

EIR

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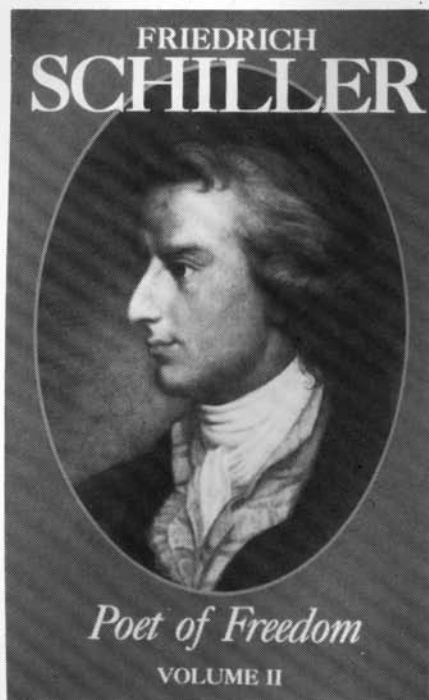
Bush transport plan: fast track to extinction
Looking back on the Panama invasion
Free marketers junked pensions, insurance

**CFC swindle condemns
millions to starvation**



"There is a limit to the tyrant's power."

—Friedrich Schiller,
Wilhelm Tell.

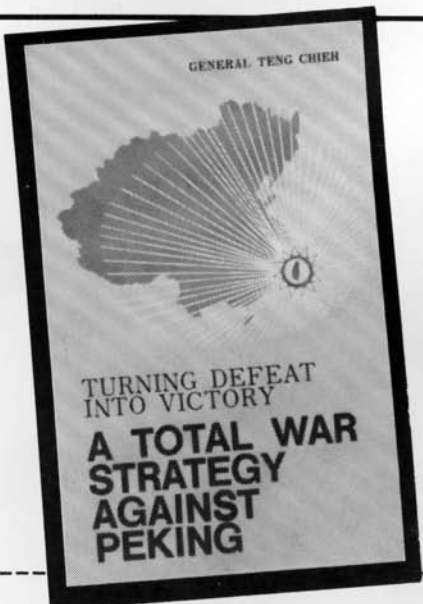


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From the Editor

Criticizing George Bush does not seem to be popular with the American media, but *EIR* has never been afraid to swim against the tide. This week's leading news stories touch upon the latest debacle of the American financial scene, insurance; the resumption of the war on Iraq; and the fight to stop "free trade" accords from turning the world into one big concentration camp. Every one of these developments relates to a wrong policy by Bush and his administration.

The *Feature* offers ammunition to everyone who is fed up with the cultural pessimists of the anti-science mob. It is a preview of a forthcoming book, co-authored by Rogelio Maduro and Ralf Schauerhammer, which will expose the scientific fraud of the "ozone hole" scare, and also show—our point of emphasis here—the hideous cost to mankind of enforcing the unneeded ban on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

In *Strategic Studies*, Carlos Wesley has written a unique overview of the first phase of Bush's "new world order," the December 1989 invasion of Panama. While most of the particulars have been covered in *EIR*'s news stories over the past 18 months, we expect this summary to function as a valuable resource.

In *Economics*, Laurence Hecht's analysis of the transportation breakdown happens to coincide with the outbreak of a major railway strike in the United States, which has been put on hold by Congress, but could well be the prelude to further destruction of the crippled rail system, and our industrial economy with it.

Historical reflection on the actions of the United States government is provided by Stan Ezrol's article about the drama *Henry the Fifth*, by William Shakespeare, a drama which (in the movie version) at least one supporter of the Bush administration's Gulf war has cited as the model for the American "triumph" in the Gulf. A triumph leading to genocide. I hope that even after you have read this issue of *Executive Intelligence Review* from cover to cover, you will find time to read the history plays of Shakespeare, too.

Nora Hamerman

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Too many tombstones.

Correction: In the April 12 issue, "Supreme Court and Justice Dept. federalize police brutality," on page 66, mistakenly stated that the beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles policemen followed President Bush's March 6 address to Congress calling for a domestic Operation Desert Storm. While the climate of lawless official violence created by Bush is broadly the cause of such incidents, that particular beating took place on March 3.

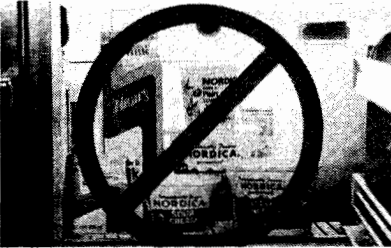
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Economics

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Feature



Philip Ulanowsky

Fifty-nine nations have agreed to ban CFCs by the year 2000, to defend against a "global warming" trend which does not even exist. Without CFCs, refrigeration of food will be impossible, and 20-40 million people will die per year as a direct result.

20 CFC ban will kill millions by starvation

Rogelio Maduro shows that the totally unnecessary ban on CFCs will wreck the world's "cold chain," the refrigeration technology that makes human life possible in the 20th century. The worst of it is, that the perpetrators of the hoax are doing this deliberately.

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Serious scientists are blowing the whistle on the ozone hoaxsters—but they aren't the ones drawing the media headlines.

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Runs against insurance and pension funds begin

by Chris White

On April 12, California State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi took over the insolvent First Executive Corp. and its insurance arm, First Executive Life. The takeover of the insurance and pension giant triggered runs against subsidiaries around the country, as policyholders and others rushed to pull out savings before non-California subsidiaries were shut down too. On April 18, the New York State Insurance Commission moved against the subsidiary ostensibly located in that state, to mitigate the spreading panic.

The failure of First Executive is another watershed in the process of financial and economic collapse which the purblind lunatics in Bush's administration are presiding over. With \$49 billion in now unsecured liabilities, obligations greater than the foreign debt of Poland or Argentina, the First Executive failure now sets the stage for a new eruption of financial crisis. Unlike the savings and loan institutions, and unlike the commercial banks, insurance companies, including their pension and annuity obligations, are not backstopped by the federal government through agencies like the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC). These companies, whose activities span the globe in the desperate hunt for earnings to pay policyholders and maintain pension payouts, are regulated and chartered at the state level. Does the state of California, with its mounting budget deficit, have the capability to stand behind the \$38 billion in liabilities held by First Executive in the state?

The crash of First Executive ought to send out the warnings everywhere. It also happens that the day New York State acted to stem runs, was the day the managers of the Dow-Jones index succeeded in breaching the 3,000 mark for the first time. There are a lot of people around who still insist

that the apparent vitality of the Dow-Jones is the best gauge of economic vitality. Bush's economic adviser Michael Boskin happens to be one of them.

Assets are all stripped

First Executive is a special case in some respects. It was the insurance arm for the asset-stripping operation run out of the bankrupt Drexel Burnham Lambert. Companies taken over by Drexel during the last years' speculative binge—and this could number from dozens to hundreds—were stripped of pension and insurance assets by First Executive and given now-worthless annuities and so-called guaranteed income contracts in exchange. First Executive passed the assets on to Drexel in exchange for junk bonds.

Now everything has turned to dust: pension and annuity holders left with nothing, and the assets looted to nothing. One of the organizers of the Drexel scam, Leon Black, has now stepped forward as the representative of Altus-Finance, the insurance arm of the French bank Crédit Lyonnais, offering to reorganize the company. Crédit Lyonnais was one of the funders of Drexel's asset-stripping investment pools.

First Executive, under California law, did not have the credit rating necessary to make such transactions. Therefore, an offshore company, legally based in Finland, was found to do the dirty work. And no one stopped it until it was too late.

In other respects, First Executive is no special case at all, but a typical consequence of the usury and criminality which has bankrupted and destroyed the U.S. economy, in the name of the neomalthusian, anti-human, post-industrial society, and the bubbled and bankrupt financial system which that destruction produced.

When California's Commissioner Garamendi took over the insolvent firm on April 12, he promised that policy and annuity holders would continue to be paid promptly, and in full. By April 15, he was singing a different tune: Holders may have to wait, and may not get 100% of what they are owed, if and when they do get paid. That's where the First Executive case is typical. The more than \$3 trillion of assets locked up in pension funds and insurance reserves are going the way of the banks and S&Ls, looted-out victims of the free market ideology and usury of George Bush and his friends.

During the last year, 60,000 U.S. businesses went the way of First Executive. This was a 20% increase over 1989. The total liabilities of those failed firms jumped 51%, to \$64 billion.

A record 25% of all corporate cash flow is now being used to cover interest payments. So many companies are in Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization, that near-bankrupt banks—especially Chemical and Bankers Trust—are doing a booming business in lending to bankrupt companies.

Dow flies, economy crashes

April 18, the day the Dow-Jones topped 3,000, was also the day that the American Bankruptcy Institute issued its report on the first two months of the year. Bankruptcy cases around the country leapt 30% compared to the same two-month period of one year before. The ABI is expecting the number of cases to be filed this year to top the 900,000 mark. This yearly forecast ought to be compared with the 4.5 million bankruptcy filings during the decade of the 1980s—it is twice as much—and with the 2 million cases in the 1970s. One of the measures used by the institute shows that the rate of bankruptcies during the decade of the 1980s, "the longest sustained period of economic expansion in U.S. history," we were told, was four times that of the nine years between 1930 and 1939, the highpoint of the Great Depression.

Nearly 13,000 retailers failed in 1990, a 15% increase over 1989, with general merchandisers hit the hardest. Financial firms with liabilities of over \$23 billion failed last year, a 40% jump over 1989. Eight thousand building contractors went under, and business service companies failed at a rate of 143 per 10,000 firms, topping all other sectors.

The bankruptcies reflect the same realities seen in the financial system as a whole. Idiotically, one of the so-called reasons touted for the stock exchange's buoyancy, is that banks like Citibank, with earnings more than 80% down, are taking some of their loan losses and writing down assets.

Non-performing loans, those on which interest is not being collected, or which are in default, increased more than 25% during 1990. The District of Columbia led the nation with a 502% increase in non-performing loans during 1990. Non-performing loans increased 279% in the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area, and 87% in the Southeast. They rose 51% in New England, and 34% in the Northeast, according to the report of Shesunoff Information Services of Austin, Texas.

The non-performing loans, by region, cross-grid with the Bankruptcy Institute report, and with the national surge in unemployment which has been gathering steam since the summer.

The common feature which ties together the increase in the banks' non-performing loans, the increase in bankruptcies, and the increase in unemployment, is the continuing collapse of the over-valued national real estate market, along with the continuing destruction of the living standards of the population. In cities around the country, construction activity has ground to a halt, as the pricing bubble on which the last decade's speculation was based, has burst. The real estate valuations provided the collateral for the loans gone bad, and the assets gone sour.

The 'recession': no end in sight

Is this the profile of an economy about to turn the corner into recovery, as Bush et al. keep insisting? Far from it. Financially, this is the result of the inability of the economy to produce sufficient new wealth to continue to meet the interest charges and earnings claims of more than \$13 trillion of debt, and \$10 trillion of speculative funds. The whole kit and caboodle is bankrupt, contrary to the claims of the government, and the managers of the funds who underwrote the bubble insist that there is no end of this in sight this year or next. This is the view of the real estate experts at Equitable Life, another insurance company which is not in such different shape than First Executive.

The financial part is the least of it. With the bankruptcies, we are now throwing about half a million people a week onto the unemployment lines, with construction and manufacturing taking the brunt. Now, less than 12% of the U.S. labor force is employed as productive workers in manufacturing, with just another 6% in construction and transportation. The newly unemployed are joining the ranks of the 20 million-plus who have been thrown there over the last years.

Bush and friends say the economy is in a recession, from which it will "pull out" later this year. They are lying. Financially, we are in a bankruptcy crisis. Economically, we are in a breakdown crisis. And, under Bush's policies, there won't be any pullout, this summer, or any time.

Cases like First Executive grab the headlines for a few days, and then disappear into the morass of the court system, or become the subject of congressional show hearings. Now, we can expect another round of hearings, from the Senate Finance Committee and other such locations, to take up the matter of federal regulation of insurance and the pension mess. As if another round of bureaucratic changes in procedure will make any difference!

Nothing like locking the barn door after the horse has bolted. The thrifts went, the banks are going, pensions and insurance are joining the slide, because the whole financial system has been bankrupted in the biggest orgy of usurious asset-stripping the world has ever seen.

Cholera will infect millions this year

by Valerie Rush

Brazilian health officials have reported that nation's first five cases of cholera, and are predicting that more than 3 million Brazilians will become infected before the year is out. According to Waytson Alves de Oliveira, head of Brazil's National Commission for the Prevention of Cholera, the World Health Organization estimates that 2% of the Brazilian population—3 million people—will contract the disease. However, based on conservative estimates of the rate of Peruvian infection thus far, the percentage is likely to be closer to 5%, which could mean as many as 7.5 million Brazilian cholera victims in 1991.

So far, the foci of contagion is concentrated in the Brazilian Amazon city of Tabatinga, only meters downstream from the Colombian city of Leticia, which also sits on the border with Peru. The Solimoes River, which extends from Peru through Leticia and Tabatinga, and is a tributary of the mighty Amazon River which cuts across Brazil all the way to the Atlantic Coast, is already believed to be a potential source of contagion. Brazilian Health Minister Alcení Guerra noted that the Solimoes and its tributaries bathe dozens of Brazilian cities and towns, and predicted that should it prove to be contaminated, there would be an "immediate" 60,000 cases of cholera to contend with. Further, as many as 200,000 indigenous Amazon tribesmen with little or no immunity to the common cold, would be utterly wiped out by the cholera bacillus.

If the international lobby of eco-anthropologists, who are demanding a Yanomami "enclave" inside Brazilian national territory, are truly interested in protecting the human rights of these indigenous tribes, they will target such creditor institutions as the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and the World Bank for denying funds for proper water, health, and sanitation infrastructure facilities to the nations of Ibero-America, rather than the Brazilian government which has been "charged" with bringing civilization to these so-called "noble savages."

It is no accident, for example, that the IADB has just withheld \$350 million in funding for sewage infrastructure in Brazil, but has earmarked \$600 million for Venezuela to underwrite a "banking reform" that would open up that country's banking sector to wholesale takeover by foreign financial institutions. Nor is it surprising that Peru is the epicenter of what is proving to be a continent-wide pandemic.

That impoverished, disease-ravaged nation is paying \$50 million in debt service to its foreign creditors *each month*, while of seven major water supply and treatment projects on the agenda, only one is receiving any financing at all. The majority of Ibero-American nations have a similar story to tell.

Points south . . . and north

The first case of cholera in Chile has just been announced, and Argentina is bracing for outbreaks. The Medical Federation of Ecuador has denounced that country's government for a vast cover-up of the extent of the cholera epidemic in that country, and for claiming that the "outbreaks" are under control. Said Federation president Francisco Plaza, "At the present time there are 5,000 cases of cholera in Ecuador, with approximately 100 deaths." Doctors are demanding that "urgent and unpostponable emergency measures" be taken immediately, to try to contain the disease's spread.

In Bolivia, where not a single case of cholera has been reported despite the fact that the country shares borders with five Ibero-American countries, health authorities have just acknowledged the possibility of the contamination by cholera of Lake Titicaca, a vast body of water which straddles both Peru and Bolivia.

Most frightening is the evident northward trend of the disease, which is rapidly making its way up Colombia's Pacific Coast toward Central America. Although Panama's government has yet to admit to any cholera outbreaks, it has officially reported one case of cholera—from a woman who had been living in the United States!

The fear of a cholera pandemic ravaging impoverished Central America is behind the decision to turn a presidential summit on agriculture, scheduled to be held April 26-27 in Panama, into a conference on cholera. According to the Mexican daily *Excelsior* of April 17, presidents from across Central America will consider global measures for containing the cholera threat. The presidents of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras have already met bilaterally to discuss what preventive measures can be immediately launched. *Excelsior* notes that of 27 million Central Americans, more than half lack access to basic medical services, while two-thirds live under conditions of extreme poverty. With the exception of Costa Rica, access to potable water is limited in both urban and rural areas.

Miami, Florida health authorities have just reported two cases of cholera in individuals just returned from disease-infected lands in South America. And speaking from Peru, the executive secretary of the Andean Pact's health service Nazario Román declared, "If, as is feared, cholera becomes endemic in Peru and the bacillus remains indefinitely in the country, it is inevitable that the disease will spread across the continent. It would not be strange to see it arrive in Mexico and in the United States, given the huge migration of illegals."

Disease holocaust on Mexico-U.S. border

by Marcia Merry

As measured by the disease rates afflicting those along the Mexican-U.S. border, the Bush free trade policies have created a holocaust zone. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) should be defeated in Congress, before it becomes the "fast track" for cholera and other epidemics. It is only a matter of when, not whether, cholera will break out in the Rio Grande region, unless emergency measures are pursued to improve conditions.

The fundamental threat in the region is unsafe water and untreated sewage. Concentrated in the border zone, the *maquiladora* (cheap-labor factories) program has grown in the past 20 years from about 120 plants in 1970, to over 1,800 today, and from 19,000 workers to 500,000. But the essential infrastructure to support such a population was not provided—water, housing, electricity, transportation, primary health care, cultural amenities. Just the opposite. The poverty-wage rates and lack of provision of means of existence have been called the "competitive advantage." The results are evident in the disease rates.

Going down the Rio Grande River from one population concentration to another, this is the picture:

In **El Paso County**, there is five times the national average rate of hepatitis A—a fecal contamination disease, related to filthy water. Last year, the rate of dysentery was 31 cases per 100,000 people—triple the national average. Since then, it has worsened. In addition, the rate of tuberculosis is over 20 cases per 100,000—double the national average. The rate of salmonella is three times the national average.

As of June 1990, some 50,000 of the 580,000 residents of the county lived in *colonias*, subdivisions of makeshift housing without running water or sewage facilities. The city of El Paso, Texas is the fifth poorest in the nation. Across the river, estimates are that in Juárez, there are between 400,000 and 500,000 people with no running water, sewers, or electricity. Drinking water is stored in 50-gallon cast-off chemical drums. The 18-mile canal that parallels this stretch of the Rio Grande often overflows with raw sewage, and is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

In **Nuevo Laredo**, farther downriver, 25 million gallons of untreated sewage are dumped in the Rio Grande daily.

Brownsville-Matamoros, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, is a catastrophe. Last year in a *colonia* near Brownsville, when threat of legal action forced a developer to pro-

vide water to the residents, he installed one spigot to serve 40 homes.

In 1990, the U.S. Rural Economic Development Act proposed \$30 million in loans for water and waste-treatment facilities for *colonias* along the border. However, the Office of Management and Budget opposed it. President Bush said in March 1990, that he was not familiar with the issue, but knew that such cuts were essential for "budgetary reasons." The U.S. Health and Human Services Department has not intervened, and the national major media are colluding to black out the holocaust story. Activists in the health care field in El Paso estimated in 1990 that it would cost \$250 million to provide minimal water and sewage treatment systems. To do this, Peter Duarte of La Fe Clinic, which is in the third-poorest zip code region in the country, said, "You're talking about something on the scale of a Marshall Plan, yet Bush treats it like it's a local problem."

Outbreaks of hepatitis A in Arizona and Texas are spreading as a direct result of the conditions of untreated sewage on the border areas.

Cholera is spreading

In mid-April, the executive secretary of the Andean Pact's Health Department, Nazario Román, said that if cholera becomes endemic in Peru, the disease could easily extend uncontrollably across the continent, and proceed to North America. Said Román, "It would not be strange to see it arrive in Mexico and the United States, given the huge migration of illegals."

On April 16, there were press reports of the existence of two cholera victims in Florida, recently returned from Ibero-America. There are occasional cases of cholera from contaminated seafood, which do not constitute a threat of epidemic, provided that adequate sanitation conditions prevail. However, the combination of lack of sanitation and movements of large numbers of impoverished people will guarantee killer epidemics, particularly in the subtropical zone of the southern United States. In 1980, an outbreak of tuberculosis occurred in Florida when a group of poor Haitians immigrated to Miami.

In view of the etiology of cholera and related water-borne diseases, the reassuring statements from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta have to date been just a coverup. The April 4 CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Report* focused on side issues of tourist travel and contaminated foods, not basic sanitation.

Conceding that "a small number of U.S. residents may acquire the disease during travel or by eating imported food," the CDC report claimed that "sanitation in this country is adequate to make the risk of continued transmission extremely small." The report reprinted an article from the World Health Organization, saying that the WHO "has no documented evidence of a cholera outbreak occurring as a result of the importation of food across international borders."

What's at stake in U.S. railroad strike

by Pamela Lowry

After working for more than three years without a contract, 235,000 members of America's railroad unions went on strike April 17 against their employers' freight operations. Following a pre-set scenario, the railroad companies then shut down all operations, even though their managers had been trained to continue essential functions under such conditions. In its turn, Congress immediately drafted legislation to provide for yet another cooling-off period and a possible second Presidential Emergency Board to settle outstanding issues. George Bush signed the back-to-work order early on April 18.

The tone for this depression-style conflict of labor versus management was set when the railroad companies hired the law firm of Lewis, Morgan, and Bokius. This is the same firm that advised Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis during the 1981 strike that devastated the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. Not surprisingly, the law firm is reported to have counseled the carriers to take a tough stand, especially on the biggest bone of contention with the unions—cutting jobs and easing work rules.

Partisans of the railroad companies admit that a large reduction of the railroad work force has already been accomplished. Since 1980, some 200,000 high-paid union jobs have been eliminated, largely through selling off unprofitable routes to non-union carriers, and through direct buy-outs of workers at up to \$75,000 a head. Yet the companies claim that they must reduce the size of work crews further in order to increase worker "productivity" and to make the railroads more "competitive" against the trucking industry, which is presently lobbying Congress to allow heavier, longer trucks on the nation's highways. One of the railroad companies' worst fears is that they would lose high-value manufactured goods such as autos to the trucking industry, and be left with only bulk commodities such as coal, grain, and timber.

The unions, on the other hand, maintain that the Jan. 15 recommendations by the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) contain a wage package which represents, after adjustment for inflation, a 16% decline in buying power over the life of the contract. And although the unions have agreed in principle to partially pay for their members' health care, the PEB report suggests that the unions' share of medical costs be paid out of lump-sum and cost-of-living payments which

will be made to their members if a new contract is ratified. Thus, supposed wage gains would be transferred to medical payments, the cost of which union members have never before had to bear.

Railroad companies have generally been pleased with the PEB recommendations, because they give the companies their desired reductions in crew size and stepped-up productivity without requiring them to pay a huge wage increase. The companies are looking to the Bush Democrats in Congress to impose a settlement that will likely give them more than they could possibly obtain at the bargaining table. And, they appear to have President Bush and Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner on their side as well. At a speech to the Town Council of California a week before the last cooling-off period expired, Skinner admitted that the White House had already approached some congressmen with the idea of preempting a strike. The legislation proposed by the administration would have imposed the PEB proposals, favored by the railroad industry, on labor and management alike. Congress, however, demurred, preferring to wait for a strike before preparing such legislation.

Another excuse for the depression?

Both Skinner and Bush made statements before the strike implying that any work stoppage by the unions would jeopardize the impending economic "recovery." At a meeting at the White House, Bush told the Associated General Contractors that the "strike that looms right after midnight could severely disrupt the economy, just as the economy in our view is trying to turn around and get out of this recession." Skinner stated, "I am not guilty of exaggeration when I tell you that at least one of the Big Three automobile companies' future depends on whether we have a strike."

A long strike could further damage the U.S. economy, but, ironically, a short strike would have little effect, precisely because of the enfeebled state of the economy. Not only have major shippers taken precautions and major receivers stockpiled inventory, but a *Journal of Commerce* survey of economists and consultants revealed that with many industries already operating at less than capacity, a railroad strike carries fewer negative effects. "A three-day strike would have negligible effect as far as the U.S. economy is concerned," said Drew Robertson of Atlantic Systems Inc. "The demand for transportation is very low right now, which means capacity is high."

While the railroad unions fight to maintain a shrinking work force and pay scale, and the carriers fight for any method to increase profits from the dilapidated transportation network, the Bush administration and Congress have studiously avoided raising proposals which would modernize the U.S. transportation grid through high-speed rail networks and the new technology of magnetic levitation vehicles. It is the upgrading of transportation infrastructure which could provide a common interest between labor and management.

Bush transportation plan is a blueprint for extinction

by Laurence Hecht

Perhaps one of the major differences between George Bush and Adolf Hitler, is that Hitler, in his moment of glory, envisioned a 1,000-year Reich. Bush, it would seem from looking at his Surface Transportation Act of 1991, would be glad to scrape through the next five years. While the administration's new five-year plan for transport is no grand plan for anything, the issues it does not address are so serious for our nation's and the world's economy, that it is no exaggeration to call it a blueprint for extinction for America as we know it, if not the world.

We will begin by looking more closely at the Bush administration proposal, "Moving America into the 21st Century," reporting what it does do, and then turn to the more interesting and important question of what is left out.

To summarize the weaknesses of the proposal, unveiled Feb. 13 at a White House press conference by Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner, the Bush plan:

- proposes federal spending on highways at 25% below breakeven levels, and pushing off more of the burden onto bankrupted states;
- almost entirely leaves out the question of freight movement;
- ignores the problem of the railroads, even though rail-way freight is five to six times cheaper and more fuel efficient than long-distance trucking;
- gives short shrift to mass transit.

More restructuring than repaving

The \$105 billion administration proposal is a five-year program that reauthorizes the Transportation Department's federal-aid highway, mass transit, and highway safety programs at very inadequate levels. It also proposes a restructuring of the highway system bureaucracy.

The existing 42,000-mile interstate system, officially the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, is to be incorporated into a new, larger 150,000-mile system to be known as the National Highway System. But this is largely a reshuffling of the existing deck. What is currently known as the federal-aid system includes almost 850,000 miles of highways, about 22% of the total road mileage in the United

States, and carries nearly 80% of the vehicle miles driven. These federal-aid system roads had previously been classified into four subcategories: the interstate, primary, secondary, and urban systems. The administration bill will rename and juggle these definitions a bit. But don't expect any greater federal responsibility.

Under the bill, the federal-aid highway programs would be restructured into the National Highway Program, the Urban and Rural Program, and the Bridge Program. The Federal Highway Administration would administer the \$87.5 billion which takes up the lion's share of the entire funding of the bill's five-year term. The other major chunk is \$16.3 billion to go to mass transit over a five-year period, but with provisos. The remaining \$1.5 billion is to go for highway safety.

To see how little these amounts are, we have to compare them first to the accumulated deficit of needs on our nation's highways, and then turn to the even bigger problem of what is not addressed by the bill, the drastic need for improvements in our rail and water freight transport capabilities.

Falling bridges

Lip service, at least, is paid to the dangerous state and growing number of structurally deficient and obsolete highway bridges—about 260,000 at last count, 75,000 of them on the federal-aid system. To some this might seem remarkable, considering that not one of these quarter million-plus bridges has collapsed directly on the White House, nor even on the presidential bedroom. But the proposed increase in funding for bridge repair, though a claimed 70% increase over the last authorization period, only scratches the surface.

The five-year spending figure for bridges is just short of \$10.7 billion. Were the \$10.7 billion to go entirely to repair work on the 75,000-plus "troubled" bridges (that is an understatement, since some have been shut down altogether) in the federal-aid system, it would come to \$142,000 per bridge. That might be enough to keep up with pothole repair on some roadways.

Clearly this is not a serious program, even for maintaining the equipotential of the nation's highway system. In 1985, the American Transportation Advisory Council

(ATAC) proposed a 10-year plan for capital investment needed to maintain the highways at a little better than deteriorated 1983 levels—not necessarily to meet full needs or anticipated growth. The figure for replacing and rehabilitating bridges came to \$54 billion over the 10 years 1987-96. That would have meant \$27 billion for this five-year period. However, since the proposal was not adopted, and most of what should have been done since 1987 was not done, we now have to pick up the old cost plus whatever new damage has accumulated. That means spending at least \$10 billion a year on bridge repair, just on the federal aid system bridges which are 29%, by number, of the whole problem.

That figure coheres with the 1988 estimate of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, which adds that over 140,000 bridges should be load posted to lower levels. If present spending levels continue, the association study estimates, by the end of the century, the added cost from additional deterioration will exceed total tax payments for roads and highways. By 2020, time lost because of deterioration would equal the labor hours of 4 million workers.

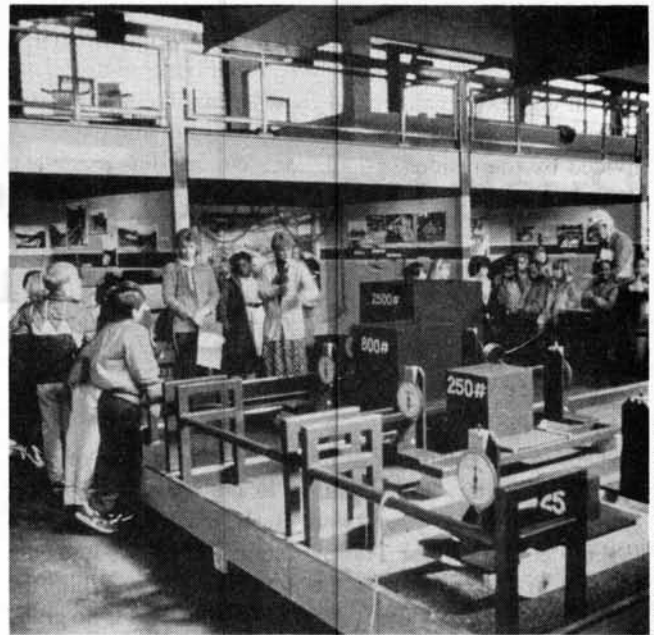
For the whole federal-aid highway system, we find at least \$100 billion a year will have to be spent on roads and bridges just to maintain some level of safety and efficiency, but without major expansion of capabilities. Recently the federal government has been putting up about 23% of the cost of highway spending on federal-aid roads. That would mean \$23 billion per year. But the Bush proposal calls for a total of only \$87.5 billion over five years, which comes to \$17.5 billion per year, a shortfall of \$5.5 billion. Bankrupt state governments and “user fees” are supposed to make up the difference. But they won’t, of course. So we can foresee an underfunding of the road system of between 25% and 50% of necessary breakeven levels.

A serious federal program for the nation’s roads, bridges, and highways would figure out where the half a trillion dollars (\$100 billion per year) needed just to maintain a breakeven level of functioning and safety would come from, and would focus on getting that job done.

How to think about economics

Even that, however, would “buy us” nothing, or next to nothing, for the economy as a whole. To see why, we turn to the next topic, the U.S. transportation grid as a whole. Properly understood, this is itself a subcategory of the main topic which must be always under consideration in making any competent evaluation in the science of physical economy—that is, the integrated agro-industrial complex which we know as the national economy.

To understand the difference of our approach to that now pursued in Washington, consider the methodologically incompetent statement of Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner in announcing the administration’s plan. After acknowledging the “deteriorated infrastructure” of our trans-



Virginia Museum of Transportation

An exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Transportation demonstrates why rail is the cheapest mode of ground transport. An equivalent “pulling” effort moves 25 pounds by sledge, 250 pounds by iron wagon wheel, 800 pounds by inflated rubber tire, and 2,500 pounds by railway car on steel track.

portation grid, Skinner says: “The stakes for the U.S. economy are high, since transportation accounts for 17% of GNP.” While even the figure is debatable, the deeper point is the method implied. “Transportation accounts for 17% of GNP.” Another significant portion of GNP consists of casino gambling and prostitution. Does that make it a national priority? One might as well say, “Sir, your brain is rotting away, and we think you should do something about it, since your head and what surrounds it accounts for 17% of your total body weight.”

What we must see is the function of transportation, particularly freight movement, in the purpose of economy, which is the reproduction, at improving standards of living, of human beings, as that process is mediated by the societal monad, the family unit or nuclear family. Understanding the causal connection between deteriorated railroads and other freight-handling infrastructure and the collapse of present and future living standards in our nation, we can begin to have some genuine emotion about the situation, and can perhaps even entertain a thought or two of our own. If we fail to see the causal connection, we are reduced to the state of moral imbecility of the Bush administration and Congress.

A few numbers help to bring the point into focus.

Twenty-seven tons per person

The first number we examine is the yearly ton-cost of maintaining life per capita in the United States. In 1987, this

comes to just over 27 tons per man or woman and child, or 108 tons per family of four. The figure is simply the gross tonnage moved on all modes of transport (including truck, rail, oil and gas pipeline, and by water, including imports, domestic barge, and coastal traffic, but excluding exports), divided by the resident population. We are thus including most of the man-made and man-improved natural products consumed in a year, though excluding such primary needs as air and water, as well as home-grown or home-manufactured products.

These 27 tons are not all carried or delivered to your front door. The greater portion is raw materials and semi-finished goods of the production, construction, and energy generation process. Approximately 3 tons may actually pass through your door each year, not counting the door itself or the structure surrounding it.

A comparison of 1987 to a generation earlier, in 1967, is instructive. Roughly the same weight of total product (27.37 tons in 1967, and 27.22 tons in 1987) delivered a significantly better standard of living with higher real wages, generally better quality products, and better general level of infrastructure and services 20 years ago. Why?

In an economy, as in an automobile, a ship, or any engine designed to realize an increase in mechanical advantage, heavier is not necessarily better, though it might be. Given different outputs being realized from the same weight of inputs, we have to look to the internal organization of the engine in order to see where the difference lies. Over the 20-year period in question, the transformation of the U.S. economy was so profound—with the drastic reduction or elimination of domestic manufacturing in hundreds of industrial subsectors, the growth of “service economy,” and the general imposition of the post-industrial society—that it is impossible to attribute the decline to any single element.

Railroads become pipelines

One feature in the general decline of the transportation grid is outstanding in its contribution to our present state of economic inefficiency. That is the completion of the 50-odd-year process of destruction of our freight railroad capability. By some time in the 1970s, America’s railroads had completed the transition from a way-freight system into a pipeline system for hauling coal, grain, and a few other bulk materials—the exact prototype of a Third World railroad system.

For example, in 1967, we were moving 565 million tons of coal. Fifty million tons of it were exported; 271 million tons, or 48%, went to electric power utilities, 191 million tons to manufacturing and industries, and 17 million tons to retail dealers. In 1987, we mined 920 million tons of coal. Of this, 708 million tons, or 77%, was used by the electric utilities.

In per capita terms, the coal use for energy generation was 2.76 tons in 1967. In 1987, it was 3.76 tons per person for the same purpose. That is one additional ton of coal per

man, woman, and child in America. The fact is all the more shocking if one considers it from the standpoint of an intelligent citizen in 1967, looking ahead two decades. As we would have foreseen it then, the use of coal by electric utilities should have been drastically reduced by 1987—replaced by nuclear fission on the way to a fission-fusion hybrid generator. From that perfectly reasonable standpoint, then, we are looking not at one ton, but at 3.76 tons of near pure waste being hauled through our transportation grid.

Secondly, as we shall see, the process has meant the near-complete destruction of our railroads as a freight-handling, or way-freight, capability—another one of the large, but often hidden costs of not going nuclear. Some suppose that the slack in our transportation grid has been taken up by over-the-road trucking. Unfortunately, that is not true, and would indeed be impossible. The slack has been taken up by you, your children, and their children, in the reduction of living standard you have suffered over the past 20 years and will continue to suffer until we repair the ailing engine of our national economy.

The costs

To grasp why this must be so, let us look at two more key indices of transport efficiency: the approximate cost per ton-mile of freight on each of the four major modes, and the modal distribution of freight traffic. The 1977 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers calculation of average freight costs per ton-mile remains a useful guideline for today. The cost of trucking is 12.13¢ per ton-mile—substantially above the cost of rail, water-borne transport, and pipelines (2.35¢, 0.52¢, and 0.48¢ respectively). See **Figure 1**.

Our own statistical series on modal distribution tells the rest of the story. We’ve chosen certain critical years in order to allow comparison of the key epochs in this process. First, let us compare a recent year, 1987, to 20 years earlier, 1967, just before the infection by the post-industrial paradigm shift had taken full hold (**Table 1**).

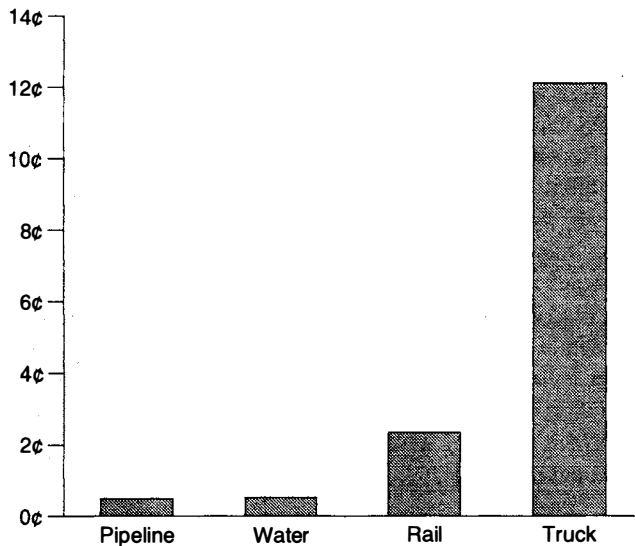
The only mode that does not increase significantly in volume of freight carried, is rail. Also interesting is the huge increase in water freight traffic—an additional 432 million tons, a 41% increase. However, this does not point to any significant improvement in our internal waterways. Half the increase over the 20-year interval came from ocean-going freight entering our ports—i.e., imports—and most of that, by weight, was imported oil.

We will now take the series back several more decades. Pay particular attention to the percentage split between road and rail in **Table 2**.

Notice that the tonnage hauled by rail in 1947 was greater in absolute number and far greater in percentage than any decade since then. The 1950s marked the final destruction of the rail system as a carrier of non-bulk freight in the United States, and its replacement by trucking at *five times* the cost per ton-mile. The reason why is a long story which

FIGURE 1

Cost per ton-mile of major freight modes
(cents per ton-mile)



Source: Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, 1977.

TABLE 1

Modal distribution of freight in 1987 and 1967
(millions of short tons)

	Road	Rail	Water	Pipeline*	Total
1987:					
Weight	2,326	1,523	1,476	1,308	6,640
% of total	35%	23%	22%	20%	100%
1967:					
Weight	1,845	1,498	1,044	1,050	5,439
% of total	34%	28%	19%	19%	100%

* Includes oil and natural gas. Factor of 20.631067 used to convert quads of natural gas to millions of tons, based on 1,080 BTU per cubic foot of natural gas at 0.0425 pounds per cubic foot of methane (60°F, 1 atmosphere).

Sources: Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, *Waterborne Commerce of the United States*, 1988; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*, and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1989; ENO Foundation, *Transportation in America*, May 1989.

we cannot recount here, but it has only little to do with the popular myth of "oil and auto versus railroad," since these largely involved the same financial interests. In fact, the expansion of the American railroad network halted in 1916, when the track mileage had reached its high point. One year later, the looted and bankrupted system was taken over by the government under a wartime nationalization plan. In reality, the plans for railroad expansion hatched by American System advocates for the post-Civil War era were already

TABLE 2

Modal distribution of freight in 1957 and 1947
(millions of short tons)

	Road	Rail	Water	Pipeline*	Total
1957:					
Weight	1,113	1,449	845	653	4,060
% of total	27%	36%	21%	16%	100%
1947:					
Weight	556	1,613	528	344	3,041
% of total	18%	53%	17%	11%	100%

* Includes oil and natural gas.

Sources: Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, *Waterborne Commerce of the United States*, 1988; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*, and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1989; ENO Foundation, *Transportation in America*, May 1989.

being ruined in the 1870s by zero-growth-promoting British financial interests.

The extensive American railroad network did not just disappear overnight, however. Through the 1920s, and even into the 1930s, trucks were introduced to replace horse-drawn vehicles, not railroads. A long-distance trip by automobile, if undertaken at all, was seen as an adventure, not routine travel. Families rode trains for long trips, and often got there more quickly and more comfortably by train in 1912, 1922, or 1942, than they do today by automobile. Freight also moved that way, and most parts of the country, even rural towns, were within 25 miles of a railroad station.

In World War II, the railroads provided the logistical depth for the U.S. war mobilization in movement of troops, supplies, and industrial products. The railroads logged all-time highs in tons of freight hauled and train miles run, but without any major investment in new equipment or infrastructure. After the war, it was mostly downhill, and the 1950s saw the replacement of the railroad way-freight system by long-haul trucking (Figure 2).

The ton-miles per hour hoax

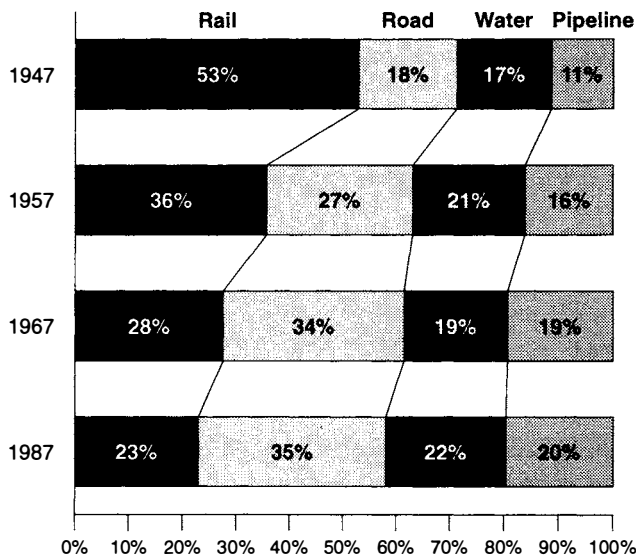
Despite this, the Association of American Railroads continues to issue yearly reports showing ever higher yearly figures for tons hauled and even ton-miles per train hour run on our collapsing rail network. How is this possible?

The problem is that the same index or measure can mean radically different things, depending on whether the system being measured is growing or declining. Under conditions of growth, ton-miles per hour should be a good measure of the efficiency of a rail system. More tons carried more miles in less time is what an efficient transportation system is all about. The introduction of better engines, improvements in freight-handling systems, track design, signaling systems, and so forth can all add to efficiency and increase the index

FIGURE 2

Rail freight has declined drastically since 1947 relative to other modes

(percent of all freight carried)



Sources: Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, *Waterborne Commerce of the United States*, 1988; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*, and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1989; ENO Foundation, *Transportation in America*, May 1989.

TABLE 3

Increase in net ton-miles per train-hour is not healthy under today's conditions

Year	Net ton-miles per train-hour
1947	18,126
1955	25,314
1965	33,815
1975	38,788
1985	56,343
1989	60,949

Source: Association of American Railroads, *Railroad Facts*, 1990 edition.

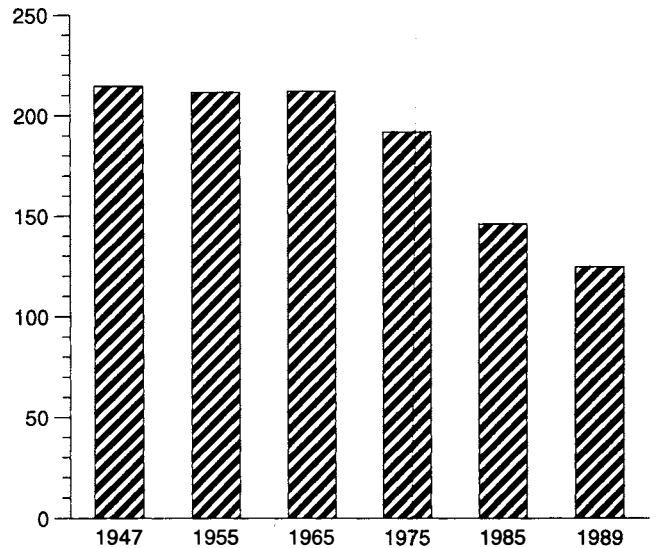
of ton-miles per hour.

However, in the case of a railroad being transformed from a freight-handling system into a pipeline for a limited number of bulk goods, an increase in the same measure may well reflect a more rapid rate of *deterioration* of the system. And that is the case with our railroads. The most recent edition of the Association of American Railroads' *Railroad Facts* showed a steady increase in the net ton-miles per train hour from 1947 to the present, as shown in **Table 3**.

FIGURE 3

Miles of road owned by Class I railroads

(thousands of miles)



Source: Association of American Railroads, *Railroad Facts*.

TABLE 4

New rail and crossties laid have declined since 1947

Year	New rail laid (tons)	Crossties laid (thousands)
1947	1,639,746	40,206
1955	963,350	27,173
1965	445,863	16,982
1975	537,537	20,548
1985	699,774	20,736
1989	348,186	13,458

Source: Association of American Railroads, *Railroad Facts*, 1990 edition.

What we are really looking at here, is two distinct phenomena. From 1947 to 1955, some 35,000 steam locomotives (85% of all locomotives) were replaced with diesel electric units. At the same time, however, and with increasing frequency beginning about 1968, the major carriers, known as the Class I railroads, abandoned enormous lengths of track. By 1989, the number of miles of road owned had been nearly halved from the 1947 level (see **Figure 3**). Replacement rate of rails and crossties also dropped precipitously (**Table 4**).

At the same time, the railroad companies were applying

efficiency studies to the task of cheapening the cost of bulk freight hauling. Unit trains, averaging about 70 cars, haul one bulk commodity, most especially coal, from point of origin to delivery point with no need for freight handling on the way. Longer, heavier cars can carry considerably more weight, also improving apparent efficiency. The average tons per carload have gone from about 49 tons in 1965 to 66 tons in 1989. The weight of the average trainload has nearly doubled in the same time frame. The result is the apparently efficient handling of a few bulk commodities, while the system as a whole goes to ruin. Coal alone accounts for over 39% of the total tonnage hauled in 1989. Along with chemicals, non-metallic minerals, and farm products, mostly grain, it comes to over two-thirds.

There are other effects as well. Running 10,000-ton trainloads of coal over the under-maintained track has steadily ruined the graded sections of rail. The superelevation—the difference in height between outer and inner rail necessary to maintain balance on curves—is destroyed. As a result, trains must slow to speeds of 20, 10, or fewer miles per hour on tight curves.

But as long as they can keep moving, it does not matter much to the real estate companies known as railroads. They have specialized in moving low-value-per-ton commodities where it doesn't much matter if average speeds on long-distance hauls are 35 to 40 miles per hour or less. Because they don't stop to handle freight, don't maintain any cost for freight handling and distribution in yards, and reduce labor costs through unit trains, they can keep showing actual increases in net ton-miles per train hour and per employee hour.

Do all roads lead to Rome?

We no longer have a railroad as Americans once knew it. Rather, it is a pipeline for hauling cheap raw materials, exactly on the model of the 19th-century lines built in colonial nations for extracting products for export. This "makes money," they say. It is also insane.

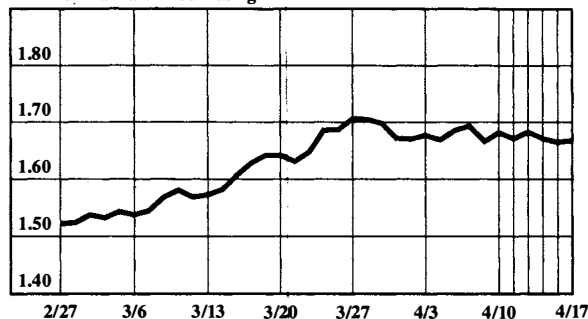
Many in the Roman Empire also "made money" on their insane system of looting colonies, destroying their citizen-farmers, and degrading the public morals while maintaining a pretense of public morality in their Senate and a uniform code of laws. Peter, after all, was carried thousands of miles by ship to be "fairly tried" before a Roman court of law.

But there is at least one difference. The Romans, it is reported, maintained a very fine system of roads which served as the means of communications and logistics for their armies, until revolting slaves, and then barbarians, discovered that the roads could also be used in the opposite direction. It is considered impolitic at this moment in our nation's history to suggest it, but is it possible that George Bush has thought of something new? Perhaps if the roads and bridges into Washington collapse, no one can come to tell him his time has come.

Currency Rates

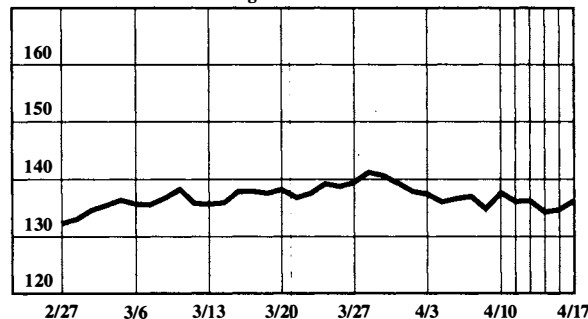
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



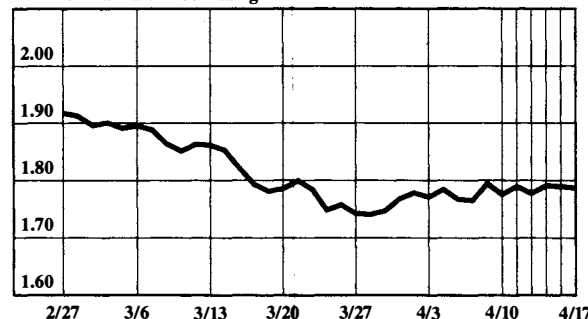
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



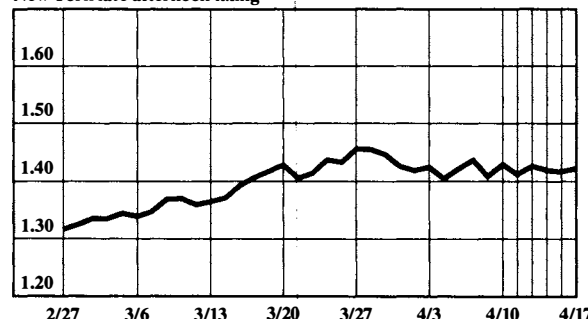
The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



Barter deals in trade with East

Lack of hard currency earnings in the Soviet Union must not be allowed to block economic progress.

Sensational news came from Moscow in the late evening of April 11: Senior envoys of the German government had agreed on a bold plan for the revival of east German exports to the U.S.S.R. Here is what the two German envoys, Assistant Finance Minister Horst Koehler and Assistant Economics Minister Dieter von Würzen, agreed to:

The German government's special Hermes export credit guarantee would be used to cover all contracts signed between east German and Soviet companies in 1991. All eastern German exports to the Soviet Union—having a volume of DM 36 billion in 1989—would be financed, with grace periods for the Soviet side of up to 720 days, a term of up to 10 years, and no down payments required.

The deal is exclusively with the Soviet Union, and for firms in east Germany that have already produced or are considering producing products especially fit for the Soviet market. In cases where foreign competitors offer the same products at lower prices than the east Germans, the German government would intervene with additional subsidies to secure contracts for the east Germans.

The agreement has to overcome significant obstacles, however. One problem is that other Soviet payments to west German firms in the range of DM 2 billion have long passed their due dates. Therefore, an activation of the Hermes default clause is imminent, which means that the government will step in and cover the industry's losses. According to German banking laws, if this happens, new guarantees for the defaulting trade

partner cannot be issued for the time being.

Immediate requirements for a preemptive government move to avoid the activation of the default clause are said to be in the range of DM 400-600 million. This is not a huge sum, but more Soviet payments to German exporters are due in the coming weeks. Perspectives of payments coming in are pretty bad, given the fierce struggle between central and regional institutions on the Soviet side, which has caused delays in all projects.

The urgency of the situation is shown by the fact that of the first DM 9 billion Hermes guarantee that the German government granted for east German exports to the Soviet Union in mid-February, only DM 3 billion have so far been utilized—with other contracts over a volume of DM 10 billion still waiting for realization, some of these for several months already.

But Moscow agreed on April 11 to grant appropriate representation to the republics on the Soviet side of the German-Soviet commission. This has been a German recommendation for a long time, but Moscow has always said *nyet*, on grounds that this would give foreigners leverage to play the republic governments against the central government. Apparently, the German view is that more balancing-out between the center and the regions would be helpful to overcome the bureaucratic obstacles in the way of German-Soviet trade.

Further, there is the shortage of hard currency earnings on the Soviet side, which could be used to pay export firms in east Germany. But they

do have raw materials like crude oil, natural gas, uranium, and other rare metals that are needed in Germany.

There is an interesting news item to report in this context: The Soviets have replaced the British as Germany's number-one supplier of crude oil during the first two months of this year. The margin by which the Soviets achieved that may seem small—2.9 million tons, as compared to 2.5 million tons from British Petroleum. But the fact that Moscow made special efforts to keep oil deliveries to Germany at high levels, in spite of big problems with the oil-producing sector at home which led to a cut in 1990 oil exports to all of Eastern Europe, is a political factor that can't be overlooked.

This opens up a promising perspective, because oil, uranium, and molybdenum are said to be the basis for future long-term barter trade agreements between the Soviet Union and Germany.

Among the less-publicized issues which the two German envoys discussed in Moscow April 11, were plans for increased German investments in the U.S.S.R. to secure the future production of crude oil and natural gas. It is planned to repay the investments later by the export of fairly priced oil and gas to Germany.

Now, here's the potential linkage with the situation of east Germany. If east German firms (many of which have long experience with projects in the U.S.S.R.) deliver machinery, technical equipment, or pipeline parts to the Soviet oil and gas sector, contracts will be guaranteed by the Hermes facility.

The agreements that could work are in place, but they need to be put into effect without delay. And the barter-type arrangements between Germany and the Soviet Union should be replicated between Germany and the other states in Eastern Europe.

Sudan's 'harvest of joy'

Sudan is bringing in its April wheat harvest, but Anglo-Americans plan to invade in the name of "food relief."

As of the end of April, the completed wheat harvest for the season in the Sudan might total as much as 800,000 tons. Called a "harvest of joy," this crop is precious, because it will go to relieve the desperate hunger now haunting millions of the 25 million Sudanese people after two years of drought, decades of forced impoverishment by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, and recent months of food warfare by the U.S. government and collaborating relief agencies.

The crop is a "miracle crop," because it results from the second sowing of wheat within 12 months, an unusual practice in Sudan.

Last December, President Omar Hassan El Bashir issued an official request for food aid, to be delivered by this June, totaling up to 1.2 million tons, the same as the U.N. estimate of Sudan's food shortages, based on U.N. mission assessments after last fall's drought-hit harvests. At the same time, the government initiated an emergency grain-planting program.

However, the U.S. government policy has been to conduct food warfare, in great part because President El Bashir opposed the Persian Gulf colonialist adventure. In October 1990, the U.S. ordered a shipment of 45,000 tons of wheat commercially purchased by Sudan, to change course for Kenya. The IMF declared Sudan a "non-cooperating" member and moved to cut off credit from all sources, crippling Sudan's ability to finance imports of agricultural inputs and food. U.S. warships in the Red

Sea interdicted ships bound for Port Sudan with farm chemicals. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees cut aid for refugees in Sudan by 20%.

Meantime, orchestrated testimony was delivered to Congress by State Department front groups such as the U.S. Committee on Refugees, which blamed El Bashir's government for depriving its own people of food.

The cynical U.S. actions were part of a neo-colonialist policy of covertly engineering catastrophes, such as famine, in order to rationalize emergency invasions and takeovers, and national sovereignty be damned. The United States has repeatedly attacked President El Bashir for being guilty of causing delays in providing food, i.e., accusing him of what the U.S. did, in fact.

On April 15, a dispatch came from Reuters in Nicosia, Cyprus, stating that an invasion of "relief missions" by the U.S. and U.N. non-governmental agencies (NGOs) was pending. The wire stated, "Western donor states are considering going ahead" and sending relief missions into Sudan "without official approval. . . . The [relief] officials, contacted by telephone, told Reuters they were so alarmed by the delay and worried about loss of life that they were considering giving the Arabized military government of Omar Hassan El Bashir an ultimatum."

The "harvest of joy" has caused great embarrassment to this U.S. policy, because it provides tangible evidence of the great extent of the Khartoum government's emergency

measures on behalf of its people. Normally, wheat is planted in Sudan in August and harvested in October-November. But the second, emergency planting that was done last November has turned out well. Cotton acreage, also sown in the fall, was decreased in favor of wheat, as well as by grain sorghum, a cereals staple in Sudan.

When the emergency measures yielded a fruitful harvest, there was a festival atmosphere in the beleaguered nation. Even U.S. Ambassador Cheek was forced to give it praise. Hope has been restored. Perhaps only 500,000 tons or even less in emergency food aid will now be required by June, and the government has the basis to forge ahead with its ongoing plans for the nation to be food self-sufficient within two years.

However, in the face of being able to prevent famine, the U.S. has escalated its food warfare tactics. In early spring, the State Department gave approval for the shipment of 330,000 tons of food aid (wheat, rice, lentils, vegetable oil) over a four-to-six-week period. The catch was that terms of how this food is to be distributed were yet to be worked out with Khartoum officials. In 1988, when rains were good, farmers produced 50% of their wheat needs, and Sudan attempted to achieve food self-sufficiency. U.S. relief agencies came in and dumped cheap grain on the local markets. The farmers were financially devastated by the typical U.S. "food aid" pattern.

Sudan, the largest nation in Africa, equivalent in area to the United States east of the Mississippi, was food self-sufficient until the 1970s. But then the country conceded to an IMF program whereby it would concentrate on cotton and export crops, and rely on the "world market" for food, in case domestic production was insufficient. Within two years, the nation suffered its first famine.

Gonzalez stalling Bush bank plan

The House Banking Committee puts the President's domestic agenda—for reorganizing the banking system—on hold.

The House Banking Committee delivered a serious blow to the timetable of President Bush's fascist banking restructuring proposal April 11, when committee chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) and ranking member Chalmers Wylie (R-Ohio) agreed to temporarily shelve the Bush bill and concentrate on shoring up the depleted FDIC Bank Insurance Fund instead.

Administration officials like Nicholas Brady at the Treasury Department had earlier been demanding rapid action on the banking reorganization now. Brady went so far as to threaten Congress, when he said that there won't be any need for a bailout of the commercial banks, if Congress passes the bill before it.

The administration's bill has drawn fire from all sides, first, because, in the name of deregulation, it establishes a consolidated national banking system, protecting megabanks like Citicorp and Chase; and second, because it proposes recapitalizing the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), using means which not so long ago would have landed the perpetrators in jail: borrowing money to use as equity to borrow nine times more money.

Now, Gonzalez has slowed the pace.

"It is critical that the needs of deposit insurance not be left until the last minute and not be buried underneath volatile and controversial issues which will take months to resolve," Gonzalez said in a press release. "We want to let the American public know quickly that the insurance fund is safe and that the commitments to individual

depositors will be kept.

"The preliminary indications suggest there is widespread concern about the deteriorating condition of the Bank Insurance Fund and a feeling that the committee must move with some speed in resolving the problems," Gonzalez continued. This is in sharp contrast to the administration's "borrow to borrow more" approach.

While the opposition of the Democratic Mr. Gonzalez could—wrongly—be discounted as partisan politics by the Bushmen, the opposition by the Republican Mr. Wylie cannot. For a Republican congressman to help derail a bill the administration once touted as the centerpiece of its domestic agenda, is a clear sign of trouble.

Gonzalez has more on his mind than recapitalizing the Bank Insurance Fund (BIF). The recapitalization, he said, should include some additional regulatory requirements that will "ensure that new funding will not be lost."

"I hope the committee would look very closely at unifying regulation, requiring the least costly resolution of any bank failures, early intervention by regulators before banks become a drain on the insurance fund, and other changes that could help limit risks to the fund," he said. "The General Accounting Office [GAO] will testify before the committee on April 23 and at that time may recommend some badly needed improvements in accounting practices at banks."

Comptroller General Charles Bowsher has attacked the more egregious fiduciary irresponsibility of the Bush banking plan as "accounting gimmicks," while the GAO recom-

mends that bank assets be carried on the books at market value, that banks be audited more stringently, and that their accounting practices be revised to more accurately reflect the true condition of their balance sheets. That's just the opposite of the administration's fantasy approach.

FDIC chairman William Seidman dropped a bombshell of his own in testimony before the House Banking Committee April 11, when he called on Congress to clamp down on real estate lending by the banks.

Seidman called for Congress to reinstate laws repealed in 1974 and 1982 which prohibited banks from making loans on raw land, blocked construction loans on projects unless the builder contributed at least a 25% equity interest, and limited overall concentration in real estate lending by national banks.

"Many of the loans that have cost the FDIC the most money would have been illegal prior to 1974," Seidman said. "It's time for insured institutions to return to old-fashioned standards of safe and sound banking. The restrictions lifted by Congress in 1974 and 1982 should be lifted."

"Both in Texas and in New England," Seidman reflected, "if those laws had been in place, the kind of losses we are observing now would not have taken place."

Seidman also called for greater regulatory powers for the FDIC which, under the Bush plan, would have most of its authority transferred to the Treasury Department.

Meanwhile, 12 real estate groups held a joint press conference to demand that regulators *loosen* their standards for real estate development and encourage banks to loan *more*.

While the developers let out a howl at Seidman's proposal, Gonzalez, who had opposed lifting the restrictions in 1982, endorsed it.

Business Briefs

Soviet Economy

Concessions offered to foreign investors

The Soviet Union has decided to offer concessions to foreign companies to develop raw materials and energy, reports London's *Financial Times*. Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov will shortly unveil the new policy, which is expected to give foreign investors large concessions in oil, gas, and non-ferrous metals. "In the program, we have what we experienced in the 1920s—concessions to foreign corporations. The country is very rich in minerals," he stated.

Vladimir Durasov of the State Planning Commission said that both joint ventures and the Free Economic Zone ideas have not proved suitable for various reasons, and Moscow has now decided to offer direct concessions instead.

The announcement on the concessions policy shift comes amid behind-the-scenes negotiations to set the terms for Mikhail Gorbachov's proposed coalition government with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. In the past, Yeltsin has insisted that Western companies sign contracts with the federation, not the central Moscow government. Observers report that, if this can be resolved, major Western investment in especially energy projects could be forthcoming from Western Europe and Japan.

Space

Gamma Ray Observatory lofted by Space Shuttle

The Gamma Ray Observatory (GRO) will do for gamma-ray astronomy what the Hubble Space Telescope does for visible light and ultraviolet light, with equally dramatic scientific results possible. The observatory includes four instruments, and is the heaviest scientific payload ever deployed from the Space Shuttle (17 tons).

One of the four instruments is the Imaging Compton Telescope (Comptel), built jointly by the European Space Agency, the Max

Planck Institute in Germany, the Space Research Laboratory in the Netherlands, and the University of New Hampshire. Acquiring images in gamma rays is no mean feat, since gamma rays, like X-rays, pass right through conventional lenses and mirrors. GRO's instruments are much larger and far more sensitive than any gamma-ray instruments previously flown. Large instruments are needed to detect a significant number of gamma rays in a reasonable time. GRO's detectors can be kept pointed on a target for as long as 14 days.

Because gamma rays are very penetrating, they allow us to see right through interstellar gas and dust, which, for example, obscures more than half of our own galaxy at visible wavelengths.

Comptel has the detection of gamma rays from supernovae, including SN 1987A, as a prime objective during GRO's two- to four-year mission.

Development

LaRouche 'Oasis Plan' featured in Italy

"Projects for the Development of the Middle East" is the headline of an article published in the Italian industrial monthly *Notiziario Industriale*, which presents the "Oasis Plan" for the development of the Middle East authored by jailed American economist Lyndon LaRouche.

The article details the importance of building floating desalination plants to be used to conquer the deserts. It goes into the canals to be built between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea, and into the use of Egypt's Qattara Depression to develop irrigation systems; it mentions the "Peace Pipeline" proposed by the Turkish government and outlines railroad projects for the Arabian peninsula.

"The general idea was to use the profits from oil export for infrastructural and urban development of the region. But war prevailed and everything was stopped," the article reports.

After showing that those development plans should be completed with a bridge across the Straits of Gibraltar and a railroad spanning

the Maghreb region, the article concludes: "It is obvious that this would open enormous potentialities for commercial and industrial development for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa: With these kinds of projects, we would create a more solid base for the peace that everyone hopes for, for this troubled region of the world."

Foreign Aid

Japan warns of lack of funds for Third World

"We are today face to face with a dangerous gap between capital supply and capital demand," Japan's vice minister of Finance for International Affairs, Makoto Utsumi, warned April 7, as quoted by *The Nation*, a Bangkok daily. He said that rich countries were becoming increasingly unable to meet the demand for funds in developing nations.

Speaking at a seminar at the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank in Nagoya, he said, "The developing countries, including those in Asia and Latin America, all need massive infusions of capital for their development." He continued, the problem was the same "in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe," and the Persian Gulf. "Where is this money to be found?" he asked, adding that the new capital adequacy requirements on banks in Japan, U.S., and Europe were posing additional burdens.

Science

Is supermassive body a new kind of matter?

Three astronomers report the discovery of a supermassive, compact body very near a galaxy in the constellation Ophiuchus, in *Astrophysical Journal Letters* April 10. The body itself is invisible, but is inferred from the existence of a rotating disk of gas around it. The rotational velocity of the disk, toward its center, is 2 million miles per hour, with a steep ("faster than Keplerian") decline in velocity at

further distances from the center. The detected motions are symmetric about a point displaced from galaxy NGC 6240 by about 20 light-years.

The velocity of rotation is used to calculate the mass of the invisible object, the gravity of which is related to the velocity of rotation. The steep decline in velocity permits calculations of how compact the object is.

The calculated mass is about that of the entire Milky Way galaxy, but its volume is only one—ten-thousandth that of the Milky Way, and it is 60 times darker for its mass than a star like the Sun.

According to conventional thinking, the object must be the long-sought mathematical construct, the black hole. However, Jonathan Bland-Hawthorn of Rice University, one of the astronomers, in an interview with *21st Century Science & Technology* magazine, said that it might be “uncomfortable” to allow for the formation of such a large accretion of mass in the time available since the fabled Big Bang, but deferred to the views of cosmologists.

Bland-Hawthorn added that the task immediately ahead is to prove, with more detailed observations, that the high-speed motions detected spectroscopically are really rotational motion, and not the result of infall, explosion, or tidal disruption.

Industry

Study tells why German managers beat Americans

The United States needs managers like Alfred Herrhausen, the assassinated head of Germany's Deutsche Bank, rather than Lee Iacocca, a study prepared by the De Valle Institute concludes.

Asking why the method of German managers obviously creates no obstacle to the advancement of German products on U.S. markets, while the aggressive sales methods of top U.S. managers like Iacocca don't really pay off, the De Valle Institute profiled U.S. managers and workers.

The study concludes that the skill and educational level of both German workers and

managers is one of the main reasons for the high quality of German products—which explains why more and more Americans buy German. What made postwar Germany one of the leading industrial nations again, is the universal education and professional knowledge of German managers. “What use are all those charmers like Iacocca to us,” New York business consultant Charles Randall is quoted in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung's* report on the study, “if they know so little about the world markets that they can't tell the difference between Austria and Australia?”

One of the biggest flaws in U.S. management methods, the study says, is its short-term profit orientation, while the Germans and Europeans rather pursue a long-term investment perspective.

Oil

Bush plan doesn't promote U.S. output

“The President's national energy strategy contains nothing to encourage energy production in the lower 48 states,” the president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, Denise Bode, wrote in the March issue of IPAA's magazine, *Petroleum Independent*. In the same issue, IPAA chairman C. Paul Hilliard noted that if the decline of U.S. oil and gas output is to be reversed, at least 80,000 wells must be drilled each year. But, in all of 1990, only 28,980 wells were drilled.

IPAA has begun a campaign in Congress to change U.S. tax laws, which currently penalize oil exploration by small, independent operators, who, as Hilliard pointed out, have discovered more than half of all new oil and natural gas reserves.

The potential for expanding U.S. oil production was highlighted recently when Mobil Corp. announced that a well located in the Gulf of Mexico about 120 miles southeast of Galveston, Texas, tested at a rate of 60 million cubic feet of natural gas and 5,521 barrels of oil a day, or the energy equivalent of 16,239 barrels a day. By comparison, of the 852,320 producing wells in the U.S. last year, about 75% were stripper wells, producing less than 10 barrels a day.

● **THE SOVIET UNION** replaced the British as Germany's number-one supplier of crude oil, its sales reaching 2.9 million tons, as compared to British Petroleum's 2.5 million tons in January-February of this year.

● **THE UNITED STATES** is importing millions of tons of crushed rock, reports Mineralogical Society president Malcom Ross in its February newsletter. Since quartz, for example, has been declared a carcinogen, most quarrying in the eastern U.S. has come to a halt, since they, like most rocks, have quartz in them. “One wonders how a nation can survive economically if it has to import crushed stone,” he said.

● **THE HOOVER** Institution of California will provide economic advisers to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, according to Yeltsin's chief economic adviser, Mikhail Bocharov, who pointed out that four Hoover fellows have just spent two weeks in the U.S.S.R.

● **THE BAYERISCHE** Hypothekbank has advised its clients to buy shares of the Thyssen Corp., saying the firm has a good development perspective because of considerable investments in pioneer high-tech sectors. The bank's report explicitly referred to Thyssen's commitment to build the Transrapid magnetic levitation train system.

● **THE PRESIDENT** of the former East German state of Mecklenburg-Premomania, Alfred Gomolka, has proposed transport infrastructure improvements between Mecklenburg and the neighboring region of Szczecin in Poland, as well as several other joint infrastructure projects.

● **SAUDI ARABIA** is so cash-strapped that it wants to pay at least some of the \$13.5 billion it pledged to the U.S. for destroying Iraq, in oil rather than cash, says the *Washington Post*.

CFC ban will kill millions by starvation

by Rogelio Maduro

On April 4, television and radio broadcasts across the United States were filled with dire news. A new study from NASA claimed that ozone depletion in the Northern Hemisphere was occurring much faster than the theory predicted. Numbers as high as 6-8% ozone depletion were reported, and the next day, newspapers were filled with stories of how 200,000 Americans were going to die of skin cancer because of this ozone depletion, allegedly caused by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

The only problem is, that the "study" mentioned in all these media accounts does not exist. When asked for a copy of the scientific report being cited, Brian Dunbar of NASA's public relations office said, "There is no report. These are very preliminary findings." He could not say when a report would be available, since the results "have not been peer reviewed yet." When scientists write a study today, before it is released to the public, they are expected to submit their work to other qualified scientists who are neutral on the issue, to review the data and make sure the study's conclusions are in accordance with the evidence presented, and that the data are not fraudulent.

Further, the claims of increased ozone depletion contradict real data from ground stations measuring ultraviolet (UV) radiation which demonstrate without a doubt that levels of UV have *decreased* over 7% since 1974. If the ozone layer were being depleted, UV levels would increase 2% for each 1% decrease in the ozone layer, according to the theory. That is, UV levels should have increased 16% by now. Exactly the opposite has occurred.

Unfortunately, giving press conferences to announce fraudulent data that have not been through a peer review has become standard procedure for a small group of pseudo-scientists who have become very prominent in the past few years, claiming that all kinds of disasters are overtaking the Earth: global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain, radon in the basement, and whatnot. When examined in detail, all of these doomsday theories have proven to be scientific frauds.

Unbeknownst to the public, many of the world's leading atmospheric scientists



United Nations

A food market in Bengal, India. The ban on CFCs, whose principal use is in refrigeration, will collapse the worldwide "cold chain." There is no viable alternative to these benign chemicals, and without adequate refrigeration, food will rot, causing the death by starvation and disease of 20-40 million people, particularly in the Third World.

have published papers in the scientific literature demonstrating every single aspect of the ozone depletion theory to be a fraud.

But there is a counterreaction building, in Third World nations and industries around the world, to the ban on CFCs. Following the international signing of a treaty banning CFCs by the year 2000 in London on June 29, 1990, reality is starting to sink in. As we shall detail in the following pages, the ban on CFCs will cost the world economy \$3-5 trillion by the year 2005.

More horrifying, experts in the refrigeration industry—the most prominent users of CFCs—point out that the ban on CFCs will collapse the worldwide refrigeration chain, causing the death of an additional 20-40 million human beings every year due to starvation and food-borne diseases. At present, 40 million people die needlessly every year of hunger.

A deliberate malthusian policy

These scientific frauds are being cooked up as an instrument of global policies being dictated by the Anglo-American interests which control the environmentalist movement. Their aim is to force a vast reduction in the world's population, particularly among non-whites in the developing sector. Their view is that the world is vastly overpopulated. Instead of accelerating the rate of economic and scientific development so that the world's population could be supported at a higher standard of living and be allowed to expand naturally,

they have opted instead to wipe out the "useless eaters."

A key method of accomplishing this end is to cut off Third World nations' access to essential technology. Last year, a high French defense official, writing under the pseudonym of Jean Villars in the magazine *L'Express*, called on the West to adopt what he called a "brutal" policy of "technological apartheid," arguing that only by denying high technology to the Third World could the West protect itself from upstart countries like Iraq.

The Bush administration has embraced technological apartheid with a vengeance. The genocidal concept—genocidal because it is an instrument of mass murder against the developing sector—is the driving force behind key Bush policies, including his new export control regime (the Enhanced Proliferation Control Initiative, unveiled this spring) and the ban on CFCs.

The Montreal Protocol

On June 27-29, 1990, the representatives of 93 nations met at a conference in London chaired by then-British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The meeting was called upon to revise the original Montreal Protocol of 1987, which set the first global controls on the manufacture of chlorofluorocarbons. Of the nations present, 59 agreed to sign this new version of the Montreal Protocol, which imposed even more drastic cutbacks on CFCs than the original treaty, and added several more chemicals to the list of those to be banned. The urgency for signing this unprecedented international treaty

was that the ozone layer had to be saved from CFCs, which are allegedly depleting it.

Almost a year later, the euphoria that accompanied the signing of the treaty has died down, and it has been replaced by the sobering realization that it will be much more difficult and costly to replace CFCs than originally thought. The February 1991 issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers* (ASHRAE) warns of the enormous problems encountered in finding replacements to CFCs. The journal had been one of the staunchest supporters of the ban on CFCs.

Indeed, there is now a realization that the cost of banning CFCs and other halogenated chemicals may be overwhelming to the world economy. Estimates from experts in different industries that will be affected by the ban, indicate that the cost may be as high as \$5 trillion by the year 2005. Knowledgeable sources in the refrigeration industry have told *EIR* that the costs are so staggering that Japan is considering pulling out of the Montreal Protocol.

More significant than the purely economic cost of banning CFCs, is the cost in human lives. The increase in the human population in the twentieth century is largely the result of improved availability of food, which has come about in considerable part because of the extraordinary quality of CFCs as refrigerants. Over 75% of the food consumed by Americans today is refrigerated at one point or another by CFCs. The ban on CFCs will mean that *most of the hundreds of millions of refrigeration units installed worldwide will have to be scrapped*. The consequences will be a collapse of food storage capacity worldwide, and a dramatic increase in the death rate. The only feasible alternative to CFCs in food preservation qualities is food irradiation, which is opposed by the same environmentalists who are out to ban CFCs.

News reports on the London conference of last June claimed that the representatives of the 59 nations that ratified the treaty had signed on because of the compelling scientific evidence that was presented at the conference. On the contrary, most nations signed because they had a gun put to their heads: There is a clause in the Montreal Protocol that mandates economic warfare against any nation that does not sign the treaty. Article 4, titled "Control of Trade with Non-Parties," mandates that signatory nations will impose a total trade embargo against any nation that does not abide by the protocol. Signatory nations are even prohibited from exporting these "controlled substances" to any nation that does not sign.

Why would such a clause be necessary in a treaty that is supposed to save the Earth and human lives? The reason is that those nations that are now becoming industrialized are being told to stay in the pre-industrial dark ages, and those that are industrialized will have to pay a very heavy penalty, sacrificing the standard of living of their lower and middle classes to fatten the pocketbooks of an international cartel that will control the technologies of the future.

Replacement is not so easy

At present, the world production of CFCs is approximately 1.1 million tons a year. CFCs are one of the most benign and versatile chemicals ever invented; they are very stable, nonflammable, nontoxic, and have noncorrosive qualities that make them extremely useful in industries and households. Therefore, they have found a wide array of uses. Halons, a related group of chemicals also banned under the Montreal Protocol, are the most effective firefighting chemicals known to man, and play essential roles in the protection of electronic and computer equipment, and in the military. These and other chemicals, and their scheduled bans, are listed in **Table 1**.

The environmental hoaxsters behind the ban on CFCs claim that it will be simple to replace these chemicals. That is a lie. The public has been told that there are "ozone-friendly" chemicals which can be used in presently existing equipment to replace CFCs. That is completely wrong. That means that all of the existing equipment that use CFCs will have to be replaced by equipment which can use such new chemicals. Given the fact that the equipment to be scrapped includes hundreds of millions of home, commercial, and industrial refrigeration units, it is not a small matter. The volume of equipment to be scrapped includes: 610 million refrigerators and freezers, 120 million cold storage units, 100 million refrigerated transports, and 150 million auto air conditioners.

The infrastructure problem does not end here. Extremely important is the issue of those refrigerators that will not be built, or will be built at a much higher cost. Third World countries—mainly India, China, Brazil, South Korea, and Taiwan, countries in areas of the world where fewer than 1 in 100 households has a refrigerator—had embarked upon an ambitious program to produce refrigerators. Under original estimates made in 1988, these countries were expected to purchase or produce 400-500 million refrigerators by the year 2000. That would have required a sevenfold increase in the amount of CFCs produced every year for refrigeration purposes, and would have shifted the bulk of CFCs production from Europe and the United States to new chemical factories in the Third World. Under the shock effect of a total ban on CFCs by the year 2000, it is quite uncertain what the amount of refrigerants required by the year 2000 will actually be. Even as the hopes of the Third World are dashed, demand for refrigerants should at least quadruple by the year 2000. This includes both new demand, and the gigantic amount of equipment that will have to be manufactured to replace existing refrigeration systems that use CFCs.

What does this mean? Under the present Montreal Protocol, those chemical corporations that had a monopoly on CFC production in 1986 are allowed to continue producing CFCs under a schedule that reduces their production quotas every year. As CFCs become scarcer, their price will rise. At present CFCs are selling for approximately \$5 per pound in the United States. Experts calculate that the price will be

TABLE 1

Vital chemicals to be banned

Controlled substance	Uses	Controls under 1990 update to Montreal Protocol
CFCs	Refrigeration, air conditioning, rigid and flexible plastic foams, solvent in electronics industry, aerosols	Complete phase-out by 2000
Halons	Fire extinguishers (especially in hospitals, ships, aircraft, computer rooms)	Complete phase-out by 2000
HCFCs	Replacement for CFCs in refrigeration, foam blowing, and aerosols	No legal controls but a declaration that they should be phased out no later than 2020-40; most likely to be banned by 2000
Carbon tetrachloride	Chemical feedstock for CFCs, solvent, in pharmaceuticals, pesticides, some paints	Cut 85% by 1995, phase-out by 2000
Methyl chloroform	Solvent for precision metalworking and electronics industry	Cut 70% by 2000, phase-out by 2005

\$15-20 per pound by 1995-96, much higher afterwards. That price includes the cost of producing CFCs, which is still less than 50¢ per pound, and the tax on CFCs; the rest is pure profits for Du Pont, ICI, and the other chemical giants.

The refrigeration and air conditioning industry had relied very heavily on using the family of hydro-chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) to replace CFCs. HCFCs, a CFC with an extra hydrogen atom which supposedly makes it more "ozone-friendly," is not included in the ban. Recent meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is becoming an international ecological dictatorship, have made it very clear it intends to ban HCFCs also by the year 2000, because they are "super-greenhouse" gases and will cause global warming and submerge New York City and other places under water.

What does all this mean for the international chemical cartel? The cheapest available alternative, if it works, is HFC-134a, patented by the Du Pont Corp. HFC-134a is 30 times more expensive than CFC-12, which it replaces. Conservatively estimating that the use of refrigerants will quadruple by the year 2000, one can calculate that the market for refrigerants will amount to \$150-200 billion that year. Not a bad deal for a chemical cartel that was taking in only \$1 billion a year on refrigerants in 1988.

The figure of \$200 billion a year is consistent with the calculations of senior executives in the refrigeration industry in the United States and Europe, who estimate that the 1990 update to the Montreal Protocol will cost somewhere between \$500 billion and \$1 trillion by the year 2000. That figure only involves the cost of the refrigeration sector, and does not include the increased cost of foods due to increased refrigeration costs. As we have noted before, refrigeration only accounts for 30% of CFC use.

One of the immediate results of banning CFCs will be to drive Third World chemical producers out of business. Third

World chemical industries do not possess the research capabilities to manufacture alternatives to CFCs, and the alternatives that now exist will be patented by members of the chemical cartel in the West. Even if the cartel companies sell their patents to Third World countries (at hefty prices), those countries will still have to scrap their chemical factories and build new ones designed to produce these new chemicals if allowed by the chemical giants.

This is a question of technological apartheid. In March 1989, spokesmen for Du Pont and Penwalt corporations announced that construction of chemical factories for production of CFCs in the Third World had been halted, and existing contracts to build CFCs factories would not be honored! The new company policies are to export CFCs to these nations for a few years until "phase-out," when Third World nations will have to buy the rather expensive substitutes, which they can't even use in their existing equipment.

We have talked so far about the financial costs of banning CFCs, but what the environmentalists have kept very quiet is a more profound issue, which is the fact that lack of refrigeration kills people. We ought to examine this in detail, since the entire basis for banning CFCs is the claim that a few thousand white-skinned people will get skin cancer every year because of ozone depletion. In over 99.9% of the cases, skin cancer is not fatal. On the other hand, starvation and malnutrition are definitely fatal to tens of millions of human beings every year.

An analysis of the role of refrigeration in modern society was made by Prof. Dr. W. Kaminski of the Institute of Agricultural and Foodstuff Economy in Warsaw, Poland. In a speech at an International Refrigeration Conference in Paris, in 1988, Kaminski stated: "Refrigeration—under condition that a well-organized and complex cold chain is applied, can, to a large extent, contribute to increasing the safeguarding of world food resources through ensuring an important decrease

in the quantitative and qualitative losses in food produced, right from the harvesting of raw materials and up to the consumption of the finished product." The food losses Kaminski refers to are enormous: "Many specialists evaluate these losses as being from 20 to 25% and even up to 30%" of all foodstuffs produced, he says. "Losses in fruit and vegetables generally reach 30 to 40%."

As for the consequence of lack of refrigeration, he says, "the present world production of perishable products which necessitate refrigeration is more than 1.5 billion tons per year, of which 250 to 300 million tons are lost because refrigeration was not fully applied. If we can safeguard these food products, there will be a supplementary food quantity of about 80 kilograms per inhabitant of this Earth per year."

This last point is extremely important. There is enough food produced today in the world to feed the entire world population. The problem is that upwards of 30 to 40% of the food spoils for lack of refrigeration. If this food were preserved, at least 30 million of the 40 million human beings who die every year of hunger, would live. This is precisely the reason why China, Brazil, India, and other countries made the manufacturing of hundreds of millions of refrigerators such a priority.

A case study: the fishing industry

The most important source of protein in the Third World, fish, will be the hardest hit by the ban on CFCs. According to Kaminski, "Chilling and freezing play a very important role in the fisheries world economy, particularly as regards utilizing the riches of the oceans to feed the world's population." He reports that during the past 35 years, fisheries resources have increased four times, and at present they represent about 16 kilograms per capita at global levels. He emphasizes, "*Such an expansion in the fisheries during 1948-83 was made possible through the widespread application of chilling, particularly freezing in fishing boats, generally high sea trawlers (which considerably widened fishing territorial waters) as well as through the extension of the cold chain for the requirements of inland fish economy (cold rooms, specialized refrigerated transport, wholesale fish dealers, etc.).*"

That is the same "cold chain" which is now being destroyed by the environmentalists through the ban on CFCs.

The importance of fish in the diet of the poor people of the world is enormous. Kaminski states, "The following data show proof of the important role of the fisheries economy in world feeding: The fisheries (in the weight of catches) constitute about 50% of world meat production and two and half times greater than world egg production, it exceeds 6 times the butter production and 10 times the cheese production. In certain countries and regions of the world, fish constitutes the principal source of animal proteins in feeding the population."

This is all possible, according to Kaminski, because

"freezing has become the most widely employed fish preservation technique which prolongs the storage duration, it provides obvious profits in the fish trade and contributes to maintaining high product quality, etc. The perfecting of chilling and freezing techniques has enabled the transport of fish to very distant consumer regions far from the fishing grounds and it has also enabled fish to be consumed all year round."

The ban on CFCs will be devastating to the world's cold storage and transport infrastructure, the fishing fleets, and the refrigerated sea transport fleet, which consists of some 10,000 ships with a capacity exceeding 10 million cubic meters, excluding containers.

The death toll

International refrigeration experts privately estimate that hundreds of millions of people will die over the next 15 years as the international refrigeration cold chain collapses because of the ban on CFCs. As noted, it is officially estimated that every year over 40 million human beings die of hunger. By collapsing the worldwide cold chain, the environmentalists will increase the death toll from hunger dramatically. Although there is no agreement as to the total from experts in the refrigeration industry, they estimate that an increase in the death toll between 20 and 40 million per year, by the year 2005, would be a conservative estimate.

The death toll has even been acknowledged by Robert Watson, head of the Ozone Trends Panel, and the man who released the figures that set off the recent April Fool's ozone scare. In an interview with syndicated columnist Alston Chase in 1989, Watson confessed that "probably more people would die from food poisoning as a consequence of inadequate refrigeration than would die from depleting ozone." During a February 1990 meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in Washington, D.C., this author asked Watson how he could support a ban in CFCs if he knew so many people were going to die from it. Watson responded he had changed his mind recently. The top representative of the Du Pont Corp. had convinced him that their replacements for CFCs would do the job, and Watson now insisted that not a single person would die because of lack of refrigerated food. This author asked Watson how he could trust any figures from Du Pont, since they stood to make so much money on the ban, and Watson, by this time quite irate, responded, "Of course they are going to make enormous profits, what else did you expect?"

Preventing the Third World from building a refrigeration capacity is one of the stated purposes of the malthusian environmentalists now making policy in Washington. EPA chief William Reilly made this very clear in July 1989 when he stated, "The prospect of seeing countries move forward with major development plans involving, as we heard in China, a proposal for 300 million new refrigerators possibly based on CFCs, makes very clear that we must engage them in this process and bring them to participate in the science."

Gaping holes open up in the ozone depletion theory

by Rogelio Maduro

Despite the constant bombardment in the news media to the effect that chlorofluorocarbons are depleting the ozone layer and caused a gaping hole in the sky over Antarctica, large numbers of scientific papers have appeared recently debunking every tenet of the ozone depletion theory. The scientific evidence indicates: There has been no ozone depletion in the past decades; levels of ultraviolet radiation have decreased, not increased; the Antarctic ozone hole is not a new phenomenon, but existed in its full magnitude in 1958, and most likely has been there for millions of years; and CFCs are being broken up, not in the stratosphere, but down in the ground by dehalogenating bacteria.

It is only through a systematic policy by the news media to completely ignore any of the scientific evidence that has come out in scientific journals, that the public has remained in the dark about all this evidence. As with all other great scientific hoaxes this century, however, the ozone depletion hoax is rapidly coming apart. What the scientific evidence indicates is that if the sky is truly falling, it is falling only on the ozone hoaxsters.

While the media try to convey the impression that there is some sort of consensus among scientists that CFCs are depleting the ozone layer, quite the opposite is the truth. There is a state of war in the scientific community, on the part of the physical atmospheric scientists, against the so-called modelers, the scientist who spend their entire day in front of computers conjuring up scary scenarios about global doomsday, which beget very large research grants and instantaneous fame. The physical atmospheric scientists, in contrast, spend their time observing and measuring what actually goes on in the atmosphere, and they are pointing out the fact that all their observations contradict the ozone depletion theory.

The fraud begins to be exposed

One such fight erupted at the annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington, D.C. in February of this year. The conference featured 26 panels on how man is destroying the Earth, with presentations given mostly by sociologists and

anthropologists, and one panel on the need for science to be the basis of environmental policy. That one panel was the best attended.

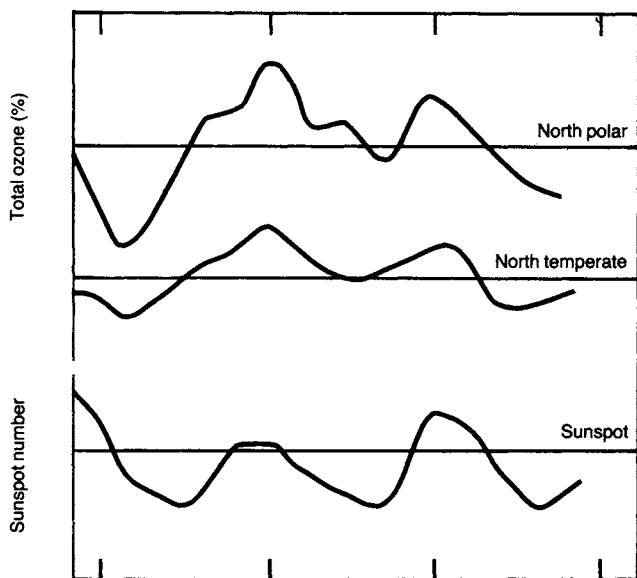
Among those making presentations at the scientific panel was Pat Michaels of the University of Virginia, who demonstrated that the global warming theory is a hoax. S. Fred Singer, former chief scientist of the Department of Transportation, demonstrated that the ozone hoaxsters had attributed a decrease in ozone layer thickness to CFCs, when it is actually due to the solar cycle. James Mahoney, head of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program, proved that the ostensible threat from acid rain has been blown out of proportion. Others noted that the environmental hysteria had little to do with real science.

Singer, who invented the apparatus used in satellites to measure the thickness of the ozone layer, gave a presentation in which he challenged the conclusion that the ozone layer has been depleted by CFCs in the past two decades. In March 1988, the Ozone Trends Panel, a group that was set up to examine the evidence of ozone depletion, announced at a press conference that they had discovered a 3% depletion of the ozone layer. Despite the fact that the report which was supposed to be released by the Ozone Trends Panel at that conference was not released until December 1990, that announcement has become the basis for the radical policies upon which CFCs must be banned, by international accord, by the end of the decade.

In his presentation Singer pointed out that the Ozone Trends Panel has confused the influence of the solar cycle upon the ozone layer with an imaginary depletion caused by CFCs. The thickness of the ozone layer is not constant by any means. It can change as much as 50% from one day to the next, depending on meteorological conditions, and in the span of years and decades, it changes as a function of natural cycles. One of the most important cycles, Singer pointed out, is the 11-year solar cycle (**Figure 1**).

The Ozone Trends Panel examined the historical ozone data to determine whether the thickness of the ozone layer had changed over time. They chose a very peculiar time frame, however. The starting point was 1969—despite the

FIGURE 1
Total ozone change and sunspot number



Source: J.K. Angell, "One of the relations between the atmospheric ozone and sunspot number," *Journal of Climate* (1989).

Notice how close the correlation is between total ozone change and sunspot number. The Ozone Trends Panel picked up the top of the cycle, when ozone was most abundant (1969), and the bottom of the cycle, when ozone was least abundant (1986). Had the panel shown the data starting in 1962, there would have been an increase in ozone.

fact that there are ozone data going back to the 1930s—and the endpoint was 1986. The data cover 17 years, which corresponds to 1.5 solar cycles. Singer demonstrated that the entire depletion measured by the Ozone Trends Panel could be attributed to the influence of the solar cycle. The year 1970 was a solar activity maximum, which corresponds to an ozone maximum, and 1986 was a solar activity minimum, which corresponds to an ozone minimum. It is a natural cycle: The more intense the solar activity, the thicker the ozone layer.

Thus the Ozone Trends Panel's choice of starting date corresponds to a well-documented ozone maximum. Ground instruments indicated that 1970 was the thickest ozone layer on record. The panel's endpoint corresponds to the expected natural ozone minimum. Therefore, the Ozone Trends Panel deliberately chose data which would start at the peak of the natural ozone cycle and end at the bottom of the cycle, giving a misleading result.

Right after Singer gave his presentation, F. Sherwood Rowland, author of the ozone depletion theory, rose to chal-

lenge him. As noted by scientists present, if he had kept his mouth shut, he wouldn't have been demolished by Singer. If anything, this impromptu debate demonstrates a point made repeatedly by real scientists: Every time one of these hoaxsters agrees to a debate, the truth comes out. That is precisely the reason that there is no coverage in the media of any dissension in the scientific community.

What is the Ozone Trends Panel? Created supposedly to make an impartial and accurate assessment of global ozone data, the panel was anything but impartial. It was packed with proponents of the ozone depletion theory. Among the 21 members of the panel were Harold Johnston, inventor of the theory that nitrogen oxides from the Super-Sonic Transport were going to wipe out the ozone layer (1971); Richard Stolarski, who said that the chlorine from the Space Shuttle was going to deplete the ozone layer (1973); Richard Turco, one of the inventors of the "nuclear winter" theory (1983); and, of course, F. Sherwood Rowland, inventor of the CFCs depletion theory (1974). Many other cothinkers of Rowland, were either members of the panel or participants in the working groups created by the panel. The dissenters in the working groups were in the minority; their judgments were ignored and overruled by the panel itself.

Flagrant distortion of data

The debate at the AAAS conference is but the tip of the iceberg. Dozens of top scientists around the world have been challenging the conclusions of the Ozone Trends Panel from a different standpoint. These scientists, most of whom actually operate the instruments that measure the thickness of the ozone layer, are accusing the ozone hoaxsters of having distorted the actual data.

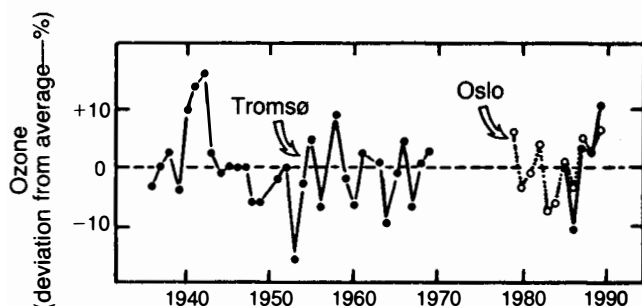
These scientists argue that the Ozone Trends Panel arrived at their results by "re-analyzing" and "correcting" the ozone data collected by scientists from around the world, with complex statistical mathematical models. Data from individual stations, which showed no ozone depletion, suddenly showed ozone depletion, after the statistical "re-analysis." No wonder the Ozone Trends Panel took almost three years to release its report! According to top European scientists, data from ozone-measuring stations in Belgium, England, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, and Switzerland show no ozone depletion over the past decades.

What do the real scientists say? In a Jan. 11 article published in *Nature* magazine, Norwegian scientists Søren Larsen and Thormod Henriksen analyze ozone layer data going back to 1935 and conclude, "The data from long-term ozone measurements reveal periods of several years with a negative trend [decrease] and other periods with a positive trend [increase]. *The combined results up to 1989 give no evidence for a long-term negative trend of the Arctic ozone layer*" (Figure 2).

They continue, "The data for Oslo and Tromso show that the ozone layer over Scandinavia has been above normal (or

FIGURE 2

Norwegian scientists find little long-term change in Arctic ozone



Source: *21st Century Science & Technology*. Adapted from Søren H. Larsen and Thormod Henriksen, "Persistent Arctic Ozone Layer," *Nature* (Jan. 11, 1990), 124.

Søren Larsen and Thormod Henriksen at the University of Oslo's Institute of Physics found that gases like CFCs have had a negligible effect on the Arctic ozone layer. "The general balance between formation and destruction of ozone," they write, "has not changed, at least not to an extent that is apparent in the long-term observations."

Shown here are spring values of ozone for the Norwegian stations at Tromsø at latitude 70° N (filled circles) and Oslo (open circles). The data are the average of measurements in February, March, and April and correspond to the season when ozone depletion occurs in Antarctica (August, September, and October). These long-term data show that the natural balance between formation and destruction of ozone has not changed in the Arctic.

average) during the past three years. Because of the good correlations with the data from other stations, this conclusion may be valid for the whole Arctic region."

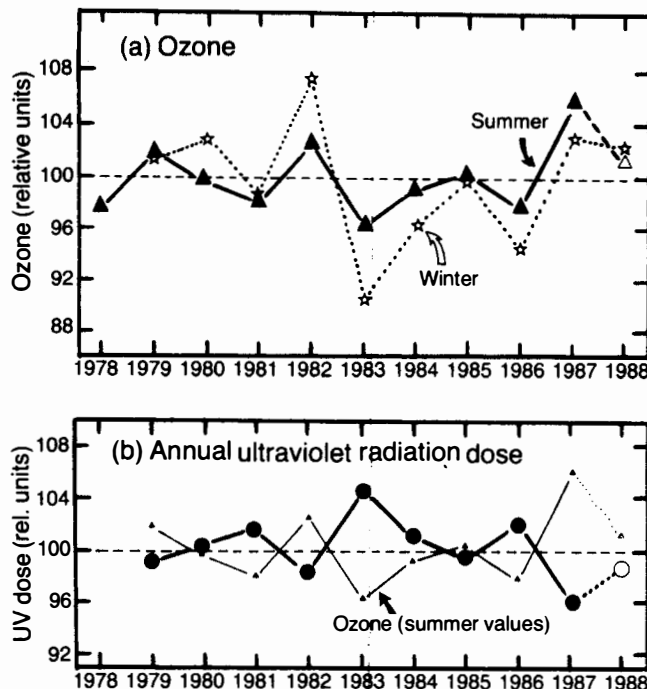
Larsen and Henriksen then make a critical point: "The figures show the importance of defining the starting point and endpoint when describing trends. The data indicate a positive trend for ozone (in all seasons) in the period 1983-89 (the past six years). On the other hand, no particular trend can be claimed for the past ten years." In other words, the thickness of the ozone layer has natural fluctuations of several percent per year. One can show an increase or decrease in the thickness, or a decrease, by which years are chosen as a starting and an ending point, but overall, there is no indication of any ozone depletion (Figure 3).

The Norwegian scientists conclude, "These data indicate that anthropogenic gases such as CFCs have, up to the summer of 1989, had a negligible influence on the Arctic ozone layer. The general balance between formation and destruction of ozone has not changed, at least not to an extent that is apparent in the long-term observations."

They don't stop there, however. In a paper published in the journal *Photochemistry and Photobiology*, Larsen and

FIGURE 3

No observable trend in ozone or ultraviolet radiation in past 12 years



Source: *21st Century Science & Technology*. Adapted from Arne Dahlback, Thormod Henriksen, Søren H. Larsen and Knut Stamnes, "Biological UV-Doses and the Effect of an Ozone Layer Depletion," *Photochemistry and Photobiology* 49:621 (1989).

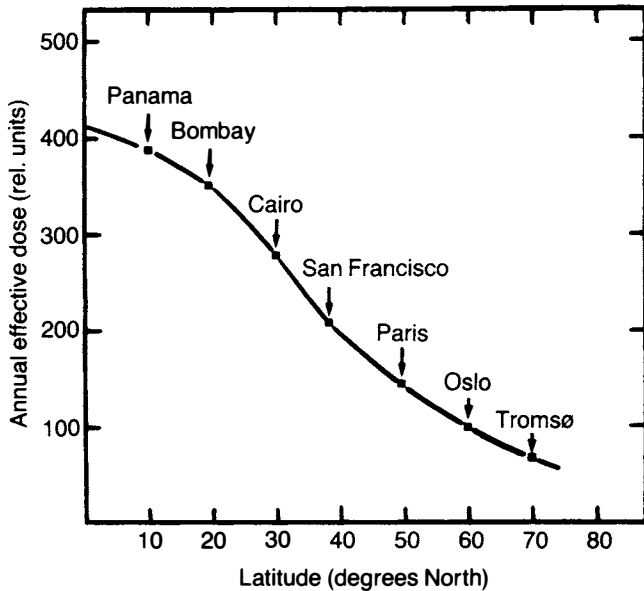
Norwegian measurements demonstrate that there is no observable trend, neither increase or decrease in ozone (a) or ultraviolet radiation (b) values for the past 12 years. If the ozone depletion theory were correct, ozone values should have gone down more than 3%, and UV radiation values should have therefore increased by more than 7%.

Henriksen, together with Arne Dahlback and Knut Stamnes, argue that "depletions of the ozone layer up to about 15 to 20% would have a rather small effect on the life on Earth." The Norwegian scientists very rigorously demonstrate the same point already made by U.S. researcher Hugh Ellsaesser of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (*Executive Intelligence Review*, June 29 and July 6, 1990). A 1% increase in ultraviolet radiation is the equivalent of moving six miles south of an individual's present location. The ozone scaremongers are warning of a 10% increase in UV as a result of ozone depletion in the next hundred years, the equivalent of moving just 60 miles south.

Dahlbeck et al. take the worst-case scenario of an ozone hole identical to the Antarctic ozone hole. They state: "The so-called ozone hole in Antarctica is a transient springtime

FIGURE 4

Ultraviolet dose varies greatly by geographical latitude



Source: *21st Century Science & Technology*. Adapted from Arne Dahlback, Thormod Henriksen, Søren H. Larsen and Knut Stamnes, "Biological UV-Doses and the Effect of An Ozone Layer Depletion," *Photochemistry and Photobiology* 49:621 (1989).

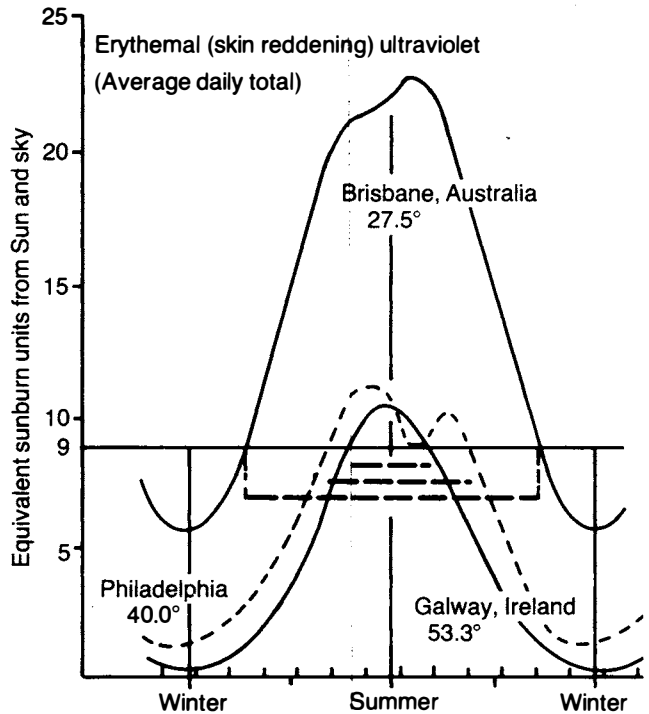
Shown is the annual effective ultraviolet radiation dose for selected cities at different latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere. Under the worst-case scenario for ozone depletion, the increase in the amount of UV reaching the ground is expected to be 10%. Moving from Oslo to Panama represents an increase in UV-dose exposure of 300%, while a move from Oslo to balmy San Francisco is an increase of 100%. A 10% increase in so-called "harmful UV," considered a global disaster by the environmentalists, is the equivalent of moving a mere 60 miles closer to the Equator.

depletion of the ozone layer which is connected to the polar vortex. . . . If we assume a similar depletion over Scandinavia (for example, if we moved the ozone hole) the annual effective UV-dose would increase by approximately 22%." What would this worst-case scenario mean in the real world? "One would attain a similar increase in the annual UV-dose by moving approximately 50 to 60 miles towards lower latitudes; for example from Oslo to Northern Germany." In other words, a Norwegian moving from Oslo to Hamburg, in Germany, hardly a life-threatening move, would be exposing himself or herself to an 22% increase in ultraviolet radiation (Figure 4).

But there are all these cases of skin cancer in Australia and New Zealand due to the ozone hole, the pseudo-scientists argue. Again, they lie. UV radiation increases 5,000% from

FIGURE 5

Ultraviolet radiation and skin cancer vary with latitude, season, and climate



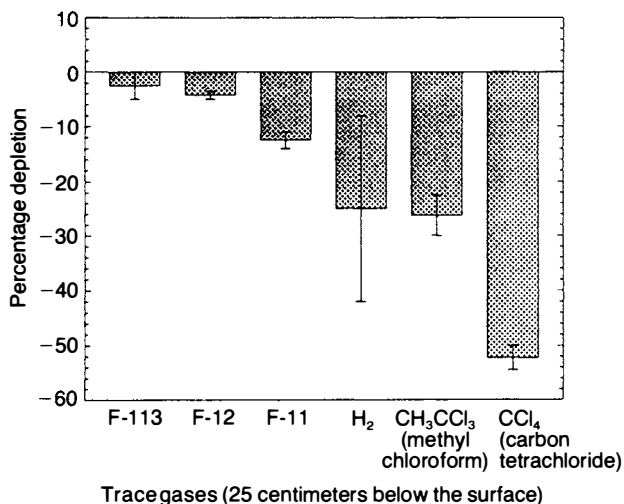
Source: *21st Century Science & Technology*. Adapted from J.D. Everall, "Distribution and General Factors Causing Chronic Actinic Dermatitis," in: *Research In Photobiology*, Amleto Castellani, ed. (New York: Plenum, 1977).

Caucasians living in Australia have high rates of skin cancer, because levels of effective UV radiation in Australia are more than twice those in Philadelphia, or England. The environmentalists hysterically allege that "ozone depletion" is causing a skin cancer epidemic in Australia, but the fact is that white-skinned Europeans have settled a continent where the intensity of UV radiation is 200 to 300% greater than in their original lands. By comparison, the predicted 10% increase in ultraviolet due to ozone depletion is rather insignificant. Australian aborigines, meanwhile, do not suffer from skin cancer, because their dark skins, appropriate for the tropics, effectively filter the ultraviolet.

the Poles to the Equator. A move by white-skinned Anglo-Saxons to Australia and New Zealand means an increased UV exposure of between 250% and 500%. Under such an increased exposure, white-skinned people will suffer an increase in skin cancers. For the same reason, the ozone hoaxsters never mention that skin cancer is a nearly unknown disease in dark- and black-skinned individuals. They have adequate sun protection for the tropics (Figure 5).

The ozone hoaxsters are also being challenged on one of their most "solid" claims, that CFCs in the atmosphere can only be broken up by UV radiation in the stratosphere. Two of

FIGURE 6
Soils destroy significant amounts of CFCs



Source: 21st Century Science & Technology. Adapted from M.A.K. Khali and R.A. Rasmussen, "The Potential of Soils As a Sink of Chlorofluorocarbons and other Man-Made Chlorocarbons," *Geophysical Research Letters* 16:679 (July 1989).

Significant depletion of CFCs—especially methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride—occurs a short distance below the soil surface, as this graph shows. As yet, the processes destroying the CFCs are unknown. For instance, the concentration of carbon tetrachloride just 25 centimeters below the surface of the soil is only 50% of that of the ambient air concentration. It is possible that certain types of soil have microorganisms that scavenge chlorine from CFCs to use metabolically. Several scientists interested in pursuing this discovery have had their requests for funding rejected.

the world's most distinguished atmospheric chemists, Aslam Khalil and Reinhold Rasmussen, discovered that there are processes occurring in soils in Australia and rice paddies in the people's republic of China which destroy CFCs and other chlorocarbons, as much as perhaps 20% of the CFCs released into the air (Figure 6).

More recently, Dean Hegg from the University of Washington in Seattle published a paper reviewing the results of a study on emissions of trace gases from biomass gases. To their surprise, the scientists discovered that large quantities of CFCs were being emitted in the smoke plumes of fires! Well, trees don't produce CFCs; where are they coming from?

Hegg et al. state, "The high emissions of NO_x [nitrogen oxides] and F12 [freon 12, a CFC], are due in whole or in part to the resuspension of previously deposited pollutants. Since this can be the only source of F12 in the smoke from fires, deposition may be a significant sink for F12." There is another possibility: CFCs are not very soluble in water, one

of the reasons they are supposedly invulnerable. However, plant tissue is very rich in lipoproteins, which have a solubility 300 to 400 times greater than water. It is very likely that large quantities of CFCs have been absorbed into plant tissues, and are being released when the plants burn.

But then, why are CFCs being destroyed in soil? There are entire families of bacteria and microbes that break up chlorine atoms from halogenated compounds to use in their metabolism. Environmental microbiologists have been studying these de-halogenating bacteria for years, and have conducted full field tests at toxic waste sites, where large concentrations of carbon tetrachloride, a carcinogen, were completely consumed by these bacteria. Some of the leading environmental microbiologists in the United States have examined whether these bacteria can also destroy CFCs, and found out that indeed, bacteria in oxygen-poor soils, such as swamps, do seek out and destroy CFCs in the process of respiration.

Secrets of the Antarctic 'ozone hole'

That is not all, however. The Antarctic ozone hole, the big ace of the ozone hoaxsters, may turn out to be a joker after all.

It should be noted that Sherwood Rowland's ozone depletion theory never predicted the existence of the hole, nor can it account for it. Therefore, some complex chemistry was concocted after its discovery by Mario Molina to explain its existence. This new chemistry, the so-called dimer, or heterogeneous chemistry, is ripped to pieces in a recent scientific paper by Igor J. Eberstein of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Eberstein demonstrates conclusively that the dimer chemistry concocted by Molina cannot work in the real world. So, the ozone hoaxsters are left with no mechanism by which CFCs can deplete ozone in Antarctica.

Furthermore, a recent scientific paper demonstrates that the ozone hole precedes the widespread use of CFCs. Writing in the November 1990 issue of *Annales Geophysicae*, the leading European scientific journal for the atmospheric sciences, two French scientists have demonstrated that the Antarctic "ozone hole" not only existed in 1958, but levels of ozone depletion were even greater then than now. The French scientists, P. Rigaud and B. Leroy, report ozone readings from the French Antarctic Observatory at Dumont d'Urville. The station, located several hundred miles away from Halley Bay in Antarctica, had been measuring ozone levels since 1958, and the data had been recorded and published in the scientific literature in the 1960s, but surprisingly, no one had looked back at these data recently. What Rigaud and Leroy discovered, is that in 1958, ozone levels took a precipitous decline in August and September, reaching values of as low as 110 dobson units, values lower than those being recorded today!

The French scientists state, "Ozone spectrographic measurements, using stars, moon or blue sky as light sources,

have been performed in 1958 at Dumont d'Urville (66°40'S). Reexamination of the data shows that a strong minimum of the total ozone content has been observed that year in the Southern spring time. This suggests a natural phenomenon to explain the Antarctic 'ozone hole.'

They report that an "ozone hole" appeared in September and the beginning of October 1958, "before a spectacular recovery of the ozone concentration between Oct. 8 and 21. The polar vortex breakdown in 1958 occurred between Oct. 5 and 20."

What could explain this dramatic drop to 110 dobson units recorded at the Dumont d'Urville station, while at Halley Bay the readings were around 250 dobson units? The French scientists state that in 1958, "the center of the polar vortex [was] near Dumont d'Urville at the end of winter and far from Halley Bay. The situation is the opposite of the one observed in the recent years. Since the 'ozone hole' is observed in the polar vortex this could explain why this phenomenon was undetected in 1958 at Halley Bay." In other words, the polar vortex was in a completely different location in 1958 than it is today.

The French data show that while at Halley Bay the values of ozone were not that low, in another part of the vortex, closer to the center, the values of ozone dropped precipitously, to values as low, and in many cases lower, than those being recorded today. This was 33 years ago, when CFCs were barely in use.

The French scientists also have a very interesting hypothesis as to what causes the "ozone hole," having to do with the optical properties of light traveling through the atmosphere. "At Dumont d'Urville," they state, "atmospheric illumination is crepuscular for a long time. The Sun culminates at +5° of elevation on Aug. 1 and at +15° on Sept. 1. In this case the destruction cycles of the ozone are very important because of the successive arrival of the different wavelengths of the solar radiation."

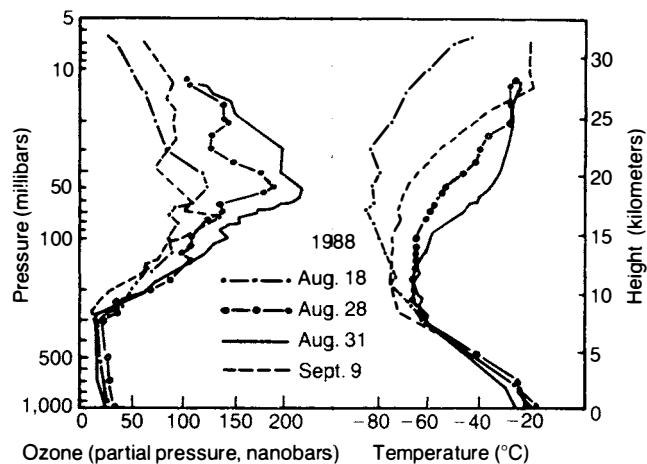
They continue, "As shown by Hoffmann and Rosen (1985), the major volcanic eruptions affect the Antarctic stratospheric aerosol layer. It is known that such large eruptions took place in recent years at Mt. St. Helens in 1980 and at El Chichón in 1982, but also at Bezymianny in 1956, two years before the measurements made at Dumont d'Urville. The perturbations of this aerosol layer could therefore partly explain the 'ozone hole' owing for example to an unknown heterogeneous chemistry or to a change in the illumination of the twilight and therefore to a change in the photodissociation rates of the species."

In other words, depletion of ozone could be due to changes in stratospheric chemistry brought on by large volcanic explosions, either through chemical changes in the vortex itself, or to changes in the wavelengths of light as they travel through the Earth's atmosphere at an oblique angle, before they strike Antarctica.

The conclusion of the French scientists is that "reexami-

FIGURE 7

Ozone abundance is directly related to temperature



Source: 21st Century Science & Technology. Adapted from Hiroshi Kanzawa and Sadao Kawaguchi, "Large Stratospheric Sudden Warming in Antarctic Late Winter and Shallow Ozone Hole in 1988," *Geophysical Research Letters* 17:77 (Jan. 1990).

The so-called ozone hole appears when the stratosphere is cold, and disappears when it warms up. The abundance of ozone is directly related to the temperature of the stratosphere, as can be seen in these vertical profiles of ozone (in partial pressure) and temperature measured at Antarctica's Syowa Station in 1988. On days when the stratosphere's temperature was relatively warm—Aug. 28 and 21—ozone was very abundant. During the cold days that preceded and followed the warm spell—Aug. 18 and Sept. 9—the ozone layer thinned out.

Pioneer ozone researcher Gordon Dobson described the ozone thinning in the 1950s as largely a dynamic phenomenon with great dependence on stratospheric temperatures and planetary wave patterns.

nation of the ozone spectrographic data obtained at Dumont d'Urville in 1958 shows that the 'ozone hole' was already present that year in September. Although chlorofluorocarbon production was already increasing in 1958, its abundance was far from the concentration today. Therefore, the existence of an Antarctic ozone depletion above Dumont d'Urville in September 1958, suggests the natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions also contribute to ozone destruction."

International experts concur

It may be the Japanese who dealt the ozone hoaxsters the final blow. It was the leader of Japan's Polar Research Institute, Prof. Shigeru Chubachi, who discovered the increase in the Southern Anomaly—now called the ozone hole—in 1982. The ozone hole was originally discovered in 1956 by ozone pioneer researcher Gordon Dobson and his

students. Dobson discovered that a severe depletion of ozone occurs in Antarctica in the beginning of the spring season. The Japanese, in a paper published in 1983, and in international conferences afterwards, reported that the anomaly discovered by Dobson had increased. It was not until two years later, in May 1985, that Joseph Farman of the British Antarctic Survey, reported the same phenomenon, falsely claiming credit for the "discovery" of the "ozone hole."

In contrast to their hysterical counterparts at NASA (the Ozone Club, as they are known), Japanese scientists maintain that the ozone hole is a perfectly natural phenomenon. A scientific paper by Hiroshi Kanzawa and Sadeo Kawaguchi demonstrates that the dynamics of the atmosphere plays a critical role in the formation, length, depth, and later breakup of the Antarctic ozone hole (Figures 7 and 8).

The *coup de grace* may have been administered by a group of Italian scientists. Mario Moreno from the Istituto di Fisica della Atmosfera (Institute of Atmospheric Physics) and his collaborators report that "while the current view accounts for the ozone depletion entirely in terms of chemical and dynamic processes occurring in the atmosphere, we show that the present experimental evidence relies favorably on the contribution of geomagnetic phenomena such as aurorae, induced by solar-related disturbances." What the ozone hoaxsters carefully kept from the public is that Earth's magnetic fields channel the most intense energy particles from the Sun and the rest of the galaxy to two spots, the North and South Poles. Thus, the incredibly complex atmospheric phenomena that occur at the poles are completely different from anything else on the face of the Earth, and very much related to solar and geomagnetic fluctuations.

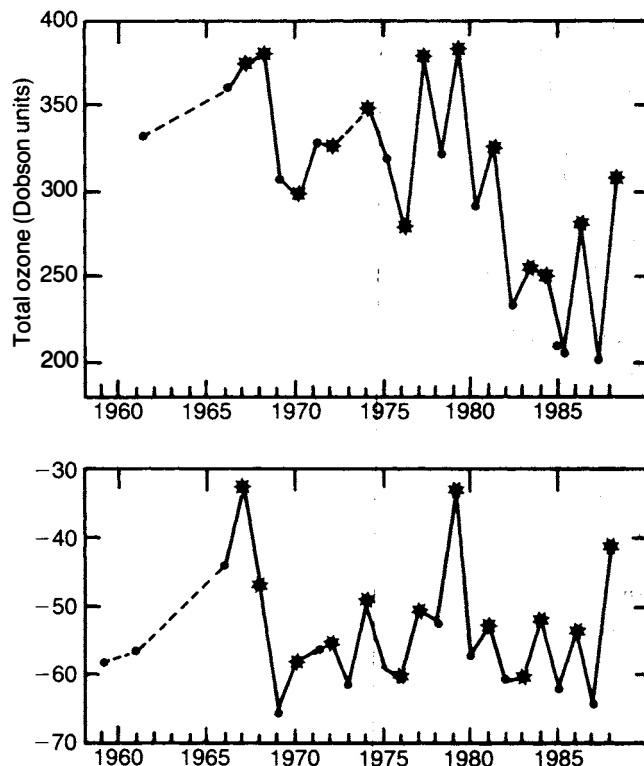
In conclusion, with all the scientific evidence now available, it is clear that the sky may be falling on the ozone Chicken Littles, ending the reign of terror they created.

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FIGURE 8

Tracking the ozone anomaly in Antarctica



Source: *21st Century Science & Technology*. Adapted from Hiroshi Kanzawa and Sadeo Kawaguchi, "Large Stratospheric Sudden Warming in Antarctic Late Winter and Shallow Ozone Hole in 1988," *Geophysical Research Letters* 17:77 (Jan. 1990).

The ozone-anomaly at the South Pole is explained by natural, dynamical causes, without resort to exotic chemistry concerning man-made CFCs. These data from Japan's Syowa station in Antarctica show that planetary wave activity is strong enough to penetrate the Antarctic vortex and, together with warm stratospheric temperatures, bring about high concentrations of ozone. Yearly variations in the monthly mean values of total ozone (top) and October monthly mean values of temperature (bottom) are plotted for 1960-85. (Broken lines indicate missing years.)

The asterisks and solid circles denote the easterly wind phase and the westerly wind phase, respectively, of the equatorial quasi-biennial oscillation (QBO), a phenomenon in which upper atmospheric planetary waves change direction every two years. During the westerly phase of the QBO, planetary wave activity is weak, which means the Antarctic vortex is much stronger. Together with colder temperatures in the stratosphere, this brings about a significant depletion of the ozone layer.

Note that ozone concentrations in 1988 were higher than those in 1975, and almost as high as those in 1960.

Bush carves out 'Kurdistan,' opens new front in war

by Joseph Brewda

Moving right on schedule, U.S. President George Bush announced at a Washington press conference on April 15 that the combined military forces of the U.S., Britain, and France would be entering northern Iraq that week. The publicly stated reason for the "intervention" this time was neither an occupied Kuwait nor presumed threats against Saudi Arabia, but rather the alleged Iraqi repression of millions of Kurds now living in horrifying conditions on Iraq's Turkish and Iranian borders. Bush said that the troop deployment was a "purely humanitarian operation" to provide "adequate security" for the Kurds. Professed concern for oppressed minorities has been a frequent justification for European and American imperial invasions over the last two centuries.

Following the press conference, Pentagon officials reported that some 10,000 U.S. troops, with the assistance of 3,000 British and 1,000 French forces, would be constructing "five or six encampments" for the Kurds within two weeks, as far south as Mosul. That same day, Gen. Martin Brandtner, operations director of the Pentagon, reported that Iraqi troops had been "ordered" by the U.S. government to "cease and desist and evacuate" northern Iraq—one of the world's most oil-rich regions. Threatening renewed combat, Brandtner stated that "if we see Iraqi forces" in this region, "obviously that's going to be a decision point."

What has been called a hastily made Bush administration decision actually follows two weeks of an international media campaign on the mass death of Iraqi Kurds, which censored even a reference to the rest of the Iraqi people, who are also facing death by starvation and epidemics. This genocide is the result of 120,000 U.S.-led bombing sorties, which deliberately destroyed all means of life throughout the country—including in the Kurdish regions. An aborted Kurdish insurrection, funded and armed by the CIA, and efforts by these CIA leaders to stampede the Kurds to the Turkish border,

have added to this general problem.

Earlier in April, British Prime Minister John Major threatened use of force if Iraq were to resist the establishment of a "Kurdish enclave" in the long-sought-after oil region, while French President François Mitterrand claimed to be outraged about "genocide"—for which he is, in fact, responsible together with Bush and Major. On April 15, the European Community adopted a German proposal calling for convening a war-crimes tribunal against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in order to provide a further propagandistic cover for intervention.

Kissinger proclaims permanent occupation

In an interview with the *New York Times* that appeared on April 18, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger outlined the script that the Bush administration is now following. Kissinger, Bush's former boss and mentor, speaks for those British and American elite institutions which run the Bush administration.

"We should not delude ourselves that this is something we can do for a month and then walk away from," Kissinger stated on the militarily run "humanitarian intervention." "We can protect these people for a while," Kissinger stated, "but the basic problem will be either to get a government into Baghdad that one can trust to treat these Kurds differently than they've been treated for decades or get some kind of international regimen that limits the capacity of the Iraqi government for repression in the Kurdish area." He added, quite correctly, that either course "would be a major intervention in what has heretofore been considered the domestic affairs of another country."

Kissinger knows what he is talking about. Back when he was secretary of state during the Nixon administration, Kissinger personally ordered Kurdish leader Mustapha Bar-

zani to lead an insurrection in the same region that the U.S. military is now intending to occupy, in order to weaken the Iraqi central government. Barzani's sons, who are on the CIA payroll as their father had been, are the leaders of the Kurdish revolt today. Not surprisingly, Izzedine Barawi, a spokesman for the Barzani brothers' Kurdish Democratic Party, praised the Bush measure as "an initial step to protect the refugees inside the Iraqi territories," adding that what was further needed was "a permanent solution for the Kurdish problem."

That the Anglo-American-French abuse of the Kurdish plight might be used to violate the territorial integrity of other states in the region, and not just Iraq, was also hinted at by Kissinger, who told the *New York Times* that the creation of an "international regimen" could lead to "conflict" between Washington and Turkey, Syria, and Iran, which also have large Kurdish minorities.

The idea of using the Kurds, among other ethnic minorities, to obliterate Mideast states, had been first articulated in its modern form by British intelligence official and Princeton University Prof. Bernard Lewis. This plan was adopted with a vengeance by the Kissinger-initiated civil war in Lebanon, which began in 1976. In an April 14 commentary in the *Wall Street Journal* on the implications of the recent Gulf war, Lewis noted, "It may turn out that the civil war that destroyed Lebanon was a pilot project for the whole region, and that with very few exceptions, states will disintegrate into a chaos of squabbling, feuding, fighting sects."

Imperialists redefine national sovereignty

One of the main reasons for the intervention is that it savagely limits the traditional definition of national sovereignty to that amenable to the new form of Anglo-American imperialism.

According to an April 14 *Washington Post* article by Mario Bettati, the former dean of the University of Paris-South law school, this concept of limiting a state's sovereignty under the guise of pressing human rights concerns, had been first crafted by the French Foreign Ministry. Bettati reports that the idea was first raised at a 1987 conference attended by François Mitterrand and his activist wife Danièle, Gaullist leader and Mayor of Paris Jacques Chirac, and other notables. The event was sponsored by his own university together with a group called Médecins du Monde, which is now active on the Turkish-Iraq border. French Foreign Ministry officials Bernard Kouchner and Jean-Marc Rochereau de la Sablière were principal patrons of the concept. Kouchner is now overseeing the French "humanitarian" effort (see p. 36).

The Dec. 7, 1988 Soviet Armenian earthquake crisis was the first implementation of this plot to limit the concept of national sovereignty, Bettati reports. Under this pretext, the French pushed through the U.N. the notion that foreign-based, non-governmental organizations had a legally defined

role to play in "natural disasters and similar emergency situations"—which Bettati describes as "a catch-all phrase that was ambiguous enough to cover what we had in mind." The resolution made it possible for these non-governmental relief workers to enter Armenia without visas, which was previously impossible.

This was the first step toward changing the definition of sovereignty to become what was put forward in the April 5 U.N. Resolution 688. That French-sponsored resolution defined the alleged Iraqi repression of Kurds within its own borders as an "international concern," which allowed external military intervention. Henceforth, any claimed repression of any internal minority by any state could be considered the legal justification for a U.N.-sanctioned invasion. On April 17, for example, a representative of the South Yanomami tribe of Brazil held a press conference in Washington on the Brazilian "repression" of Indian rights. The resolution is the legal cover under which the Anglo-Americans and French have launched their occupation of northern Iraq. It could be the legal pretext under which they invade Brazil tomorrow (see p. 47, "Report from Rio.")

In order to ensure that this novel concept of sovereignty holds, the Bush administration is sponsoring an effort to replace the outgoing U.N. Secretary General, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, himself a U.S. stooge, by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, a British intelligence agent and Bush tennis partner. The Anglo-Americans began the drive to install the Ismaili sect leader shortly after Undersecretary General Martti Ahtisaari issued a report calling for emergency assistance for all of Iraq which he stated had been bombed back into a "pre-industrial age." (Ahtisaari's full report appeared in *EIR*, April 12.)

On April 16, the Iraqi government, still facing an international embargo on the sale of its products, asked permission from the U.N. to sell \$1 billion of oil to finance the desperately needed purchase of food. On the same day that he proclaimed his "humanitarian" military occupation of northern Iraq, Bush rejected the Iraqi plea. "Let these [Kurdish] refugees be settled in flat areas" in Iraq by the U.S. military, Bush told the press, "then I might be willing to consider something else."

And what are the conditions in central and southern Iraq that Bush "might consider" alleviating sometime in the future? "Thousands of children, weak, and elderly people will die from starvation," Dr. Martin Houmoeller-Joergensen of the relief organization of the Danish state church told the Danish press upon his return from Iraq on April 7. "What I saw in Baghdad during the week I was there, reminded me of the symptoms I know from starving Africa. . . . Nobody in Baghdad knows if the major epidemics have already broken out. Due to the precision bombings during Operation Desert Storm, there is no electricity and therefore no functioning laboratories. It is even impossible to do the necessary tests to determine whether the diarrhea is due to cholera."

Stakes in Gorbachov's Tokyo trip are high

by Konstantin George

For the U.S.S.R. and its present leadership, the stakes in the three days of meetings behind closed doors in Tokyo, on April 16-18, between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov and Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu, are as high as one could imagine. While from news available late in the day of April 18, a "breakthrough" in Soviet-Japanese relations can be ruled out, the critical unanswered question was whether enough progress had been made in three days of nearly round-the-clock talks to set the stage for a breakthrough in the near future.

The obstacle, as is well known, is the fate of the four southernmost islands of the Kurile Chain, lying directly north of Japan, and under Russian occupation since 1945. As of this writing, April 18, the talks had gone into an unprecedented sixth round (three rounds more than initially planned), in the effort to, at least, create the preconditions for rapid followup talks to settle the future of the disputed four Kurile islands. Japan has made any package of aid and investment contingent on Moscow's return of the islands to Japan.

Gorbachov's Japan visit coincided with an escalating series of mass strikes and plant closures in the U.S.S.R., which reproduce a level of internal chaos reminiscent of the paralysis that gripped Russia during the tumultuous days of 1904-05. The success or failure of the Japan visit will be decisive with respect to whether that social chaos can be averted.

The Soviets showed how serious they were, in the non-Kurile initiatives taken by Gorbachov. In his April 17 speech to the Japanese Diet, or parliament, he proposed an "Asia-Pacific Security Zone" to be supervised by five equal partners: the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A., along with Japan, China, and India. Gorbachov also announced that between now and the end of this year, 200,000 Soviet military personnel would leave East Asia, including 12 Army divisions. This was elaborated the next day through a Soviet pledge, to be included in the final joint communiqué, that Moscow would heavily reduce its military forces in the Kurile Islands, thus removing one very sore point in Soviet-Japanese relations.

A glimpse of the grandiose economic scale of what a breakthrough could mean was provided by Gorbachov in his speech to the Diet, and in remarks to leading Japanese businessmen that same day. He invited massive Japanese investments to develop the infrastructure, oil, natural gas, and industry of the Soviet Far East and Sakhalin, and to modernize the Soviet machine tool industry. At a Tokyo press conference, April 16, a personal adviser to Gorbachov,

Arkadi Volski, made public a Soviet proposal for joint Soviet-Japanese construction and running of a nuclear power plant on the disputed island of Shikotan. According to the French daily *Le Monde*, April 17, Gorbachov also raised the prospect of building a second Trans-Siberian Railway to Japanese businessmen.

Soviet interest in procuring Japanese help for ultra-modern rail projects was reflected in the last leg of Gorbachov's Japan itinerary: at his request, he will ride the high-speed rail line from Tokyo to Kyoto.

Domestic military pressures

Gorbachov's dilemma is that while he desperately wants a settlement of the Kuriles issue, his leeway to compromise toward meeting Japan's demands is severely limited by the constraints of his domestic political situation. Gorbachov is willing "in principle" to return these islands to Japanese sovereignty in long-term stages, but because of the adamancy of the Soviet Army command, he cannot allow Japan to physically take possession of the islands, or at least not of all of them. Both before and during his stay in Japan, public statements from military leaders, ranging from Defense Minister Yazov to Far East District commander General Novozhilov, rejected any transfer of the islands.

In Moscow, before the visit, two possible face-saving formulas were leaked. As reflected in an April 15 *Izvestia* commentary by Aleksandr Bovin, one formula would be to return to a Soviet declaration of 1956, where Moscow had agreed to immediately return the two smaller islands, Habomai and Shikotan, and then work out a very long-term solution for the two larger islands, Etorofu and Kunashiri. On this latter question, Soviet officials have been intimating that a "Hong Kong" solution might be possible, where, after a long interim period these two islands revert juridically to Japan, but for an even longer time, Russia would continue to administer them.

Chaos menaces U.S.S.R.

Whatever the final outcome of the Japan visit, the number one global crisis is the one inside the Soviet Union. The strike wave, led by the now seven-week-old U.S.S.R.-wide coal strike, is crippling industry across the country, and has brought the economy to the brink of total collapse. Gorbachov, in a speech in the Soviet Far East city of Khabarovsk, before departing for Tokyo, said: "We are literally talking about a matter of days and weeks." The point was stressed again in an April 16 commentary by the Soviet news agency TASS, which cited the growing shutdown of steel production caused by the coal strike as having already created a "disastrous effect" on machine building and other heavy industry: "This will affect every branch of the economy, including agriculture. Spare parts for agricultural machinery are particularly scarce now, at the height of the spring planting season."

TASS reported that in March alone, strikes had caused a

loss of "1,169,000 working days," and the toll for April would be far, far higher. The gloomy, but all too accurate conclusion: "If strikes continue . . . we shall face complete economic collapse."

Beginning April 22, at least three new social explosions and economic disorders are on the agenda. These are:

1) The expiration of the 10-day strike suspension proclaimed by the strike committee of the republic of Belorussia. If no settlement is reached in that timeframe, then a general strike of all industry in the republic commences.

2) The expiration of the one-week strike deadline given by the steel and industrial workers of the Urals heavy industry center of Chelyabinsk and, the threat of a general strike in the Urals industrial center of Sverdlovsk.

3) The prospect for an indefinite extension of the general strike of industry that began April 16 in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, which has closed the city's 15 leading industrial enterprises.

On top of this, the number of closures of steel and metal-working plants throughout the U.S.S.R., should the coal

strike continue, will have reached critical mass.

According to April 17 announcements, the Independent Trade Unions of Russia have scheduled a Russia-wide general strike warning strike for Friday April 26, and, on the same day, if no settlement is reached, there is the threat of a strike by the country's oil and gas industry workers. That strike alone would bring the entire economy to a standstill in a matter of days.

This reality puts Gorbachov's Japan visit into perspective. The potential Japanese contribution to developing Soviet infrastructure, energy resources, and modernizing machine tool and other industries, in the form of financial assistance and direct investment, could mount up to \$30 billion or more. This, coupled with prospects for similar "great project"-oriented cooperation with united Germany, may or may not succeed in stabilizing the Soviet Union. However, without such a large-scale joint input, no solution to the crisis is even imaginable, and the U.S.S.R. is condemned to plunge into an irreversible spiral of economic, political, and social chaos.

No breakthrough in sight

The Gorbachov-Kaifu summit will likely go down as a lost opportunity to forge a new political and economic framework for an Asian prosperity zone serving the interests of the U.S.S.R., Japan, and the other Pacific Rim nations. Such an arrangement had formed the core of the Russian, Japanese, French, and German policies of the late 19th century, when large-scale Eurasian development projects had been advocated by top officials in the Meiji court, as well as by France's Foreign Minister Gabriel Hanotaux and his Russian counterpart Count Sergei Witte. American political economist Lyndon LaRouche Jr. recently proposed that the revival of that Hanotaux-Witte-Meiji plan is the only basis for preserving peace in Eurasia.

When this writer was in Tokyo in February, Japanese government officials had expressed deep concern over the apparent hardline tilt of the Soviet government, reflected in the bloody crackdowns against the Baltic republics. That shift, the Japanese said, boded ill for a resolution of the northern island issue. It also revived Japanese fears of Soviet military preponderance in the north Pacific. The northern islands serve as a forward base for the Soviet armed forces, helping keep the Sea of Okhotsk a Soviet lake with protected access to the Pacific and the Sea of Japan—a position the Soviet military insists on keeping.

The shifts in Moscow policy, combined with the unraveling of the economic fabric of the Soviet Union, have tended to drive the Kaifu government into greater subservience to the Bush administration—despite growing anti-American attitudes among the Japanese people in the wake of the Gulf war. When Prime Minister Kaifu met with President Bush in California just 12 days before the Gorbachov trip to Tokyo, he was reportedly urged to commit significant Japanese capital investments to the Mexican-American free trade pact through financing of American corporate ventures in Mexico. While Bush reportedly was "sympathetic" to Gorbachov's dilemma and encouraged Kaifu to develop closer ties to Moscow, he also reportedly made it clear that Japan should not pursue an independent Asian security policy that weakened the bilateral defense ties between Washington and Tokyo. Asian sources have confirmed to *EIR* that the Japanese business community is committed, at least in the short term, to a continued bailout of the U.S.

As one well-placed former diplomat put it: "After paying out \$14 billion to the Gulf war chest, the Japanese, believe it or not, are running out of investment capital. They don't really have the funds to launch a major capital investment program in the Soviet Union—even if the Kurile Islands controversy were to be settled." Just before Gorbachov's arrival in Tokyo, the large Japanese trading company Marubeni postponed plans to open an office in Vladivostok, citing "an abrupt about-face in Soviet policy and the rise of conservatives in the Soviet leadership" as the reason, according to a Kyodo wire.—*Jeffrey Steinberg*

France lashes Iraqi national sovereignty

by Katherine Notley

While the U.S. and Great Britain take the point for United Nations-sanctioned acts of war against Iraq, the government of French President François Mitterrand has been working hard behind the scenes to rewrite international law to give cover for Anglo-American imperialism. Using the excuse of providing emergency aid to the Iraqi Kurds, the French government presented a resolution to the U.N. Security Council condemning "repression of Iraqi civilian populations . . . including most recently in the Kurdish populated areas" and insisting that "Iraq permit immediate access by international humanitarian organizations to all those who need assistance in all parts of Iraq." Resolution 688 passed the Security Council April 5 (see *EIR*, April 19 for full text). The resolution and its motivation put a fine point on geopolitical cynicism: Both President Mitterrand and his Foreign Minister Roland Dumas have unrelentingly made clear that their purpose is to sanctify the "duty for humanitarian intervention" as international law. Mitterrand even went so far, at one point, as to insist that France would undertake this "duty" alone, if the U.N. Security Council balked.

Worse, the resolution itself forces the Iraqi government to admit that it has committed repression as a condition for obtaining aid for its own Kurdish citizens.

Perfidious Mitterrand

The April 10 issue of the liberal daily *Le Monde*, praising the success of Mitterrand and Dumas, emphasized the principle of intervention behind the "humanitarian" cover: "Such an intervention presupposes . . . the passing of the sacrosanct independence of the state, the iron law of international life. As Mr. Mitterrand underlined [April 8] in a subtle distinction, the sovereignty of Iraq is not being called into question in principle, but only in its 'practice.' "

A press statement the same day from France's Washington embassy calls Resolution 688 "an important event on the international scene: For the first time it puts the role of the national sovereignty of states in balance with the basic rights of individuals and ethnic groups," and goes on to quote Dumas's April 6 remarks, "I hope this will create a precedent." Dumas continued, "Of course, we must respect the rights of states to manage their own domestic affairs. But at the same time, the international community cannot remain indifferent when a blatant crime is committed against a population. The

notion of crimes against humanity became a legal principle after World War II. Now is a good time to reap the consequences of this."

If this last sounds like a swipe at France's newly united German neighbor, whose reluctance to join the Desert Storm-troopers infuriated other NATO allies, consider that France also called for an emergency session of the Western European Union, the defense organization of nine of the European Community's members, which France now chairs. At the April 8 session, France called for the WEU to "coordinate the logistics of the Community's aid to Iraqi civilians," i.e., continue NATO military out-of-area deployments under a different guise. The effect on Germany, which is struggling to stabilize the economy of its looted eastern states, is obvious.

While he was happy to deploy the WEU's resources on behalf of "humanitarian interventionism," Mitterrand told the *Ecole de Guerre* on April 11 that such intervention would not be possible to solve the problems of every ethnic group in Eastern Europe.

'Endangered peoples'

The term "duty for humanitarian intervention" was first coined in September 1988 by French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Action Bernard Kouchner, after Iran made charges that Iraq had gassed the Kurds. (Dr. Kouchner is a founding member of both private groups Médecins du Monde and Médecins sans Frontières.) It was given currency in Mitterrand's speech that month to the U.N. General Assembly. The concept was given greater force on Dec. 8, 1988, when France successfully sought a U.N. resolution ostensibly on behalf of the Armenian earthquake victims. It was at that same General Assembly session, on Dec. 7 that Mikhail Gorbachov called for a "new world order" based on international environmentalist law.

The French government boasts the right to intervene into a nation's internal affairs to protect "endangered peoples" going back to a Jan. 26, 1987 speech of Mitterrand's, in which he declared, "The first human right is the right to life, and the first duty is to provide assistance to a person in danger, a population threatened by perils." This remark was elaborated in *Le Monde* of April 7-8: "Meantime, from the revolution in Romania to the famine in Sudan, the idea of the right to assistance for endangered peoples, transcending the sovereignty of states, became more familiar to all."

Clearly there's little to stop France from mobilizing to save any of its "endangered peoples" of the day, although, for the moment, "there has been a special concern in France for the Kurdish people, which has often been denied the elementary rights of existence as a community." The April 10 press statement continues, "A person who has repeatedly intervened on behalf of these people is Mrs. Danièle Mitterrand . . . in her quality as president of the Foundation 'France-Libertés.' "

'New order' elites openly push genocide

by Mark Burdman

In those parts of the world where holocausts are raging, whether it be cholera in Ibero-America, famine in Africa, or unending wars in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, it is children, particularly infants, who are the first to die. Any impartial observer would have to conclude that the emerging "new world order" touted by George Bush, has as its main feature the reduction of the world's population.

That the core of the new world order is radical malthusianism, is confirmed by several of the chief conceptual architects of Anglo-American policies. For example, on April 10, Sir Crispin Tickell, who served as the British ambassador to the U.N. in the first days of the Gulf crisis (until his term expired), told the London *Independent* that a key policy priority now, was for the United States to drop the Reagan-era aversion to radical population control measures, and to play a leading role in bringing such measures to implementation. He warned that "escalating population growth is acknowledged as one of the most serious causes of increase in greenhouse gases and global warming."

From 1987 to 1990, Sir Crispin had coordinated meetings at his penthouse apartment in New York, of the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. His efforts laid the groundwork for the "Five" (U.S., Britain, France, China, and the Soviets) to operate as a coordinating agency during the recent Gulf crisis, virtually as a world government, within hours of Iraq's move into Kuwait.

A controller of Thatcher

Tickell is not Thatcher's servant, but rather one of her controllers. It was he who converted her to the "green-ecology" worldview some years back. Since the mid-1970s, he has been one of the pioneers in propagating the "greenhouse effect-global warming" mythologies, having written a seminal book in 1977 entitled *Climate Change and World Affairs*. After leaving his U.N. post, he chaired a conference at the elite Ditchley Park estate near Oxford on the theme, "Global Climate Change and Its Implications."

His April 10 comments to the *Independent* were made following the release by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences of a report entitled "Policy Implications of Greenhouse Warming," for which report Sir Crispin served on the advisory panel. He told the *Independent* that "drastic changes" in energy policies, reflecting the "social cost" of the environment, were now necessary because "everyone agrees that greenhouse warming is on its way, and that it is too late to

try to avoid it. Therefore we must mitigate and adapt."

Certainly, what has become known as "global ecologism" is the *policy content* of the new world order.

A friend of Bush laid out the malthusian orientation in a late-January speech. William H. Draper III, administrator of the U.N. Development Program, told the International Development Conference in Washington that the core of the new world order should be population reduction. Draper affirmed, "As a rich nation, the United States must contribute to a global campaign to keep human population in harmony with its natural resources. The alternative will be further degradation of the fragile outer layers and atmosphere of our planet and America will not be spared the consequences." The U.S. was key, he said, since American "leadership and strength" were required "to establish a new atmosphere, a new world order." Within days of Draper's remarks, Bush launched the bombardment that destroyed Iraq's infrastructure.

William Draper III is a scion of the notorious family which established one of the chief malthusian policy institutions in the U.S., the Draper Fund/Population Crisis Committee complex. His father, the late Col. William Draper, was a close associate of Prescott Bush, George Bush's father. William Draper III is a good friend of George Bush.

Bombs 'for birth control in Iraq'

An astonishing expression of the malthusian mentality is an article by University of Colorado anthropologist Warren Hern, purporting to prove that human population growth is to the Earth's environment what the growth of cancer cells is to the human body! This filth was published in the magazine *Science*, organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was given feature publicity in the April 7 *Welt am Sonntag*, a newspaper in the Axel Springer chain in Germany. The Springer chain fanatically supported Bush's war in the Gulf, against the tide of majority anti-war sentiment in Germany.

Hern's is hardly an isolated outburst. In the weeks prior to the outbreak of the Gulf war, the British press, particularly the *Times*, was publicizing a debate in the U.K. over a proposal by Sir Graham Hills, chancellor of the University of Strathclyde, for putting contraceptive substances into the world food supply in order to reduce population growth in the developing world. At the same time, the magazine of the British medical profession, *Lancet*, was musing about the propriety of denying health care to children in the Third World. Similar ideas have long been popularized by Prince Philip, international president of the World Wide Fund for Nature, who has expressed his wish to be reincarnated as a deadly virus so that he could reduce world population.

When the war in the Gulf erupted, the Italian magazine *Panorama* reported that an American pilot had written the following on a bomb: "For birth control in Iraq." Bush is implementing by military means the policies advocated by these creatures.

Germany sees India as bridge to South

by Mary Burdman

German President Richard von Weizsäcker's emphasis on the importance of German-Indian cooperation for all North-South relations, during his state visit to India Feb. 28-March 6, was greeted with equal warmth by India. The President's visit was a "very appropriate and symbolic event," India's ambassador to Bonn, A. Madhavan, who accompanied him in India, told *EIR* April 18. "We have a very good feeling for Germany in India," the ambassador said.

Germany is India's fourth-largest trading partner, while the European Community altogether buys 25% of Indian exports, the U.S. accounts for 16%, and Japan 10%. India is the single largest receiver of German development aid, because of the two nations' historic relations, and India's size, population, and great need, a spokesman of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation said April 17. Germany has found "very good performance" on all but a few of its projects in India, he added.

India strongly supports good Indian-European relations, to which the von Weizsäcker visit made a big contribution, Ambassador Madhavan said. India's interest is in all Central Europe, the ambassador stated, but of course united Germany has a very strong and positive role in Europe, and India is hopeful of German help to enter the new Europe. India was, he pointed out, an unqualified supporter of German reunification.

On the economic side, India and Germany signed agreements worth 5 billion rupees, including 2 billion for importing fertilizer and capital goods from Germany. A technical cooperation agreement, to which Germany will contribute 100 million rupees, extends the Indo-German export promotion project for three years, to further increase Indian exports to Germany.

Germany's 'interlocutor'

The purpose of von Weizsäcker's visit went far beyond German-Indian investment. As commentator S. Nihal Singh wrote in the *Hindustan Times* March 11, the visit "was nothing short of an offer to make India Germany's principal interlocutor in the Third World." The seriousness of the offer was demonstrated by the creation of two consultative groups to "go into the whole gamut of the Indo-German relationship, from the specialist and technical groups formed and the kind of collaboration projects discussed," Singh wrote, noting that among von Weizsäcker's delegation were a professor of solid physics, an engineering expert, and an Indologist.

India now must take up the challenge, Singh wrote, with the immediate task of ensuring that the members of the consultative groups are not worn-out "notables." India should take up the German idea that "the two groups should have persons who could devote part of their lives to the cause of a new Indo-German relationship," Singh wrote.

The proposals discussed in India included one to have 100,000 Indian engineers and scientists work on collaborative projects in India and then be sent to Germany to upgrade their skills, to benefit both nations. Ambassador Madhavan said he would want to see such projects extended to industrial and shop workers. This is now difficult, he said, because it is difficult to get India recognized as an industrial nation. He expressed his admiration for German programs in which factories give workers practical training and institutes provide theoretical training.

That von Weizsäcker chose to come at all, "given the fragility of the Chandra Shekar government and the Gulf war, was his vote of confidence in the resilience of Indian democratic institutions," Singh wrote. Indeed, the opposition of many of the nations of the South to the Gulf war was likely a reason for the trip. In New Delhi, von Weizsäcker stated, "In the concert of nations involved, we Germans have shown a little more restraint than France or England, for instance, and I feel for good reason."

Von Weizsäcker also called on India to develop its "traditionally good relations with the Soviet Union," in order to strengthen the international role of the Soviets in respect to "the future shaping of the relations between North and South." Potential German-Indian-Soviet collaboration was proposed in a concrete form by Indian Foreign Secretary Munchkund Dubey, who said March 4 that a group was being set up to explore possible joint Indo-German projects in third countries. One promising area, he indicated, was the DM 8 billion project for building over 60,000 houses in the U.S.S.R. for Soviet soldiers returning from eastern Europe.

The role of culture

In his speech to President Venkataraman at a state dinner on March 1, von Weizsäcker raised a fundamental issue. "India and Germany are bound together by a long tradition of respectful spiritual interchange," he said. "The best of our poets, philosophers, and philologists have, over two centuries, made studies that have endeared the Indian people, their languages, their thinking, and their artistic creation to us. This has left a deep impression on us Germans, for which we are thankful to you. Between us there is an intimacy of opposites and a spiritual affinity from which we have both gained."

Germany is, Ambassador Madhavan pointed out, absolutely unique in the number of its scholars who study India, especially her great classic language Sanskrit. One of his goals, he said, is to encourage Germany to expand and modernize this work.

Argentine Army nationalists on trial

by Cynthia R. Rush

Fifteen nationalist officers who participated in an uprising last Dec. 3 against the Army High Command went on trial in Buenos Aires federal court on April 15, in what promises to be a highly charged political event. At the center of these developments is Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, a longtime leader of the Army's nationalist faction, who, while not physically present at last December's events in Buenos Aires, took personal responsibility for them and has been jailed ever since. President Carlos Menem had charged at the time that Seineldín and the other so-called *carapintadas* ("painted faces") were attempting to overthrow the government and demanded that they be put to death.

Unlike the summary military trials to which the officers were subjected in December, which sentenced them to long jail terms and stripped them of their ranks for the crime of mutiny, the civilian trial will focus on the political nature of the rebellion and on the history of U.S.-backed government efforts to dismantle the institution of the Armed Forces. The nationalist officers assert that their action on Dec. 3 was one of self-defense, taken in response to repeated provocations and unkept promises by Menem and his predecessor, the social democrat Raúl Alfonsín.

There is no doubt that this trial will be a political battleground. Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, who charges the defendants with homicide and an attempted coup, stated baldly that "for us, the most important thing is to make sure the life sentence for Seineldín is upheld."

As part of their defense strategy, lawyers for the accused will call as witnesses many high-level members of the government, including Menem himself, who met on more than one occasion with Seineldín to discuss the Army's internal problems. As one of Seineldín's lawyers noted, "What interests my client is that, through this public process, we can [clarify] the deplorable state of the Armed Forces, and thus, the nobility of the purposes and desires which guided the December episode."

Defense lawyers are maintaining a sharp focus on the question of military policy as well. Juan Carlos Torregrosa, lawyer for Maj. Pedro Mercado, has presented a petition to the American Human Rights Convention, also known as the San José Pact, charging that the repressive treatment of his

clients is the result of a deliberate anti-military policy. He explained that the "National Army" led by Colonel Seineldín emerged in response to this policy, to address the "legitimate needs and requirements of their subordinates."

'I am not repentant'

Backers of the nationalist officers have launched a publicity campaign, including "interviews galore" by the accused to the press, and the plastering of Buenos Aires with posters of Seineldín demanding his exoneration. In one interview entitled "I am not Repentant," published in the April 8 issue of the weekly *Somos*, Seineldín located the military issue in the broader context of Argentina's political crisis.

Asked if he felt betrayed by Menem's failure to keep promises he made, Seineldín replied: "No more and no less than the rest of our citizens. The President made promises to all sectors of society and didn't keep them. The biggest swindle has been committed against the institutions of the Republic." Explaining that Menem has actually eliminated the Armed Forces' *raison d'être*, Colonel Seineldín continued, "What is worrisome is not whether I feel swindled, but what future awaits our society, the Armed Forces, and the nation as a whole."

The colonel's defiant remarks address the depth of the country's economic, political, and moral crisis, as well as the fact that Menem is thoroughly discredited. When *Somos's* reporter remarked that the colonel was viewed more as a political than a military leader, Seineldín responded: "I am a colonel of the Nation, who has the duty, and the right to fight to defend its highest interests. Do not confuse this with partisan political activities. One thing is the political party, another is the movement. I belong to the latter, where great politics is distinguished from small. As a citizen I am prepared to assume the role which circumstances impose upon me, to carry forward a National Salvation Front."

For the Anglo-American political establishment, and the Bush administration which is its tool, these remarks aren't good news. This grouping is intent on eliminating the sovereignty of all Ibero-American nations and destroying any institution, such as the Armed Forces, which might defend it. To the degree that Seineldín can rally nationalist forces against these plans, he is a real obstacle. This is why the circles around former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger have invested so much in portraying Seineldín as a fascist coup-monger, and "fundamentalist" threat to the constitutional order.

Under the very volatile conditions existing in Argentina today, the Anglo-Americans have no guarantees of anything, however. Seineldín's backers have said they are determined to provoke a "political scandal" during the trials. The colonel's wife, Mrs. Marta Labeau de Seineldín told the daily *Página 12* that it is the Army High Command, and not the nationalists, who are really on trial, because they are responsible for the institution's disintegration.

Can an unmerciful pig be a great king?

Stanley Ezrol comments on Shakespeare's 'King Henry V': a new contribution to the debate which began in these pages with two reviews of a film version.

"Nor should [the West] eschew imposing revengeful and punitive peace. It is time the Third World was taught a lesson that won't be forgotten for a generation. Such ruthlessness would not militate against justice in the Middle East. It would be an essential condition of justice; and, most important, an essential condition of a stable, civilized, and prosperous world."—Peregrine Worsthorne, *Sunday Telegraph*, Feb. 3, 1991.

'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown.
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above the sceptred sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings;
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.

—Portia on the Quality of Mercy, from *The Merchant of Venice*, IV; i, 188.

By Jove, I am not covetous for gold, . . .
But if it be a sin to covet honour
I am the most offending soul alive.

—Henry V before the massacre at Agincourt, from *Henry V*, IV; iii, 23.

Now that the British imperialists and their American lackeys have embarked on a genocidal and self-defeating campaign of conquest in the Middle East, we ought to reexamine Shakespeare's great play *Henry the Fifth*, which portrayed the high point of England's conquests in the course of the fratricidal hundred years war with France, which is the main subject of Shakespeare's "history plays." Properly used, this play, and the entire series, is a powerful weapon against those who have perversely employed its speeches out of context, and mangled productions of the plays, to serve the propaganda purposes of British jingos. It is an examination, from the standpoint of Christian morality, of the questions: What is the purpose of a nation? What are the responsibilities of a sovereign? How is a nation's posterity affected by the acceptance or rejection of its sovereign responsibilities?

The common Anglo-American opinion regarding *Henry V*, is that Shakespeare's account is entirely consistent with the accepted English historiography which holds that the juvenile delinquent, Prince Hal, portrayed in the *Henry IV* plays, transformed himself upon the death of his father, into the greatest of English kings—a self-sacrificing Christian leader who inspires a numerically inferior force of English, Welsh, Scotch, and Irish troops at Agincourt to overwhelming victory against the French. The famous "We happy few" speech in which Henry rallies his forces to battle, is a mainstay of the British jingos' repertoire.

This standard view, as reported in Hall's *Chronicle* (London, 1809, following the 1548 and 1550 editions) was, "This kyng, this man was he, whiche (according to the olde Prouerbe) declared and shewed that honors ought to change maners, for incontinent after that he was stalled in the siege royall, and had receiued the croune and scepter of the famous and fortunate region, determined with hymself to put on the shape of a new man, and to vse another sorte of liuying, turnyng insolencie and wildnes into grauitie and sobernes, and wauer-ying vice into constant vertue." The preface to *Henry V* in the "New Cambridge Edition" of Shakespeare's works (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1942), asserts, ". . . Shakespeare had planned, while writing the immediately preceding histories, the ultimate development of Henry into the heroic figure of the ideal English king. The completion of his regeneration is explicitly announced by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the first scene of the present play. Henry is no longer exhibited as a master of sparkling repartee, but stress is laid on his judgment and his piety."

Proponents of this view point to this deathbed hope expressed by Henry V's father and predecessor on the throne that young Henry would be able to end the constant civil war which had marked the preceding history of England:

. . . God knows, my son,
By what by-paths and indirect crook'd ways
I met this crown . . .
. . . It seem'd in me
But as an honour snatch'd with boist'rous hand, . . .
Which daily grew to quarrel and to bloodshed,
Wounding supposed peace . . .
For all my reign hath been but as a scene

Acting that argument, and now my death
Changes the mode; for what in me was purchas'd
Falls upon thee in a more fairer sort;
So thou the garland wear'st successively, . . .

What they ignore, dismiss, or fail to understand, is that although in this speech Shakespeare indicates a possible way out of the downward spiral of bloodshed which has marked England, he also indicates the "argument" which his son's reign will act out, as he continues:

Yet, though thou stand'st more sure than I could do
Thou art not firm enough, since griefs are green;
. . . Therefore, my Harry,
Be it thy course to busy giddy minds
With foreign quarrels, that action, hence borne out,
May waste the memory of the former days.
How I came by the crown, O God forgive;
And grant it may with thee in true peace live!

Is Henry IV's death bed prayer answered favorably by God? How does the universal court of history judge this proposed strategy?

Like all classical art, Shakespeare's *Henry V* is not didactic. Ideas are not simply declared. The play was composed to excite within the mind of each member of the audience, the recreation of ideas concerning the purpose of a nation and its sovereign. In order for this to work, you must view the play prepared with an attention span, and an insistence on the intelligibility of cause and effect relationships. Without asking consistently, "What has caused this effect? What will this effect cause? What would I do in this situation if I were King?" in light of your memory of the entirety of the play, as well as with some view of the nature of man and society, you will simply "experience" the play as a sensual or emotional event in the way modern soap operas and movies are meant to be experienced. No understanding will be gained, but another "experience" may be added to your "life list." One who experiences the play without the kind of reflection indicated may come away thinking, "Yes, Henry changed, he showed great inspirational leadership. He's much more inspiring than George Bush," but he will have missed Shakespeare's play entirely. Through the use of a "Chorus" in the prologue to the play, Shakespeare warns the viewer of his responsibility to leave his brain in gear, "For 'tis your thoughts that now must deck our kings."

What is a nation?

The first major question raised in the play is, by what right may two nations be joined? May a sovereign of one nation claim the right, based on some formal legal claim, to marry another nation? What is the result of an attempt by a sovereign to subjugate a nation by force? Shakespeare was in the Erasmian tradition which held with Dante's view, that

a nation must be built on the basis of a shared language culture. If the functioning of a nation requires some shared deliberation and agreement on the most profound questions confronting its people, those people must be able to communicate using a shared language which has the capability of communicating profound ideas. In *Henry V*, Shakespeare deals with this question humorously, through the attempts of the various Welsh, Scotch, Irish, and English who make up Henry's forces to communicate with each other, and more seriously in his portrayal of the relationship between Henry and his conquered bride, Princess Katharine of France, who becomes Henry's Queen in fulfillment of treaty demands.

Katharine's mother, Isabella, makes clear that the portrayal of the marriage of Henry and Katharine is an image of the attempted union of England and France in her marriage blessing: "God, the best maker of all marriages, Combine your hearts in one, your realms in one!"

Katharine is first introduced in her comical attempt to learn English from her nurse, after she has been offered to Henry by her father as part of a peace proposal, which Henry rejects. She next appears after the military defeat of France. Henry demands to be left alone with Katharine and her nurse, insisting that peace depends on France's capitulation to his terms, of which Katharine is the "capital demand." Viewing Henry's adolescent attempt at seduction, and hearing Katharine's awkward response in a broken mixture of French and English, any but the most hardened believers in the importance of physical attraction must ask, "How could a marriage between these two possibly work?" In fact, Henry's seduction attempt falls flat, although it is often portrayed differently. Her first objection is, "Is it possible dat I should love de enemy of France?" Her concluding position is, "Dat is as it shall please de *roi mon père*." The scene between the two ends with Henry forcibly kissing her on the mouth. Although this is often played as if Katharine yields to the magic of Henry's kiss, in Shakespeare's play, Henry tells the Duke of Burgundy, who has been openly working to bring about his king's capitulation to Henry's demands, "I cannot so conjure up the spirit of love in her, that he will appear in his true likeness." There follows a lewd discussion between Henry and Burgundy at Katharine's expense, in the course of which Henry entreats Burgundy to "teach your cousin to consent winking," and Burgundy agrees.

The play does not indicate how the forced union between Henry and Katharine developed, but the union between France and England was dissolved by a people's revolution against the occupying forces and their allies including the House of Burgundy, which resulted in the creation of France as a modern nation state under the great Louis XI. That story, incidentally, is touched on in Friedrich Schiller's *Maid of Orleans*, which he apparently conceived as his sequel to Shakespeare's *Henry V*. The internal civil strife which had marked Henry IV's reign, burst out with renewed fury after Henry V's death in the 30 years' War of the Roses. Has

Shakespeare's prayer of "true peace" for England yet been fulfilled?

The quality of mercy

The crucial quality of national policy which Shakespeare examines in *Henry V*, is the principle of mercy. Dozens of times throughout the play, in the midst of war, the question is asked, "Will you show mercy?" This is the same idea Shakespeare dealt with in the theater of common law in his earlier play *The Merchant of Venice*. Keep in mind Portia's famous speech on the quality of mercy which heads this essay as you view or read *Henry V*, and it will greatly highlight your understanding of the later play. What is mercy? Is it simply refraining from harming those who deserve punishment? Is it doing what good you are capable of doing? Is it a proper goal of national policy? Will a leader who shows no mercy win success for his nation? Will one who is merciful dissipate his nation's strength?

In the composition of his study of these questions as they pertain to Henry's launching of and conduct of his bloody war of conquest against France, Shakespeare presents a number of minor events in the war, which can be appreciated quite differently, depending on whether they are viewed as isolated occurrences, or as images in the small which illuminate the larger issues of the play. The first of these is the uncovering of an assassination plot against Henry perpetrated by three of his dearest friends. Henry answers their plea for mercy:

God quit you in his mercy! Hear your sentence.
You have conspir'd against our royal person,
Join'd with an enemy proclaim'd, and from his coffers
Receiv'd the golden earnest of our death;
Wherein you would have sold your king to slaughter,
His princes and his peers to servitude,
His subjects to oppression and contempt,
And his whole kingdom into desolation . . .
Get you therefore hence,
Poor miserable wretches, to your death,
The taste whereof God of his mercy give
You patience to endure, and true repentance
Of all your deaf offences!

The unreflecting soap-opera addict, upon hearing Henry's pronouncement, probably thinks something like, "He's a righteous dude. They had it coming." If you aren't familiar with Shakespeare's play, the history of the Hundred Years' War, the desperate situation of England at the point the play was first performed in 1599, or the situation George Bush has placed us in today, you may have had a similar, if more literate response. But consider the question, "How does Henry himself stand with respect to the bill of indictment he has pronounced against his would-be assassins?"

Desolation is exactly where the kingdom already was

long before the assassination plot. *Henry V* opens with a scene which ought to seem eerily familiar in this year of our Lord, 1991. The Archbishop of Canterbury and a colleague are discussing how they can defeat an attempt to balance the king's unmanageable budget deficit by seizing half of the Church's property. The Archbishop explains his solution:

For I have made an offer to his
Majesty, Upon our spiritual convocation
And in regard of causes now in hand,
Which I have open'd to his Grace at large,
As touching France, to give a greater sum
Than ever at one time the clergy yet
Did to his predecessors part withal.

What the Archbishop "open'd to his Grace," was a quasi-legal argument favoring the conquest and subjugation of France. Although the British jingos seem to accept without question England's right to invade France, this is clearly not Shakespeare's view, as the repeated raising of this question indicates. Remember that in *The Merchant of Venice*, the key issue was whether Shylock could properly enforce a contract to extract a pound of flesh from the debtor Antonio. In *Henry V*, all of France becomes Henry's "pound of flesh," which he insists on having at whatever human cost. Does he have a right to it?

Did the war, whatever its justice, improve England's situation? *Henry V* is actually a sequel to Shakespeare's earlier *Henry VI* plays, so the reader might already know that despite the apparent conquest of France won through the massacre at Agincourt, Henry's war doesn't actually end well. *Henry VI* opens at Henry V's funeral with the report that France is lost. The messenger who brought the news was asked, "What treachery was us'd?" against England and answered:

No treachery, but want of men and money.
Amongst the soldiers this is muttered,
That here you maintain several factions,
And whilst a field should be dispatch'd and fought
You are disputing of your generals.
One would have ling'ring wars with little cost;
Another would fly swift, but wanteth wings;
A third thinks, without expense at all,
By guileful fair words peace may be obtain'd.
Awake, awake, English nobility!
Let not sloth dim your honours new-begot.
Cropp'd are the flower-de-luces in your arms;
Of England's coat one half is cut away.

Shakespeare portrays these events as occurring at Henry V's funeral, rather than several years later when they occurred historically, to emphasize that it was *Henry's* policies, and not the mistakes of his successors, which directly caused

the loss of all the “honor” which Henry had apparently won for England.

The question, “Do the assassination plotters deserve to hang?” which had appeared to be of immediate importance at first, disappears into insignificance once the incident is viewed in context as a means of provoking reflection on the larger questions of why England was crushed at the point of its greatest apparent strength.

The second illustrative incident is the hanging of Henry’s childhood friend and fellow thief, Barthol, for looting in France. The standard recitation is that Henry’s failure to spare Barthol from the noose illustrates that he has matured and placed his responsibility as king to maintain discipline amongst his troops and prevent the mistreatment of the people of France above his youthful affections. Again, that seems to make sense, as long as you view this incident in isolation. The specific crime Barthol is hanged for is stealing a Christian medallion, called a “pax,” from a Church. Does Barthol deserve to hang for robbing a church of its “pax,” which is the Latin word for “peace?” If so, what of Henry? What of England? How did the play open? What was Henry trying to do which caused the Archbishop to propose the war? What did the war do? But shouldn’t Henry prevent his troops from abusing the people of France? Consider Henry’s reasoning in the hanging of Barthol in light of the memory of his ultimatum to the town of Harfleur:

How yet resolves the governor of the town?
This is the latest parley we will admit;
Therefore to our best mercy give yourselves,
Or like to men proud of destruction
Defy us to our worst; for, as I am a soldier,
A name that in my thoughts becomes me best,
If I begin the batt’ry once again,
I will not leave the half-achieved Harfleur
Till in her ashes she lies buried.
The gates of mercy shall be all shut up,
And the flesh’d soldier, rough and hard of heart,
In liberty of bloody hand shall range
With conscience wide as hell, mowing like grass
Your fresh fair virgins and your flow’ring infants.
What is it then to me, if impious War,
Array’d in flames like to be the prince of fiends,
Do with his smirch’d complexion all fell feats
Enlink’d to waste and desolation?
What is’t to me, when you yourselves are cause,
If your pure maidens fall into the hand
of hot and forcing violation?
What rein can hold licentious wickedness
When down the hill he holds his fierce career?

For those who lived through George Bush’s ultimata to the nation of Iraq through the fall and winter of 1990, Henry’s protestation of innocence, “What is’t to me, when you your-

selves are cause?” has a familiar ring. Keep it in mind, as we consider the play further.

The moral responsibility of a sovereign

The standard view that this play illustrates Henry’s transformation from an irresponsible juvenile to a great leader of a great nation, is pronounced by the Archbishop and his co-conspirator in plotting the fratricidal war against France for the purpose of saving the Church’s treasury. They observe:

Cant: The King is full of grace and fair regard.

Ely: And a true lover of the holy Church.

Cant: The course of his youth promis’d it not.

The breath no sooner left his father’s body,

But that his wildness, mortifi’d in him,

Seem’d to die too; . . .

Never was such a sudden scholar made;

Never came reformation in a flood

With such a heady currence, scouring faults:

Nor never Hydra-headed wilfulness

So soon did lose his seat, and all at once,

As in this King.

Aside from the remarks of these two stalwarts of the Church, and Henry’s own repeated affirmations of his own Christianity, what does the play have to say about “born again” Henry’s acceptance of moral responsibility for his actions? In the play, the key questions come to fruition in the course of the long night preceding the massacre at Agincourt. The standard view is that here Henry comes into his own.

Unable to sleep before the battle, Henry disguises himself as a common soldier and goes out amongst his men, who raise the question of responsibility directly, after Henry, in disguise, asserts, “. . . Methinks I could not die anywhere so contented as in the King’s company, his cause being just and his quarrel honourable.” One soldier argues, “That’s more than we know,” and a second asserts, “Ay, or more than we should seek after; for we know enough if we know we are the King’s subjects. If his cause be wrong, our obedience to the King wipes the crime of it out of us,” to which the first adds, “But if the cause be not good, the King himself hath a heavy reckoning to make, when all those legs and arms and heads, chopp’d off in a battle, shall join together at the latter day and cry all, ‘We died at such a place’; some swearing, some crying for a surgeon, some upon their wives left poor behind them, some upon the debts they owe, some upon their children rawly left.”

To this, Henry replies, “The King is not bound to answer the particular endings of his soldiers, . . . Every subject’s duty is the King’s; but every subject’s soul is his own.”

He correctly disavows responsibility for the private sins of his soldiers and points out that each subject is responsible for his own soul and his own conduct, but evades entirely the question of his own responsibility for unleashing bloody war.

After the others leave, Henry delivers a soliloquy which is pointed to as evidence of Henry's maturation as a king:

. . . I am a king that find thee, and I know
'Tis not the balm, the sceptre, and the ball
The sword, the mace, the crown imperial,
The intertissued robe of gold and pearl,
The farced title running 'fore the King,
The throne he sits on, nor the tide of pomp
That beats upon the high shore of this world,—
No, not all these, thrice-gorgeous
Ceremony, Not all these, laid in bed majestical,
Can sleep so soundly as the wretched slave,
Who with a body fill'd and vacant mind
Gets him to rest, cramm'd with distressful bread,
Never sees horrid night, the child of hell,
But like a lackey from the rise to set
Sweats in the eye of Phoebus, and all night
Sleeps in Elysium; next day after dawn,
Doth rise and help Hyperion to his horse,
And follows so the ever-running year
With profitable labour to his grave:
And, but for ceremony, such a wretch,
Winding up days with toil and nights with sleep,
Had the fore-hand and vantage of a king.
The slave, a member of the country's peace,
Enjoys it, but in gross brain little wots
What watch the King keeps to maintain the peace,
Whose hours the peasant best advantages.

It's hard to disagree with Henry's belittling of Ceremony and Pomp, but what is his view of the substance of statesmanship? Other than the ludicrous claim he makes to maintaining the peace, he has nothing to say about the responsibilities of a king. Compare this soliloquy with Portia's "Quality of Mercy" speech. She likewise belittles the sceptre and the crown, but adds:

But mercy is above the sceptred sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings;
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.

Has Henry seasoned justice with mercy? He just insisted that each of his subjects is morally responsible for his own actions, but what responsibility has he accepted on his own behalf? Remember the ultimatum to Harfleur, "What is't to me, when you yourselves are cause?" Think back to the opening of the play. When the Archbishop presented his law brief on behalf of war, Henry warned:

And God forbid, my dear and faithful lord,
That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your reading,

Or nicely charge your understanding soul
With opening titles miscreate, whose right
Suits not in native colours with the truth;
For God doth know how many now in health
Shall drop their blood in approbation
Of what your reverence shall incite us to.
Therefore take heed how you impawn our person,
How you awake our sleeping sword of war.
We charge you, in the name of God, take heed;
For never two such kingdoms did contend
Without much fall of blood, whose guiltless drops
Are every one a woe, a sore complaint
'Gainst him whose wrong gives edge unto the swords
That makes such waste in brief mortality.

This is not an altogether bad statement of the responsibility you have, before embarking on war, to consider the horror you are about to unleash, and consider whether that horror is justified by the cause for which the war is launched. Henry is fully aware of the horror being unleashed, but has he accepted responsibility for his policies, or does he insist, like George Bush, that he is merely the victim of circumstances created by others? The Archbishop, each common soldier, the King of France, the Dauphin, the governor of Harfleur, each and all are held by Henry to be guilty of this war. What about Henry?

Think back even further, to the first introduction of Henry as the young Prince Hal in *Henry IV, Part I*. Within seconds of Hal's arrival on the stage, his friend, and apparent mentor, the gluttonous, lustful, thieving Sir John Falstaff, addresses the prince, "And, I prithee, sweet wag, when thou art a king, as, God save thy Grace,—Majesty I should say, for grace thou wilt have none." Review Falstaff's forecast in light of Portia's distinction between Majesty and the grace of Mercy. Henry has achieved Majesty, has he achieved Grace? Has he become an instrument of that authority which is "above the sceptred sway?"

The "climax" of the play, and the most glowing moment for British jingo propagandist purposes, occurs just before the battle begins. Recalling his father's deathbed prayer that he be forgiven the sin of assassinating his predecessor, Richard II, Henry prays, but not to God the Creator, as Christians know Him:

O God of battles! steel my soldiers' hearts
Possess them not with fear . . .
O, not to-day, think not upon the fault
My father made in compassing the crown!

This is shortly followed by Henry's famous "St. Crispin Day," oration to his troops. What the jingos tend to forget is the significance of the question from one of Henry's officers which sets the stage for Henry's shining moment. The question, "O that we now had here but one ten thousand of those

men in England that do no work to-day!" is a grim reminder of the mass unemployment at home which Henry's war attempts to cover over, a situation that an American of today would not have trouble imagining. Henry's "We happy few" speech in reply is pointed to by the soap nuts as his crowning moment. He apparently succeeds in mobilizing his troops, but on what basis? Was this speech Shakespeare's vicious parody of the empty-headed jingos who now so love to quote it? Henry lets the truth out about his own character:

By Jove, I am not covetous for gold, . . .
But if it be a sin to covet honour
I am the most offending soul alive.

Is it a sin to covet honor? The jingos obviously don't think so. Henry goes on to rally his troops without so much as a hint that they might be fighting in a worthy cause. He holds out the promise of fame and honor which will accrue to those who survive, and charges that those who don't fight that day will "hold their manhoods cheap." I imagine Shakespeare quietly chuckling to this day every time some British jingo piously declares, "I am the most offending soul alive." Henry's personality flaw, the fact that his apparent maturation was driven by his craving after honor, fame, glory, and high regard, was revealed in Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part I*, where the delinquent prince pledges in a soliloquy:

Yet herein will I imitate the sun,
Who doth permit the base contagious clouds
To smother up his beauty from the world,
That when he please again to be himself
Being wanted, he may be more wond'ring at
By breaking through the foul and ugly mists . . .
And like bright metal on a sullen ground,
My reformation, glitt'ring o'er my fault,
Shall show more goodly and attract more eyes
Than that which hath no foil to set it off.
I'll so offend, to make offence a skill,
Redeeming time when men think least I will.

In case you forget to ask the right questions in the course of the play, Shakespeare has a tendency to try to tickle you under the chin as a reminder. One of the emotional high points of the play occurs when Henry orders the throats of all French prisoners to be slit, when he determines the French are still fighting. *Following* Henry's issuance of this order, it is discovered that the young pages guarding the English camp have all been murdered by the French. Just as the questions arise in the mind of the viewer, "What sort of king is this? What horrors are befalling in this war?" the following exchange in dialect occurs between an English and a Welsh soldier:

Gower: Besides, they have burned and carried away all

that was in the King's tent; wherefore the King, most worthily, hath caus'd every soldier to cut his prisoner's throat. O, 'tis a gallant king!

Fluellen: Ay, he was born at Monmouth, Captain Gower. What call you the town's name where Alexander the Pig was born!

Gower: Alexander the Great.

Fluellen: Why, I pray you, is not pig great? The pig, or the great, or the mighty, or the huge, or the magnanimous, are all one reckonings, save the phrase is a little variations.

Fluellen goes on to attack Henry for having, upon his coronation, turned his back on his fat friend, Falstaff, who certainly was a great pig. The issue then was whether Henry would permit Falstaff and his fellow thieves free rein, or whether he would be a responsible king. At that point Henry reached, perhaps, the height of his own moral attainments. He spurned Falstaff, but promised to revive their association should Falstaff mend his ways. He had just declared the subordination of the king to law in a speech to the Chief Justice who had imprisoned him as a Prince, and pledged:

. . . The tide of blood in me
Hath proudly flow'd in vanity till now:
Now doth it turn and ebb back to the sea,
Where it shall mingle with the state of floods
And flow henceforth in formal majesty. . . .
Our coronation done, we will accite,
As I before rememb'ed, all our state;
And, God consigning to my good intents,
No prince nor peer shall have just cause to say,
God shorten Harry's happy life one day!

Was Henry's promise to be a great king fulfilled? Or was he a great pig? Or a great pig of a king? He bowed to the letter of the law, and invaded France. How did he stand with regard to God's law? Whose actions caused more evil, Henry's or Falstaff's? Decide, just as you must decide about George Bush, but don't decide on the basis of some nice sounding speeches. Reflect on the responsibility of a nation, and the responsibilities individuals have for the quality of mercy of their nations. The English at Agincourt were able to kill 10,000 Frenchmen while suffering fewer than thirty fatalities. France surrendered, and gave Henry the King's daughter in marriage. Their son Henry VI united the two kingdoms under one crown, with the result, a few short years after Henry's death, as told by the chorus in the epilogue to *Henry V*:

That they lost France and made his England bleed.

Those who would use merciless wars of conquest to "solve" the economic problems they have brought on their nation should take heed.

Knives are out for Asian trade bloc

The attacks on Malaysia's prime minister have all the pawprints of the Anglo-Americans.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke termed Australia's current relations with Malaysia "delicate" on April 15. Addressing delegates to an Asian-Pacific conference in Canberra, Hawke said he expected to hold talks with his Malaysian counterpart, Mahathir Mohammed, at a special Commonwealth heads of state meeting in London in June.

Hawke cited as the divisive issue "Malaysia's unhappiness" over an Australian Broadcasting Corporation television series entitled "Embassy," which he said the Malaysian government claims is derogatory toward Malaysia and to the Islamic religion. Hawke said he hoped that Malaysia understood that a characteristic of Australian democracy was that the government did not control the media. This is a somewhat debatable claim in that his friend Rupert Murdoch, who is part of the Anglo-American elite, controls 80% of the print media.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed said the same week that the relationship between the two countries will not improve unless the Hawke government "adopts a more friendly attitude" toward Malaysia. Though he didn't go into detail, he said there were "certain elements" in Australia that did not like Malaysia and were trying to destroy its image. He claimed that the situation seemed to be heating up but that dissension between the two sides, based on the activities of these "certain elements," had been in existence for "quite a long time."

Among Australians who have been most critical of Dr. Mahathir historically, are individuals closely tied into Anglo-American intelligence

agencies. Australian newspaper archives, for example, reveal a virulent attack unleashed on Mahathir several years ago by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith (ADL). Printed in mid-1987 by the weekly *Australia-Israel Review*, whose current editor Michael Danby is thought by many to be an operative of the Israeli Mossad, author Abe Foxman, of the ADL's New York office, railed that "Under Mahathir Mohammed, Malaysia has become a racist nation, patterning its actions literally after Nazi Germany. . . . Malaysia is following the same doctrine as Nazi Germany in the '30s. . . . To be sure, Mahathir Mohammed has not gone as far as to write a Malay equivalent of *Mein Kampf* or projected a 'final solution' but . . ."

In recent months, ADL fellow-traveler Henry Kissinger has been organizing against Dr. Mahathir's initiative for an East Asian Economic Group (EAEG). Australia is clearly acting as an Anglo-American junior partner in keeping this bloc initiative from being realized. One of Mahathir's provisos was that the United States, Canada, and Australia were not to be included in the grouping.

In their counter-organizing against this initiative, both the United States and Australia have been a bit obvious. For example, in late March, the Australian newspaper *The Weekend* totally distorted remarks made by Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew in an interview. The Australian paper quoted Lee Kuan Yew as totally rejecting Dr. Mahathir's proposal for the EAEG; in fact, Singapore has consistently supported the

plan.

Following the publication of the interview, Lee requested that the full text of the interview be made available for circulation in Singapore newspapers. This, according to Malaysian and Singapore press accounts, revealed the Australian coverage to be in error.

The Malaysian Foreign Ministry on March 26 expressed regret over the publication's "report aimed at damaging the existing good relations between Malaysia and Singapore."

Australia was instrumental in the formation of the Asia-Pacific grouping through which the U.S. and its junior partners plan to wield control over one of the few regions of the world where economies are still growing. This group, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group (APEC), was constituted several years ago.

An editorial that appeared in Malaysia's *Business Times* last February reveals that for Dr. Mahathir, however, it is also a North-South question. "It no doubt unsettles the U.S. that its influence could very well be whittled down in the Asia-Pacific area, deemed to be the center of world economic growth for the 1990s and beyond. It had earlier set into motion its own strategy for dominating the region through its strenuous promotion of the concept of APEC, which meant that the North will still hold sway in this part of the world through the U.S., Canada, Japan, and Australia. ASEAN in fact has ventured only tentatively into APEC, and with its eyes wide open."

Clearly the knives are out for Dr. Mahathir, and this is not just coming from Australia. The prime minister is quoted by Malaysian press April 13: "They can go on attacking, but I will continue to defend myself. If it is time for me to fall, I will fall, but if it is not yet time, I will not."

'Enclave' in the Amazon

In the wake of the Gulf war, the Anglo-Americans have a strategy to carve up Brazil's mineral-rich region.

During recent U.N. Security Council sessions which debated British Prime Minister John Major's colonialist proposal to create a Kurdish "enclave" in northern Iraq, Soviet delegate Yuli Voronstov raised the likelihood of having to face similar such problems in other regions and, according to the April 10 London *Financial Times*, "unaccountably picked Brazil" as an example.

Following the Anglo-American massacre in Iraq and the U.N. Security Council's plan to balkanize that nation through imposition of "limited sovereignty," the campaign to subject Brazil to the same treatment under George Bush's new world order is advancing rapidly. And what better pretext for imposing the British one-world concept than to escalate the international environmentalist uproar about the alleged abuse of certain minority Indian groups that live, not accidentally, in the most mineral-rich regions of the Brazilian Amazon. What the eco-fascist lobby is demanding is the establishment of an Indian "enclave," for example, in the area bordering Venezuela inhabited by the Yanomani Indians.

This scenario was voiced by a representative of the Inter-Action Council, an international policy advisory group of former government leaders, who detailed the Anglo-Americans' plan for Brazil. "The Kurdish affair is not important in and of itself, but is rather an entry point for the strengthening of supranational institutions to deal with questions like refugees and

population migrations. . . . Say, for example, that somebody would want to recommend an enclave protection idea for the threatened Indians of the Amazon. It's a good idea, no? But those who are promoting the Kurdish idea should strictly refrain from bringing up the Amazon idea, and, similarly, those concerned about Amazonia should absolutely shut up for the time being, and wait for the adoption of the Kurdish enclave idea. Once we have that adopted, we can move to other things. But if we start it all at once, it will create confusion and opposition."

In the case of Brazil, French President François Mitterrand and his wife Danièle have come out clearly on the side of those proposing limited sovereignty. In March 1989, at the conclusion of an international conference at The Hague on the environment, Mitterrand expressed his frustration at the gathering's failure to approve a French proposal to create a supranational authority empowered to control environmental policy and punish ecological offenders.

Mitterrand admitted that such an authority would run into problems of national sovereignty but, as the daily *Jornal do Brasil* of March 12, 1989 reported it, the French President also confessed, "This would translate into a renunciation of some sovereignty by some countries, but it is necessary."

Danièle Mitterrand is linked to various human rights organizations and to groups of anthropologists which have purportedly taken up the cause of the Yanomani from the British standpoint

of preserving "the noble savage." Mme. Mitterrand participated in July 1990 sessions of the Permanent People's Court (a U.N. non-governmental organization), where Brazil was charged with unsubstantiated accusations of mistreating the Indians. Its "crime" was having constructed major hydroelectric projects on its own sovereign territory, but in the areas inhabited by Indian tribes.

Ever since, the international mobilization around the Indian question has not ceased. For example, in March, Survival International gathered thousands of signatures on petitions to pressure the Brazilian government into setting aside specific regions of the country as Yanomani land. Survival International has a long history of being militant on the question of limited sovereignty. In August 1984, the Venezuelan government accused Survival International and a dozen like groups of anthropologists which are today fully absorbed into the ecology lobby, of being part of an international conspiracy which sought to impose "limited sovereignty" over certain Venezuelan lands bordering Brazil and inhabited by the Yanomani.

The intensification of this Anglo-American strategy of using 200,000 Indians to wrest the rich Amazon from Brazil, combined with other provocations such as the explosion of narco-terrorist activities on the border with Colombia, has led the Brazilian Armed Forces to blame the CIA, for the first time in the postwar era, of orchestrating these provocations. An April 4 commentary in *Tribuna de Imprensa* declared that "this border" between Brazil and Colombia "has always existed, but never an incident of such serious proportions. [The Armed Forces] are convinced that behind all of this is the CIA, just as it was in other countries."

'Anti-drug' accords to militarize Andes

The new military accords will put U.S. troops in Bolivia and Peru . . . but won't end the drug trade.

Under the cover of "anti-drug" agreements to fight a "war on drugs" that the U.S. has no real intention of waging, the Bush administration has moved to militarily "occupy" the Andean region of South America.

On March 29, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora asked the Bolivian legislature to authorize using the Army to combat drugs and to allow 112 U.S. military advisers to train Bolivian troops in anti-narcotics operations.

Paz Zamora's government agreed to the Panama-style "occupation" only after the Bush administration suspended \$66 million in aid to Bolivia, in response to the appointment of Col. Fausto Rico Toro, a man of dubious reputation, as chief of the anti-drug police of that country. The U.S. accused Rico Toro of involvement in the drug trade, and added that Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco and police commander Felipe Carvajal were guilty of corruption, and virtually demanded their resignations. Information Minister Mario Rueda protested the U.S. intervention in Bolivia's internal affairs, telling AP that "the appointment of the commander of the special anti-drug force is an . . . exercise of national sovereignty."

However, the three government officials did resign shortly thereafter, and only then was the U.S. aid released to Bolivia. The U.S. government announced that it was "pleased" with Bolivia's anti-drug efforts, and U.S. officials praised "Paz Zamora's decision to fire high-level officials accused of corruption, and announced it was expanding economic aid to Boliv-

ia," according to the *Washington Post*.

A week later, Bolivia's congress approved a resolution that will allow nearly 600 U.S. military advisers to participate in the "war on drugs." The agreement establishes that the Bolivian Special Anti-Narcotics Force (Umopar), will be placed under the orders of the Army, which in turn is being trained by the U.S. military.

The dangers implicit in such an accord were apparently evident even to the U.S. Congress, which reportedly issued a confidential study criticizing the agreement. Bolivian Deputy Ernesto Machicado confirmed the existence of the report, and said that the "U.S. Congress tells us that militarization will result in an escalation of violence in Bolivia. . . . They also tell us that militarization will debilitate the legitimacy of the government" of Bolivia.

Peru is in the same boat as Bolivia. They will sign a similar agreement at the end of April, according to Peruvian Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres-Lara.

The U.S.-Peru accord has been officially described as a "joint venture" between the two countries. Peru's representative in the negotiations has been Hernando de Soto, founder of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy and advocate of the pro-drug "informal economy." One is hard put to describe the accord as an agreement between two sovereign nations, since De Soto is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the CIA's Smith Richardson

Foundation. Incredibly enough, the agreement has not even been discussed in the Peruvian Congress, making it absolutely unconstitutional.

The alleged goal of the accord, is to create mechanisms to achieve "a substantial reduction or total elimination of the illegal coca crops in Peru and the commercialization of its by-products," through the introduction of the so-called "alternative development" in the coca-growing regions, i.e., free market policies.

As De Soto himself admitted during a recent trip to Washington, the program would not cut coca cultivation, and in fact has a broader objective. He said the accord "entails an entire revamping of the Peruvian police force and Army," and "provides an opportunity to put the right reforms in place for the nation. The enemies of change in Peru are formidable. The real opposition to our reforms has come from the Peruvian private sector, which hides behind protective legislation. These vested interests can be beaten with the reforms proposed for fighting drugs. People will rally around a program to fight terrorism and drugs and the dissolution of the Peruvian state."

In other words, the purpose of the "joint venture" against drugs is to destroy the Peruvian military, business sector, and the nation-state itself—exactly the institutional forces needed to effectively resist the drug traffickers in that country.

But the irony is that the best-organized resistance to the accords has come, not from these layers, but from coca-producing peasants. For example, Peruvian and Bolivian coca farmers issued a joint resolution on March 31 from La Paz, saying that they will "forcibly expel" the U.S. advisers from the two countries and set up "self-defense patrols" to protect their crop.

Harvard gives Yale a hand

With a little help from his friend Salinas, George Bush is pushing Congress to "fast track" free trade.

On April 7, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari began a trip to Canada and the United States to help President Bush lobby the American public on behalf of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Both Presidents are on an all-out mobilization to pressure the U.S. Congress to approve "fast track" negotiations of the free trade pact. Bush needs congressional approval by June 1.

In Houston, where Salinas was received by Bush before the Mexican President went on to Canada, Bush emphasized that "a vote against fast track is a vote against things that we all hold dear: prosperity at home and growth in other lands. It ignores the dramatic and wonderful changes in the world economy."

Throughout his trip, Salinas defended NAFTA, answering the criticisms of different opposition groups in Canada and the United States. Salinas, as well as Bush, said over and over again that the agreement will not create more unemployment in these countries, but on the contrary, will help to create more jobs.

On April 10, Salinas returned to his alma mater, Harvard University, where he made his strongest argument, consisting of a veiled racist threat: Either you approve NAFTA, or you will be swamped by a flood of illegal Mexicans who will steal your jobs. In front of more than 500 American newspapers editors, Salinas explained in his best Harvard-ese: "If you do not establish a free trade agreement with Central Europe, their citizens will not swim across the ocean

looking for jobs in the United States. If we do not get freer trade as a way to stimulate growth in Mexico, those who fear that jobs may be lost in the U.S. with a free trade agreement should be very worried about the loss of jobs in the U.S. without a free trade agreement with Mexico. The prospect of hundreds of thousands or millions of Mexicans crossing the border looking for jobs because they cannot find any in Mexico worries me and makes me work harder to make the Mexican economy grow."

Before going to Harvard, Salinas visited Canada to convince them that the trilateral NAFTA is good for them, too. He held meetings with labor leaders, business leaders, and the governors of Quebec and Ontario, many of whom oppose the free trade agreement. Salinas insisted on the same point: If the United States and Canada fail to create a trilateral trade zone, Mexico will export millions of workers rather than goods. He added, "We have nothing to fear but barriers and obstacles that are intended to protect some parties from competition and, in doing so, end up destroying creativity and well-being."

Salinas is apparently unconcerned by the fact that, under NAFTA, millions of Mexicans will work south of the border, in American-owned assembly plants known as *maquiladoras*, receiving among the lowest salaries in the world and no other labor benefits. Nor did he bother to report that U.S. companies operating in Mexico already get to keep up to 63% annual profits. Nor did he tell his audience that his administration is plan-

ning to turn over effective control of Pemex, the Mexican national oil company, to the oil multitis, in direct violation of the Mexican Constitution.

For the Mexican President and the members of his cabinet, the Constitution and the sovereignty of Mexico are things of the past. "Mexico has decided to become part of the new world order, rather than wait in isolation, watching the years go by, deprived of benefits and opportunities," Salinas explained.

But an *EIR* reporter reminded Salinas and his Harvard audience of the truth about this new world order and asked the Mexican President if it weren't true that he was following Henry Kissinger's orders to nullify the Mexican Constitution in order to facilitate a U.S. oil grab. Salinas stopped singing his own praises and became defensive: "No, the oil is off limits according to the Constitution," he blustered. "It is like your aerospace and nuclear energy programs."

Salinas's Harvard visit was also spoiled for him by the distribution of a leaflet there by the Schiller Institute, which denounced him for wanting to "bring the conditions of Peru to Mexico," a reference to the cholera epidemic now sweeping Peru because of the squalor and poverty of most of its people as a result of the policies of the International Monetary Fund.

The NAFTA accord, the leaflet argued, will similarly impoverish Mexico. It will "unleash an orgy of resource grabs, collapses in the wage scales on both sides of the border, and an explosion of virtual slave-labor U.S.-owned assembly plants below the U.S. border." President Bush, adds the leaflet, "is looking to bring the devastation he wrought in Iraq to 'our little brown brothers next door.' He may not need the U.S. Armed Forces: President Salinas is a very obedient man."

International Intelligence

EIR's charges verified against Corazon Aquino

In May 1987, *EIR* charged that congressional elections held in the Philippines that year had been massively rigged by President Corazon Aquino for her candidates, in order to defeat the challenging Grand Alliance for Democracy. That charge has now been verified by a study carried out by Prof. Luzviminda Tancangco of the University of the Philippines, reported by the *Bangkok Post* on March 14.

The study concluded that "systematic rigging" took place in the 1987 elections, and Tancangco is also charging that the Aquino administration is gearing up for 1992 elections by packing the Commission on Elections with Aquino supporters. "At the rate things are going, the 1992 elections will be a repeat performance of the 1984 and 1986 elections, where the bureaucracy was made an integral part of the political machinery," the study says.

The study also focuses on the role of the National Movement for Free Elections, Namfrel, which was sponsored by the U.S. Project Democracy. Namfrel was the overseer of the 1986 and 1987 elections.

Militias are taking over Colombia's cities

Groups of heavily armed youth wearing ski-masks, black jackets, and "MP" armbands are roaming the streets of Medellin, and carrying out what they call "cleaning up operations" against beggars, prostitutes, drug pushers, and other so-called criminals. These "popular militias" are also offering "protection" to local storekeepers and bus companies in exchange for price controls, and they are shutting down those who don't accept.

According to the commander of the Fourth Army Brigade in Medellin, General Pardo, these militias are financing themselves by kidnappings and bank robberies and

"are tied by umbilical cord" to the FARC narco-terrorists.

The Moscow-backed FARC, which is currently attending talks on amnesty and legalization hosted by the government of César Gaviria, garnered headlines earlier this month when 40 mass graves were discovered, containing the bodies of at least 400 guerrillas "executed" by the FARC for alleged treason to the revolutionary cause.

The daily *El Tiempo* revealed April 12 that the already-amnestied EPL narco-guerrillas are using government funds to purportedly teach poor Colombian children how to read, using an original curriculum based on anti-military and pro-terrorist propaganda. Analysts suggest that the "popular militias" and EPL "literacy" campaign are the products of the government's concessions to the narco-terrorists and an intensified anti-military campaign condoned by the Gaviria administration.

Bush's morality went from high ground to 'morass'

"Barely six weeks sufficed to shatter the vision" of George Bush's "new world order," which "came to naught on the chilly mountain slopes of northern Iraq," writes Theo Sommer, editor-in-chief of the influential Hamburg weekly *Die Zeit*, in a commentary in the London *Guardian* on April 13. Sommer's view is representative of that of a section of the German liberal elite.

Sommer writes that the "saddening triumph of selective morality revealed the Kuwait campaign for what it had been all along: an unabashed exercise in national self-interest, only thinly veiled by invocations of principle. . . . The descent from last January's moral high ground to the moral morass of March was soberingly precipitate. . . .

"There is no use shedding too many tears over its sudden demise. From the time the new world order was first proclaimed, it was a thoroughly flawed concept. . . . The flaws of this concept were obvious from the beginning. There cannot be such a thing as unipo-

lar hegemony. . . .

"It is vastly exaggerated to depict the war against Iraq as the 'defining moment' of the post-Cold War epoch. It was nothing of the sort. It shook the world, and the tremors can still be felt. But in the last analysis, it was of secondary importance. The most significant event of the past few years was the end of communism and the dismantling of what used to be the Iron Curtain. . . . Now it must be the primary task of all Europeans to help Europe grow together again."

Sommer has become a controversial figure in recent months, since he has written acerbic commentaries against Bush's policy in the Gulf, including warning that there was a danger of returning to the era of the 1618-48 Thirty Years' War, and likening Bush to Austria's Emperor Franz Josef. The Thatcherite press in Britain has attacked Sommer as a "typical German liberal nationalist," and a "Russian bootlicker."

Israel's Ariel Sharon lays claim to Jordan

"Jordan Is the Palestinian State," is the headline of the lead commentary in the April 4 *Jerusalem Post*, written by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the fascist strongman behind the current regime.

Sharon raves: "The 'Palestinian problem' as a national-political problem is a propaganda lie. It is the result of systematic brainwashing by the PLO, with the help of cooperative leftists. For, since 1922, there has existed in the eastern Land of Israel, on three-quarters of the territory of the whole Land of Israel (the 'Greater,' as defined by the international community, with U.S. endorsement) the Arab Palestinian state, which is Jordan."

Sharon proclaims that Jordan itself occupies part of the land that is historically "Eretz Yisroel." He insists that the government must have a policy of "annexation . . . of those essential areas now settled in Judea, within the State of Israel. . . . Also, surely,

we must expose the lie of 'the rights of the Palestinians.' It must be explicitly and loudly proclaimed by the government and the Knesset that Jordan has been and is the Palestinian state in the Land of Israel. It is enough that this Land of the Jews has been partitioned and we have lost its overwhelming portion to Arab sovereignty."

Splits occur in Soviet Democratic Union

A new ultra-radical faction has been created within the Democratic Union, the first opposition party to the ruling Communist Party in the Soviet Union, according to a March 29 news item from the Center for Democracy. The new grouping advocates armed struggle against the government.

The Revolutionary Liberal faction issued a manifesto which read: "We want to achieve [freedom] without degrading ourselves with meaningless negotiations and shameful appeasement. We are not seeking a consensus with a criminal and pathetic regime, but confrontation with it, going as far as armed conflict. We will not trade one barricade for ten round table meetings. . . .

"We want to see our people strong, brave and proud. . . . But we are not going to wait for the people. We need freedom now. . . .

"Our program includes, as a minimum, constant readiness to stoke the flames of rebellion all over the country if necessary. Only the stern and pure spirit of rebellion can raise the people to an unattainable height."

On April 6, Democratic Union activists issued an open letter in response to radical demands of the Revolutionary Liberals, stating their concern over the tendency of some Democratic Union members to renounce the principle of nonviolent resistance that was part of the group's founding principles. The letter addressed the apparent hopelessness of the Soviet situation, which has pushed many party activists to embrace an ideology of violent revolution. "These

two positions cannot exist in the same organization," the activists stated. "The letter and the spirit of our charter forbid it. . . . It is impossible for us to remain as one organization."

Italian minister sees upsurge of terrorism

Vincenzo Scotti, Italy's interior minister, warned that "terrorism and organized crime are mobilized against Europe," in a speech before the Commission of Constitutional Affairs of the Italian Parliament on April 10.

"Nobody can ignore the fact that many are concerned with the emergence of a strong, united Europe" said Scotti, adding that the difficulties related to a new equilibrium in Europe, in the Middle East, and worldwide could become fertile ground for the escalation of terrorism.

Referring to a recent report of the Italian secret service, he pointed out that "there is a propagandistic effort characterizing the activities of a number of terrorists who took refuge in France, in particular Scalzone [of the terrorist group Metropoli-Red Brigades], Alimonti, and others, with the aim of beginning new armed actions, also through the creation of new logistical structures.

"There are too many elements in the world which have an interest in delaying the process of European integration," Scotti added, without specifying who these might be. "There are also signals of a revival of terrorism. But as interior minister, I must stop my comments at this point."

Scotti recognized the obvious problem represented by the mafia in Italy, but he rejected the idea that the mafia should be seen as only an Italian phenomenon. "It is enough to think about the dope traffic and the recycling of dirty money to see that this is an international problem. . . . Where is all the money from the Italian-based mafia going? Who is involved in its recycling? Are the 'respectable people' of European finance immune to the problem?"

● **THE PRESIDENT** of Soviet Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, said in an interview with the Spanish daily *El País* that "1991 could be the last year of Gorbachov. That depends on him. This year is the last chance." He warned that Gorbachov had better come up with a program soon that could interest and motivate the Soviet population.

● **FRENCH** Socialist Party leader and former defense minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement charged on April 5 that "the context of a collapse of communism demands another answer than the unleashing of an imperialism. . . . The recreation of an Anglo-American protectorate in the heart of the Islamic-Arabic world at the end of the 20th century has no future."

● **BRAWLS** broke out in the Taiwan Parliament on April 12, when the opposition Democratic People's Party began protesting the constitutional changes being proposed by the ruling Kuomintang party (KMT). The KMT is discussing measures to force the retirement of elderly delegates elected on the mainland 40 years ago. The DPP is threatening street protests, claiming the reforms do not go far enough.

● **RE'UVEN MERHAV**, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, completed a "private" visit to the People's Republic of China in March, and was also in the Soviet Union recently. Contacts are under way between China and Israel to establish diplomatic relations, Israeli television reported.

● **ITALY'S** President Francesco Cossiga gave the green light to the formation of the 50th government of the Italian Republic on April 16. The government will be led by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, and it follows the crisis that broke out following Andreotti's visit to Washington in March.

Panama invasion: Bush's trial run for the new world order

by Carlos Wesley

We are pleased to reprint a presentation delivered by EIR's Caribbean affairs editor to the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) on April 6.

As you know, on Dec. 20, 1989, in what could accurately be said to be the first test of President George Bush's new world order, the Armed Forces of the United States—some 30,000 strong, armed with the most sophisticated weapons in the world, from Stealth fighter bombers to laser rays, and even chemical weapons—achieved a great military victory against the Panamanian Defense Forces led by Gen. Manuel Noriega, an army exactly the size of the Chicago Police Department, and probably not as well armed.

What were the reasons for that invasion? There were no death squads in Panama. Despite all the propaganda against Noriega, it was never claimed that the invading forces had liberated a single political prisoner held by Panama's Defense Forces. One has to admit, that the Panamanian Defense Forces under Noriega had a better human rights record than the Los Angeles Police Department under Daryl Gates.

So, what was the invasion about?

In his speech on Dec. 20, 1989, after the troops had gone into action, President Bush said, "The goals of the United States have been to safeguard the lives of Americans, to defend democracy in Panama, to combat drug trafficking, and to protect the integrity of the Panama Canal Treaty."

Let us look at those assertions one by one. Let us examine what has happened in Panama since the invasion, in light of the goals Bush claimed he wanted to achieve.

From the outset let me say, that we will be looking at this

through the eyes of a Panamanian, my eyes, not from the sort of academic standpoint you might be more accustomed to.

Drug lords put into power

First assertion: The invasion was to combat drug trafficking.

Well, the big headline in Latin America April 5-6, was that another report from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said that the U.S.-installed President of Panama, Guillermo Endara, was an officer of at least six companies involved in laundering drug money. The money, according to the reports, was from a drug ring run by Colombians Augusto Falcón and Salvador Magluta, which allegedly smuggled one ton of cocaine each and every month into Florida, during at least a decade, up to 1987. Endara said he left the companies, on whose board he sat with other members of his law firm, in 1987. But the reports say he remained on the board until at least December of 1990. Other members of the Endara law firm include Menalco Solís, who runs the CIA-trained National Security and Defense Council and the Institutional Protection Service, and Hernán Delgado, Endara's key presidential adviser who was the chairman of the companies charged with money laundering.

It is not the first time Endara has been found to be linked to drug money laundering. He was a co-owner and on the board of Banco Interoceánico, which was ordered liquidated in March. According to U.S. authorities, Interoceánico was laundering funds for the drug mafias, and had even set up special branches in 1989 just to handle the huge inflow of

drug funds, especially that coming from its main customer, Medellín cocaine cartel kingpin, Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, now dead.

Among the banks named April 5, are the Banco General, Banco de Colombia, Union Bank of Switzerland, Banco Alemán, Primer Banco de Ahorros, Sudameris, Banaico, and Banco del Istmo. Most of them are run by the people the U.S. deployed against Noriega and later installed as the government of Panama. For example, Banco del Istmo belongs to Gabriel Lewis Galindo, who is being touted as a potential replacement for the Endara-led troika if and when the Bush administration decides it's time for a change in Panama.

U.S. authorities had information about these individuals' alleged illegal activities long before they were recruited to the anti-Noriega operation, and most assuredly, long before the U.S. decided to install them as the government of Panama.

Besides Endara, other officials of the U.S.-installed Panamanian government known to be tied to drug trafficking and/or to drug money laundering include Second Vice President Guillermo "Billy" Ford, who was a co-owner—with politicians Carlos Rodríguez, who was Endara's ambassador to Washington, and Bobby Eisenmann, publisher of *La Prensa*—of Dadeland National Bank of Miami. Dadeland Bank was the institution charged by prosecutors with laundering the funds for drug trafficker Antonio "Tony" Fernández, sentenced in 1985 to 50 years in jail in the famous Dadeland Bank of Florida/Steven Samos money-laundering case.

Dadeland Bank was also the laundromat of choice of Medellín Cartel money launderer Gonzalo Mora, Jr., who pled guilty in 1989 to drug money laundering charges in Florida.

Also, according to the *Miami Herald* of Jan. 5, 1990, convicted Medellín Cartel money launderer Ramón Milian Rodríguez said he laundered millions of dollars in the 1980s through a company owned by Ford's brother, Henry, and that Billy, the current vice president, also helped his money-laundering operations.

The article said the vice president's nephew Jaime Ford Lara was a schoolmate of Milian Rodríguez. It was Jaime Ford Lara who introduced Milian Rodríguez to the Ford family. Ford Lara was named by the Endara government to run the Colón Free Zone.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, who is supposed to be the country's top law enforcement official, was an officer of First Interamericas Bank, co-owned by Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela of the Cali Cartel, and Jorge Ochoa of the Medellín Cartel. Also on the board of First Interamericas, which was shut down by Noriega in a joint operation with the DEA in 1984, was Jaime Arias Calderón, brother of Guillermo Arias Calderón, first vice president in the U.S.-installed government of Panama. Jaime Arias Calderón is admittedly the chief financial conduit of brother Ricardo's political operations.



Ibero-American parliamentarians place wreath at the tomb of Gen. Omar Torrijos, as gesture of support for Panamanian sovereignty in June 1989. Torrijos-inspired nationalism is what the Anglo-American elite hopes to stamp out.

The jointly owned money-laundering institution of the Medellín and Cali cocaine cartels, First Interamericas, has provided other alumni to the roster of the current Panamanian government, including Treasury Minister Mario Galindo and the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Carlos Lucas López Tejada.

Given that this is the makeup of the government installed in Panama since the invasion, it should come as no surprise that, as London's *The Independent* reported on March 5, 1991, "Statistics now indicate that since General Noriega's departure, cocaine trafficking has, in fact, prospered" in Panama. A few days earlier, on March 1, the U.S. Department of State admitted in a report that drug money laundering is also up at least to the levels of 1989, when George Bush ordered the invasion of the country, killing at least 4,000, if not many more Panamanians.

But, you don't need the DEA, the State Department, or Carlos Wesley to tell you if getting rid of Noriega advanced the war on drugs. There is a very simple test. Has the flow of drugs gone down in Washington, D.C., or in your city, or on your campus; has the number of drug-related murders and other crimes decreased since the U.S. forces went after Noriega and confiscated 50 kilos of cornmeal tamales in December of 1989?

I am sure that the answer is no.

Bush sanctions military dictatorship

Second assertion: to defend democracy in Panama.

Let me be blunt about it. The U.S. has established a military

dictatorship in Panama. Panamanian waters are now patrolled by the U.S. Coast Guard. Panama City, Colón, and other cities are subject to so-called anti-crime sweeps by U.S. troops.

Earlier this year, there were congressional and local elections in Panama. To get out the vote in favor of the U.S.-installed government (which lost, by the way), candidates supported by the Americans got to campaign in U.S. military helicopters, according to one of the few issues of the opposition daily newspaper *El Periódico*, on Jan. 4, 1991, that managed to reach the public. Since it is not possible to teach the natives good old U.S. of A. electioneering without a little porkbarreling, U.S. occupation authorities in Panama sent out the bulldozers to the town of Nombre de Dios, in the province of Colón, where U.S. Army engineers launched operation "Fuerte Caminos 91." Dubbed as "the largest civic action program" undertaken by SouthCom [U.S. Southern Command] in all of Ibero-America, the operation was inaugurated with the kind of fanfare that would have caused the envy of a Chicago ward heeler from the old days.

The 142nd U.S. Army Medical Battalion dispensed vaccines and pushed pills to peasants in the most remote villages. The 470th Intelligence Brigade interrogated voters daily.

As war was about to break out in the Persian Gulf, U.S. troops again deployed in force in the provinces of Chiriqui, Bocas del Toro, Panama, and Colón, because of Panama's large Arab population. And, as most of you know, just this past Dec. 5, U.S. troops deployed in full combat gear into Panama City, supposedly to put down an alleged coup by the former chief of police, Eduardo Herrera.

Every government office in Panama has U.S. military officers assigned to it, from Endara's presidency on down. These are officers from the Pentagon's so-called Civic Action-Country Area Team, or CA-CAT. There are CA-CAT officers assigned to each ministry, all the way down to municipalities and even to police precincts in Panama City. This degree of military control is unheard of in Panama's history. Even under the military governments of General Noriega and his predecessors, all the way back to the leader of the 1968 revolution, Gen. Omar Torrijos, the day-to-day running of the government and most policy decision-making was in the hands of Panamanian civilians.

The American officers are training the police forces, and reeducating the former members of the Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) that were kept on the new Fuerza Pública. As they have explained their mission, the idea is to tell the Panamanian people, via television, that they should forget the issue of the invasion, and concentrate their energies on rebuilding the national identity.

Racism rears its ugly head

This was described in somewhat blunter terms by American Gen. Marc Cisneros, the former head of U.S. Army South. The PDF, he said, "needed an enema." As for the general Panamanian population, General Cisneros was also

very explicit: "They need to have a little change in mind set," he said. Panamanians, he added, "need to have a little infusion of Anglo values."

What are some of those values? Well, take racism.

Before the invasion, the Noriega government was a model of affirmative action, only no one in Panama made any fuss about it.

The President was Francisco Rodríguez, a mestizo; the chief justice of the Supreme Court was Marisol Reyes de Vázquez, a woman. The head of the electoral tribunal, a position of equal rank as the chief justice of the Supreme Court, was also a woman.

The minister of government and justice, who is considered the top official of the cabinet, was Renato Pereira, a black man; the foreign minister was Leonardo Kam, of Chinese descent; the treasury minister was Orville Goodin, a black man; the minister of labor was George Fisher, another black man, and so on down the line. As for the PDF, Noriega was very visibly a mestizo and the rest of the high command included several black men, including the head of the Air Force, such as it was, and a couple of Chinese.

Who were they replaced by? There is only one woman and one black in the cabinet, and it happens to be the same person: Education Minister Ada de Gordon. Every other top official in the U.S.-installed government of Panama, just so happens to be a white male, and most are related to each other. I already mentioned that Ford's nephew, Jaime Ford Lara, is head of the Colón Free Zone. Endara's uncle is head of the Social Security Administration, and so on and so forth.

What the U.S. invasion installed as the government of Panama was the oligarchic comprador class which traditionally ruled Panama until the 1968 Torrijista revolution. These oligarchs, known in Panama as *rabiblanco*s, or white tails, are incapable of governing because, since the establishment of the republic in 1903 with the assistance of Teddy Roosevelt, the Americans always governed for them.

Their pathetic showing during the more than 30 months that preceded the invasion, during which time the U.S. embassy tried to use them to lead an opposition against Noriega, proved their unwillingness to fight for anything. Virtually every strike against Noriega planned by the strategists at the U.S. embassy fizzled when this gang refused to shut down their businesses for fear of losing a day's profits. Such is their contempt for the blacks and mestizos who make up the majority of Panama's population, that they were never able to organize a mass base. So seldom were they willing to abandon the air-conditioned comfort of their cars to hold a demonstration, that the international press took to referring to them as "BMW revolutionaries."

Freedom of the press lost

There is no free press. Under the so-called dictatorship of Noriega, Panamanians had more access to the media. Since the U.S. was so keen on getting Noriega, anyone who had a

complaint against the general, no matter how unfounded, was virtually guaranteed prime-time coverage by ABC, CBC, NBC, CNN, and NPR. Nowadays, no one gives a hoot.

Take the case of broadcaster Balbino "Nino" Macías, the owner of a radio station. He decided to test the government's commitment to democracy by opening his microphones to the public in February of last year. Things were okay until he decided to hold an informal poll. When it turned out that 8 of every 10 callers were against the invasion and the U.S.-installed government, there were moves to shut down the station. Macías responded by chaining himself to the studio, and the government backed down—for a while. All of a sudden, he began getting trouble from the government-owned utilities, and other financial problems. He toned down his anti-government broadcasts.

Journalist Escolástico Calvo, the former publisher of *Crítica*, *Matutino*, and *La República*, was detained by U.S. troops at the time of the invasion and sent to a concentration camp. On what authority, it is not known. He was later transferred to Panamanian authorities who kept him in jail, without trial, until a few months ago, when he was finally let go "for humanitarian reasons" after an international campaign for his release. Why was he not tried? Well, the only charges the government thought it could make stick were for misdemeanors. "I have insisted they try me to get this over with. Even if they manage to convict me, the most I could be sentenced to is to pay a fine of a few hundred dollars," Calvo told me last week.

The same with former legislator and university professor Rigoberto Paredes, who has been held, without trial, since the invasion, first at the American concentration camp and then by the government.

El Periódico came out as a clandestine weekly from time to time. But when it tried to make it as a daily earlier this year, the motors of its press burned down, caused by sudden power surges. It is now shut while its publishers try to raise money to buy the needed replacement parts.

What Panamanians now have is what passes for a free press in the United States. That sort of freedom of the press is useful, as A.J. Liebling once said, only if you own one. Since in Panama the only ones who can afford to publish a newspaper are the *rabiblancos*, only they can say what they want, but only so long as it is within the established parameters. True dissent does not exist.

No rule of law

How can it, when the rule of law is ignored? Members of the legislature are supposed to be immune from arrest when the National Legislative Assembly is in session. Only if the legislative body agrees to lifting a member's parliamentary immunity can that member be arrested and subjected to prosecution, regardless of the charge. Yet, opposition legislator Elías Castillo was jailed at the start of the current legislative session, and the government did not even seek to get his

immunity lifted, which would have been a mere formality since they command a majority in the parliament.

Following a 100,000 person-strong "right to life" march this past Dec. 4, which was organized by the labor movement to protest growing unemployment and the plans by the government to sell off the state sector at bargain-basement prices, every single one of the labor leaders involved was fired, down to the level of shop steward, and arrest orders were issued for 100 of the top leaders. It turns out that the labor leaders had the law on their side. The march took place after working hours, and they were engaged in an activity protected by the labor code, and by other laws up to and including the Constitution of Panama.

Not to worry. The U.S.-installed government ordered them fired anyway, and then got the Legislative Assembly to approve a law, *ex post facto*, giving them the legal authority to carry out the dismissals.

Destroying Torrijos

I want to say something about the ongoing campaign to turn the late nationalist leader Gen. Omar Torrijos into a non-person. His name has been removed from Panama City's international airport, from schools, museums, and other public buildings. Schoolteachers have been instructed to refer to Torrijos as a "dictator."

Most Panamanians revere Torrijos because of his contributions to the nation's development. During his government, from 1968 to 1972, electrification was extended to most of the country. Highways, hospitals, schools, water works, telephone networks, and whole towns were built. Illiteracy was nearly eradicated. Persons from the poorest layers were given the opportunity for higher education. And, most important, he ended Panama's semi-colonial status, by successfully negotiating the 1977 Panama Canal treaties.

According to labor leader Mauro Murillo, Panamanians "lived moments of splendor, of advancement, of progress during the Torrijos era." Murillo, who heads Panama's National Workers Federation (CNTP) and who is also a vice president of the Latin American Communications Workers, has said that under Torrijos and his successor, Noriega, "workers, peasants, and the people in general participated in running the state, because we were consulted and our opinions were taken into account."

The offensive against Panamanian nationalism, he said, is to lay the groundwork to refinance the foreign debt, and to impose the structural adjustments of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. That would entail privatization of all state companies, reducing the minimum wage, and doing away with the right of collective bargaining, he said.

Destroying the economy

The destruction caused by the invasion and the preceding two years of economic warfare, cost Panama up to \$7 billion,

according to officials of the former government, and at least \$3 billion, according to officials of the Endara government. After promising \$2 billion, and then \$1 billion, in assistance, the U.S. government finally approved just \$460 million. Of that, only \$42 million was slated for so-called humanitarian aid, and a few million more for other government operations. The greater portion of the funds are staying right here in the United States, to pay some of the \$800 million in arrears on Panama's foreign debt, which is now close to \$6 billion, according to First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderón. Even the money earmarked to go to Panama has been held back by the Bush administration, to force the Endara government to sign the Mutual Legal Assistance Pact.

But that's not all. The U.S. admitted having stolen \$400 million of Panama's own money under the economic sanctions against Noriega. Part of that money was used to finance shady operations by the fictitious government nominally run by former President Eric Delvalle out of his condo in Coconut Grove, Florida. But, after the invasion, instead of returning what was left to the Endara regime, the U.S. government held on to the greater portion and sent it off to the banks, again to help clear up Panama's arrears.

Fifteen months after the invasion, there are still some 2,000 persons, of the estimated 40,000 left homeless by the U.S. bombing of El Chorrillo [a poor neighborhood in Panama City], living in cubicles in the abandoned hangars of the former U.S. Air Force base at Albrook. Most of the other persons displaced from El Chorrillo were forced to make their own arrangements to find shelter. The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) allocated \$6,500 per family for replacement housing, but that does not even compensate for the personal property they lost, much less buy replacement housing. In fact, it is far below what those people are entitled to as indemnification under the rules of war. El Chorrillo is not being rebuilt for its former residents. El Chorrillo is slated to undergo what is known in the U.S. as gentrification.

The government rescinded a law adopted by the previous military governments, that froze land prices in El Chorrillo at \$40-80 per square meter. Without the freeze, said Raúl Figueroa, the housing minister, land prices in El Chorrillo will eventually zoom up to \$900 per square meter, placing it out of the reach of the former residents, whose monthly income averages an estimated \$160 per month.

According to a recent U.S. General Accounting Office report entitled "Resettlement of Panama's Displaced El Chorrillo Residents, December 1990" (GAO/NSIAD-91-63BR), AID said that because of "criticism that attempts were being made to prevent residents to return to what some considered a prime downtown area," it was forced to offer the choice of building low income housing in El Chorrillo. But, says AID, those who choose to go back to live in El Chorrillo, will have to wait another 1-2 years before an apartment is available, and then the apartments will sell for

\$12,000, almost twice as much as the \$6,500 housing grant.

More than one-third of Panama's total labor force is unemployed. For the first time in decades, there is now a problem of infant malnutrition, according to Endara's own health minister. The same official has also warned that Panama is going to be hit by the cholera epidemic now sweeping across South America.

Yet, the entirety of the government's economic program is oriented towards selling off state enterprises at bargain-basement prices, and paying the debt, no matter what it takes. That policy was made in the U.S.A. As an official of the Bush administration told the *Los Angeles Times* soon after the invasion, "economic recovery should be the country's number-two goal. Panama's first priority, says the U.S., is to pay off its foreign debt." The American official, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, said that if Panama spent money creating jobs, "You will have created in the long run a basket case. If you spend the money on public works, it will take away from debt payment."

When Vice President Arias Calderón suggested last week that maybe the government should pay some attention to the social debt before it lost all support, Comptroller Rubén Darío Carles replied: That's nonsense—Peru's Alan García tried that and look where it got him. We have an obligation to pay the debt and that's it, said Carles.

This, of course, is all in the name of the "free market" economy promoted by Bush. But even super-capitalists such as Dulcideo González, the staunchly pro-American former head of Panama's National Council for Private Enterprise (CONEP), has said the National Strategy for Economic Development and Modernization imposed on the government of Panama by the Bush administration means "the death of private enterprise."

According to González, "this damned economic plan seems to have been drafted by Martians after an all-night marijuana-smoking party."

Canal treaties in jeopardy

The third assertion: to protect the integrity of the treaties. The 1977 Panama Canal Treaties call for the United States to turn over the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama on Dec. 31, 1999. At the same time, the U.S. is supposed to shut down its military bases in that country.

On March 21, Sen. Larry Craig (R-Id.) introduced a concurrent resolution calling on Bush to renegotiate the Panama Canal Treaties to maintain a U.S. military presence there, "because the Republic of Panama has dissolved its defense forces and has no standing army, or other defense forces, capable of defending the Panama Canal from aggressors, and therefore, remains vulnerable to attack both from inside and outside of Panama." First, the U.S. armtwists Panama into disarming itself, then a resolution is submitted to Congress that "calls on President George Bush to renegotiate the Panama Canal Treaties, to permit the United States Armed Forces

EIR reporter speaks to scholars on Panama invasion

Executive Intelligence Review's Panama correspondent Carlos Wesley was one of the featured speakers on the panel on "The Impact of the Panama Invasion" at the 16th International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), which took place from April 4-6 in Washington, D.C. LASA, which groups academics and other specialists on Latin America from universities, colleges, think tanks and similar institutions in the United States and elsewhere in the world, is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Wesley was invited to ensure that a Panamanian perspective was presented to the conference after Marco Gándasegui and Raúl Leis, two scholars from Panama who were originally scheduled to speak, were forced to cancel their trip. Ostensibly, the cancellation was because of objections from "the donors." The Ford Foundation and the Interamerican Foundation provide LASA with the funds to finance the participation of scholars from abroad. Wesley spoke on the panel with well-known American author Philip Wheaton, who has just published a book on U.S.-Panama relations, and another American specialist on Panama, Dr. Coniff, a historian.

Wesley's assessment of where things stand in Panama today, 16 months after George Bush ordered the invasion on Dec. 20, 1989, shocked the audience, which has been for the most part uninformed by the U.S. media. Particularly upsetting to most, was the fact that almost daily, more information from U.S. law enforcement agencies

becomes available showing that the government which Bush installed in Panama after the invasion, presided over by Guillermo Endara, is tied to the drug cartels, a story blacked out by the American media.

He also documented that very little has been done for the victims of the invasion, mostly Panamanian civilians, or to rebuild that nation's war-torn economy. This evaluation, corroborated by the other speakers on the panel, gave rise to a heated debate during the discussion period. Panama's ambassador to the United States, Eduardo Vallarino, appointed by the Endara government, said that virtually "everything the speakers said" was false, that there "are two sides to every issue," and that he would be glad to provide "the other side" to everyone who wrote to Panama's embassy in Washington.

This proved too much for Panamanian political figure Arturo Griffith, who shouted at the ambassador: "What other side? There is no other side. Who speaks for the thousands who were killed in the invasion?"

Antonio Stamp, a Panamanian activist in the Washington, D.C. area, took the Endara government's envoy to task for not demanding that the U.S. government indemnify those Panamanians left homeless by the invasion.

But it is unlikely that Vallarino will provide the "other side" to anyone who writes requesting information. Two days after the LASA conference, Endara fired Vallarino as Panama's ambassador and gave the job to the brother of banker Guillermo "Billy" Ford, the second vice president and minister of planning and finance in the U.S.-installed government. Ford, who is a former co-owner of the drug money-laundering Dadeland Bank of Miami and a Bush favorite, already has a nephew appointed as head of the Colón Free Zone.

to remain in Panama beyond Dec. 31, 1999, and to permit the U.S. to act independently to continue to protect the Panama Canal."

The concurrent resolution, introduced in the House by Rep. Philip Crane (R-Ill.), is backed by Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), which means that the Bush White House is also behind it.

By one of those coincidences of history, on the same day, March 21, the U.S.-installed government sent a number of proposed amendments to Panama's Constitution to the National Legislature. The most important of those amendments would forever abolish Panama's right to an army.

It is clear that none of three main reasons Bush gave for the invasion, has succeeded. Far from combatting drugs, the invasion installed a more corrupt government in power in Panama, with predictable results: more drugs, and more drug money laundering. The invasion, in fact, put in a government

that has made Panama safe for drugs. Instead of democracy, Panama is now governed by a U.S. military dictatorship that does not allow a free press, ignores the rule of law, and has no respect for human rights. Insofar as the third assertion, to protect the integrity of the Panama Canal Treaties, the Bush administration has de facto torn up the treaties through the invasion and subsequent occupation, and it's now proceeding to nullify those treaties *de jure*.

So, every one of the aims of the invasion has been botched. One must conclude that either the Bush administration is the most incompetent bunch of buffoons ever to occupy the White House, or—and this is my own personal conviction—from the beginning, the Bush administration has approached Panama as a laboratory to perform the experiments in how to set up the new world order, the results of which we have now seen applied to Iraq, and will likely soon see extended to other nations of the Third World.

AFL-CIO rips 'free trade' pact; has yet to mobilize

by Nora Hamerman

The head of the AFL-CIO trade union confederation, Lane Kirkland, in a commentary printed in the *Wall Street Journal* on April 18, blasted the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as a "disaster of Stalin's worst." Kirkland's characterization of the bill was backed up by the testimony of several labor leaders before Congress, who charged that NAFTA will extend the subhuman conditions of the *maquiladoras*, the assembly plants which have sprouted up in northern Mexico along the border with the United States, to all of Mexico, and destroy American industry in the process.

President Bush's "fast track" tactic is intended to give him the authority to negotiate NAFTA, the so-called free trade accord between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, without allowing Congress its constitutional right to debate and amend the measure—only to vote it up or down. Only if enough congressional opposition surfaces before May 31, will Bush be denied the "fast track" prerogative.

NAFTA, as a forthcoming *EIR* White Paper will document in full detail, has nothing to do with free trade. All essential protectionist barriers in the Mexican economy have already been dumped by the Salinas de Gortari government. Rather, this misnamed North American Common Market is the keystone of the Kissingerian foreign policy pursued by George Bush—the model for looting all of Latin America's economies in order to wage trade war against our allies, Europe and Japan. The vehicle for the latter is GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The U.S. Congress is to be humiliated and reduced to a rubberstamp for any police-state measures Bush chooses to implement—completing the destruction of constitutional government that began when the administration kept Congress from effectively debating on the Gulf war.

Speaking April 15 to the European Council of the American Chambers of Commerce, U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher declared that fast-track authorization to negotiate the NAFTA is the key to Bush economic policy

from here on. Fast track, he said, "is simply the ability for the President and his negotiators to be able to negotiate a trade agreement, whether it is the Uruguay Round of GATT or whether it is the North American Free Trade Agreement, or whether it is a follow-on which we see down the road of free trade agreements." Mosbacher called any alternative to the fast track "unthinkable," claiming it would "end the ability of America to continue its economic leadership."

Has our idolatry come to this?

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland's article in the *Wall Street Journal* refutes two lies of the free-trade fanatics: one, that NAFTA is comparable to the European Common Market; and two, that free trade with Mexico will be "Heaven on Earth" for both countries. To the first, he says that the European Community has a social charter which concerns itself with health, safety, training, social assistance, collective bargaining, development funds to prevent the widening gap between rich and poor countries, etc. NAFTA would contain none of these "social dimensions," and the fast track plan would make sure they were never included.

"Proponents of the agreement, the *Journal* included, have made it clear that any such conditions would render it worthless," Kirkland wrote. "They don't like the idea of large multinational corporations being forced by law to provide better than subsistence wages or having to contribute to a tax base to build sewers, roads, schools and other basic necessities of a decent and civil human society. . . . Has our idolatry of the free and unregulated market really come to this?"

On April 17, United Auto Workers President Owen Bieber testified before the House Ways and Means Committee against the extension of the fast-track negotiating authority for NAFTA and GATT. "The UAW very strongly opposes the extension and supports the adoption of a motion of disapproval. Let me make clear at the outset that the UAW opposes

extending fast track procedures for agreements that may result from either the GATT negotiations or the proposed U.S.-Mexico negotiations.”

The UAW president then presented an analysis which echoed the one which has been presented by presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and in *EIR*, repeatedly since 1982. “The single most important event in U.S.-Mexico economic relations in the past decade is the Mexican debt crisis that began in 1982. Prior to that event, Mexico had experienced quite rapid economic growth and development for many years. Wage rates relative to the U.S. were far higher than in other countries at similar levels of development. The Mexican government showed little interest in increased integration between the two economies. Despite barriers to U.S. goods, exports of capital goods to Mexico were substantial and the U.S. ran trade surpluses in manufactured goods.”

Bieber described how the situation has deteriorated since the debt crisis. “Mexican workers have seen the buying power of their wages and their standard of living decline sharply as the government adopted austerity measures to generate dollars to pay debt obligations.” They needed large trade surpluses to pay the debt. This also affected U.S. exports to Mexico. Mexican wages fell. The U.S. became deindustrialized. “Manufacturing jobs disappeared and the number of low wage service industry jobs grew.” He attacked the administration’s studies for saying that a free trade agreement will not shift existing investment to Mexico, only new. “This is ridiculous. There are now approximately 75,000 workers in Mexico performing auto-related work for U.S. companies formerly done here. We have no doubt the number will greatly increase.”

Crippling blow to Midwest industry

Thomas Donahue, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, also testified before the House Ways and Means Committee, criticizing the free trade agreements themselves, particularly NAFTA, rather than just the fast track. The free trade accord “would hurt workers in the United States. It would pave the way for hundreds of thousands of jobs to be exported to Mexico. We have a gruesome preview of this in the *maquiladoras*, the U.S.-owned plants that operate just across the border, exploit Mexican workers, and produce goods that are exported back here.”

He said that Chicago, the home of Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), has been hit hard. “Stewart Warner, Modern Filters, Cooper Lighting, Wells-Lemont, Shure Brothers, and Gould Electric Products have all opened up shop in Ciudad Cuauhtémoc. Quaker Oats and Zenith are now in Matamoros. Rheem Manufacturing and Sundstrand Corporation have operations in Nuevo Laredo. There are dozens of other Chicago companies on the list.”

He cited an International Trade Commission Report which says the majority of the U.S. working population

would be hurt by an FTA. “The multinationals can take advantage of the terrible poverty in Mexico and pay workers a small fraction of average U.S. wages. Moreover, they do not have to pay for workman’s compensation insurance, unemployment insurance, and other protections that have long been considered to be essential in this country.”

Donahue warned, “In Nogales many workers live in shacks made of cardboard and scraps of wood. In Nuevo Laredo alone, about 25 million gallons of untreated sewage are dumped into the Rio Grande every day. An investigation by the National Toxics Campaign Fund found ‘widespread and serious contamination by U.S.-owned firms operating along Mexico’s border.’ They have been an utter disaster for working people in Mexico. In the 1980s—the boom decade for the *maquiladoras*—Mexican wages in dollar terms fell from the highest in the Third World to among the lowest. The entire purpose of the *maquiladoras* is providing multinational corporations with a work force that is poor, desperate, and easily exploited. It would do to most of Mexico what the *maquiladoras* have already done to the border areas.”

Where’s the mobilization?

Congressional opposition, never very forceful, is melting under White House heat. “The administration is so concerned that President Bush last week launched a fierce attack on the opposition labeling those against the Free Trade Agreement ‘fear mongers’ who practice ‘defeatism,’ ” revealed the *Financial Times* of London on April 16. Bush’s Special Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter has threatened that any opponents of NAFTA will get the same opprobrium meted out to critics of the Gulf war.

On April 16, an aide at AFL-CIO headquarters admitted that congressional resistance has stalled. Last summer, Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) got 38 co-sponsors for his resolution opposing the fast track authority for Bush to negotiate GATT and NAFTA as a “favor” to him before they really knew anything about it. Now, she said, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.), who chairs the Senate Finance Committee, is getting people to *oppose* the resolution as a favor, and the list of opponents is dwindling fast. (*EIR*’s previous report that Bentsen was on record against the bill, thus appears to have been in error.)

The words of the AFL-CIO leaders are on the mark, but there is as yet no visible mobilization by the unions or farm organizations to deal Bush a well-deserved defeat on this life-and-death issue. The war euphoria is fading, and the domestic economic crisis is spreading; there is excellent political potential to mobilize Americans against the “free trade” policy to turn the continent into one giant Auschwitz. Ironically, the only political forces taking the leadership of the fight at the level of mass organizing, are those associated with the presidential campaign of Lyndon LaRouche—the very political movement which, on numerous occasions in the past, the AFL-CIO and UAW tried to destroy.

Bush crime bill faces well-deserved death

by Leo F. Scanlon

A Bush administration attempt to push gun control legislation in order to secure congressional support for an expanded death penalty and sweeping increases in federal police powers, is facing an early, and well-deserved defeat. The scheme was aimed at building support for those provisions of the administration's crime bill—restrictions on federal *habeas corpus* proceedings, expanded use of federal death penalty sentences, and a broadside attack on procedures which exclude illegally obtained evidence from trial—which doomed the package in the last legislative session. The administration hoped to win backing for this tyrant's brew by offering to support the controversial Brady Bill, a major defeat for the "gun lobby," which would effectively put the scalp of the National Rifle Association (NRA) up on the wall.

Unfortunately for Messrs. Bush, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, and White House counsel C. Boyden Gray, the reports of the demise of the NRA are at least somewhat premature, as the organization has just concluded a tumultuous convention which strongly rejected the Brady Bill and the politicians supporting it (including Ronald Reagan himself), and promised a vigorous grass-roots fight and show of force on the issue. The administration now has nothing to offer its opponents except the police state provisions of its crime bill, and these won't go down any better this session than they did in the last.

Gun control traded for death penalty

The Brady Bill is a simple proposition which calls for a federally mandated seven day waiting period between the time a person requests to purchase a handgun, and the time he takes delivery of the weapon. Advocates of the waiting period scheme say it will allow local police to conduct records checks and screen out felons and other persons legally prohibited from owning a gun. Local police point out that they don't have the time to do this. Attorney General Thornburgh told a Cable News Network interviewer that "the state of the criminal records maintained by the states and by the federal government is such that that record check would not be adequate to determine whether an individual is a felon in a particular case." Thornburgh went on to deliver an even more damning indictment of the scheme as he pointed to the obvious flaw: "Eighty-three percent of the handguns used by felons are not purchased at a sporting goods store or any over-the-counter operation. They would be unregulated and

subject to no scrutiny by bills such as the Brady Bill."

Nonetheless, Thornburgh sent a letter to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice, which promised support for the measure, "if Congress acts favorably on the President's comprehensive crime bill." The White House even prevailed on NRA life-member Ronald Reagan to make a dramatic announcement supporting the bill, with his former press secretary James Brady (the bill's namesake) at his side.

British-model police state in the wings

This swarmy performance by the Bush administration is appropriate to the degenerate quality of the so-called "Crime Bill" it is supporting. In addition to the well-advertised death penalty and *habeas corpus* reform measures, the bill proposes to blast a hole in the exclusionary rule—which prevents the use of illegally obtained evidence at trial. Again, the anti-constitutional maneuver has the patina of "gun control" in order to make it palatable to other elements of the political spectrum.

There presently exists a "good faith" exception to the exclusionary rule, which allows police to admit evidence seized during a valid search, even if it was not described in a warrant, as long as the search itself was conducted in good faith. The Thornburgh Justice Department wants to overturn this notion completely, and substitute a British-modeled "inclusionary rule" which would allow police to admit evidence obtained "not in good faith" if it is a firearm.

"What we are calling for is an 'inclusionary rule' with respect to one specific kind of evidence," Thornburgh told CNN. "And this in fact is the rule in the United Kingdom. There is no exclusionary rule in that country which gave us our system of laws. . . . What we're proposing is an inclusionary rule for firearms offenses, as I say it comports to what the rule is in the United Kingdom, it's one that served them well over the years."

While it is an unfortunate fact that much of U.S. criminal law did come from Britain, the Attorney General has conveniently forgotten that the U.S. also has a Constitution, which Britain does not. The U.S. Constitution expressly prohibits such charming British practices as fabricating and planting false evidence, the very crimes the state will inevitably commit once such "inclusionary rules" are established. These prohibitions are not designed to defend criminals, they are designed to defend the citizen against the over-reaching type of government being built by the Bush administration.

The British legal establishment is even now embroiled in a crisis triggered by revelations about the "Birmingham Six," a group of men labeled "IRA terrorists," who were convicted and jailed for 16 years on the basis of evidence constructed entirely by the police and the courts. The increasing dependence on conspiracy laws, secret informants, and fabricated evidence have nothing to do with law enforcement, but everything to do with a police state.

'October Surprise' revives Bush scandal

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In December 1980, *EIR* published the first in a series of articles identifying Iranian arms dealer Cyrus Hashemi as a "double agent" for the Reagan-Bush electoral campaign. Hashemi helped broker a deal between William Casey and the Iranian regime to delay the release of the American hostages being held in Teheran, until after the November 1980 elections. Hashemi, *EIR* charged, had been working since late 1979 as a mediator between the Carter White House and the Iranian mullahs on an arms-for-hostages deal, but had switched sides when he perceived that the GOP slate would likely win the 1980 presidential election.

EIR specifically identified George Bush and James Baker III as key players in what was already referred to at that time as the "October Surprise."

Now, over ten years later, that scandal has resurfaced in what may be the opening salvo of "Bushgate." In virtually every detail, the October Surprise scandal is identical to the reports first issued by *EIR*.

- In a lengthy commentary published in the *New York Times* on April 15, former Carter National Security Council staffer Gary Sick identified Jamshid Hashemi, the older brother of the now deceased Cyrus Hashemi, as one of his primary eyewitness sources on meetings in Washington, D.C., Madrid, and Paris involving top Iranian clerics, Reagan-Bush campaign manager and later CIA director William Casey, George Bush, and others. The Sick revelations grabbed national news headlines and were the subject of an ABC "Nightline" program.

- On April 16, PBS television's "Frontline" aired a documentary on the October Surprise, which prominently featured the Hashemi brothers. One of the other central October Surprise players interviewed by "Frontline" was Miles Copeland, a recently deceased career CIA officer, who stated that he, along with Henry Kissinger, David Rockefeller, and Kermit Roosevelt (another career CIA officer who later worked as a vice president at Chase Manhattan Bank), had worked to bring down the Carter presidency. Copeland's on-camera admissions corroborated a story first published in *New Solidarity*, a national newspaper associated with *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche, in the summer of 1982, entitled "How Kissinger Delayed the Release of U.S. Hostages in Iran." That article named Kissinger, Rockefeller, Bush, and Baker as the players in an elaborate deal with then-Iranian parliamentary speaker Ayatollah Beheshti, to hold the hos-

tages in Teheran until after the Reagan-Bush inauguration.

Shortly after the original October Surprise exposé, *EIR* was sued by Hashemi, who falsely denied that he had played any role in the hostage shenanigans. Other news agencies that were also sued by the Iranian, including Cable News Network (CNN) and the *Washington Post*, quickly settled out of court. *EIR* stuck to the accuracy of its story and the suit dragged on for years in court, until a federal judge dismissed the case "with prejudice." Government documents later revealed that the *EIR* charges were, if anything, an understatement. In an effort to conceal the truth about the shameful hostage maneuverings by both the Carter and Reagan-Bush teams, the FBI classified key Hashemi documents "State Secret," and for years blocked their release.

An independent inquiry

On April 17, one day after the "Frontline" show was aired nationally, former Carter State Department official and *New York Times* columnist Leslie Gelb called on Congress to appoint an independent panel to probe the alleged Reagan-Bush campaign interference.

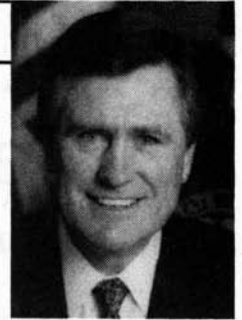
Said Gelb: "Hardball politics is one thing. But presidential candidates or their aides interfering in life-and-death, war-and-peace decisions of sitting Presidents is quite another. It is treachery. There is now strong circumstantial evidence that the Reagan campaign team in 1980 undercut President Carter's efforts to gain the release of Americans held hostage by Iran. . . . Congressional leaders, if they have guts, should appoint a nonpartisan commission of private citizens to investigate the charges."

Numerous sources in the United States and Western Europe have informed *EIR* that the October Surprise revival is the first of a string of scandals that are about to be unleashed against the Bush presidency. These sources report that leading Democratic Party figures have joined forces with some Israeli intelligence networks to attempt to damage the Bush reelection prospects, and perhaps drive Bush out of the Oval Office, Nixon-style.

Among other Bushgate scandals reportedly in the media hopper are the Bush administration coverup and possible complicity in the Pan Am 103 terrorist bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988; the coverup of the Gander, Newfoundland plane crash; and the assassination in February 1986 of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, an event inextricably tied to the Reagan-Bush team's coverup of the Irangate scandal.

It is too early to tell whether the assault on Bush is serious or not. One nagging question is how Bush's Carter-Democrat rivals and the Israelis are going to slam the President's men for criminal acts in which they themselves actively participated.

If these would-be partisan warriors are serious about bringing down the Bush regime, they would do well to reopen the files on the Bush administration's railroading of political economist Lyndon LaRouche.



'If people don't rise up,' worse economic hardship to come

Gib Lewis (D-Ft. Worth), the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, was the target of a 17-week grand jury investigation run by Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle. The grand jury, which ended its term on April 5 after a 90-day extension, indicted Lewis on two misdemeanor charges. A member of Lewis's leadership team in the House, Rep. Hugo Berlanga, was jailed for six hours during this House term, for defying a judge's order to turn over personal and business records.

In spite of the indictments and repeated statements by Earle implying that he will find much more evidence of corruption, Lewis was reelected to an unprecedented fifth term as Speaker, with only one vote against him. At least in part due to the media hype launched by Earle in the context of his investigation, which was interpreted by many of the representatives as an attack on the integrity of the House itself, legislation is pending to reform the grand jury process. Many legal experts believe the grand jury process has been transformed from an institution designed to protect citizens from arbitrary prosecution, to one which has become a rubber stamp for prosecutors.

This interview was conducted on April 9 by Harley Schlanger.

EIR: Mr. Speaker, you have been the subject of a very public investigation, with quite wild accusations leaked almost daily to the press. Some of your supporters say you have been the target of an unfair political witchhunt. Do you have any comments on that?

Lewis: I'll have to side with my supporters. I have been the victim of a very unfair witchhunt.

EIR: Certainly, you've been the victim of trial by press.

Lewis: That's true. I think what's so disturbing about the whole incident is that it's certainly been nothing more than a media event from the very first day. Supposedly, grand jury proceedings are secret, but there was almost a daily press conference on everything that was said and who was talked to and what went on in the grand jury that day, and only one side was presented. Everyone who testified before the grand jury was sworn to secrecy with a threat of lawsuits and impris-

onment in some cases if they spoke to anybody about it. But of course, the District Attorney and Assistant District Attorney had freedom to do whatever they wanted to do, or give out any incriminating evidence they wanted to give out.

When you're tried in the press, it's very damaging to a person's reputation. That's one thing the press can take away from you that they cannot give back to you.

EIR: Some analysts have been warning that District Attorneys and U.S. Attorneys, with the press, have become highly political and have been using their offices to effect legislation, as an intrusion into the legislative process. There have been state and federal sting operations in Oklahoma, South Carolina, and elsewhere. Your predecessor as Texas Speaker, Billy Clayton, was targeted by Brilab (and later acquitted). Do you see this as a danger, that these are moves against constituency-based politicians?

Lewis: I think it's a real danger and has to be controlled. If some District Attorney wants to have real high name identity, his name overnight becomes a household word by investigating or trying to indict some politician. That's a popular thing right now, because most people dislike politicians, they distrust politicians, that's an image the press has instilled in people's minds.

When you have a prosecutor who wants to build a little name identification for a higher office, or whatever his motive might be, it's very easy to just go and investigate a certain politician. You're never held accountable for your actions, but you have destroyed that person and his reputation, it's damaging to him financially and in every other manner. And it takes away further people's trust in elected government institutions.

EIR: Do you think there is a possibility of backlash against this kind of targeting, for example legislation for grand jury reform?

Lewis: I think it will, and I think it should.

EIR: Let's turn to the state economic situation. The Texas legislature is presently under heavy pressure due to a projected deficit. How do you think things look for Texas?

Lewis: At this point it does not look good. To maintain current services—that's not adding one new prison, that's not adding any new programs, and certainly not being able to address the programs that have been handed down by the federal government to the state government, which is going to cost the state over \$1 billion a biennial just to take care of federal mandates on Department of Human Services problems—we are approximately \$4.5 billion short.

EIR: There have been figures published recently that show that 30 state governments are in financial trouble, so it's not just Texas. Yet economists in Washington are telling us the 1980s were years of great recovery and that, while we might be in a recession right now, it's going to be short, and we'll have an upturn soon. What do you think?

Lewis: Well, people in Washington can probably tell you, "Yes, we're in a recovery," and the reason they may be in recovery is an effort to balance the federal budget, what they've done is pass all those burdens down to the state. And they were not satisfied with just passing those burdens down to the state. When they passed them down to the state, they allowed the federal bureaucrats involved in those programs to broaden the recipients, to loosen the requirements, and have multiplied that expenditure many-fold to the states.

EIR: Are you expecting more of this, given the growing deficit in Washington?

Lewis: I'm afraid if the people don't rise up and let them know what they're doing, it will happen.

EIR: The Texas economy has obviously been damaged by the way the savings and loan bailout has occurred. There's a serious credit crunch here. Do you have any comments on the way the Bush administration has handled the S&L crisis?

Lewis: I think it's been handled very poorly by the federal government. Their attitude toward trying to find a solution has been to let the federal government just bail everybody out, rather than sitting down and trying to work out agreements between the lender and the person who had the mortgage or the loans. I know many cases personally where, if the federal government had allowed the savings and loans and, in some cases, the banks, to work with that individual who had those loans, they could work those loans out. And then the taxpayer would not have been subjected to near the financial backlash they are being subjected to.

EIR: You mentioned earlier that it might take some form of protest from the state and local level to shift the thinking in Washington. In 1988, Lyndon LaRouche said that state and local governments, which are under very heavy fire, will have to be the ones which sound the alarms and initiate actions to protect their constituents, especially given the domination of Washington by Wall Street and the money center banks. What can state and local governments do to

convey the depth of the crisis to Washington?

Lewis: Well, I think most states . . . are just now feeling the crunch, the financial crunch, because these programs that the federal government has given the states are just now starting to soak in, to the point that you're seeing in many states an ineptitude to balance their budgets. They don't have the flexibility for tax increases, they have to make massive layoffs. What they are doing in some cases is laying off several thousands of state employees, which maybe they wouldn't have had to do and could still furnish the same level of services if they didn't have these federal mandates.

I think in the next two years, or probably even less than that, in 18 months to two years, you are going to start seeing legislators being more vocal towards the federal government, trying to get their case heard on the federal level, saying, "Don't balance the federal budget on our backs, we have problems of our own." We're responsible for a certain level of government, mainly in education, in administration of health care programs, highway systems, and those other things that they have neglected, for example, by holding the highway funds and allowing those funds to go towards balancing the budget.

If the federal government wants to make some reforms, they should do it without making the states shoulder that burden.

Bridge Across Jordan by Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson

From the civil rights struggle in the South in the 1930s, to the Edmund Pettus Bridge at Selma, Alabama in 1965, to the liberation of East Germany in 1989-90: the new edition of the classic account by an American heroine who struggled at the side of Dr. Martin Luther King and today is fighting for the cause of Lyndon LaRouche.

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Hampton students protest Bush speech

by Nancy Primack

Students at Hampton University in Virginia who oppose the choice of President George Bush as commencement speaker for this year's graduation ceremonies, have told the press that there would already have been protest demonstrations against Bush if not for police state tactics being used by the university administration of Bush's close friend, University president William Harvey.

The Concerned Citizens Committee, formed to support the students' right to free speech, detailed the pattern of intimidation at a press conference on April 11. Danielle Alexander, a representative of the Committee, said that "there is an atmosphere of fear in the nation and amongst the students and faculty at Hampton University. . . . Many students have described threats from the administration to keep seniors who participate in any protests from graduating. Some faculty members have reported being told that heads will roll if they voice any opposition to this decision."

Police state tactics

Students report that the Harvey administration told one senior distributing an anti-Bush leaflet in March that all her classes were dropped. Lasharn Williams, a Hampton sophomore, told the *Newport News Daily*, "Everyone's opposed to Bush coming. They're afraid to come out, because they fear Harvey will do something to them." The rumored presence of Secret Service and FBI agents on campus since March, has caused fear among many students that they are being spied upon.

These police state tactics used to intimidate opposition to Bush's speech at Hampton have been the subject of nationwide news media coverage, and now it is known that the ever so popular Bush is considered a pariah at the black university campus.

Bush is so disliked at Hampton that, despite this intimidation, various flyers are circulating on campus which call George Bush "an enemy of the black community," and say that he and Hampton president Harvey "are trying to destroy Dr. Martin Luther King's dream."

One fact sheet circulating reports that in 1969, then-U.S. Representative George Bush ran a task force which invited Dr. William Shockley and Arthur Jensen to expound upon their racist views that blacks were genetically inferior to whites. The leaflet quotes from the *Congressional Record* in

which Bush reported favorably on Shockley's "race science" theories.

University officials reacted swiftly to suppress the distribution of this fact sheet by confiscating it and threatening those distributing it with arrest. Harvey responded further to the growing unrest by sending all students and faculty members a memorandum which defended Bush. "In view of the President's long standing support of historically Black colleges and universities," Harvey said, he is "particularly pleased" that Bush is speaking at Hampton's commencement. He concluded his memo warning, "As is the case in our individual homes, honored and invited guests are to be treated with dignity and respect. I expect no less from the Hampton University faculty, student body, and other constituents!"

Students undaunted by such intimidation, responded immediately with more leaflets denouncing Bush's recent veto threat which stopped the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1990. His "support" for black colleges was also exposed, since his administration was responsible for massive cuts in aid for black colleges. Another leaflet denounced Bush's support for genocidal population reduction programs.

Disgusted with the University administration's tactics, several students, together with the Concerned Citizens Committee, called for an anti-Bush demonstration to take place in the city of Hampton, away from the campus. Organizers of the demonstration expected only 30 or so students to attend due to the environment of fear created by University officials. When over 100 students showed up with posters and placards denouncing Bush, Harvey announced that he would approve a demonstration on campus, in the football stadium, as the "official" school protest.

Bush was soundly denounced even at the "approved" protest. One student who addressed the rally said that not only was the invitation to Bush an insult to the students, but that "having George Bush speak is like inviting a murderer to write the eulogy for his intended victim."

But Hampton students are not alone in their protests against Bush. Students at the University of Michigan held protests in mid-April against Bush's scheduled commencement address there. When then-Vice President Bush spoke there in 1985, students hurled rotten eggs. Barbara Bush may be greeted with the same type of enthusiastic protest when she speaks at several commencement exercises this spring.

As the drive towards George Bush's new world order and the descent into economic depression continues, more and more students, as well as other citizens, find themselves increasingly locked out of opportunities and their rightful participation in U.S. society. Across the nation, students are protesting tuition hikes, budget cuts, and George Bush. Many ad hoc committees supporting the economic programs of Lyndon LaRouche are now forming on campuses to offer an alternative of economic growth and development to the depression and police state policies of the Bush administration.

AAAS embraces ecology, depopulation

The annual conference of this prestigious scientific organization sponsored every kook from chaos theorists to eugenicists. Marianna Wertz reports.

The 157th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science could not have occurred at a more appropriate time: right in the middle of George Bush's genocidal war against Iraq. From Feb. 14-19, the nation's most prestigious science organization debated the science policy for Bush's "new world order"—best exemplified in terms of its *intended* effects by the 3 million Iraqi children now starving to death as a result of U.S. "scientific" bombing of Iraq.

Dr. D. Allan Bromley, who today heads the Office of Science and Technology Policy for the Bush administration, enunciated nearly a decade ago, in his 1982 address to the AAAS, the science policy for what Bush today calls the new world order. In Bromley's address as president of the AAAS, he declared, "Human population growth is the most deadly specter looming over us today, and its control one of our greatest challenges. . . . Crucial human values are involved here; in the last analysis we are balancing freedom to reproduce against the quality of subsequent life—if not, indeed, against that life, itself—in those areas of the world where starvation is a constant threat. The technology is at hand . . . to turn off human fertility unless an antidote is taken. I see no other solution ahead."

Malthusian technocracy

That was 1982. At this year's AAAS conference, reflecting the nearly complete takeover of American science policy by the Anglo-American banking elite that runs the environmentalist movement, the "science" presented in hundreds of papers no longer debated whether the population needs to be reduced, but by what "technology," as Dr. Bromley put it. The malthusian monster, whose two heads are environmentalism and depopulation, dominated the conference in virtually every respect.

Not accidentally, one of the major contributors at this year's conference was Anna Roosevelt, granddaughter of President Teddy Roosevelt, who is currently director of the Lower Amazon Project of the Department of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The museum's front entrance sports a large equestrian statue of her grandfather surrounded by "noble savages."

It was Teddy Roosevelt who believed that "the prime duty, the inescapable duty, of the good citizen of the right

type is to leave his or her blood behind him in the world; and that we have no business to permit the perpetuation of the citizens of the wrong type."* Museum of Natural History was at the center of promoting eugenics and "race science" in America during the half-century leading up to Hitler's 1933 accession to power in Germany, when he put into practice the ideas advocated by Roosevelt.

Anna Roosevelt, "the blood" Teddy left behind him, is following in her grandfather's footsteps. Roosevelt's panels, like most of the conference, focused attention on environmental issues, like "concern" for the Amazon rain forest, which Anglo-American banking interests are using as cover for their intention to grab the mineral wealth of Brazil.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has a broad-based membership of over 135,000 and considerable national policy influence, wielded at the top levels through its officials and at large through its weekly magazine, *Science* (circulation 153,000). For biologists, in particular, membership in the AAAS and publication of research papers in *Science* is taken for granted as a prerequisite for academic respectability. In general, both *Science* and the AAAS conferences set the trends in science for the nation's scientists, especially in schools and universities.

The AAAS historically has served as a conveyor of British malthusian views, having been formed as a branch of the British Association for the Advancement of Science during the 1880s. Nor is "race science" a stranger to the AAAS. Alexander Graham Bell, who bought the magazine *Science* out of bankruptcy and linked it formally to the AAAS in 1894, later became the honorary president of the International Eugenics Congress (headquartered at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.) *Science* regularly covered the meetings and theories of the eugenics movement through the 1930s.

Panels emphasize cutting population

The twin themes of this year's conference were environmentalism and population control, with related emphasis on drug legalization. A brief review of some of the conference panel presentations makes this clear.

**Eugenics and the Progressives*, by Donald K. Pickens, Vanderbilt University Press, 1968, p. 121.



Alexander Graham Bell bought up the bankrupt Science magazine and formally made it the AAAS organ in 1894. Bell was a leading member of the International Eugenics Congress. His paper above appeared in 1914 in the Journal of Heredity.

Energy; Technology, the only panel on new energy technologies, featured “Scientific Advances in Emerging Solar Energy Technologies,” which included “Development of Biomass Energy Crops,” “Conversion of Lignocellulose to Fuels and Chemicals,” and three papers on photovoltaic cell technologies.

Despite the urgent need to develop large-scale energy generators for the world’s cities, not one mention of nuclear fission or fusion power was made in this panel.

Anna Roosevelt was organizer for the “technical panel” in this area on “Geophysical Imaging Systems: From Medical Microcosm to Outer Space,” in which she presented a paper on “Solar-powered Geophysical Survey at Archaeological Sites in Brazil.” Her paper focuses on methods for surveying prehistoric settlements in northern Brazil, the excavation of which is a pretext for preventing the development of that nation.

The panel on **Geoscience; Climate** began with 13 papers on “Human Response to Sea-Level Rise,” the expected result of the “global warming” hoax. A “technical” section on “Global Change and the Carbon Cycle in Terrestrial Ecosystems” had five more papers on the expected result of the bogus “greenhouse effect” on global warming.

The next panel, “Global Change,” started off with seven papers on “Making Informed Decisions for Planet Earth,” devoted to the use of satellite observations for “improving environmental decision-making” and the “development and enforcement of international environmental agreements.”

A sub-panel on the “Effects of Human Activity on the Global Ecosystem” featured such apocalyptic topics as “Non-linear Dynamics and Chaos: Implications for a Brave New World” and “Catastrophe or Maturity in Century 21.” The

author of this latter paper, Kenneth E. Boulding of the University of Colorado, asserts that “whether the world as a whole can achieve economic and social maturity without catastrophe, in the light of the human population explosion, is a difficult and agonizing question. . . . We must work to avoid catastrophe and, if in some degree it cannot be avoided, to look beyond it.”

And they call this ‘science’?

The reader should keep in mind that this was not a convention of Greenpeace. This was a convention of the *most prestigious* science organization in America. And it gets even worse.

The panel on “Environment” (as if it wasn’t covered in every other panel), has the following sub-topics, each with five to seven papers:

- Science: A Basis for Environmental Policy?
- Is Superfund Working? (Superfund is the nation’s environmental program to clean up abandoned and uncontrolled hazardous waste sites);
- Assessing the Impacts of Nuclear Waste Facilities: The State of the Art Updated;
- Cleaning Up the Mess at the DOE Nuclear Weapons Complex.

And just in case you thought that wasn’t enough, the panel on **Economics and Competitiveness** features World Bank spokesman Herman E. Daly, with a paper on “Sustainable Growth: An Impossibility Theorem.” According to Daly, who should win the malthusian prize for this conference, “The economy is an open subsystem of the Earth ecosystem which is finite, nongrowing and materially closed. A growing economic subsystem incorporates an ever greater

proportion of the total ecosystem system into itself and must reach a limit at 100%, if not before. Therefore its growth is not sustainable. The term 'sustainable growth' when applied to the economy is a bad oxymoron—self-contradictory as prose.”

One might suggest that the author is himself an oxymoron—or maybe just a moron.

'Life sciences' from the World Bank

Then we come to **Life Sciences**. The Nazi race scientists would have found these panels of much interest. The first panel is almost exclusively devoted to new and “scientific” ways to control birth: the “progesterone antagonist,” “immunocontraception,” and a “birth control vaccine,” are all explored in multiple papers.

“Health Care and Policy” is devoted largely to papers mapping the “geographic diffusion of the AIDS epidemic,” which one might consider useful, if there were also some interest evinced in stopping its spread, which there isn't, at least not at this conference.

Just in case the conference participants didn't yet get the message, there is a panel on “Ecology and Evolution,” which treats the “ecosystem” as an organic being and asks the question, “Defining Ecosystem Health: Science, Economics, or Ethics?” with ten papers devoted to this topic alone.

A sub-topic of “Ecology and Evolution” is “Stakes in the Tropical Forests,” organized by Robert L. Randall, director of something called “RainForest ReGeneration,” of Washington, D.C. A paper from another World Bank employee, Robert Goodland, “presents the case for urgent transition to sustainability” (the environmentalist codeword for zero-growth technologies) in the world's rain forests. According to the AAAS summary, Dr. Goodland recently addressed the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Rome on the “ethics of tropical deforestation, i.e., on the linkages between the Church's teachings, population growth, poverty, and pressures on natural resources such as tropical forests. Dr. Goodland was principally responsible for the environmental assessment for the Trans Amazon Highway in Brazil in the mid-1970s.”

Hungry? Take drugs

One could go on for pages with such examples. However, the point is perhaps more economically made by referring to the panel on the “Ethnography of Drug Use in Traditional and Modern Societies.” Under the general rubric of anthropology, the advocates of legalized drugs delivered six papers praising various aspects of legalized drug cultivation and use.

In “Use of Psychoactive Plants in Amerindian Civilization,” Wade Davis of the New York Botanical Gardens argues that “indigenous peoples have successfully used powerful drugs in socially constructive ways for hundreds if not thousands of years.”

Melanie Dreher of the University of Massachusetts at

Amherst reports, in a paper on “Marijuana, Pregnancy, and Child Health and Development in Jamaica,” on “substance use and its subsequent effects on child health and development” in Jamaica and “challenge[s] the concepts and theories developed in a North American context.”

Perhaps the most outrageous of these papers is titled “CRACK: A Vehicle for Long Denied Masculinity in the Inner City,” by Tony Whitehead, Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland, College Park. Whitehead argues that “the illegal selling of crack is providing young African-American men with the means of acquiring money and expressing long-desired masculinity.” Undoubtedly Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, who advocates drug legalization and the distribution of free needles to addicts, had his hand in this one.

Police state destruction of science

It is perhaps not ironic that the only real reflection offered the conference on how far science has descended under the “condominium” policies of the new world order promoted by AAAS was given by a Soviet science reporter, in a paper on “Eastern European Perspectives on Sustainable Development.” In the synopsis of her speech, Helene Knorre of the Moscow Science Writers Association recalled the days when science was “honest” and “important”:

“When I began working as a science writer nearly 25 years ago, it was a somewhat political choice. In those years of diktat and arbitrary rule, science writing was a sphere in which one could be really honest and write frankly about what one considered important and useful to people. . . . In those years, also, interest in science was great enough so that our profession was considered prestigious, even elitist. The situation has now changed drastically. Science writing has lost its prestige and become a third-rate, even risky, profession. People are concerned about the economic problems, crisis phenomena, and critical ecological situation in the country, but stories about science, either its achievements or recommendations, cause irritation and enmity. Science, and scientists, are blamed for all troubles and disasters, all catastrophes and failures. Since Chernobyl, it has become popular to revile technical progress. Indeed, it may even be dangerous to offer scientific solutions, for your good name can be defamed and you can be charged with almost anything.”

If this view of science in the glasnost environment of today's Soviet Union is surprisingly familiar to real scientists in America today, it is only because America is increasingly becoming *like* the police state of the Soviet Union. Real science has been abandoned in both nations, in favor of the false gods of Mother Earth and drugs.

A real “glasnost” or “openness” in both East and West would *clean out* the environmentalist fakers and commit mankind to the application of science and technology to such real problems as feeding the hungry, stopping AIDS, and exploring the universe.

Republicans at odds with Pentagon on base closings

The closing of 31 major military installations, 12 minor ones, and the scaling back of 28 others by 1997 recommended by Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney in an announcement on April 14, has created concern even among many of the Bushmen in Congress. The Cheney recommendations will be reviewed by an independent Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission and, if approved by Congress, the closings are minimally projected to lead to the loss or movement of 40,000 civilian and 114,000 military jobs.

Sen. Connie Mack (R-Fla.) vowed "to maintain Florida's fair share of defense jobs." Florida is scheduled to lose the Naval Training Center in Orlando—a loss of 17,000 military and civilian jobs.

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) is worried about the political ramifications of the loss of the Philadelphia Naval Yard and the Philadelphia Naval Station, with a potential loss of 13,000 military and civilian jobs. "It looks like the Department of Defense is declaring war on Pennsylvania," commented Specter at a news conference on April 12. With the death of Sen. John Heinz (R-Pa.) in an airplane accident, Specter is also worried that the closure of the shipyard could lead to a Democrat's winning that seat next year.

Sen. Richard Lugar (D-Ind.), with the Grissom Air Force Base in his state scheduled to close, sent a letter to the base closure commission asking it to check for possible errors in the evaluation.

Prospects for electoral gains that Republicans hoped to make by their support of Bush's Gulf war are rapidly dwindling because of the base closures.

The base closures will also be a partisan issue, since 60% of the large bases recommended for closing are in Democratic districts.

Bush suffers first defeat on judicial appointment

The Senate Judiciary Committee, for the first time out of 77 nominations, rejected a judicial nomination of President Bush when it voted down on April 11 appeals court nominee Kenneth L. Ryskamp of Miami.

Ryskamp was accused of being insensitive on civil rights issues. When he was faced as a federal court judge in Florida with four black youths charged with robbery who were suing the city of West Palm Beach for damages after having been injured by police dogs, Ryskamp commented: "I think of countries where if you are guilty of a robbery, they cut off your hand as a vivid reminder that this is forbidden. It might not be inappropriate to carry around a few scars to remind you of your wrongdoing."

Ryskamp, who is noted for making racial slurs, made no attempt during committee hearings on his nomination to convince the committee that he was not prejudiced, and did not renounce his comments in favor of physical mutilation. Ryskamp was also a member of a country club which, according to Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), was "notorious" for discriminatory practices.

Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) spoke out against the Ryskamp nomination, which was considered the last blow to the nominee. Although Graham is not a member of the Judiciary Committee, his position was considered important, coming from a Florida senator. Graham had been lobbied by many minori-

ty constituent groups opposed to the Ryskamp nomination including over 50 local and national groups representing Jews, blacks, Hispanics, women, senior citizens, and unions, which organized a grass-roots effort that ultimately resulted in the committee's 8-6 rejection of the Ryskamp nomination.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the Bush administration was "clearly disappointed" by the defeat.

It was also a personal defeat for Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, who was in charge of the lobbying effort. Thornburgh had called Senators Graham, Howell Heflin (D-Ala.), and committee chairman Joseph Biden (D-Del.) on Ryskamp's behalf.

House Democrats attack Bush Medicare cuts

The House Budget Committee rejected the President's proposed Medicare cuts of \$25.2 billion over five years, in a study released on April 16.

The Budget Committee's fact sheet on the Medicare reductions noted that the cuts would especially hit the elderly who are using 18% of their income to pay their health care costs than they did before the Reagan administration—compared to 13% in 1980—and, in fact, are paying more of their income for medical costs than they did before Medicare was enacted in 1966!

In addition, over half of the hospitals were losing money serving Medicare patients by the fifth year of the prospective payment system (PPS), which was enacted during the Reagan administration in 1983. Since then, 600 hospitals have closed, and another 918 hospitals are financially distressed and threatened with closure.

The study also notes that if further reductions are added with the President's proposal, the number of physicians agreeing to accept the Medicare-approved charge as payment in full will begin to decline. "In 1988," the study points out, "out-of-pocket health care costs equaled four and one-half months of Social Security checks for the average elderly person. Social Security is over three-quarters of the income of the elderly who are less than 25% above the poverty line."

House committees cut NASA FY 92 budget

The House Budget Committee in mid-April, trying to divide too little money among too many agencies, slashed the administration's \$15.75 billion FY 92 request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by \$1.3 billion. On April 12, the space subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, made cuts in the Space Station Freedom and Exploration Initiative programs with the knowledge that the Budget Committee cuts will overshadow whatever the Science Committee authorizes.

In hearings before the Science Committee, NASA Deputy Administrator J.R. Thompson agreed with a number of congressmen that the Space Station will have been cut so much that it will not make sense to continue the program. Overall, even supporters of space exploration in Congress are not optimistic that the 10% real increase in NASA spending recommended by the panel of space experts chaired by Martin Marietta director Norman Augustine, can be met in this year's budget.

In testimony before a Senate sub-

committee on April 16, NASA Administrator Richard Truly said that further cuts in the program would set back plans to have a functioning space station by the turn of the century, the present NASA goal.

Leading the pack calling for more cuts was Sen. Al Gore (D-Tenn.). The latest cuts mean that the budget and the magnitude of Space Station Freedom will have been reduced seven times since its initial formulation.

White House subverts new civil rights bill

The White House is attempting to sabotage negotiations between civil rights groups and major corporations intent on reaching some compromise on a new civil rights bill. Civil rights advocates report that White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray have been telephoning corporate executives belonging to the Business Roundtable to pressure them to leave the negotiations.

The Civil Rights Bill of 1991 now pending in Congress is opposed by Bush on the grounds that it would impose mandatory minority quotas in hiring and promotion. Similar legislation was vetoed by Bush last year. The White House seems not to want any compromises which would allow for passage of the bill, since Bush intends to use the racial issues involved to appeal to white workers during the presidential election.

On April 12, Vernon Jordan Jr., a Washington lawyer, and William Coleman, chairman of the board of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., met with Sununu and Gray to urge them to stop pressuring the members of the Business

Roundtable.

In the course of the negotiations, it has become apparent that quotas are not an issue, but rather that companies were attempting to put a ceiling on damages that women could collect in suits for gender discrimination.

The legislation is deemed necessary since most of the gains made in civil rights as a result of the the 1960s civil rights legislation have been reversed by recent Supreme Court decisions.

Farmers attack legality of trade 'fast track'

In testimony before the Senate Finance Committee, Leland Swenson, president of the National Farmers Union (NFU), questioned the constitutionality of the "fast track" negotiations on the U.S.-Mexican free trade agreement.

"The very fact that you worry about 'free riders' points out one of the biggest problems with the 'fast track' authority," said Swenson. It gives our negotiators a "blank check" that someone else fills in. "It leaves Congress only with a decision as to whether or not to sign the check and pay the bill. That's not the way our system of checks and balances is supposed to work or does work in other policy areas."

Swenson said that "in regards to the issue before us, the Constitution of the United States speaks clearly that it is the responsibility of Congress 'to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.' Congress should fully exercise that responsibility and not limit itself to a yea or nay vote to rubberstamp the actions of the administration."

National News

Landsbergis tour to awaken freedom

Grazina Landsbergis, wife of Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis and an accomplished pianist, conducted a concert tour in the United States in early April, accompanied by a tenor and a soprano. The freedom fighters had come to the United States in an effort to awaken the U.S. population and get them to defend the independence of her small nation.

The first concert on April 7 was held at the Lithuanian Citizens Association in Boston. A small hall was packed to capacity with approximately 250 people, mainly Lithuanian World War II emigrés.

Mrs. Landsbergis performed excerpts from various operas including *La Traviata*, *Otello*, and *Julius Caesar*, and Lithuanian folk songs.

In Philadelphia, two representatives of the Schiller Institute, founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, presented Mrs. Landsbergis with flowers and a replica of the Liberty Bell after her performance there, "in hopes that the liberty bell will ring in Lithuania." Mrs. Landsbergis held up the bell and rang it for the audience to underscore its symbolism.

The concert tour included performances in Baltimore, St. Petersburg, Florida, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland.

NRA convention vows to fight Bush gun control

Some 10,000 members of the National Rifle Association who gathered in San Antonio, Texas in early April for their national convention, in a repudiation of the NRA leadership's compromises with the Bush gun control provisions of the administration's "anti-crime" bill, elected a slate of 26 new members to positions on its national board, 23 of whom ran on dissident slates. The convention reiterated a hardline defense against any further erosion of the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

Newly elected board member Neal

Knox, a Maryland-based activist who ran a ballot initiative campaign which was hit by gestapo-style raids conducted by the state police, promised, "What you're seeing now is the NRA on the way back."

A resolution was passed which rejected support for the so-called Brady Bill now pending before Congress. The Bush administration hoped to garner liberal support for its death penalty and *habeas corpus* "reform" proposals by pushing the gun purchase waiting period provisions mandated by bill.

Catholic faction pushes patient starvation

A faction of the U.S. Catholic Church, informally referred to as the "American heresy," has escalated a euthanasia campaign to promote the starvation of terminal and handicapped patients.

The Pope John XXIII Center, based in Houston, Texas and Braintree, Massachusetts has released a video entitled "A Matter of Life and Death: Terminal Treatment Decisions and the Church." The video, written and produced by a Dominican priest, Father Albert Moraczewski, interviews people who have killed a relative by starvation, or who, like Pete Busalacchi, is currently trying to starve to death his daughter whom one pro-death doctor says is in a "persistent vegetative state."

Instead of interviewing people who survived coma, or families who lovingly care for their relatives with severe brain injuries, the video features the likes of Sister Diana Bader, a Dominican nun from the Catholic Health Association, a hospital group that just revamped their "Catholic Affirmation of Life" statement to allow broader living wills and advanced directives to be utilized in Catholic hospitals.

Bader, who has a long record of pro-death advocacy from the time she was at the Washington State Catholic Hospital Association, says on the video that the starvation death of the handicapped Nancy Cruzan "was morally justified." She adds that Cruzan's care cost "in the range of \$200,000 annually."

Environmentalists are 'nuts,' says mines chief

T.S. Ary, the head of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, said environmentalists are "a bunch of nuts," and accused them of making up endangered species to stop economic development, in a speech to a conference of miners, loggers, and others who work in industries in the western part of the United States in late April.

Ary expressed great frustration at the enormous legal hurdles that environmentalists have erected to make it impossible to mine, and said, "I don't believe in endangered species. I think the only [endangered] ones are sitting here in this room."

The conference addressed by Ary was sponsored by several groups, including the Mountain States Legal Foundation, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Motorcyclist Association, American Petroleum Institute, and the American Mining Congress.

Budget-cutter attempts constitutional change

J. Peter Grace, chairman of the former Grace Commission on the budget and head of the international shipping conglomerate, is heading a fundraising drive through his Council for Citizens Against Government Waste to back a constitutional amendment to restrict federal spending to 19% of the Gross National Product, according to the *Upright Ostrich*.

The amendment, introduced in the House of Representatives as HJR 143 by Rep. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), is now before the House Judiciary Committee, and has 73 cosponsors to date. Kyl's office expects it to come to a vote this session.

The *Upright Ostrich* opposes the amendment because "the cancer is usury, and until we burst the chains of that enslavement, no band-aide, however fancy its package, is going to free us. Don't be suckered by this hype!"

Grace had previously attempted to get a

Briefly

constitutional amendment to give the President a line-item veto over the federal budget, which would have significantly weakened the constitutionally mandated power of the Congress to tax and spend.

Bush, GOP broke federal election laws big time

Washington U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell and the Federal Election Commission (FEC) have both found that the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) massively violated federal campaign spending limits in 1986, and then attempted a coverup. The case involves a national fundraising letter signed by George Bush.

The FEC found that the NRSC gave far more than its legal limit of \$17,500 per candidate, to 12 Republican Senate candidates. The excessive contributions totaled \$2.3 million. Instead of reporting the money it raised from Republican contributors for this purpose, each candidate's local committee reported the contributions as if it had raised them. The FEC recommended a fine of twice the amount of the violations—\$4.6 million.

Judge Gesell, however, fined the Republican committee only \$24,000. In ruling, Gesell said that the public interest was certainly harmed, but "the NRSC did not deliberately violate the law." Gesell was the same judge who told Oliver North, "you've suffered enough," and sentenced him to community service.

Votes not protected by Constitution, court says

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California has recently ruled that write-in votes are not protected by the U.S. Constitution. The ruling is feared to be a harbinger of the single-party state being constructed by the "secret government" apparatus known as Project Democracy, exposed during the Iran-Contra scandal.

The court ruled that a prohibition against

write-in ballots passed by the Hawaii state senate was valid, despite a petitioner's protest that it violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments. The court ruled that petitioner Burdick "does not have a fundamental right to vote for any particular candidate; he is simply guaranteed an equal voice in the election of those who govern."

Many states are passing similar laws, even as they increase requirements for independents to get on the ballot. When the two main parties make a deal to rig an election, write-in campaigns, which frequently cause upsets when the electorate is sufficiently upset over some issue, will not be a redress.

"The fact that a voter may want to say no candidate is acceptable does not mean that he has a fundamental right to say that on the ballot. . . . He has no guarantee that he can voice any particular opinion through the ballot box," the ruling argued.

Company, fined for AIDS testing, hires infected

The ConAgra-owned meatpacking firm Monfort, which operates a pork-processing plant in Worthington, Minnesota, was fined \$100,000 by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights for testing prospective job applicants for AIDS. As part of an out-of-court settlement with the state, Monfort agreed to give jobs to each of the people who had tested positive for the HIV virus and to stop testing job applicants for the virus.

Erica Jacobs, an attorney with the office of Minnesota Attorney General Hubert "Skip" Humphrey, was involved in the enforcement action.

Monfort required the test of prospective employees "because it was concerned that employees infected with the disease could cut themselves and spread the virus to other employees. Employees at the Worthington plant use knives and hooks to slaughter and package hogs," according to Kay Norton, a lawyer for Monfort.

Norton also said, according to AP, "A vital difference of opinion exists between the company and the state of Minnesota over the propriety of pre-employment testing procedures involving HIV and syphilis."

● **L. DOUGLAS WILDER**, the governor of Virginia, has had pollster Michale Donilon and veteran media strategist Joe Trippi sent to Iowa for his presidential campaign by Anti-Defamation League-linked Virginia Democratic Party chairman Paul Goldman. They are supposed "to see what's out there," Goldman told press April 10.

● **DAVID DINKINS**, the mayor of New York, has invited Israeli and British troops to take part in the June 10 "welcome home parade" for troops who fought in the Gulf, the April 7 *Jerusalem Post* reported. The June 10 extravaganza takes place one week after New York's "Salute to Israel" parade.

● **SKADDEN ARPS**, the Anti-Defamation League and Dope, Inc.-linked law firm which specializes in junk bonds and corporate buyouts, has been hired by the Mayor Tom Bradley-appointed Los Angeles Police Commission in its effort to suspend police chief Daryl Gates, during the ongoing probe of the Rodney King beating by police officers.

● **BODY PARTS** of Iraqi soldiers have been found by Judge Advocate General (JAG) teams detailed to inspect and confiscate "souvenirs" being smuggled home by U.S. soldiers, a returning military reservist reports.

● **THE CHIEF** executive officers of companies operating power plants could be imprisoned on felony charges under the Clean Air Act, *Power Magazine* reports in a recent issue. Violations now include "high-pollution level problems," "record-keeping infractions," and the so-called "negligent release of hazardous pollutants," which can mean 15 years in prison for a CEO.

● **THE U.S. MILITARY** presence in Germany will be reduced to two Army divisions (formerly five) and three Air Force squadrons (formerly eight), German Minister of Defense Gerhard Stoltenberg learned in Washington April 9.

Editorial

Too many tombstones

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's response to the assassination of Detlev Rohwedder was an angry comment on the number of tombstones of leading Germans who have been murdered while on the job. In the main, these were men of vision; for example, Jürgen Ponto, the head of Dresdner Bank who was planning major development projects for Africa when he was assassinated in 1977.

In the latest instance, Detlev Rohwedder was heading the effort to rebuild eastern Germany. As the head of the Treuhand (the German trust given responsibility for overseeing the privatization of east German enterprises), he had a leading role in charting the course for a unified Germany.

Why was he murdered? The answer most probably lies in the fact that he was shifting the policy of the Treuhand to prioritize job protection for east Germans who are threatened with massive unemployment, because of Treuhand policies of allowing the shutdown of industries which were unproductive by Western standards. In other words, Rohwedder had decided that the Treuhand had improperly initially set its priorities in accordance with the ideology of free-marketeers, and forgot necessary human values, such as the right of working people to a job.

This was a direct slap to the British and the Bush crowd, who have been trying to push the free market down the gullet of the Europeans.

The United States—acting under British tutelage—is so obsessively committed to Adam Smith free-trade ideology right now, that the Bush administration is perfectly willing to destroy Germany, rather than allow the Germans to apply the sound economic policies associated with Alexander Hamilton and Friedrich List, once commonly known to both nations.

The same stupidity has governed the hostile reaction of the Anglo-American crowd to German efforts to shore up the crumbling Soviet economy. They are particularly hostile to moves by the Germans along the lines which Lyndon LaRouche has indicated to be necessary—large-scale infrastructure development. They stupidly fail to realize that a crumbling Soviet em-

pire does not spell unchallenged hegemony for the West, but rather the opposite. The Soviet Union is a military force to be reckoned with, particularly in a condition where a nationalist leadership might perceive that the only possible defense of their nation from a Western takeover, to be that of launching a third world war.

German moves to form an economic alliance with the Soviets have a precedent in the post-World War I period. At that time, in 1922, they signed a major economic treaty, the Rapallo Treaty, with the Lenin government. It is this precedent to which former U.S. Defense Department official Frank Gaffney referred on April 11, in a commentary in the London *Guardian*, attacking the German government of today for launching a new Rapallo. He describes the new German-Soviet economic deals as a “portentous German-Soviet condominium.”

Gaffney stresses: “Rapprochement between Moscow and Bonn has ample precedent, most notably the Rapallo Treaty of 1922, which did much to set the stage for collusion between the two nations that led to the second world war.” Gaffney complains that the Soviets have vast natural resources, which will be open to the Germans. The present deals between Germany and the Soviet Union include running former East German state-owned plants, to produce goods for export to the Soviet Union. This will come under the governance of the Treuhand.

Did Gaffney mean to remind his readers that the signing of the first Rapallo plan led to the assassination of Dr. Walter Rathenau, then foreign minister in Germany, who was gunned down in the summer of 1922, just three months after he had placed his signature to the accord? Was this a threat?

While it is true that George Bush is the leading spokesman for a fascist new world order, this is, and has been over the past century, a British perspective. The image of an organ grinder and his monkey is not inappropriate for understanding the roles of British and American ruling circles. The American monkey may be a super-monkey in size, but it is definitely dancing to an ugly British tune.

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