nebraska. Dr. Miklosko's July 29 letter wished Eret "God's blessings and success in elections in the Congress, where you belong with your capabilities and work in favor of your fellow citizens." Eret is a Czech-American from Wilber, known as the "Czech Capital of the United States."

Dr. Miklosko, who is now rector of Trnavska University in Bratislava, Slovakia, recalled his meeting with Eret, and expressed his appreciation for Eret's "political engagement on behalf of American citizens, especially that you support the new [McDade-Murtha] bill, H.R. 3396, 'Citizens Protection Act,' against Department of Justice targetting of innocent Americans. I consider the campaign for this bill as the most important domestic policy battle since the Civil Rights movement. Two years ago, I was an observer at international hearings in Washington about the misconduct of the Department of Justice against many African-American elected officials; the case of an innocent man, John Demjanjuk, sentenced to death; former President of Austria Kurt Waldheim; and American politician Lyndon LaRouche. Since that time, I know that a bill to protect citizens is in the interest of the American people and I am glad that you understood it as a candidate of American politician and economist Lyndon LaRouche—who is very well known in Europe."

Virginia gives workers second-class treatment

An opinion column in the Norfolk *Virginian Pilot* on Aug. 2, charges in its headline, "Virginia Workers Treated as Second-Class Citizens." Eileen E. Huey, adjunct professor of history at Tidewater Community College, states that the Virginia 1997 Right to Work Act has all but eliminated guaranteed benefits and protections for most Virginia employees, and says that, since 1950, wages for Virginia's workers have stagnated and benefits disappeared at an increasing rate every decade. She notes that were it not for national labor standards, workers in the state might have no protections. Virginia's Workers' Compensation is the lowest in the nation, and businesses are allowed to exploit children by hiring youngsters 14 years of age.

Huey also touches on the downward drag on wages generated by Gov. Jim Gilmore's prison slave-labor scheme, adding, "And we talk about China."

FORTY-ONE MILLION Americans are without health insurance, due to the rise of health maintenance organizations, the collapse of corporate health insurance, and Congressional sabotage of any national health care policy, according to a feature in the *New York Times* on Aug. 9.

THE U.S. PRISON population grew by 5.2% in 1997 to 1.7 million, according to a report issued by the Justice Department. "The growth, even though crime has been declining for six years, suggests the imprisonment boom has developed a built-in growth dynamic independent of the crime rate," notes the Aug. 9 *New York Times*. Between 1990 and 1997, the incarceration rate in state and Federal prisons rose from 292 per 100,000 Americans to 445 per 100,000.

THE DEMOCRATIC Leadership Council and labor unions are trying to smooth over their disagreements on such issues as "fast-track" for the North American Free Trade Agreement, a favorite of the so-called New Democrats, which labor strongly opposes, as well as on questions of Social Security, education, and trade.

FBI CRIME LAB agents who were accused last year of doctoring crucial evidence in cases such as the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings, will get a slap on the wrist, at most. Assistant Attorney General Stephen R. Colgate issued findings on Aug. 5 recommending "minimal" disciplinary actions against two agents, and no action against five others.

LAROCHE DEMOCRATS Ron Wiczorek and Jeannie Hanson were certified for ballot status as independent candidates in South Dakota's race for governor and lieutenant governor, after submitting 4,500 petition signatures. Also certified for the State Senator's race in the 24th District, is LaRouche ally Robert Hockett.