
National News

Griffin Questions Human Role in Climate Change

Asked about the threat of climate change, NASA Administrator Mike Griffin told the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* Jan. 26: "Annually, we invest \$5.5 billion in research on planet Earth. We have yet to find out whether the present climate change is man-made or whether it is just a short-term vacillation. What I also want to know from our scientists, is why the Vikings settled in Greenland and cultivated wheat, and why one day it became too cold to do that."

Griffin gave the interview to the Frankfurt paper while he was attending the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.

Wolf Attacks PPP 'Highway Robbery'

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.), lambasted the price gouging of public/private partnership at a hearing on Jan. 30 of the State Corporation Commission in Loudoun County, Virginia, on the toll increase proposed by the synarchist Macquarie Bank, which has taken over the Dulles Greenway toll road near Dulles International Airport.

"From the beginning, this road was to be a public/private partnership. Today, there is no public in this partnership. The owners don't live here. TRIP II [Toll Road Investors Partnership II] is owned by Macquarie Bank of Australia. Their families and neighbors don't use the Greenway. This company is ambitiously buying toll roads across our country, and in order to make a profit, it has turned to aggressive tolling on the backs of the driving public. I have heard reports that this company says it is losing money on the Greenway and that's why it needs to raise the tolls. A review of the company's web site reveals that Macquarie Bank made more than \$1.1 billion Australian in 2005.

"I just don't believe that allowing this company to turn the Greenway into a cash cow is what a public/private partnership

should be. The thought 'price gouging' comes to mind."

"Commuters today who use the Greenway 50 weeks per year," Wolf stated, "pay \$1,350 annually for their weekday round trips on the Greenway." If the toll increase were approved, "the same commuter will pay \$2,400 per year, almost triple the cost since 1995 when the road was built, just to use the Greenway every day." This is "highway robbery."

The Bush Administration has appointed a Macquarie official as chief counsel for the Department of Transportation.

'Harvard Crimson' Covers LYM Political Music

The daily *Harvard Crimson* reported on the LaRouche Youth Movement's singing to Harvard classrooms in an article Feb. 2 titled "Singing LaRouchians Interrupt Class." The article began:

"Political demonstrations turned musical this week as members of a protest group entered Harvard classrooms, singing for the impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney. The vocalists were members of the LaRouche Youth Movement—followers of Lyndon H. LaRouche, a political agitator and eight-time presidential candidate."

"Some professors welcomed the lyrical demonstrators as a calming force amid the hustle and bustle" of campus life, the article stated, but noted that not everyone was so pleased.

LYM member Pavel M. Penev was quoted saying, "We sing in the streets, what we bring out is something that is being lost from the culture today, a specific message for the communication of ideas."

Call for a 'Real Deal' For Homeland Security

The new head of the House Committee on Homeland Security, Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), opened his speech to the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute on Jan. 29, by cit-

ing Franklin Roosevelt: "During President Roosevelt's inaugural address to the nation on March 4, 1933, he quoted *Proverbs* 29:18 and said, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' Just as he sought to address a failing American economy through the New Deal, today I will provide you with an agenda that I hope will help us plan, prepare, and protect . . . The Real Deal for Homeland Security."

Thompson added, "The Real Deal also requires us to listen to the needs of the people so that we never see our own citizens abandoned and betrayed by their government, as we did during Katrina and Rita," he said. "An entire Gulf Coast is in need of rebuilding and it is going to take local talent to get it done. To this, the Real Deal can take a page from the New Deal."

Thompson promised "aggressive and meaningful oversight" of the Department of Homeland Security and indicated that he intends to concentrate on ports and rail transport, with less emphasis on air traffic.

Stabenow: Free-Trade Accord Will Hurt Auto

In a town hall meeting on the future of the auto industry, convened by ABC News anchor Charles Gibson on Jan. 29, and broadcast live in Michigan, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) reported that she had signed a letter with other Michigan lawmakers opposing a free-trade accord being negotiated with South Korea, on the grounds that you "do not do that agreement unless you fix auto."

"We've got a health-care system in crisis," she also said. UAW legislative director Alan Reuther called for national action on health care, because "the problem can't be solved just at the bargaining table by cutting and cutting and cutting. . . . One of the things we need to do is stop negotiating bad trade deals that are one-sided."

Ford Motor Co. spokesman Charles Holleran added, with respect to health care: "There's no longer any argument about whether or not this is a national crisis. . . . Even eight years ago, when this became a flashpoint, there were voices that said this can fix itself. No one is saying that this can fix itself now."