

National News

LaRouche the only active presidential candidate

With 11 months to go before the first caucuses and primaries of the 1992 presidential election campaign, Lyndon LaRouche has been the only individual who has dared to announce and run for President of the U.S.

The *Washington Post* reported Feb. 19 that normally there is major campaign activity at least in Iowa and New Hampshire by now, and there is absolutely none. A Committee for Fiscal Responsibility, which intends to back Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder for President, has registered with the Federal Election Commission, but done nothing more and Wilder has made no announcement.

The effort by George Bush and the media to quell unrest in the U.S. over the war against Iraq is thought to be playing a major role in creating this highly unusual situation. No "major" candidate dares to make a move because of the war. LaRouche alone is defying Bush, calling for his impeachment, and running to replace him and his economic policies.

Will Bush seize U.S. railroads?

As the Feb. 15 deadline for settling the current railroad labor dispute was extended by the federal government to April 17, the nation's financial press was asking whether President Bush would use the American war effort in the Persian Gulf to justify a federal takeover of the railroads. According to the *Journal of Commerce*, "the stage is set for possible federal seizure of the railroads," because the railways have so far been essential to the war effort.

Railroad unions and management have been locked in negotiations since 1988, and most unions have not been favorable toward the recommendations for settlement proposed by the Presidential Emergency Board. According to Richard Kilroy, president of the 80,000-member Transportation Communications Union (TCU), "chances are not too

good" that differences can be ironed out before the new April 17 deadline. The TCU had stated it was willing to strike starting Feb. 15, the end of a 30-day cooling-off period following the publication of the emergency board report, but that deadline was extended to prevent a rail strike from interfering with the Persian Gulf war effort.

American railroads have been seized by the federal government 12 times, always in response to labor disputes. In May 1946, President Truman seized virtually every U.S. railroad. When some strikers refused to return to work, Truman threatened to seek legislation allowing him to draft strikers into the Army. The current reporting of these historical facts in the financial press may simply be intended to cow the labor unions into submission, or it may be a trial balloon for events to come.

DoJ shake-up over FBI spying, cocaine case

The reverberations from the conviction of former top Justice Department official Henry Barr are continuing; as a furor now arises over the fact that Attorney General Richard Thornburgh was allowed to provide unsworn testimony in the trial of his former top deputy.

The *Washington Times*, in a Feb. 25 editorial, demands that Thornburgh be put under oath, implying that he is covering up knowledge of the drug dealing among his top circle.

"What did Mr. Thornburgh know and when did he know it? Because he was allowed to take the stand in Barr's trial without taking an oath and because the prosecutor in the case (who technically works for Mr. Thornburgh) did not ask any hardball questions, there's no way to know. Mr. Thornburgh should resubmit his testimony to the court in the form of a sworn affidavit. He also should state under oath when he first learned of his top lieutenant's drug use, from whom and what he did about it," the editorial read.

Meanwhile, the top FBI man in the "Get LaRouche" task force, Oliver "Buck" Revell, currently number three in the FBI chain of command, has apparently had his hopes

of eventually becoming FBI director dashed by a transfer to the position of agent-in-charge of the Dallas field office. Revell claims that he requested the transfer and is delighted with the assignment, but the *Washington Times* points out that he has been passed over for appointment to the number-two spot, which has gone to his deputy, Floyd I. Clark. The paper cites embarrassments resulting from FBIa tricks operations against CISPES, the group opposed to the Contra war in Nicaragua.

Richard Burt caught in another spy scandal

A suspected KGB spy who worked at the U.S. mission in Berlin used Richard Burt's residence there, while Burt was acting as U.S. Ambassador to West Germany, according to a front-page story in the Feb. 19 *Washington Times*.

The suspected spy, Stephen Laufer, was arrested by German authorities on suspicion of espionage in January. Laufer is thought to have provided important political intelligence to the KGB, the paper says. Reportedly, he not only used Burt's residence, but was also one of his confidants.

This scandal, just the latest of a series of spy scandals in which Burt has been enmeshed, may explain Burt's sudden decision to resign as chief U.S. delegate to the strategic arms limitation talks. Burt resigned supposedly because the START talks were at a dead end.

Students showing tape on Lithuania massacre

Brown University students are exposing the criminal actions of the Soviet Union in its military crackdown of Lithuania by showing a videotape of the actions of Soviet forces.

Antanas Vainius, a freshman of Lithuanian descent, received a Lithuanian journalist's videotape, smuggled out of Lithuania, from a family friend who fled that country after the January upheaval. The tape was

then edited into a 15-minute documentary that was shown at Brown in Rhode Island and other area campuses including the University of Chicago. Many of those who viewed it found it upsetting and disturbing.

The videotape depicts the tanks rolling into Vilnius, the Soviet troops taking over the press and television buildings, and the treating of the injured and dead in the hospitals and morgues. English translations were dubbed in. One scene shows a man saying, "finally we saw our friend. . . . He was lying on the ground, actually embedded in the ground, crushed by the treads of a Soviet tank."

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis is shown commenting to an interviewer: "What should Bush do? He must call Gorbachov on the red phone and tell him that regardless of the situation in the Persian Gulf, the murder of Lithuania is still a murder. . . . If Gorbachov doesn't stop this, then no one will protect him from his own murderers."

War resister Alexander shanghaied by Navy

Donald Alexander, a black, active-duty Navy fireman who has refused to serve in the war in the Persian Gulf, was given new orders superseding an earlier decision by the legal office of his ship and forced to board the U.S.S. Forrester in Florida on Feb. 21, which was awaiting orders to sail for the Persian Gulf.

Alexander, whose resistance to the Gulf war has been widely publicized throughout the United States and in Europe, had several weeks earlier been taken off the Forrester and given shore duty, just before the ship was deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean. Officers on board, reached by phone, said they were just as stunned to see him brought back to the ship as his family was to hear about it.

In response to Alexander's formal request in January to be discharged, or at least taken out of the Persian Gulf deployment, ship's officers had been, Alexander has emphasized, very fair and careful, giving him shore duty pending final review of his request. But high-level orders described as

being "from the level of the Secretary of the Navy" denying his request, have placed him back on the ship against his will.

On Jan. 4, Alexander appeared at a pre-conference with Ramsey Clark, Rev. James Bevel, and Dick Gregory at the National Press Club in Washington, announcing he would refuse any role in the Persian Gulf war because he opposes the slaveholding practices of the Saudi and Kuwaiti royalty. Since the U.S. Constitution prohibits slavery, he declared, he would be violating his oath to uphold the Constitution, were he to fight for any political system upholding slavery. In his statement, Alexander compared fighting in this war to fighting "with General Lee against Lincoln."

War censorship worse than 1940s, says [***]

Former CBS News anchorman Walter Cronkite told a Senate hearing on Feb. 21 that press censorship in the Persian Gulf war is much worse than the censorship in effect during World War II.

Cronkite, who still serves as a special correspondent for CBS, harshly criticized the way the Pentagon has been controlling news of Operation Desert Storm, contending that the American public does not know what the Defense Department is trying to hide, because the U.S. press is not allowed to go where it wants and see and hear what it wants. During the Second World War, journalists were allowed to witness what happened, but that is not the case in the Gulf conflict, he said.

When Sen. Herbert Kohl (D-Wisc.), who presided over the Senate Government Affairs hearings, said he thought the Pentagon was telling the truth about the Gulf war, Cronkite replied: "I'm not sure, Senator. I don't know, because the American press is not able to go everywhere."

Another witness, Paul McMasters, deputy editor of *U.S.A. Today*, told the committee that Kohl's trust of the military was "the same sort of thing that was said in the early months of the Vietnam War. Propaganda is not just lies. Propaganda is truth without context, and we are getting close to that" now.

Briefly

● **WILLIAM WELD**, the Republican governor of Massachusetts, plans appointment of "openly gay and lesbian" individuals in his administration because they helped him get elected, the Feb. 22 *Washington Times* column reported. Don Gorton, who heads the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Action Committee, said the area's homosexuals are usually Democrats, but that Weld is changing that, because, for career advancement, "all of a sudden, being gay is an asset."

● **REP. DAN BURTON** (R-Ind.), a champion of the Khalistani separatists active in the U.S., reintroduced in the House Feb. 20 a bill which would stop U.S. development aid of \$25 million to India, if India persisted in denying Amnesty International access to Punjab. Last year the White House quashed a similar bill; Bush's current attitude is not known.

● **THE NATIONAL** Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East released a 3,000-word report on Feb. 18, written by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, on his six-day fact-finding tour of Iraq in early February.

● **LYNDON LAROUCHE** supporters have been organizing in Washington, D.C. with signs reading, "Following George Bush into a war is like following Neil Bush into a bank."

● **'STORMIN'** Norman Schwarzkopf was disinvited to the 750th anniversary celebration of Pfedelbach, Germany last month. After townspeople found out the mayor had invited him to "discover his roots," they deluged his office, calling Schwarzkopf a "mass murderer."

● **THE SHAWMUT INN**, where the press corps stays when the President is at the Walker's Point compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, plans to go into foreclosure. The *Maine Times* reported that even advance bookings by the media were not enough to keep the inn from closing its doors.