

National News

Texas AFL-CIO invites LaRouche Dem

Harley Schlanger, a LaRouche Democrat and candidate for U.S. Senate, addressed 400 members of the Committee on Political Education committee of the Texas AFL-CIO at its candidate screening meeting in Austin on Jan. 24. The address was a first, in that in past years LaRouche supporters have been pointedly "disinvited" from the event.

Schlanger presented the LaRouche program, and fight for economic justice, explaining the causes of the current economic collapse. He also presented the reasons for the attack on LaRouche and his associates, reporting in some detail on the judicial railroad, and the exculpatory evidence withheld by George Bush.

Schlanger's Democratic primary opponent for the Senate seat held by Sen. Phil Gramm (R), the little-known former State Senator Hugh Palmer, called for Japan and Western Europe to pick up the financial burden of their military defense.

A conflict over whom to endorse for governor resulted in the AFL-CIO giving no endorsements to candidates for statewide office, leaving local party officials to back whomever they wish.

Trade restrictions to East bloc eased

The White House confirmed on Jan. 22 that it intends to ease its CoCom trade restrictions of security-sensitive technology to the East bloc.

"The Bush administration has decided to support increased sales of advanced computers, telecommunications equipment, and machine tools to East bloc nations that have shed their Communist governments and have begun liberalizing their economies," the *Washington Post* reported.

The decision was made by the National Security Council on Jan. 19, and on Jan. 20, high-ranking Commerce, Defense, and State Department officials left for London

to brief European allies of the changed position, the *Post* said.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that the NSC is "responding to the changing political and military environment" in Eastern Europe in recommending five points on trade: 1) to support continued reforms in Eastern Europe; 2) to strengthen the protection of certain national security-sensitive technologies from being made accessible to potential adversaries; 3) to update the list of such technologies; 4) to decontrol certain "off the shelf" technologies which have been on the CoCom list but which are readily available in the West; and 5) to provide guidance to U.S. exporters on the above new policies.

Fitzwater denied the move was in reaction to fear of "reversals" in the East bloc, and also denied that the Pentagon is opposed to these reforms.

Pundits finally see imminent Gorbachov fall

Now that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov's fall from power is likely imminent, several so-called strategists are now saying this publicly.

George Kennan told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Jan. 17 that the failure of Gorbachov's reforms "to meet even the normal demands of consumers" has created difficulty and danger for the Soviet President. But Kennan still said Gorbachov is likely to survive because "it is questionable whether there is any among his potential rivals who would like, at the present time, to assume the burden in his place." Kennan had been an enthusiastic supporter of the Yalta division of East and West Europe after World War II, but when this policy became a dismal failure, he wrote the "Mr. X" piece advocating "containment" as a policy alternative.

On Jan. 22, *Journal of Commerce* Moscow correspondent Mark Berniker wrote, "Mr. Gorbachov's hold on power is slipping away at breakneck speed with the growing crises in Lithuania and Azerbaijan. . . . A source close to Vladimir Falin, who is one of the top advisers in the Central Committee of the Soviet Politburo, believes Mr. Gorbachov

will be lucky if he survives until spring. . . . Prime Minister Ryzhkov has the support of orthodox Communists, and will likely build a coalition among hardliners and the military leadership to secure his power."

Also, Henry Kissinger said on a BBC interview program on Jan. 12 that Gorbachov could be swept from power, according to the *Hindustan Times*. "When [the current turmoil] reaches the area which has been Russian for over 100 years, either Gorbachov goes or force is used to quell the agitation," Kissinger said. If Gorbachov "has really forewarned the use of force. . . the Baltic states will go away and then other states can follow," something the Soviet Army wouldn't stand for.

G.D.R. opposition leader tours U.S.

Klaus Grasslaub, who was a guest speaker at the Martin Luther King Tribunal meeting in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 14 from Zwickau, East Germany, was extremely happy to be in the United States but expressed shock that, despite America's great wealth, conditions in the inner cities and former industrial areas were as bad as in the Soviet-ruled G.D.R.

At the White House at a candlelight vigil on Jan. 15, he asked about the homeless people there, "Doesn't your government provide housing for these people?"

During a tour of Pennsylvania, the East German, who has taken part in the democratic opposition movement in his country and came here as the guest of a West German friend, visited once-industrialized areas, including former steel towns. The devastated conditions of the neighborhoods, the shut-down and torn-down steel mills reminded him of the G.D.R. "Where are the workers? What are they doing now that they no longer work in the mills?" he asked.

After unemployment benefits run out, the government does not acknowledge the existence of these people; hence, the "official" 5.3% unemployment statistics. Out of seven mills still visible, only two were in operation. The main difference between the

Mon Valley and the G.D.R., is that the mills in the G.D.R. still function, he said.

Soviets-U.S. speed up START talks

U.S. and Soviet officials have resumed negotiations earlier than expected in a push to get a strategic arms (START) treaty ready for the June Bush-Gorbachov summit. The heads of the two delegations, U.S. Ambassador Richard Burt and Soviet Ambassador Yuri Nazarkin, met on Jan. 21 in Geneva.

Early resumption of the talks has caused speculation that the U.S. is prepared to make some more big concessions to the Soviets, in order to give Gorbachov a START treaty and bolster his political standing.

"It's constructive pressure," Burt told reporters after the meeting. "I'm very optimistic we will resolve the major outstanding issues in the negotiations by June and we will complete an agreement by [the end of] 1990. That's what President Bush wants."

Originally, the talks were to resume after Secretary of State James Baker's meeting in Moscow with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Feb. 6-7. The decision to start them sooner "is an indication of a desire to get going," a spokesman for the U.S. delegation told Reuters. "We're here to solve the problems."

Former security adviser warns of 'tacit Yalta'

Lt. Gen. William Odom, the head of the U.S. National Security Agency until July 1989, warned that the Bush-Baker team may be preparing a "tacit Yalta" with the Russians, the Jan. 21 *Sunday Telegraph* of London reported.

According to the *Sunday Telegraph*, Odom is concerned that the U.S. President and Secretary of State are placing "stability" ahead of a chance for "liberal democracy and decolonization" of the Soviet empire. This, says Odom, "would smack of a tacit Yalta," and would be unacceptable. "The first priority is to get the Soviets off East

German soil without getting us out of West Germany," he said.

Former Secretary of State Al Haig attacked the U.S.-U.S.S.R. condominium in a Jan. 18 *New York Times* commentary entitled "An Alliance for All Europe." "The reconstruction of a new Europe, without American participation at every stage, would simply repeat the historic blunders of the 1920s," Haig writes. "We must not become an inadvertent accomplice in a Soviet attempt to divert Eastern Europe's march to democracy into the dead end of reform communism. . . . We must never accept the idea that the alternative to a Soviet threat can only be a German threat, and that the alternative to the Cold War is a U.S.-Soviet condominium to 'hold down the Germans.' This is the *realpolitik* that could produce another war, not a true and lasting peace." Haig says that a "whole and free Europe" can only be assured by ultimately bringing the Warsaw Pact nations into NATO.

BCCI drug plea relieves Bush

The Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which was to have gone on trial Jan. 18 in a Tampa federal court on charges of laundering over \$32 million in drug money, agreed to a last-minute plea bargain on Jan. 16. The trial could have proved very embarrassing to the Bush administration.

Although Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega was not mentioned in the original BCCI indictment handed down in Tampa in October 1988, U.S. prosecutors have been saying that the trial would highlight Noriega's alleged drug dealings with the bank. But in a recent court filing, BCCI's lawyers threatened that if prosecutors brought up Noriega's activities, they would request government documents to "demonstrate that much of the money in the accounts in question came from United States government agencies, not drug transactions."

Almost immediately, federal prosecutors decided to accept a plea bargain, instead of going to trial.

Briefly

● **FOOD FOR PEACE** representative Fred Huenefeld called for the maximum possible 1990 U.S. rice crop Jan. 24, in testimony before the "Delta Commission" governors of six rice-growing states meeting in Monroe, Louisiana. If planting were increased from the current 2.3 to 3 million acres, an additional 3.85 billion pounds of rice, which could feed 7 million people, could be available this year.

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** endorsed creation of a cabinet-level "Department of Environment" on Jan. 24, saying he was "following in the footsteps of Theodore Roosevelt" in "support for conservation and environmental protection."

● **BENJAMIN HOOKS**, executive director of the NAACP, said Jan. 21 that the arrest of D. C. Mayor Marion Barry for cocaine possession in an FBI sting, was because of his race. "There is no question . . . there has been undue emphasis on harassing black elected officials," Hooks said.

● **ELIOT JANEWAY** told *EIR* that George Bush is not only not handling the economic crisis, "he's not handling anything!" The economist said Jan. 19, "There is no sign that any of Bush's advisers" has awakened to the fact that the economy is falling apart.

● **'HAIL TO THE CHIEF**, but can Bushgate be far behind?" asked the Jan. 21 London *Observer*. Despite Bush's current popularity, the media, "like those seas at Malta, can be unpredictable and could decide to turn at any moment."

● **JOHN POSZGAI**, who escaped Hungary in the 1950s, says there is less freedom in the U.S. than under the communist dictatorship he fled. Poszgai was convicted for filling five acres of his land, a former dump, with soil. The Third Circuit Court of Appeals refused to overturn his sentence of three years in jail and a \$202,000 fine, for this wetlands environmental violation.