

National News

LaRouche: Jim Bakker conviction 'reeks'

Congressional candidate Lyndon LaRouche issued the following statement on Oct. 5, after learning of the conviction of TV evangelist Jim Bakker:

"I just heard that former evangelist Jim Bakker was convicted on all counts totaling to a potential 120 years.

"Now, as I understand the conviction, he was convicted of overbooking his hotel, which makes one believe that he was convicted of believing that he was an airline.

"While Jim may have done something of which I do not approve—I don't know about that—the point is that the entire case against Jim reeks of trial by press and farce. And 120 years for overbooking a hotel seems a little bit in the way of stiff. I think we ought to take a good look at this thing, beyond what Tammy had to say about it.

"I don't particularly like Jim, but I believe in justice. And this thing doesn't smell good, even if I don't like Jim."

School officials take steps against Satanism

School officials in a north Dallas, Texas, school district have instituted procedures to protect students from Satanic activity, including banning traditional Halloween practices.

In a memo to parents, the officials report that they have had numerous calls from parents who have heard that there are Satanic cults operating in the area and are concerned that the cults are planning to abduct children for rituals around Halloween.

Because the schools could not discount such a possibility, they adopted procedures including increasing personnel vigilance on school grounds; increasing attention to students being picked up during the school day; encouraging parents to exercise suitable precautions in allowing students to walk between school and home without supervision; and encouraging Halloween activities that exclude "trick or treating."

Supreme Court refuses to hear NDPC appeal

The U.S. Supreme Court decided on Oct. 3 not to hear the appeal of the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action committee of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party. The NDPC was seeking to overturn a multimillion-dollar civil contempt fine imposed by a federal judge in Boston, Massachusetts, for alleged failure to produce documents subpoenaed by a grand jury.

NDPC chairman Warren J. Hamerman denounced the Supreme Court's refusal to even hear the NDPC's argument as a "shameless insult to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Without granting a hearing, the Supreme Court has now condoned the first economic death penalty in American history against a purely political organization."

On Sept. 27, the NDPC had answered the government brief, noting that the brief did not dispute the NDPC's contention that the First Circuit Appeals Court in Boston is interpreting the law in a way that contradicts all other court circuits. For this reason, the NDPC said, the Supreme Court must hear the matter.

Hamerman charged that the government has tried all along to cover up the fact that they knew that the NDPC had "fully complied with the subpoena of the grand jury as has recently been admitted in court-filed affidavits by the U.S. Attorney's office in Boston. . . . They knew we complied with the grand jury years before they concocted the fine collection."

NASA: Put up funds or be second rate

Congress should either provide the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with proper funding, or frankly tell the American people, "We have decided to be second rate in space," the director of NASA's Langley Research Center, Richard Peterson, said at Purdue University on Oct. 2.

"It is crucial in the future we either provide the funds to compete as a world-class space power, or that we tell Americans the whole truth—that this country has chosen not to be a world leader in space," Peterson told a crowd honoring Purdue graduates who had become astronauts. "To have a world-class space program, we will need to make a long-term investment and double the funding for NASA in the near future, which will be a major political battle."

DoJ memo attacks right to counsel

Attorney General Richard Thornburgh has issued a memo to prosecutors which authorizes them to ignore ethics rules governing contact between prosecutors and defendants who have retained counsel, according to the Sept. 30 *Legal Times*.

One lawyer called the move "a declaration of war on the defense bar." Neal Sonnett, of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) said the memo is a "green light to ignore the Code of Professional Responsibility."

Thornburgh's memo argues that the ethics rule, which dates from 1900, prevents prosecutors from contacting suspects who have retained counsel, and amounts to an unconstitutional expansion of the right to counsel. "As a practical matter," the memo states, "these efforts threaten to become a substantial burden on the law enforcement process."

Margaret Love, an associate deputy attorney general who wrote the memo, said, "It is a distraction for defense attorneys to be pulling out ethical rules to stop us from using legitimate investigative techniques to get the bad people."

Pressure grows to cut U.S. military forces

The Pentagon is under growing pressure from the budget-cutters and the pro-Gorbachov lobby to cut back the size of the U.S.

Briefly

Armed Forces. The *Washington Post* on Sept. 30 quoted Gen. Edward C. Meyer (ret.) predicting, "If the Soviets continue their non-confrontational course [sic] . . . all the services are going to be from one-half to two-thirds of their present size."

The newly designated chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell, told the Senate Armed Services Committee, "If the squeeze finally comes and you cannot do it all, then I would vote in an instant for a smaller but ready force with the kinds of quality we have now."

Pressures to withdraw U.S. forces from Europe and Asia will shape the strategic review Congress is demanding, and at a press conference releasing the latest edition of *Soviet Military Power*, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney said such Pentagon planning is well-advanced.

This policy is furthered by the exhortations of CIA director William Webster, to the effect that the Soviets are no longer the main threat to the United States (see article, page 63).

A report issued by the Georgetown University International Security Studies Program takes the same line, blaming the lack of U.S. military intelligence capability on conflicts in the Third World, on an alleged overemphasis on the East-West conflict.

Political attack on S&Ls receives setback

Government prosecutors suffered another setback in their attack on savings and loan executives, as two of the three indicted officials of Commodore Savings Association were acquitted on Sept. 28 by a federal jury in Dallas, Texas.

Woodrow Brownlee, the president, and John Harrell, the vice chairman, were acquitted of charges that they conspired to misapply the thrift's funds and then tried to conceal it from federal regulators. The jury was unable to render a verdict on two other charges. A third defendant, E. Morten Hopkins, the former president of National Mortgage Corp. of America, was found guilty of a conspiracy charge. Prosecutors said they may ask for a new trial on the charges on

which the jury was unable to reach a verdict.

Abbe Lowell, a Washington attorney who is representing several individuals under investigation, "The fact that the jury would not find them guilty of fraud lends a great deal of support to the argument that the tremendous problems in the banking industry were not necessarily caused by fraud."

The *Dallas Times Herald* on Sept. 17 said the government failure "raises concerns that the highly touted Bank Fraud Task Force . . . likewise will stumble when it goes after those Attorney General Dick Thornburgh describes as the 'kingpins' of savings and loan fraud."

Allen Carver, a deputy chief in the Department of Justice fraud section, admitted, "In many instances, losses may be traced to incompetence, stupidity, gross negligence and bad luck."

Demands on food banks rise astronomically

Reflecting a nationwide pattern, the Food Bank of Western New York will nearly double the amount of food it collects and ships to food pantries in 1989 compared with 1988, according to the *Buffalo News* Sept. 28.

For the first seven months of 1989, one of the largest soup kitchens has served 46,177 meals, compared with 15,086 in 1983 at the height of the steel and auto plant shutdowns. The clientele needing food has shifted from mostly alcoholics and drug addicts, to children and their parents, the elderly, the handicapped, teenagers, and the mentally disturbed. One soup kitchen reports serving up to 400 children each day during summer, and still serves 250 after school has started.

The welfare commissioner for Manchester, New Hampshire reports that the Welfare Department will be out of money before the end of 1989, reports the Oct. 2 *Manchester Union Leader*. Record numbers of people are seeking food and assistance, and many of them are the " 'working poor' who have no money left after paying their rent and utility bills, and . . . who have fallen on hard times and no longer can make ends meet."

● **THE FREE NEEDLES** program would be ended by both New York City mayoral candidate Democrat David Dinkins and Republican Rudolph Giuliani, according to New York *Newsday* Sept. 28. "We're glad that the program doesn't look as if it is going to live," said Debra Fraser-Howze of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. "It sent out the wrong signal."

● **20 TONS OF COCAINE** and \$10 million cash were seized by federal and local law enforcement agents in a warehouse in Los Angeles on Sept. 29 in the largest bust ever.

● **C. EVERETT KOOP**, in one of his last interviews as U.S. Surgeon General, said on National Public Radio Sept. 26 that the U.S. must "ration health care," and commended Oregon for its notorious decision to withhold funds for organ transplants in favor of prenatal care.

● **ANTI-TRUST** violations by the food cartels are not being prosecuted by the Department of Justice, according to Iowa State University professor John Helmuth. "Today, the Anti-Trust Act is not being enforced, despite the fact that market control among major packers is almost 20% higher than it was in 1920," he said.

● **JAMES BAKER** defended his meeting with Red Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 28. "If we're going to improve their performance in the human rights area as well as others, we're going to have to talk to them diplomatically," the secretary of state said on Sept. 29.

● **JOHN POINDEXTER'S** attorneys have asked a federal judge for access to any notes kept by President Reagan and Vice President George Bush relating to the Iran-Contra deals. The former national security adviser's request is part of his legal strategy to show that Bush and Reagan authorized his actions.