

National News

Carter 'no-energy' policy is back in D.C.

President Bush has ordered all federal agencies to cut back their energy use by 20% by the end of the decade, the April 18 *Washington Post* reported.

For those unfortunate enough to have experienced it, the Carter policy, which was similar, produced a Department of Energy headquarters that was so poorly lit, that employees had to use a flashlight in the lobby to see where they were going. At National Aeronautics and Space Administration headquarters, people who had sunny offices had to move their desks into the hallways in the summer, due to the niggardly amount of air conditioning.

Apparently, no consideration was given to the effect this policy will have on the productivity of federal workers.

Thornburgh Senate run shadowed by scandals

On April 16, the television news program "A Current Affair" aired a story on Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, focusing on two of his top aides who have been convicted of cocaine use and perjury. The broadcast came at a moment when Thornburgh was considering a run for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the death of Sen. John Heinz (R-Pa.)

The aides, Henry Barr and Richard Guida, were indicted by a Harrisburg, Pennsylvania federal grand jury probing a cocaine ring that serviced state government officials, local lawyers, and bankers during Thornburgh's two terms as governor. According to one drug trafficker turned government witness, Guida bought one pound of pure cocaine from her for \$16,000 in cash at a time when he was state Assistant Attorney General, the top criminal prosecutor.

Early this year, Thornburgh testified at the trial of Barr, that he had no personal knowledge of his deputy's drug use. Barr was his executive assistant at the Department of Justice from August 1988 to May

1989; some former state officials found Thornburgh's testimony less than fully credible.

As the result of the TV broadcast, Pennsylvania Republican Party officials reportedly decided to invite Teresa Heinz, John Heinz's widow, to accept the nomination for the vacated seat. Party officials, according to sources, feared a scandal and possible defeat in the Nov. 5 special election should they nominate Thornburgh.

Now, things have become more complicated for the state GOP, with the announcement April 24 by Mrs. Heinz that she has decided not to seek the seat.

According to press accounts, Thornburgh has been urged by President Bush to seek the seat. He reportedly met recently with Sens. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) and Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) and obtained national party backing for a run.

Call to reopen probe of child abuse in Nebraska

The Nebraska Senate's Franklin Committee, which was investigating child abuse in the wake of the failed Franklin Credit Union, must be reauthorized to continue its work, urged Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber. The noted ritual abuse specialist made her remarks on April 17 on the Cathie Fife radio talk show in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"What the committee was investigating was extremely important and of great danger for the state of Nebraska," Densen-Gerber emphasized. She said that the level of child prostitution she had witnessed in the state carried with it the risk of an AIDS epidemic. A physician, lawyer, and psychiatrist, Densen-Gerber pointed out, "The virus mutates quickly, and we know from Lorraine Day, an orthopedic surgeon in California who has done work on live viruses in the operating room, that we could soon see AIDS spread like the common cold or flu."

Dr. Densen-Gerber spoke at a public meeting in Lincoln on April 20. This, her second visit to Nebraska, was sponsored by a citizens' group called the Nebraska Leadership Council, and by Senators Schmit, Labeledz, and Lynch of the now-defunct Sen-

ate Franklin investigative committee. The visit was part of a drive to reauthorize that committee.

Euthanasia set for ballot initiative

The state of Washington will have on its November ballot, an initiative that would legalize physician-assisted dying for mentally competent adults with less than six months to live who voluntarily choose the procedure, the April 19 *Los Angeles Times* reported.

The initiative would grant immunity against criminal charges to physicians who provide "aid in dying" in accordance with guidelines established by the law. However, hospitals would have the option to ban the procedure within their premises.

Derek Humphry, the founder of the pro-euthanasia Hemlock Society, hailed the initiative. "We are hopeful that there will be a domino effect," since passage in Washington would bolster efforts to pass similar initiatives in other states, particularly California, where a similar effort failed to qualify for the ballot in 1988.

Buchanan hits Bush quagmire

Syndicated columnist Patrick Buchanan questioned whether the "victory" in Iraq was nothing more than a public relations cover for a slaughter, in an April 20 column.

Buchanan says of the effort to restore the Emir of Kuwait to his throne: "But consider the cost: A hundred thousand pathetic Iraqi conscripts are dead; tens of thousands of civilians may have perished in our bombing; thousands of Shiite and Kurdish rebels have been massacred. Two million refugees are on the move, dying of famine, exposure, and disease. Iraq has been bombed back to a 'pre-industrial age.' In . . . Baghdad, electricity has been off for months; sewage is backed up in the streets; old men, women, and children are drawing water from gutters. . . ."

"This war, the President said, will bring

'stability and security' to the Gulf; it will usher in a brave New World Order that our critics simply lack the vision to see.

"Where is the security and stability? Where is the order?"

"Kuwait is a blazing pyre of ruined oil wells, its worst elements raping at will in Kuwait City. Iraq, a modern nation of 18 million, is a wasteland of civil war, terror, famine, disease, and death. Jordan is now a slum. The Palestinians have lost everything, even hope. Messrs. Shamir and Sharon are turning the West Bank into a trailer park for the crazies of Gush Emunim. And thousands of U.S. troops are moving into Kurdish regions of northern Iraq, temporarily, you understand, until 'something can be worked out.' . . .

"As I said, this thing 'has quagmire written all over it.' "

Virginia court will hear Phau's appeal

Don Phau, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche who was convicted and sentenced on concocted "securities fraud" charges in Roanoke, Virginia, was granted the chance to appeal by the Virginia Court of Appeals on April 16.

Among the issues which will be heard were whether the trial court's instructions and decisions on the issue of whether promissory notes were securities were erroneous in four respects: by not requiring Phau to know the notes were securities; by allowing notes which were exempted from registration to be presented to the jury; by applying the wrong definition of securities to the loans at issue; and by providing a jury charge which directed the jury's verdict.

The appeal will also consider whether the trial court's admissions of inflammatory and hearsay testimony, including the testimony of a dead man, deprived Phau of a fair trial.

The fact that the loans were declared by Virginia to be securities *after* the criminal indictments were issued, and the court's exclusion of federal bankruptcy Judge Martin V.B. Bostetter's decision, declaring the U.S. government bankruptcy of the companies which issued the loans was illegal, will

also be reconsidered.

The appeals court will also consider whether allowing the prosecutors to amend the indictment *after* the defense had rested its case, and changing the fundamental character of the crimes charged, deprived Phau of a fair trial.

Clark warns Europe on new world order danger

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark warned Europeans that the United States will have no qualms about intervening in Europe as part of the new world order, in an interview in the French monthly *L'Aurore Journal* of March.

"Our army will intervene whenever our interests are threatened . . . by any means, including using nuclear weapons. In general, the U.S. will strive to keep most countries in their state of poverty, with corrupt but obedient regimes," Clark said. "I would also insist that America will have no qualms about intervening in Western Europe, even if today that seems to be an outrageous idea. America will not tolerate a real European nuclear and economic power for very long."

Asked if other military interventions will follow on Grenada, Panama, and Iraq, Clark said, "Our foreign expeditions are as old as our country. We have a tradition of violence which our different Presidents manage more or less skillfully to control."

Clark suggested that the U.S. may be using Saddam Hussein's presence as the head of the country "to justify a permanent troop presence in the region."

The April 22 issue of the *New Republic* magazine carries a four-page attack against Clark, which portrays him as someone once considered presidential material, but now politically discredited and possibly even anti-Semitic, especially because of his legal defense of Lyndon LaRouche. The article conforms to a pattern of the Anti-Defamation League of tarring of all critics of Anglo-American policy as "anti-Semitic"; Martin Peretz, *New Republic's* editor, was awarded the ADL's Hubert H. Humphrey First Amendment Freedoms Prize last December.

Briefly

● **U.S. FIRMS** submitting bids for reconstruction are facing Kuwaiti demands to state that no Jew be *either* in management or *employed* by that company, Israel's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Micha Bawley, has charged, the April 11 *Chicago Jewish Sentinel* reported.

● **FILES** on Bush's involvement in the Iran-Contra affair can always be pulled out by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir to kill any U.S. initiative that goes against the interests of the current Israeli government, Rolf Paasch of the German *Tageszeitung* wrote April 18.

● **NEIL BUSH** was slapped on the wrist by the Office of Thrift Supervision April 28, for activity stemming from his involvement in the failed Silverado savings and loan. He will be restricted from engaging in "conflicts of interests" in the thrift industry.

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** should be tested for drugs, Nation of Islam national spokesman Dr. Alim Abdul Muhammad said at a Washington, D.C. news conference April 19. He said it was necessary for Bush to set an example because two top assistants to U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh have pled guilty to "the use . . . [and] distribution of drugs."

● **ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI**, the former national security adviser to President Carter, called for the "relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation" of Iraq, in a commentary in the April 21 *New York Times*. He asserts that the war could have been avoided and was against U.S. long-term interests.

● **THE NATIONAL** Committee of the Presbyterian Church of America has released a report attacking the church's traditional attitudes on sex as patriarchal, homophobic, and biased toward heterosexuality. It questions the importance of marriage, accepts teenage intercourse, and endorses same-sex couples with adopted children.