

National News

Bush seen as easiest candidate to dominate

European press commentaries on the GOP presidential race are emphasizing the vapidness of George Bush, which makes him easy for "advisers" and others to manipulate.

Bush "has about as much charisma as a plate of boiled cod," complained British columnist Sir John Junor in the *Sunday Express* Feb. 21. "For me, the fizz went out of the morning when I heard the news" that Bush had won in New Hampshire, he wrote. The only advantage for Britain, if Bush were to become President, is that "he would be much easier for Mrs. Thatcher to dominate."

Miles Copeland, the de facto leader of the "George Bush for President" committee in Britain, wrote basically the same thing in the *Times* of London Feb. 23—but described Bush's lack of character as an advantage. "We do not claim that George Bush is an authority on present-day international affairs; but we know from experience that, unlike the other candidates, he can be counted upon to take his advice from experienced practitioners," he explained.

Whose war on drugs is 'phony'?

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) on Feb. 19 criticized the Reagan administration's failure to follow through on its "War on Drugs" program, including its decision to cut Coast Guard funds for anti-drug enforcement. "I'm tired of this phony war on drugs," he said, "where they talk about it, where they stand Nancy up at the State of the Union message and try to pretend the war on drugs is ram-paging across the country, and meanwhile they cut the guts out of the law enforcement effort."

Kerry is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on terrorism, narcotics, and international communications.

But his own anti-drug credentials are equally suspect. Kerry chairs the panel which has been hearing testimony against Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega, from convicted

drug traffickers and a disgruntled former official of the Panamanian government, and Kerry himself has played a leading role in the "get Noriega" lobby. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has repeatedly pointed out that Noriega cooperated fully with them in anti-drug operations.

Kerry issued a call on Feb. 19 for U.S. troops to be sent to Colombia to assist in the war on drugs there. The idea was rejected out of hand by the Colombian embassy in Washington, which said that, while Colombia welcomes financial assistance from the United States, such aid must come within "the framework of our sovereignty and self-determination."

The president of the Colombian Association of Retired Officers, Gabriel Puyana, was more blunt. If the United States wants to use troops, he said, it should use them to stop contraband on its own territory. "If they were to fight the drug trade there," he said, "it would be much easier for us to control the problem here."

Dole finds few friends in Europe

EIR's European bureaus report growing embarrassment and dismay at the ignorance—and the Soviet connections—of GOP presidential contender Bob Dole.

The British weekly the *Observer* reported that Dole tried unsuccessfully to recruit the German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) to his campaign. Dole wrote a letter to "Herr Goethe" at the Goethe Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, which he believed to be his usual residence, asking for a personal meeting with the poet.

The institute sent an amused reply, informing Dole that "Herr Goethe" could not support his presidential campaign, because he "unfortunately died in 1832."

Perhaps not since Ronald Reagan in 1980 could not name the President of France, have European commentators been more at a loss for words.

More ominously, the *Times* of London on Feb. 22 pointed to the potential "Soviet factor" in a Dole presidency, referring to his backing by such as Dwayne Andreas of Archer Daniels Midland Corp. "Mr. Dole is backed by agricultural and other interests

which want more trade with the Soviet Union—interests some of which are from the old isolationist heartland of the Midwest. He might therefore be more amenable to missile deals and force reductions which would leave Western Europe militarily weak in the face of his supporters' trading partner. Here indeed would be an issue, for the world as well as for this year's American voters."

What's behind indictment of foreign leaders?

House Select Narcotics Committee chairman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) said at a press conference in Washington on Feb. 19 that he intends to invite Secretary of State George Shultz to hearings in March to ask "whether or not selective indictments of leaders of foreign nations is a means our government has chosen for overthrowing people we don't like."

Referring to Panama and Haiti, where U.S. indictments have either occurred or are expected to occur, Rangel said that the issue of timing is particularly relevant, and that he was sure "the State Department wouldn't mind telling us if this is a method of changing governments in these countries we have adopted or not. We should know what is going on."

He also promised, in response to a question from *EIR*, a follow-up to the hearings of the Senate Foreign Affairs subcommittee on the role of U.S. banks in money laundering.

End of ASAT program leaves U.S. vulnerable

The cancellation of the U.S. anti-satellite program by Frank Carlucci's Defense Department leaves all U.S. satellites vulnerable to Soviet attack, particularly in view of recent advances in the Soviet space program.

According to Soviet space experts, the 1970s Soviet ASAT, plus directed energy systems being developed for their SDI, could kill or cripple almost every U.S. asset in

space. The ground-based lasers at Sary Shagan have already been blamed for the temporary blinding of U.S. satellites passing over the U.S.S.R., and laser and microwave systems being built on a mountaintop near Afghanistan, will be able to damage U.S. satellites up to 1,000 kilometers high.

While some congressmen and the media have maintained that because the operational Soviet ASAT cannot reach satellites more than 300 kilometers high, Western reconnaissance, early warning, and other high-valued space assets are not threatened.

But Soviet space experts point out that the powerful Energiya booster, which can place 100 metric tons into low-Earth orbit, could be used to place ASATs where they put all U.S. satellites under threat. At a Soviet conference in January, speakers stated that future configurations of the superbooster will take its payload capability up to 250 metric tons, which will be used for space-based strategic defense components and advanced ASAT systems.

The removal of the ASAT program from the proposed FY 1989 budget has further, broad implications. Radio communications, navigational information for submarines, and weather forecasting all depend upon satellite communications.

Inman will head Defense Science Board

Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, former deputy director of the CIA and former director of the National Security Agency, has been named by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci to head the Defense Science Board, an advisory panel that will determine "which START verification programs are most appropriate from an acquisition viewpoint," the *Washington Times* reported Feb. 18.

Admiral Inman is an expert on Soviet military technology, who currently heads a consortium which is seeking to leapfrog U.S. superconductor technology ahead.

Other members of the verification task force include: Hans M. Mark, a nuclear physicist and engineer who was on President Carter's Advisory Group on Science and Technology, and is now chancellor of the University of Texas; William J. Perry, who

served as undersecretary of defense for research and engineering under Carter; and Robert Herman, a physicist who worked with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, also under Carter.

'U.S. forces' wiped out in Pentagon war games

Soldiers playing the U.S. side in a make-believe war were consistently wiped out by the "Russian" adversary, due to failures of equipment and other problems, the *Washington Post* reported on Feb. 22.

This was the result of recent large-scale training exercises in the Mojave Desert, between forces using U.S. tactics and equipment and forces using Soviet tactics and equipment, simulating Soviet attacks in Europe. Using laser trackers instead of real ammunition, U.S. forces did not win even a single battle "during two weeks of almost continuous mock armored battles," the *Post* reported.

"The string of 'Soviet' victories at this giant outdoor laboratory . . . raised questions about the capabilities of the U.S. Army at a time when the . . . [INF] treaty is about to pull part of the nuclear crutch out from under NATO."

White House names Ball as Navy secretary

President Reagan named his chief White House lobbyist, William Ball III, to fill the slot opened by the surprise resignation of James Webb from his post as Secretary of the Navy on Feb. 23.

Webb quit with words of harsh criticism for Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci and his budget cuts. The Pentagon "needs leadership," Webb said. "It needs vision. I'm saying that if I had a piece of advice to give to Secretary Carlucci, it would be to spend a lot more time with the top leaders in this building. He's been spending a lot of time with the State Department and a lot of time on the Hill."

Briefly

● **ARCHBISHOP JOHN MAY** of St. Louis, chairman of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference, called on Feb. 25 for mobilizing the Catholic clergy and laity in support of the Pope's new encyclical. Noting attacks on it in the media, he said that it was "ridiculous" to think that the Pontiff, "having lived under a Communist regime for most of his life, should be soft on Communism."

● **WILLIAM SAFIRE** denounced the Pope's encyclical, in his *New York Times* column Feb. 22. He charged that the Pope "risks becoming known as the foremost political-moral relativist of our time" and is whipping up "every demagogue of the New World Economic Order" by talking of "rightful access to the goods meant for all."

● **RICHARD BURT**, the U.S. ambassador to West Germany, is a candidate to join Bob Dole's campaign staff. Burt's term as ambassador will expire Sept. 1.

● **GENNADI GERASIMOV**, the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, declared in London Feb. 18 that his government is "happier" with former U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger gone. He added: "Mr. Carlucci is on good speaking terms with our Defense Minister Mr. Yazov. The changes in Washington are very favorable from our point of view." Carlucci will meet Yazov in Berne, Switzerland on March 11, the first-ever meeting between U.S. and Soviet defense ministers.

● **LYNDON LAROUCHE'S** nationally televised campaign broadcast on Feb. 4 ranked much higher in the Nielsen ratings of viewership in the Washington, D.C. area than either the Democratic or Republican debates held at the end of February. LaRouche got a rating of 6.3, or 101,530 viewers; the Feb. 18 Democratic debate rated 0.9, or 14,900 viewers, and the Feb. 19 Republican debate rated 1.3, or 20,943 viewers.