

National News

Independent Counsel attacks Clinton

Kenneth Starr's replacement as Independent Counsel, Robert Ray, accused President Clinton of attempting to undermine Ray's ongoing investigation, according to a press release issued by Ray's office on Dec. 24.

The previous week, in a CNN interview with Larry King, Clinton denied the story put out by the *Washington Post* on Dec. 18, which had said that he was considering applying to have his legal fees reimbursed for the Whitewater and Lewinsky investigations. The President said the story was not true, and that he had never considered asking for payment of his fees. When he was asked where the story came from, Clinton responded that he thought "it was leaked from the Independent Counsel's Office. That's the way the story read to me."

The next day, Ray responded with a statement saying, "That claim is false." Putting on his best Kenneth Starr imitation, Ray's statement continued: "This is yet another attempt, in an ongoing effort by the White House, to impugn the integrity of a duly constituted law enforcement investigation through false accusations."

Clinton praises FDR's anti-colonialist policy

In an interview on the NBC "Today Show" broadcast on Dec. 29, President Clinton named Franklin D. Roosevelt and the civil rights movement as the 20th century's most important person and social movement, singling out Roosevelt's efforts to end colonialism after World War II. While the President did not say so, FDR's policy was in bitter opposition to that of Britain's Sir Winston Churchill, as *EIR* has frequently pointed out.

Asked to pick the single most influential person of the century, Clinton said it was Roosevelt, "because after Pearl Harbor, he came into the war, and after [that] it was no longer a real question of whether the allies would win the war, but when."

But, Clinton emphasized that his choice

was not only because of the wartime victory, but because of economics, both during the depression and after the war:

"Roosevelt . . . was the most influential person because he led us through a Great Depression, then he led us to victory in World War II, and before he died, he had already begun thinking about the postwar world, including the importance of ending colonialism of poor countries by rich countries building the United Nations. So those are massive, important transitions that he led us through. And he was influential, too, because he had a fabulous personality. And I don't mean he was pleasant, I mean he had, I think, a heroic personality because of the way he refused to be defeated by his polio."

Clinton stressed the importance of Americans learning more about their own history:

"Most of the retrospectives [have] focused on the last 100 years, not trying to imagine the sweep of the last 1,000 years. . . . I think that Americans do well when they know a little more history and when they have a sense of where we are in the flow of history . . . , the more you know about history . . . the better able you are to imagine the future."

Asked about the most important social movement, Clinton said, "I think the civil rights movement, . . . because of the role that race has played in our own history, and because of the role that racial, ethnic, and religious difference continues to play in the history of the world. . . . The fact that the United States went through this civil rights movement, tried to come to terms with its whole history and take affirmative steps, not only to end discrimination, but to build a society where people could live together as united citizens, I think that was very important. It's still ongoing, it's a work in progress, but it's a very big deal."

Woman revives from coma after 16 years

On Christmas Day, a woman who had been in a semi-conscious state for 16 years, woke up and began talking to her nurse. In 1983, Patt White Bull of Albuquerque, New Mex-

ico, lost consciousness during childbirth. For the next 16 years, while Americans were being brainwashed to believe that people who were in a coma or semi-conscious state were "vegetables," using up costly resources and better off starved to death, Bull was provided "total care" in a New Mexico nursing home.

Within two days after awaking, Bull was dressing herself, writing a letter to her mother, and making a trip to a shopping mall.

Most semi-conscious patients, after being merely given tube-feedings (if they are allowed to live at all), awake with considerable physical and mental disabilities. In this case, Bull showed remarkable mobility, which her doctors credit completely to the staff at the Las Palomas Nursing Home who cared for her, constantly exercising her legs. It is believed that some sort of stem blockage kept stimulation from getting to her brain, causing her to be unresponsive.

Russian-American paper interviews LaRouche

The Russian-American weekly *Express* features an interview with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in its last issue (#52) for 1999. *Express* is produced in Russian, in New York and in Israel. It is the largest Russian-American newspaper, with a circulation of 15-20,000. The interview was conducted by D. Klimentov, and published under the headline, "Lyndon LaRouche: A Man Not Heeded."

"In his 77 years," the editors write, "he has earned a firm reputation as a politician, who always swims against the current. He has criticized everyone, from Truman to Bush, and criticized them without compromise, and in a conclusive and consistent manner. The incumbent President, amidst the avalanche of criticism directed at him, received unexpected support from this man, which was the more weighty, in that it came out at the peak of Monicagate."

"Without notes or any prompting, he will tell you—without the usual mistakes of someone his age, and without the superficial lapses of the introverted American system

of education — what happened, say, in Germany in 1933. With ease, he will share his vision of the problem of Chechnya today. Or, he will present his prescription for curing the world financial system. His views may be controversial or, at the least, seem so. At the same time, it is precisely out of the ordinary viewpoints, which differ from what is generally accepted, that make it possible to think about the following: What, really, is the norm, and to what extent is that norm logical, well-grounded, and adequate to the realities of the day? Does that norm have a right to exist?

“Six times, he has sought the Democratic Party nomination for the Presidency. Without success. The Presidential campaign of 2000 is no exception; again, he is a candidate.

“This man’s name is Lyndon LaRouche. On the eve of the new millennium, he was kind enough to answer questions from *Express*.”

In the interview, which is approximately 1,000 words long, LaRouche deals with the period from the death of the Bretton Woods system in 1971 to the present, with a focus on the pernicious influence of the policies of McGeorge Bundy and Zbigniew Brzezinski. He explicates the relationship between the Anglo-Brzezinskiite war in the Balkans and Central Asia today, and the global financial crisis. He shows, once again, that “LaRouche was right,” since the 1950s.

NAACP sues to restore voting rights to felons

The Philadelphia NAACP filed a lawsuit on Dec. 27 against the State of Pennsylvania to restore voting rights to ex-prisoners. The suit calls an amendment to the state’s 1995 “motor-voter” bill a violation of civil rights, because it bars former felons from registering to vote for five years after their release. J. Whyatt Mondesire, president of the Philadelphia NAACP, called the amendment discriminatory, because of the disproportionate number of African-Americans who have been or are currently incarcerated.

In Pennsylvania, African-Americans make up 12% of the general population, while they represent 70% of the prison popu-

lation. Over 30,000 former felons are affected by the Pennsylvania amendment. According to the Washington, D.C.-based The Sentencing Project, an estimated 3.9 million Americans, or 1 in 50 adults, have currently or permanently lost their voting rights as a result of a felony conviction. Of these, 1.4 million African-American men, or 13% of black men, are disenfranchised, a rate seven times the national average. In seven states that deny the vote to ex-offenders, one in four black men is permanently disenfranchised.

DOJ hides identities of Waco witnesses

The Federal government has refused to let lawyers for the Branch Davidians who survived the April 19, 1993 conflagration in Waco, Texas, know the identities of some of the witnesses from whom they are taking depositions, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported on Dec. 29. In recent depositions in Washington, government witnesses were hidden from lawyers by a screen.

Members of the U.S. Army’s Delta Force are getting super-secret treatment, according to the article. Many documents are also being kept secret. The *Post-Dispatch* and the *Dallas Morning News* are asking the court to open the records which are now being kept secret.

Michael Caddell, the lawyer for the Davidians, is barred by court order from disclosing information from the depositions. Caddell was able to say that no one has yet offered a credible explanation of the flashes on the infrared film taken on the day of the FBI assault, flashes which some experts believe came from gunfire.

Caddell also said that the depositions have made him much more interested in the activities of the Delta Force at Waco. He says he now believes that it’s possible that some of the Delta Force operatives played an active role in the assault, well beyond the “observer” role which has so far been ascribed to them. “I would say that fewer than a dozen people really knew what was going to happen, or what did happen, that day,” Caddell said.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR Jim Gilmore announced, on the fifth anniversary of the abolition of parole on Dec. 30, that he had reduced the rate to 7% for 1999. He compared this to what he said was a 40% parole rate the year before parole was abolished. Gilmore also claimed that the reduction in violent crime in Virginia is due to the abolition of parole. There is actually no causal relationship, as states which have not abolished parole have also seen a reduction in violent crime.

PRESIDENT CLINTON suggested that he might run for Congress, in an interview with the NBC “Today Show” on Dec. 31. He said that he is “very grateful to John Quincy Adams for going back to Congress. He’s one of my heroes for an ex-President. He is reported to have said that there is nothing as pathetic in life as an ex-President, John Quincy Adams. But he turned out to be wrong about himself. He served eight terms in Congress.” Clinton joked that he might get to see his wife more if he were in the Congress, since she might be serving in the Senate.

POOR CHILDREN are getting poorer, according to a study released on Dec. 23 by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. While the Earned Income Tax Credit has helped lift 3.6 million children out of poverty since 1993, those who remain poor fell below the poverty line by an average of \$1,604 in 1998, \$133 worse than in 1995, and the most since this data collection began in 1979. The main reason for this drop, the study found, is the loss of welfare-related benefits since the 1996 “reform” of welfare in the United States.

AL GORE, who claims to have been the “inventor of the Internet,” was bitten by the Y2K bug. One of the relatively small number of computer glitches reported during the rollover to the year 2000, was a posting on Gore’s campaign website, which reported that we are in the year 19100.