

National News

California GOP passes anti-AIDS resolution

The California state Republican Party, at its convention at the end of September, passed a resolution on AIDS calling for a classic, public health approach to the disease. The resolution, submitted by Rep. William Dannemeyer, calls for the enactment of state public health policies and/or state party policies which require the reporting of antibody positive or HIV-positive carriers of the virus for AIDS.

Congressman Dannemeyer drew applause when he asserted that California is "the laughing stock of public health in America" for its policy on reporting AIDS cases. "We should say we are going to treat it as a public health issue . . . not a civil rights issue."

The resolution also supports the repeal of Assembly Bill 403, designed to inhibit accountability of carriers of the virus, as an impediment to reasoned public health measures. "And be it further resolved," concludes the resolution, "that the California Republican Party supports promoting all other public health control measures which are consistent with California's traditional, routine responses to other communicable diseases." The resolution includes an expanded definition of AIDS, for the purposes of reportability, to include asymptomatic HIV-positive carriers and patients with clinically defined AIDS-related Complex (ARC).

The resolution bears striking similarity to a new AIDS ballot initiative (modeled on Proposition 64, which was defeated last year) which is expected to be put before California voters in 1988.

To the further chagrin of the state GOP's "gay lobby," a measure was also passed urging Gov. George Deukmejian (R) and the state attorney general to prosecute the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for distributing "obscene and pornographic AIDS education materials."

During the convention, the head of a group called Black Americans for Family Values charged that Bruce Decker—the head

of Deukmejian's AIDS task force—and his allies in "homosexual clubs" have been "controlling the debate" around the state's AIDS policies. "They do not have the right to promote their agenda at the expense of our children," the spokesman said.

New Hampshire bill to require AIDS tests

A bill to require mandatory AIDS testing for New Hampshire adults has been submitted by State Rep. Ednaparr Parr (R). The proposal would require all state residents between ages 14 and 75 to be tested for the AIDS virus every one or two years.

Parr said her proposal is the only way to stop the spread of AIDS. "There are 3,000 people in New Hampshire who carry AIDS without realizing it," she said. "Three thousand people out of 1 million is a high percentage. I don't want to discriminate against anybody, but I do feel innocent people should be protected." Parr said she was proposing mandatory testing of all adults because, "It's the only way I feel we can get around discrimination laws. If we have it mandatory for everyone, it will not be discrimination."

Claire Ebel of the state's American Civil Liberties Union immediately charged that the bill "is clearly unconstitutional."

Will LaRouche be the only Dem left?

William Murchison, editorial columnist for the *Dallas Morning News* and a well-known conservative, had this to say in his Sept. 26 column, titled "The Trouble With the Democrats":

"What's wrong with the Democrats? They're toppling like nine-pins.

"The way things are going, Lyndon LaRouche may give the Republican ticket more competition than Paul Simon, or Bruce Babbitt, or whoever is left standing by next

year."

He argued that the Dem candidates are far to the left of the electorate, and that's why they stand so low in the polls. In his view, the national Democratic leaders are irresponsible ideologues: Ted Kennedy and Howard Metzenbaum could have taught Joseph Goebbels and Joseph McCarthy something about demagogy.

Nitze calls for talks with Moscow on SDI

Paul Nitze, President Reagan's arms control adviser, said Sept. 28 that negotiating with the Russians on a list of devices that would be banned from space would not necessarily limit research on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), according to a report in the *Washington Times* Sept. 29.

Nitze told an arms control colloquium of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, "The problem is not the narrow vs. the broad interpretation. The problem is, there's a great deal of uncovered ground in the treaty." He said that last month the Soviets did "come in with a more precise statement of their position than they ever had before," when they proposed a 10-year non-withdrawal proviso to the ABM Treaty or, as an alternative, a list of items to be banned from space.

Weinberger rejects deal on the SDI

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger emphatically rejected the latest Soviet offers to negotiate on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), in an interview on NBC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" on Sept. 27.

Weinberger was asked about the internal debate within the Reagan administration over whether President Reagan should negotiate with Moscow on this. "No," he said. "We shouldn't do anything to block the earliest possible deployment of the SDI. All the Soviet proposals are aimed at blocking the

things that are necessary for us to do to deploy SDI."

If the United States went along with the Soviet proposals, he said, "All we would be doing would be following the Soviet agenda, and letting the Soviets get a strategic defense before we do—which would make the world far more dangerous."

U.S. may withdraw from ABM Treaty

The United States will be forced to consider withdrawing from the 1972 ABM Treaty before beginning full-scale development of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) if saddled by Congress with the "narrow" interpretation of that pact, said the Defense Department, in a report issued Sept. 30.

The Senate voted recently to force the administration to adhere to the narrow interpretation of the treaty, or face cuts in funds for SDI tests.

Under the "narrow" interpretation, research on SDI would reach a dead end in the early 1990s, the report states. "If the program were to continue beyond this point, a decision would have to be made to alter fundamentally the ABM Treaty regime," the report adds. Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), who requested the report, praised its contents. A classified version was sent to Congress and the White House in May.

Alexander Haig opposes Persian Gulf operation

Republican presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Alexander Haig denounced the U.S. naval deployment in the Persian Gulf, took the side of Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran against Iraq, and blamed Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger for the "faulty" deployment, in an interview on the television program "One on One" Oct. 1.

"I was opposed to the decision before it was made," he said, "not because we put

American flags on Kuwaiti vessels, but because we put Kuwaiti, and more importantly Iraqi flags, on American foreign policy. And that's the dilemma we are in now. We are being victimized by whatever the Iraqi government cares or doesn't care to do in stepping up the violence."

Asked who started the war, Haig replied, "Iraq, of course."

Asked whether U.S. policy was being run by Secretary of State George Shultz, Haig answered, "I can't say that. I think the Pentagon pushed this one very actively." When pressed by interviewer John McLaughlin, he replied that Weinberger was responsible for the naval deployment.

Moscow: Mrs. Reagan boosts arms control

The Soviet weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* on Sept. 23 hailed the "semi-official role" that the American First Lady has assumed, in pushing for disarmament agreements with Moscow. "The progress now achieved in our relations with Moscow look very encouraging, and that's why I feel so happy today," declared the wife of the U.S. President, Nancy Reagan last Friday," the article reports.

"Her declaration, if you will, is unprecedented, particularly in diplomatic protocol. Nancy Reagan is not a member of the Washington administration, and that's why she didn't participate in the three-day talks between the President and Secretary of State of the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze. Nevertheless, she herself decided to take on a certain official role." The First Lady "expressed in a timely way" the optimistic expectation of millions of Americans about peace; Americans "were reassured by the news of the possibility of a speedy Soviet-American summit, about the probable agreement for the liquidation of medium-range rockets, . . . about the speeding up of talks with the aim to limit by half strategic nuclear arsenals, and ban chemical weapons. . . . In general, last week many Americans underwent a 'perestroika' of international political thinking."

Briefly

● **CASPAR WEINBERGER** has invited his Soviet counterpart, Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov, to come to Washington early in October, according to Pentagon officials. The invitation was presented in a letter on Sept. 22, and the idea was discussed during Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Washington.

● **THE INTERNATIONAL Banana Association** has protested to the Public Broadcasting Service about the use of a banana in a demonstration of the use of a condom, during an upcoming special called "AIDS: Changing the Rules." The program will be aired on Nov. 6, hosted by President Reagan's son Ron, salsa star Ruben Blades, and Beverly Johnson.

● **THE U.S.** has assured West Germany of its support for West German Defense Minister Manfred Wörner, in his bid for the job of NATO secretary-general, when Britain's Lord Carrington retires next year, the *Baltimore Sun* reports, citing German and Norwegian sources. The U.S. backing is expected to create a decisive majority for his candidacy among the 16 NATO states.

● **THE BUREAU** of Reclamation of the Interior Department has announced a radical change in its mission. For 85 years, it has built great projects like dams and water projects; now it will concentrate on managing existing projects, conserving water, and assuring good water quality and environmental protection.

● **SEN. JESSE HELMS** has blocked the confirmation vote on C. William Verity as commerce secretary until the Commerce Department provides the names of all U.S. companies trading with the Soviet Union. In a letter to White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, Helms said he has been trying to get the trade information for more than two years. Unless he receives the reports, he said, "there will be no vote" on Verity's nomination.