

National News

Deukmejian endorses anti-AIDS Prop. 102

California Gov. George Deukmejian endorsed Proposition 102, the anti-AIDS initiative, on Oct. 28. In a statement released by his office, Deukmejian said that he planned to vote for the initiative after hearing the evidence on both sides and deciding that "the added tools provided by this measure will enhance rather than impede efforts to combat AIDS." He added that until a cure is found, the only way to stop its spread is by treating it as a "communicable disease."

Homosexual activists denounced the move while 1,500 of them marched to the state building in Sacramento in protest. Bruce Decker, the gay advocate who heads the governor's Task Force on AIDS, along with Drs. Richard Hamilton and Michael Gottlieb, two task force members, immediately resigned in protest.

Paul Gann, a cosponsor of Prop. 102, who himself contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion, said that he is "tickled pink" to get the governor's endorsement.

LaRouche Virginia trial on fast track

In a short hearing Oct. 28 in the "LaRouche case," Alexandria federal Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr. conceded, "We are pushing the defendants a bit hard in this case in terms of time." Observers considered this to be quite an admission from the judge who is the architect of the famed "rocket docket" in the Eastern District of Virginia federal court.

The hearing concerned a motion brought by Lyndon LaRouche and the other defendants, who are charged with conspiracy to commit tax and mail fraud counts (see page 68), to compel the prosecutors to designate which documents they are going to use for the fraud case and which for the tax case. Defense attorney Fred Sinclair, local counsel for Mr. LaRouche, told Judge Bryan that although prosecutor Kent Robinson had

provided to the defense an index of over 500 documents which may be used by the government at trial, he has refused to say which documents pertain to which case. Sinclair pointed out that the defendants were given only 34 days from their arraignment to prepare for trial.

Judge Bryan told Robinson—who opposed the defense motion—that he couldn't see how the government would be harmed by this procedure, and said that "it might help the defendants put their case together." Bryan then conceded that he is "pushing the defendants a bit hard" with respect to time to prepare for trial, and he ordered Robinson to provide defense counsel with a breakdown of the documents being provided to them in discovery.

Judge Bryan said that a motion for severance of the tax count from the mail fraud counts is the only motion that he will allow to be filed early, before the general deadline of Nov. 10 for pre-trial motions. Trial of the case is still scheduled for Nov. 21.

Cincinnati Bell probed for phone taps

A grand jury has been impaneled to hear charges that Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company has been tapping phones throughout the city, including the Board of Elections computer to commit election vote fraud.

Two former employees of the company, Lonnie Gates and Robert Draise, revealed that they performed more than 1,000 wire taps of every major political and business figure in Cincinnati. They testified that one of their taps completed a hookup from a mini-computer capable of reprogramming, to the Board of Elections computer. They said that they were ordered by the head of security for Cincinnati Bell to stop the computer during the 1979 election, and they did so.

Gates and Draise also alleged that everyone involved in the wiretap operation within the company had sworn a Masonic oath not to reveal the operation. They claim that they were advised on phone tap methods by the FBI.

Gates is reportedly now in hiding and has called local newspapers to report that he and his family have received death threats.

An article in *New Yorker* magazine, which hit the newsstands Nov. 1, became the latest story on how the outcome of presidential elections can be determined by computer tampering.

National Economic Commission to gear up?

The National Economic Commission plans to launch a major mobilization on behalf of its austerity package as soon as the presidential election is over, a spokesman for the commission has disclosed. "We've been treading water for months, but as soon as Nov. 8 rolls around, just watch us go into action," he said.

Bob Strauss and Drew Lewis, co-chairmen of the NEC, are already on record saying it will call for cuts in Social Security and other entitlement programs, in defense spending, and will call for tax hikes as well. The NEC is planning public hearings in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 15-16 featuring big names such as Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, will then "start meeting privately nearly every day," and has set a target date of Dec. 21 for delivering its final recommendations to the President-elect. The NEC is supposed to conclude its existence by the end of March 1989, "but don't be too surprised to see the commission's charter extended way beyond that," the spokesman said.

Among other witnesses expected to appear before the commission is Libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul, who is advocating an incredible \$150 billion cut in the first year of deficit reduction. Roughly half of such cuts would come from eliminating cost of living increases in entitlement programs, ending farm subsidies, and freezing medical benefits. The other half would be cut from defense spending.

NEC staffers suggest that their major ally in a Bush administration would be Bush campaign director James Baker III.

Infrastructure collapse to cost \$3 trillion

A February 1988 report to President Reagan by the National Council on Public Works Improvement (NCPWI) prompted a call by *Washington Post* columnist James E. Leberherz for a massive investment to replace the nation's collapsing infrastructure. Based upon the report, Leberherz said that the cost of rebuilding will have reached \$3 trillion by the year 2000.

Historically, government spending on infrastructure has declined from 20% of total spending in 1950 to only 7% in 1984. The NCPWI, Leberherz warned, "found convincing evidence that the quality of America's infrastructure is barely adequate to fulfill current requirements and insufficient to meet the demands of future economic growth and development."

Leberherz also cited an unnamed undersecretary of the Interior, who recently warned, "In recent years, instead of continuing to spend on infrastructure, we as a nation have opted to spend on consumer types of things. Consequently, we have realized the depreciation and deterioration of the already existing infrastructure. And as it deteriorates, it accelerates by an order of magnitude if you ignore it, and this has an adverse economic impact." Leberherz suggested a partnership between federal, state, and local governments, and private business to tackle the problem.

EIR has estimated that the infrastructure repair cost is already in the \$3-4 trillion range.

Abrahamson asks new NATO role in SDI

Strategic Defense Initiative Organization head Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson told a press conference in the Netherlands Oct. 27 that he wants NATO nations to be more involved in the SDI.

Abrahamson said that the U.S. would continue with SDI research, but that "our objective is not to deploy until there is a clear

national and international decision that not only the first phase but some of the second and subsequent phases will be feasible and affordable," according to Reuters.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration handed a proposal to the Soviets in Geneva on Oct. 24 to limit to 15 the number of anti-missile test satellites permitted in orbit at one time. According to the *Washington Times*, this is the first significant concession in the SDI area. It was made to reassure the Soviets that the U.S. was not deploying an SDI under cover of testing. The U.S. did reassert its right to conduct SDI space tests.

SDI opponents are gloating, as usual, that the SDI is in trouble. Kissinger Associates partner Brent Scowcroft told the *Washington Post* Oct. 26 that George Bush is "clearly aware" that the SDI cannot continue to take an increasingly large share of a tight defense budget.

Dairy farms ordered to stop shipping milk

Some Iowa dairy farms have been ordered to stop shipping milk because of deadly toxin found in the milk. The toxin's presence was blamed on lactating cows eating corn rations tainted with aflatoxin.

Despite precautions to prevent lactating animals from eating the tainted feed, the aflatoxin is so prevalent in the drought-stricken corn crop that the precautions failed.

It is likely that similar problems will arise in neighboring Illinois—the other top corn state hit hard by drought. So far, there have been no similar cases reported in Wisconsin, where milk officials have been vigilant. The Iowa dairy farms hit are in danger of bankruptcy from their loss of milk sales. There will be an attempt by farmer cooperatives to continue to compensate the farmers to tide them over.

However, no federal arrangements have been made, because of the refusal by Washington to take proper emergency measures. There is only \$1 million in the federal fund to assist dairy farmers whose milk has been damaged. Several years ago, \$8 million was paid out to Missouri farmers whose feed was tainted by fungicide residue.

● **LLOYD CUTLER**, the leading protagonist for scrapping the U.S. Constitution, advocates a step toward parliamentary government in an opinion column in the Nov. 1 *Washington Post*. Cutler argues that voters must stop "ticket-splitting," because it is causing "deadlocks" in the government. The major issues for which he wants to streamline decisionmaking are to cut the federal budget deficit, and to cut off military aid to allies such as South Korea and Middle East nations.

● **U.S. ATTORNEY Henry Hudson** says he expects to bring the first indictments in the Pentagon fraud investigation in mid-November. "Nothing would have given me greater pleasure than to hand down indictments in the first part of October" before the presidential election, Hudson said.

● **FOOD BANKS** controlled by the grain cartel under the "Second Harvest" name are receiving preferential treatment from the federal government regarding food supplies. Second Harvest Food Banks in Iowa, Arizona, and Missouri have received government "demonstration project" status, assuring them of abundant supplies of government "surplus" food. Meanwhile, independent food banks are being denied food and shutting down. Mrs. James Baker III is a Second Harvest board member.

● **FEDERAL** prosecutors threatened former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda with contempt charges for failing to provide fingerprints, and voice and handwriting samples, after they were indicted on vague charges of criminal activity. The Marcoses, whose indictment is said to be part of a deal over U.S. bases in the Philippines, said Nov. 4 that they would comply.