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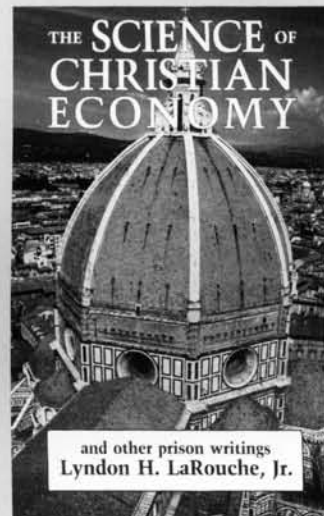
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**European Headquarters:** Executive Intelligence Review Nachrichtenagentur GmbH, Postfach 2308, Dotzheimerstrasse 166, D-6200 Wiesbaden, Federal Republic of Germany  
Tel: (0611) 8840. Executive Directors: Anno Hellenbroich, Michael Liebig

**In Denmark:** EIR, Post Box 2613, 2100 Copenhagen ØE, Tel. 35 43 60 40

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## From the Managing Editor

We find ourselves today at the end of two eras of world history. First, over the longer sweep, the Versailles system—born in 1918 and characterized by the dominance of Anglo-American financial circles in world affairs—is collapsing, along with the once-great economic power of the United States. Second, it is now nearly three decades since the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, the tragic event which marked a turning point in America's moral decline. Happily, the Warren Commission's coverup of the conspiracy behind that assassination has now been shattered by Oliver Stone's controversial film "JFK," the subject of our *Feature*.

The viciousness of the media's attack on the film is one good indication of what a deep chord it has struck among audiences. As a commentator for the London *Daily Telegraph* noted on Jan. 29, "What seems most of all like a conspiracy is that every theory about what happened to Kennedy is dismissed as a 'conspiracy theory.'" Now, the demand is growing to open up the secret files, to end the coverup, to expose those who betrayed their country's laws, its principles, and its national interests.

This is no academic matter, for the circles that killed Kennedy are still doing their dirty work. As Lyndon LaRouche emphasizes in his comments on the film published in this issue, those responsible for the assassination of the President are the same people responsible for throwing LaRouche himself into jail. They must be stopped.

It is therefore important to note that on Jan. 27, thousands of people participated in an international "day of action" to demand LaRouche's release from jail, on the third anniversary of his unjust imprisonment.

Two of EIR's correspondents, Dennis and Gretchen Small, recently returned from a visit to South America, and report that respect for LaRouche is now deeper and broader on that continent than at any time in the past. His record as a fighter for the human rights of all peoples, and his policy recommendations, are increasingly well known. Especially as the reality of the U.S. economic depression becomes understood, LaRouche's solutions are seen as indispensable. For this reason, the end of the current era of history means not just the threat of a new dark age, but also raises the possibility of something new and better.

*Susan Welsh*

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**Correction:** In our Jan. 31 issue, the picture caption on page 22 should have begun: "The South Center uncritically accepts the unscientific conclusion that 'the Earth's capacity to absorb and render harmless the various gases and other substances that are generated by modern society . . . is being exceeded,' and the center advocates a redistribution of the 'right to pollute.' "

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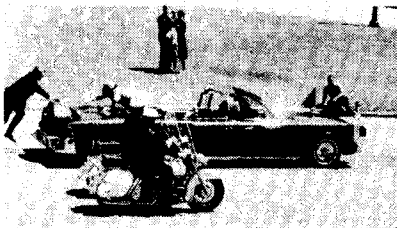
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## Group of Seven won't join the re-elect Bush campaign

by Marcia Merry

At a meeting of the top economic officials of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Garden City, New Jersey on Jan. 25, the Bush administration tried to get the other six countries to do even more than they have done hitherto to prop up the bankrupt U.S. economy. In particular, the heat was on Germany to lower its interest rates, to encourage more investment capital to come into the United States. The answer was a resounding "no, thank you."

The meeting brought together finance ministers and central bank governors of the G-7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States) for a seven-and-a-half-hour session on world finances and the economy. The G-7 meets two or three times a year, and the participants, who exalt themselves as directors of world economy, this time included Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont, German Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger, and French Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy.

The Bush administration in effect confronted the group with its current program: to re-elect Bush. And six of the seven nations replied, "Interesting program, but it is not our priority." Or, in the diplomatic words of the final communiqué: "As to economic policies in their respective countries, ministers and [central bank] governors agreed that each country would implement fiscal, monetary, and structural policies to promote the conditions for sustainable growth with price stability. The specific mix of policies would vary depending on the circumstances in each country."

Even before the confab began, a German finance official diplomatically indicated to reporters that his government was not planning to toe the Bush line. "Different situations call for different measures," he said. It is possible that the Germans will back down on the issue of interest rates, but for

now, Bush is confounded. During 1991, the Federal Reserve was repeatedly forced to lower interest rates in a frantic effort to pump liquidity into the bankrupt U.S. banking system. That process is made more difficult by the higher German interest rates, which attract to that nation investment capital desperately needed by the Anglo-Americans. Bush is in effect demanding that the Germans subjugate their economic policy to the desires of Washington.

Not only is this not selling in Bonn; Bush's policy—or lack of one—is not selling in U.S. cities either. As the economy shuts down and layoffs increase day by day, the non-program offered in the President's State of the Union speech (see article, page 60) is being met with derision. In one significant editorial comment, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on Jan. 30 called for the President to wake up and "declare an economic emergency."

### Desperate bids to prop up the banks

On another flank in the effort to bail out the banking system, New York Federal Reserve chairman Gerald Corrigan made the unusual request to meet with Bank of Japan governor Mieno in February in New York. Reportedly, the discussion topic is "financial market stability" in the two countries. Corrigan is in a position to know full well that the true condition of the U.S. financial markets is not at all what Bush administration propaganda likes to think it is. He may try to secure Japanese assistance in case of emergency. Maybe he thinks he has some policy changes to offer that would induce Japanese investors to pump in money, in the event of a stock market crash. The recent spectacular rise of the stock market only shows how vulnerable it is. In 1987, before the October crash, Japanese money was coming into the market. But there is no reason now to expect that the Japanese will

repeat this folly.

Corrigan may have other items on his agenda as well. Recently, he was selected to head up the Bank for International Settlements' committee on capital adequacy standards for banks. Some in the European banking community are fretting that Corrigan wants to get Mieno to back a U.S. plea to other central banks to "ease up" on the current BIS bank capital adequacy requirements, which are to be reached for U.S. banks by Dec. 31, and for Japanese banks by March 31, 1993.

The recurring theme of Bush's reelection campaign is his demand that bank regulators provide "kinder, gentler" treatment for the favored, insolvent megabanks Wall Street. The Fed has already secretly taken over Citibank, and arranged mergers for several others, but has no way to pay for these bailouts.

Citibank already cannot meet the BIS capital standards required at year-end, and the other big banks meet them only through the most outrageous cooking of their books.

What is clear to the European bankers is that the Anglo-American financial system is sinking fast. There's fire behind the smoke of the U.S.-Japanese meeting—a colossal bank blow-out is in the works, and the U.S. is strong-arming its erstwhile allies in a vain attempt to get them to pick up the tab.

## Economic shutdown

In recent years, the G-7 has colluded in monetary policies causing misery the world over. Even their communiqué of Jan. 25 featured the most uxorious lies, as they pledged to maintain "their commitment to the policy coordination process which has contributed to the good performance of the world economy in the 1980s."

But while the central bankers blather about economic growth, the real economy—measured in terms of the ability to sustain present and future generations—is shutting down throughout most of the world. While Bush's State of the Union talked about "growth," each hour brings news of more shutdown of the means of existence—food, water, and industry.

● **Heavy industry:** On Jan. 29, Bethlehem Steel—the second largest steel producer in the United States, announced a projected 25% cut in its work force, which is already at pared-down levels. In December, USX announced the shutdown of its Illinois structural steel facilities, ending USX manufacture of structural steel altogether. General Motors, the largest U.S. auto manufacturer, announced in December the phase-out of 30% of its work force, 74,000 jobs, over the next five years.

● **Agriculture:** As of January, close to 40 million acres of U.S. farmland has been semi-permanently "retired" from food production through the 1985 federal policy orders, the Conservation Reserve Program. This represents the output potential to supply 80 million people with their annual food

supply. U.S. wheat stocks are at their lowest level since 1973-74, at a time when the need for world food relief has never been greater.

● **Water:** U.S. supplies are now below demand. What hydrologists call the national dependable average annual supply is below 520 billion gallons, when the real economy needs close to 580 billions of gallons. This gap shows up in the worsening regional shortages in the southwestern states, parts of Florida, and other eastern coastal regions. The water crisis is not "natural," but entirely man-made—the consequence of stalling and canceling needed water improvement projects over the past 25 years.

● **Health:** The social breakdown is manifest in disease outbreaks and death rates. For example, the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia held a recent meeting on the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis to 13 states.

## Call for a state of emergency

The economic crisis is now giving rise to cries for help, in opposition to the Washington save-the-banks policies. "The President should look at the real world of not only suffering, but fearful Americans—and declare an economic emergency," stated an editorial in the Jan. 30 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The paper has no program, but argues that the emergency declaration should be used to implement federal pump-priming, to "suspend temporarily the current deficit reduction rules to par for significant increases in public works spending, as well as generous tax cuts," even though, the editor states, "the economy as a whole remains soaked with debt."

On Jan. 23, the leaders of the 250,000-member National Farmers Union held a Washington, D.C. press conference to release their "Economic Recovery Package." NFU head Leland Swenson told reporters that the plan focuses on "twelve economic segments and offers solutions for their recovery—jobs, housing, money and credit, the deficit, infrastructure improvement, health care, tax reform, energy, the environment, trade, hunger, and food and agriculture." He said: "The current recession is the longest in the post-World War II period. Since January 1989, over 2 million more people have become unemployed. Five million more people have had to resort to food stamps."

Viewed from abroad, the depth of the U.S. crisis is clear. President Bush "finds himself today a Herbert Hoover in a country beginning to yearn for a new Franklin Roosevelt," wrote London *Independent* commentator Peter Jenkins on Jan. 30. Under the headline "The World Should Worry About America First," Jenkins says that "the national mood [in the U.S.] is recessionary in a sense that transcends the pain of the longest economic recession since the Great Depression." Meanwhile, Bush is obsessed with "quick-fix palliatives that may help to clinch his reelection in the short-term while adding to an already vast indebtedness and stoking up inflation in the longer. It is that longer-term state of the union about which the world should worry."

# Russia to get no aid, but IMF looting

by Denise Henderson

The consensus which is emerging from a series of meetings in late January about how to approach Russia's economic ills, continues the pattern set by the Anglo-American financial community toward Third World countries: Loot as much as possible through imposition of International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditionalities, and give as little as possible in return.

The Anglo-American plans were made clear at what was billed as a "Coordinating Conference on Assistance to the New Independent States," held on Jan. 22-23 in Washington, D.C., and was further developed at a Group of Seven (G-7) meeting which followed on Jan. 25. Although President George Bush gave an opening address to the Washington meeting in which he pledged that the United States would give the rather stingy sum of \$645 million in new aid to the republics of the former Soviet Union, known as the Community of Independent States (CIS), there is little doubt that Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, and the foreign ministers of the G-7 intend to hand the CIS over to an IMF dictatorship resulting in even more ferocious economic dislocation than the CIS is already undergoing.

Secretary of State Baker, despite rhetoric about the "peacetime battle to support democracy and freedom," made clear in his opening address that "humanitarian aid" would be given *only* in the context of "international financial institutions"—the IMF—which will "work with the Russians and others to devise credible long-term reform plans." IMF-style reform has been exemplified by the disastrous freeing of prices which Russian President Boris Yeltsin undertook Jan. 2 on the advice of the free market maniacs like Harvard's Jeffrey Sachs and Sachs's Russian sidekick, Yegor Gaidar. The "reform" means that now, people in Russia have no bread.

Baker also declared that "public-private partnerships . . . can leverage contributions, multiplying the value of our efforts."

## 'Citizens Democracy Corps'

Translated, that means a call to continue the policy of looting the raw materials of lesser-developed countries which has been followed by Henry Kissinger's colleague, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, in the Balkan states. In fact, the chief U.S. public-private partnership named by Baker, the Citizens Democracy Corps, Inc.

(CDC), held a meeting parallel to that of the Coordinating Conference, which drew 200 non-profit organizations. Its speakers were listed as including Eagleburger and East-West financial operative George Soros, as well as Bush and Baker.

The CDC, headed by Drew Lewis, the chairman of the Omaha, Nebraska-based Union Pacific Railroad, is currently advising Poland on how to "privatize," i.e., demolish, its railway operations.

The G-7 meeting held on Jan. 25 continued the IMF theme, with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and German Foreign Minister Theo Waigel registering their support for almost immediate Russian entry into the IMF, which will enhance greatly the ability of these western financial sharks to loot the CIS, particularly the resource-rich and industrially developed republics of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

## IMF deploys its 'field teams'

And, even as the Coordinating Conference met, the IMF had set up an office in Russia and sent out field teams to determine the "viability" of other CIS republics, specifically, whether they meet the requirements to join the Fund. An IMF official told the press corps in Moscow that "the program is going in the right direction and it has lots of things that we recommend—opening up the economy, removing controls, liberalizing prices, and giving a chance to private ownership."

The Russians themselves seem to have some idea of what London and Washington really intend, as indicated by a commentary by Yuri Sigov published in the Moscow-based *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* and headlined "Is James Baker the 'CIS Minister of Foreign Affairs?'" The article asks, "Why are the leaders of the states of the former U.S.S.R. always telephoning America?" and notes that Baker has been invited "to commit an act which used to be punishable under the law in our country—to intervene' in our internal affairs and teach the independent governments how they should act in the area of human rights, how they should conduct trade, and with whom they should cooperate."

But the 12-nation European Community does not seem to be entirely in agreement with Baker. Member nations of the EC, which have been providing aid all along to the CIS and its republics, saw Bush's pledge as just more of the same approach put forward by the State Department and White House ever since the CIS was formed in December.

For one thing, the EC has repeatedly scored the U.S. for talking about aid endlessly, but contributing none. The EC has so far committed about \$4 billion to aiding the CIS; Japan has pledged \$2.6 billion—and the U.S. (aside from Bush's \$645 million) has offered to sponsor an airlift. Also, the CIS states were excluded from the Coordinating Committee conference in Washington. That made many wonder what, in the absence of the recipients of the projected aid, would be "coordinated."



# How much more can Argentina be squeezed?

by Gerardo Terán Canal and Cynthia Rush

Argentine President Carlos Menem has recently boasted of his government's "triumph" at having exceeded by \$400 million the budget surplus demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the last quarter of 1991. Although this theoretically complies with one of the last prerequisites for Argentina joining the Brady Plan debt reduction scheme, it still doesn't satisfy the country's creditors. They in fact are quite nervous. They know that income accruing from the privatization of state sector companies will last for another two years, at best, and are worried that the government has yet to carry out a tax reform to replace that income, as well as a reform of the social security and state assistance programs which will allegedly cut budget expenses.

There's no doubt that Menem and his Harvard-trained finance minister, Domingo Cavallo, are committed to implementing such reforms. But what neither the government nor the bankers are asking is whether Argentina can physically survive the new phase of looting the IMF has planned for it.

Menem insists that Argentina is entering the "First World." But analyst Romeo Medina asserted in the daily *Clarín* on Jan. 19 that "Argentina is rapidly entering the Third World, appearing more and more like the traditionally most backward nations of Latin America." He explained that "micro-enterprises"—that is, small, labor-intensive companies employing no more than 5 to 10 people, now make up "80% of the country's industrial enterprises, and constitute the most efficient solution for the unemployment caused by recession and [government] adjustment policies."

Menem's economic plan is killing what remains of the productive economy, and there shortly will be no tax base capable of providing needed revenues.

In a late-1991 document, the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) indicated the so-called economic recovery which Menem boasts of was reflected in "some sectors such as durable goods," but added that "there are others with large idle capacity, such as tractors, agricultural machinery, steel, machinery and equipment production." UIA Secretary General Manuel Herrera recently told *Clarín* that, despite the alleged recovery, "there is no real growth. . . . I don't think that there are more than three or four new—absolutely new—factories being built." Perhaps for this reason, UIA President Israel

Mahler recently publicly questioned the "idolatry of the free market."

A 1991 survey done by the Argentine Factory Association revealed that replacement of the country's tractor inventory was 25% below what was required, and that 60% of the country's tractors are over 15 years old. As a result, this year's wheat crop will be 8.4 million tons, rather than the 9.5 million originally estimated. Of this, the total exportable quantity will be 4.3 million tons, the lowest in the last decade.

## Industrial employment disappears

In October 1991, the government boasted that unemployment was at its lowest level in years, 5.3%. What no one admits, however, is that the "informal" sector of the economy is growing at an accelerating rate, absorbing many of the skilled workers fired from the large state-owned basic industry companies, like the Somisa steel complex, or the YPF oil concern. In the Jan. 19 *Clarín*, chief economics commentator Daniel Muchnik reported that "the transfer of industrial personnel to the tertiary [services] sector, and the relative growth of tertiary employment in the economy, are concrete testimony of Argentina's deindustrialization."

Muchnik added that a nation which "reduces the importance of its labor force employed in the creation . . . of value-added manufacturing, is going through the deindustrialization phase."

## The most vulnerable are hit hardest

It is hardly accidental that the number of slum neighborhoods known as *villas miseria* has increased to 20,000, in the zones surrounding metropolitan Buenos Aires alone. This has created a dangerous potential for social explosion, not to mention a grave health crisis.

Like his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Collor de Mello, Carlos Menem has no qualms about assaulting one of the most vulnerable sectors of the population—retirees—to please the IMF. He is unconcerned that there has already been one case of a retiree dropping dead while standing in one of the many interminable lines in hopes of collecting back pension payments; or that the mortality rate for people over 60 years of age increased by 70% in 1991 alone. Pension arrears now amount to \$7 billion.

Argentina's elderly are being given several insane options. If they want to be paid in currency, they will have to wait for the Congress to include this in future budgets, because only \$120 million of the \$7 billion owed pensioners was allocated in this year's budget. Or, they can request half in pesos, and the other half in bonds. Again, however, cash allocations aren't provided for in this year's budget, and, the government has decreed that pension bonds are only redeemable within 10 years. According to the Jan. 27 *El Cronista*, now the Menem government has made the generous offer of permitting any retiree over 86 years of age to collect in cash. That's fine, for those who don't drop dead first.

# Lithuania's Landsbergis reproves western usurers

*We reprint in full, the official text of the speech entitled, "Baltic Reintegration: Good Wishes and Barriers" delivered by Lithuania's President Vytautas Landsbergis in London on Jan. 23. The subheads have been editorially added.*

On the road to reestablishing independence, the Baltic states, at first Lithuania, heard many good wishes from the West. In truth, the loud expression of these wishes was at times avoided, for this was disliked by the Soviet Union which could become annoyed and punish the recipient of good wishes.

However, as these good wishes, as well as wishes to avoid resistance and peacefully come to an agreement with Mr. Gorbachov, gradually increased, everyone became accustomed to certain permissible formulas.

Then the question of cooperation arose: What can you, westerners, do to concretely assist, for example, Lithuania?

Investment, to which no one in principle had any objections, showed itself as a not so simple business matter. Investments were shrouded in doubts and this was something from the sphere of psychology.

Thus, factors of *doubt* and *investment* formed a certain systemic relationship within western policies directed toward Lithuania, which has changed forms a few times, but still functions up to today.

These are barriers of doubt to substantial investment. Barriers which draw, one after another, real circles of unattainable paradise.

A few years ago, when Gorbachov had already announced certain economic perestroikas, potential western investors who were considering possibilities in Lithuania, would at first search for guarantees from Moscow. But Soviet officials procrastinated on everything within that large city. Additionally, the situation in the Soviet Union did not look stable, so that someone, even having received guarantees, could not believe in them.

And Lithuania was still very dependent upon the Soviet Union—factually and legally. Her status truly remained beyond the boundary of doubt.

There were a few observers who still walked beyond that farthest barrier of the circle of paradise. In the best of circumstances they would sign some sort of protocol of

unfulfillable intentions.

Later, Sajudis arrived and Lithuania rose to the peaceful struggle for independence.

## **Western policy based on 'might is right'**

The West was interested in how we looked at the future. Would we truly reach for a market economy and private property? Concerning investment, they would nevertheless say something like: Everything is all right, but where are your guarantees that the Soviets will not act in an underhanded way?

And no one in the world could give those kinds of guarantees.

Following March 11, 1990, when the democratically elected parliament of Lithuania announced the decision to reestablish the independent Republic of Lithuania, which had been annexed by the Soviets 50 years ago, there were no significant changes concerning the situation in the sphere of foreign investments.

We passed independent legislation concerning investments, but the Soviets rejected our reestablished state with all her laws. The West, never having legally recognized the legitimacy of the annexation, still avoided the establishment of diplomatic relations with Lithuania and honored the code which says: *Might is right*.

Invest we would say. Invest because of our sovereign guarantees and the Soviets will be forced not to come into conflict with you and to recognize the greater independence of Lithuania as well.

And we would hear an answer that was not even uttered: The strengthening of independence is your own problem.

This circle of paradise was in reality an enchanted one.

They, the westerners, could make policy through economics that would be important to all. With this type of policy, we thought that they would be the first to win new territories for their economies. But they did not want that if there were no absolute guarantees that, dear friends, the Soviets, would never attack.

And no one in the world could give those kinds of guarantees.

Investments did not look like "doctors without frontiers" but like ordinary tourists from well-off countries who do not

travel to areas of unrest.

That is how August and September of 1991 arrived. Many states reestablished or established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Lithuania. The Soviet Union did this as well, while repenting prior to its death.

More guarantees were found that they would not attack, but a new enchanted circle, a new barrier, formed in the sphere of investment.

We saw how we were looked at: Your country has great economic problems. That is why tension is mounting. You are proceeding down the correct road of reform, but have not yet reached the end of it. That is why there is tension, instability. There are more stable places to invest in the world.

Obviously, we thought and told the West: Invest here. When you invest, things will get better, tension will be re-

duced, the political and social situation will stabilize, it will be better for foreign investment, and there will be a better place to invest.

"Oh no," was the said or unsaid answer that we heard. Social stability and the reduction of tension is your problem. As if, stabilize without us, we will come later.

### **The KGB and 'western voices of doom'**

And then finally, we began to understand this and that about damned capitalism.

Capitalism does not like risk and we live in a bad place in the world. And when we make that place better because of this, capitalism scowls and desires that it become even better. But it will come only when someone does almost all the work of betterment without it. It is this way because

On Jan. 23, Vytautas Landsbergis, President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, made the speech we print here, condemning both the western governments' and banks' failure to provide development investment aid for his nation, and their outrageous demand that Lithuania be held responsible for paying back part of the former Soviet debt owed to the West as a condition for receiving aid. The speech was remarkable in its bluntness and use of ironical metaphor to get his point across, but all the more so because of the audience it was delivered to. Landsbergis was speaking at a conference on "The Reintegration of the Baltic States into the World Community," sponsored by the Royal Institute of International Affairs ("Chatham House") in London, the central policy institution for British geopolitical/imperial strategists in this century. This was truly "in the lion's den."

His intervention occurred against the backdrop of a rapidly growing crisis in the Baltic nations, which have been the victims of an international credit embargo by the West since their independence was formally achieved and recognized internationally during 1991. Indicative of the intensity of this crisis, is that in the hours following this speech, the government of Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar collapsed in Estonia, after Savisaar had failed to win sufficient parliamentary support for a package of emergency economic measures. Under conditions of the western credit embargo, Estonia has been victimized by Russian cutbacks of fuel and other vital supplies.

A Baltic source in London familiar with the state of relations between Lithuania and Great Britain told *EIR* Jan. 27: "Landsbergis is no fool, he knows the game that is being played with Lithuania. The West only wants that we become members of the International Monetary Fund, so that we can then get loans and successfully strangle ourselves. The conditions for loans from the international

banking fraternity will mean that, in three or four years, Lithuania will be another Brazil, except that Brazil has a more developed infrastructure and capability. Landsbergis is particularly unhappy with the pressure from London to pay back parts of the Soviet debt; this would be suicidal for Lithuania. This is what the game, the routine, is all about: 'You repay the old Soviet debt, or part of it, and then maybe you'll get some money.' But the routine doesn't seem to care what happens to Lithuania." He said that London was adding insult to injury, by "offering to give back to Lithuania" and other Baltic nations tens of millions of dollars of gold that the Bank of England had seized and credited to Soviet accounts during World War II, so that that gold could now be used to repay "Lithuania's portion" of Soviet debt owed to the West!

Aside from its denunciation of the "damned capitalism" behind such policies and his explicit identification of the embassies of Great Britain and Canada for most actively pressuring Vilnius on the Soviet debt-repayment matter, what is otherwise noteworthy about Landsbergis's remarks is his repeated stress on the East-West arrangements behind the sabotage of Baltic independence and economic development, and his pinpointing of the West's belief in a "might is right" philosophy of international affairs that has been used to justify its dealmaking with Moscow over the past decades. He tweaks the western nations' conscience by recalling that it was the martyrdom and sacrifices of the Lithuanian people that was crucial in bringing down the Soviet totalitarian empire.

Of special importance is Landsbergis's call for a debt moratorium to be granted to the republics of the former U.S.S.R., including Russia, and his insistence that international investment policies must be based on morality and creativity, not ostensible exigencies of debt-repayment, i.e., usury.—*Mark Burdman*



*President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania addresses the U.N. General Assembly, Sept. 17, 1991.*

private capital does not like risk and does not believe in any promises.

And what can a capitalist state—its government, which has an amount of its own money and can stimulate and bolster private capital—do to give this capital guarantees? A government of a state produces policy. So perhaps it is allowed to sometimes risk a bit of its money in the name of a positive political goal? We already have small, positive answers to this question, but there is still a great silence that has yet to be overcome.

And we have some small economic assistance programs. They can be categorized, depending on moods, into friendly smiles, gestures, or categories of silence.

It would be incorrect to cover the fact that *doubts over investments, credits and assistance* were influenced by completely different actions as well. Different barriers were built as well.

All types of rumors, disinformation, and slander were spread in the propaganda war of the Soviet KGB against Lithuania. Each mistake made by a reestablishing and inexperienced state was explained as ill will and a danger to people. This was intensively done in the United States and the Scandinavian countries which are so close to us. And the secret idea would sometimes break out into the open: It is not necessary and not recommended to help the Lithuanians. At the same time, in Lithuania, when politicians and propagandists of a certain color were announcing that the West will not help, that we must apologize to Mr. Gorbachov and listen only to Soviet Moscow—at that same time, in surprising harmony, western voices of doom would chant the refrain: Lithuania's independence is bad and it does not need to be helped, either economically or politically. And of course, it is not worth even investing.

Those who followed this history will easily remember that the concrete motives most often heard were few and interchangeable.

In the end, we paid for political support with blood, the great totalitarianism of the East fell, and the West will now be able to save the costs of an enormous arms race. Is it worth

helping those who helped save these costs? Now that is a secondary question of lesser importance.

For those who like black humor, I can relate the history of one of Lithuania's latest crimes.

This autumn, the Lithuanian government decided to raise a serious question with several newspapers that were affected by the law on former and hidden property of the former Communist Party, because this property should belong to the state and therefore be privatized according to the appropriate law. As it happens, at that same time, newspapers sold in kiosks happened to be included in a list of goods affected by a revised value-added tax.

Loud complaints and protests were heard: The government is against the press! The possibilities for noise from the producers of newspapers are much greater than those of shoe producers. That is why letters from certain gullible westerners still arrive in Vilnius with advice that no newspaper in Lithuania should feel abused. And from one northern capital, a warning was even heard: If you abuse the residents of Vilnius this way, if you take away their newspapers, we will punish those same residents and discontinue their assistance program!

### **West demands repayment of Soviet debt**

That type of logic is also from the area of paradise.

And now we have come face to face with another, apparently much higher barrier. The same capitalism that longs for over-borrowed socialism is attempting to raise this barrier.

We have received signals concerning this issue from the embassies of Canada and the United Kingdom.

Western countries, and especially their capitals, truly had and have something to be concerned about.

In the East, there occurred what had already been prophesied during N. Khrushchov's times by the Turkish poet residing in Moscow, Nazym Hikemet. In his play, *Did Ivan Ivanovich Exist?* that play ends with a scene in which Ivan Ivanovich, the announcer of intelligent, bad ideas and the perpetrator of various misfortunes, disappears, and the other stunned characters ask each other: "In general, did Ivan Ivanovich exist at all?"

Lithuania believes that Ivan Ivanovich is that Soviet communism or bolshevism which murdered several tens of millions and which must be tried like Nazism at Nuremberg.

The West is concerned with finding Ivan Ivanovich so that he can repay debts.

It is strange, but he is being searched for even in Lithuania. There are suggestions, even threats of not granting assistance that do not take a moment to consider other important matters, that suggest we pay part of the Soviet debt.

First, the western states are well aware that Lithuania was occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union.

Lithuania was not a constituent state of the Soviet Union and is not a successor state.

Lithuania did not attack Afghanistan. Lithuania did not



build nuclear submarines, did not finance putsches and uprisings in Africa and Latin America, did not financially support communist parties in Europe, did not create aggressive space programs, and did not bug the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Western credits received by the Soviets as well as the product of Lithuanian labor were used to finance these matters, but nowhere was the will of the people of Lithuania or the Lithuanian state used. When the will of the Lithuanian people was expressed for the first time after the Second World War, in 1988, its content was independence. And the final, coerced flow of Lithuanian finances to the budget of the U.S.S.R. was severed at the end of 1990.

But even then, the West loaned nothing to the reestablished Lithuanian state. Still, even today, giving credits to Lithuania is a great problem for the West.

The Soviets ruled an annexed Lithuania through 1940-41 and 1944-90. And after that, they terrorized and attacked for a year and a half. But in a legal sense, Lithuania was never part of the Soviet state.

Russia recognized this during the summer of 1991. The Soviet Union recognized this, at the end of 1989 when it rather abstractly condemned the results of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact; and later, on Sept. 6, 1991, it recognized Lithuania's recovered independence. The U.S.S.R. liquidated itself in December 1991, already being "without Lithuania"

and without any claims to Lithuania "within the structure of the U.S.S.R." for three whole months. The process that is legally called the dissolution of a state does not touch Lithuania for there is no basis for this. And Lithuania does not offer itself as a successor to the rights and obligations of the U.S.S.R.

Any other viewpoint would not coincide with the traditional and consistent assertion of western states to not recognize the 1940 annexation of Lithuania by the Soviets. We would be surprised that if now, searching for a few million dollars, certain western creditors would favor the historical recognition of that brutal and tragic annexation.

Even blacker humor would be the recognition of those few hundred billion in damages which were done to Lithuania by the Soviet Union's occupations, plundering, destruction, and deportations. Is it possible that Lithuania—as the suggested "part of the U.S.S.R."—raped, exiled, and murdered herself?

Lithuania does not desire, and does not intend to demand, a part of the loans that India and Ethiopia still owe the Soviet Union; Lithuania does not demand a part of the Soviet nuclear missile force, even though a large amount of Lithuanian finances was pumped here. Then why is the West pushing Lithuania in that direction? So that only following that it can grant a bit of aid or credits?

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## Erase the former Soviet debt!

Frankly speaking, sometimes the great search for Ivan Ivanovich among the forests and steppes of Russia seems strange.

Is it possible that it would please the West to see a reborn Soviet Union, greatly in debt and again a threat?

Is it possible that the erasing of all those debts would be too great a price for peace?

Is it possible that the choking of Russia with debts, while at the same time doing little to help it, really pays? So that some sort of Zhirinovskiy arises and sends western creditors to farther places than even Lenin or Stalin sent them?

Lithuania is observing the strangeness of the world and attempting not to add to it. Lithuania is working, reforming an economy, and creating a democratic state. And Lithuania thinks—and has said this more than once—that in those instances in which its factories or other concrete economic projects have used western credits, these debts, Lithuania would agree to repay. Not as an inherited obligation of the Soviet occupation, but in good faith—*ex gratia*.

We know that some western investors may be held back in the inflexibility of our laws, especially the reluctance to sell our land. We are thinking, discussing, these matters in parliament and in society. But when we hear today the question of the westerner: Is it completely safe or not? Will not the Soviets come again?—one desires to awake from the grotesque dream of paradise or desires that the questioner finally awake.

This history of our integration into the European free market can be continued. We are told: You will not get serious investments until you introduce your own currency. We tell them: Help us in introducing our own currency. We have already printed it. Extend a guarantee for our currency—a stabilization fund. Perhaps it will never be necessary like for Poland, but extend it nevertheless. It is not that large of a risk. We are told: Wait. The routine does not allow us to help you now. Stabilize on your own. That is your own problem.

The routine prescribes one should wait. The routine does not allow assistance at present, but the routine allows one to coldly watch from the other side of the barrier: Now what will follow in that Lithuania?

And I sometimes think—is it inevitable that we must divide into: we, they, you?

Is it that difficult to say “we” and to sit at a table that is stable enough for everyone?

Let all types of things be important to us.

Not only capital and guaranteed benefits, but moral investment, the security and proliferation of democracy, a common European future.

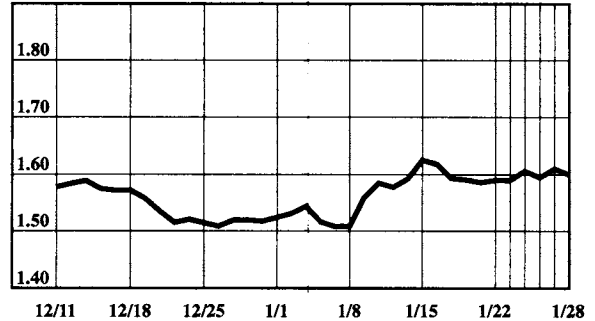
To invest carefully, to achieve guaranteed earnings, is very intelligent and important, but that is not the most interesting way to live.

Let us search for creativity in our lives.

## Currency Rates

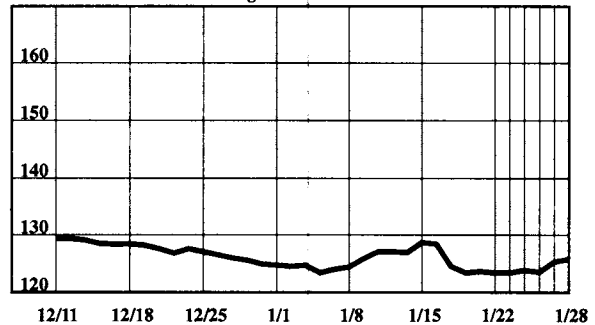
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



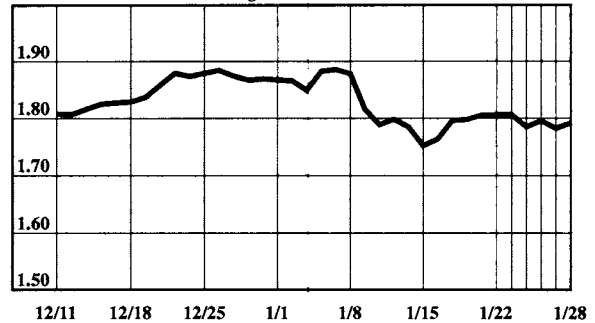
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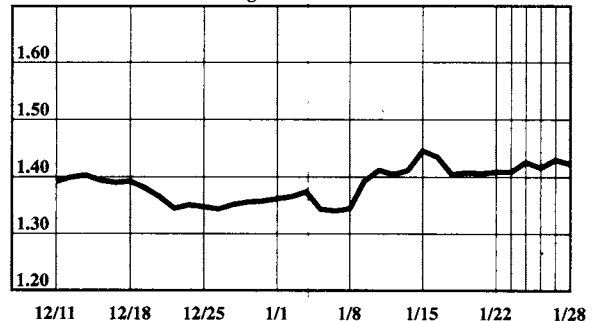
### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



# Iowa: a world farm center now plunged into decline

by Sue Atkinson

The state of Iowa was once synonymous with farming. Iowa once ranked first in output of corn, cattle, and hogs, and first in the value of exported farm products. But today, its farm production, while still significant, is maintained only by deeper and deeper degradation of its people, its physical infrastructure, and its natural resources.

Iowa is one of only four states that over the 1980s experienced a net population loss. People are migrating out of the state. Iowa's current population of 2.777 million people (1990) is lower than it was 20 years ago (2.825 million in 1970), and compares with 2.758 million people in 1960.

The number of farms in Iowa has been declining at a rate of about 2,000 per year. According to a recently released Iowa State University study, from 1964 to 1990 the number of farms declined by 58,000 or 31.8%. Accompanying the decrease in the number of farms was a 529% increase in the number of operating farms of 1,000 acres or more, and a significant increase in average farm size (see Figure 1). Be-

cause Iowa is about 86% rural, the social results of this have been devastating.

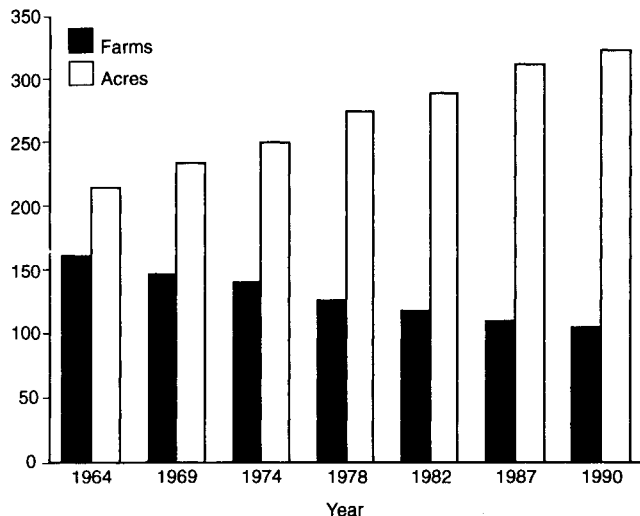
The rationalization advanced by policymakers tolerating this was that fewer farms would mean more income for those remaining. However, as the recent study by Iowa State University shows, this theory does not hold water. Those remaining in farming have been forced to seek off-farm income to cover their declining farm receipts. In 1987, fully 47% of Iowa farm operators reported off-farm income, and 35% of operators considered farming to be a secondary occupation.

The amount of Iowa farmland worked by part-owners increased 34.3% from 1969 to 1987, while the percentage of land owned by operators fell from 51.8% in 1978 to 47.6% in 1987 (see Figure 2). Along with decline in land worked by owner-operator farmers, the average age of farmers increased. The cost of young farmers getting started has become almost prohibitive and, between 1978 and 1987, the number of farmers over 65 years of age increased by 31.4%.

The stage for these radical changes was set by the ending

FIGURE 1  
Iowa farms: Numbers decline, and acreage per farm increased, 1964-90

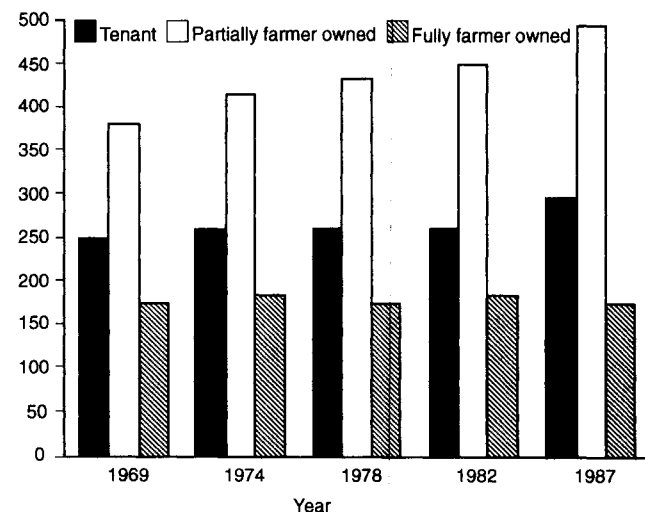
(acres or thousands of farms)



Source: Iowa State University.

FIGURE 2  
Iowa tenant farming increased, 1969-87

(farm acres)

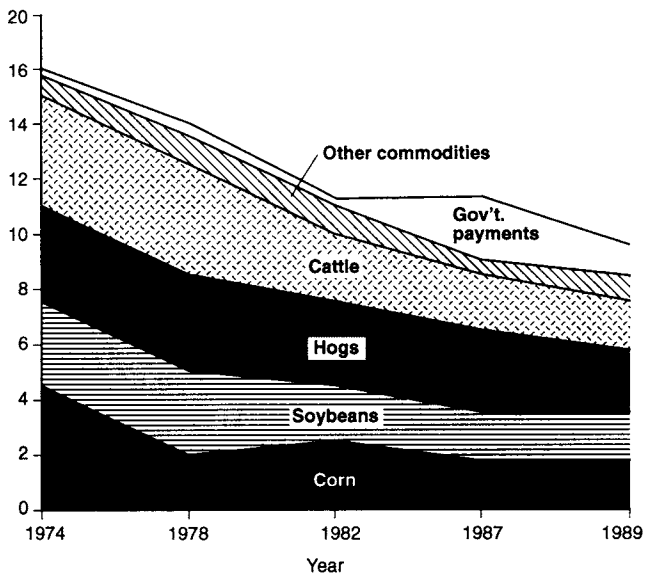


Source: Census of Agriculture.

FIGURE 3

**Iowa farm cash income declines, shown by source, 1974-89**

(billions of 1989 dollars, inflation adjusted)



Source: Iowa State University.

of nationally mandated parity farm prices in 1953. (Parity price is the price which would cover the input or cost of production expenses for the farm family, and a decent profit for reinvestment in the infrastructure in order to maintain the efficiency of the operation.) The recent period has seen a sharp decline in real cash farm income from corn, soybeans, hogs, and cattle. Total cash farm income from all sources fell 38% between 1974 and 1989 after adjustments for inflation (see **Figure 3**).

However, over part of the same time period, federal transfer payments to farmers temporarily increased—for the purpose of covering the transition period while farmers were being forced out of farming. Between 1974 and 1989, the inflation-adjusted government payments to farmers increased by 2,600%. This increase in government payments was one of the cynical recommendations of the “Young Executive Report,” which was issued in 1972 by a group including Richard Lyng (later to become secretary of agriculture), to provide a cushion for those forced to leave farming.

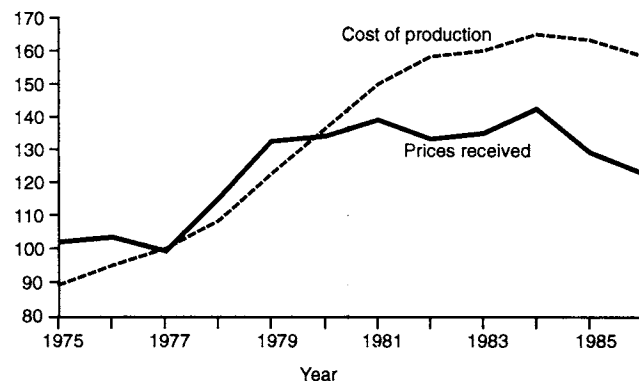
**Tax base erodes**

With the Iowa economy heavily dependent on agriculture, the reduced income and lower farm population have caused an erosion of the economic base. The population of small towns has declined to the point that many will disappear by the year 2000, as businesses close and the tax base becomes insufficient to provide services. During the 1980s, rural areas lost 20% of their grocery stores, 22% of their

FIGURE 4

**Iowa farm costs of production rose, prices received fell, 1975-86**

(Index: 1977 = 100)



Source: Iowa Agricultural Statistics Iowa Department of Agriculture.

movie theaters, 29% of their variety stores, 35% of their gas stations and apparel stores, and 49% of their student enrollment. As the economy continues to erode, the number of schools is now going to be reduced from 425 to about 125.

The loss of farm income directly translates into a local government crisis. How much difference does a nickel a bushel or 30¢ a bushel make? It is estimated that Iowa harvested about 11.8 million acres of corn, averaging 117 bushels per acre in 1991, and 8.7 million acres of soybeans, averaging 39 bushels per acre. For corn, the harvest amounted to 1.38 billion bushels, and in the case of soybeans, the total comes to 339.3 million bushels.

If the price of corn goes down a nickel a bushel, this means a loss of income of \$69.03 million just for the 1991 harvest. At a 5% income tax rate, that would be a loss to state tax revenues of \$3.46 million, and a loss of potential sales tax revenues of \$2.6 million. If the price of soybeans goes down 30¢ a bushel, this means a loss of \$101.8 million just for the current harvest. The loss of potential state income tax would be \$5.09 million, and the loss of potential sales tax revenues would be \$3.9 million. The rest of the potential lost income would be money which would be deposited into banks (which would provide capital for more lending), and money spent to stimulate the economy. In rural areas there is a multiplier factor of seven. This means that every dollar changes hands seven times, thus providing that much benefit. This is what maintains the economic base and supports the businesses, communities, schools, and government.

**Parity prices make a difference**

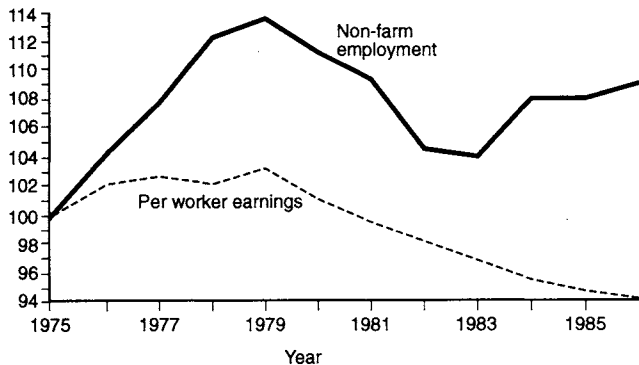
The current price per bushel for corn and soybeans is about 50% of a parity price (see **Figure 4**). What would be the difference to the state if a parity price were to be paid for



FIGURE 5

**Earnings per worker fell in Iowa, as non-farm employment increased, 1975-86**

(index: 1975 = 100)

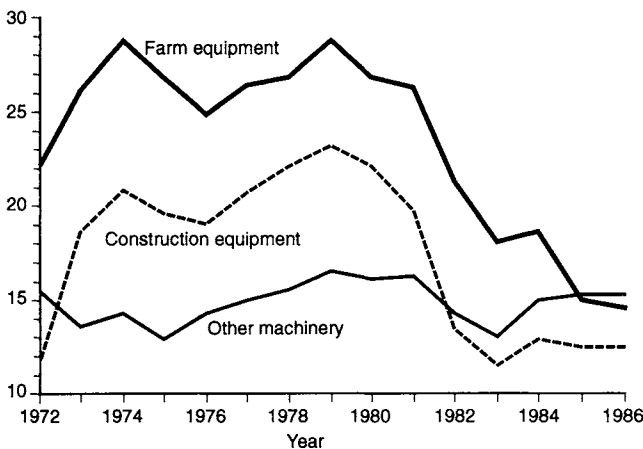


Source: Institute of Public Affairs, the University of Iowa.

FIGURE 6

**Decline in Iowa employment in machinery manufacturing, 1972-86**

(thousands)



Source: Iowa Department of Economic Development.

corn and soybeans? Using this year's harvest figures, the additional income for corn would come to \$3.45 billion, of which about \$172.5 million would be income tax revenue and \$131.1 million would be sales tax revenue. For soybeans the additional income would be around \$1.86 billion, of which about \$93.3 million would be income tax revenue and \$70.9 million would be sales tax revenue.

The farm income decline is reflected in the erosion of non-farm jobs. During the agriculture crisis of the 1980s, the state lost 84,000 production-type jobs averaging an annual income of \$20,000 (see Figures 5 and 6). These were replaced by 39,000 service-type jobs averaging \$11,500 per

year, which represents lost personal income of \$1.23 billion per year. The loss in tax revenues for both income and sales taxes amount to \$108.2 million per year. Along with this there was the loss in purchasing power and the ability to pay property taxes and other fees charged by the state in order to generate revenue. And, because of reduced income, there is the added burden to the state of those families who are in need of and qualify for public assistance.

Iowa currently has a state debt of \$330 million. It has laid off almost 1,300 state employees and expects to lay off another 3,500, and the ripple effects have fueled numerous other layoffs. And the foolish idea that free trade will be the salvation because it "may" provide more exports, is a delusion. How can receiving less of a price, which reduces the incomes of the producer and the businesses supplying the producer, be a benefit when it erodes the tax and economic base?

**Abandoning food production**

There is a plethora of proposals being suggested to farm communities by powerful food cartel companies, to induce them to "adjust" to the farm sector collapse instead of fighting it.

There is one plan now afoot to try to pass legislation during the upcoming legislative session to authorize zoning for livestock production that would control where and how much livestock can be raised. The decisions will be made by county committees (or regional ones as counties disappear due to budget constraints).

Farmers are also being encouraged to lock themselves into contractual production deals with large companies, to get around the problem of finding capital for investment in the ownership of a farming operation. This will create the illusion that family farms exist, when the reality will be that families will be living on a farm but working it for someone else.

Adding to such patterns of control of production by the food cartel, are moves to take farmland out of food production altogether. Iowa has been a target of the Conservation Reserve Program, enacted in 1985, which seeks to remove cropland from food production for a minimum of 10 years. If all of Iowa's qualifying land were to be enrolled in the CRP, 8 million acres of farmland would be out of production. Classification of land as wetlands could potentially remove millions more acres from production. (That definition is now being debated, so the final total is not yet known.) The acreage reductions are in addition to other set-aside programs run by the government in which farmers are forced to enroll if they wish to qualify for minimal government payments.

Finally, there is "The Iowa Futures Project," a wild, visionary plan prepared by Stanford Research Institute which recommends that the Iowa economy be restructured into 13 urban areas surrounded by clusters of satellite towns. This presumes that Iowa's 953 communities can be expected to eventually shrink to about 200.



## Mexican legislator insists, NAFTA is no panacea

The following is an interview on the implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for both the U.S. and Mexican economies, conducted with Mexican Congresswoman Cecilia Soto de Estévez of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM). EIR first interviewed her last July 29, during her campaign to represent the 3rd Congressional District, shortly after she had worked "under cover" in one of the border area assembly plants, the *maquiladoras*, for a week. That interview appeared in our Aug. 16, 1991 issue.

Congresswoman Soto gave the interview to EIR's Carlos Wesley by phone on Jan. 25, 1992.

**EIR:** You gained a lot of fame during your electoral campaign last year because you went undercover into a *maquiladora* plant. Can you tell us a little about this? Why did you do this and what did you learn?

**Soto:** This was around June of last year, and I did it because there was a big debate over the *maquiladoras*, that they have to change, that they offer better jobs and better salaries. There is currently ongoing in Mexico this process to join the trade agreement with the United States. And so I wanted to know what it really means to work in a *maquiladora*. So I got hired and I found many interesting things.

I found good physical conditions, a relatively good working environment, but the salary was so low. It was the minimum wage in Mexico, which is about 50¢ per hour, which meant that a worker only lasts about five months or so. Every day, about 200 workers would join the *maquiladora* and another 200 would leave. It was just like a revolving door, and everybody had applications for other jobs. You could never get high productivity with that intense labor rotation.

The other thing I found is that the company used very poor quality-control methods—you know, like counting with your fingers—because wages are so low that the company is not motivated to use sophisticated methods of quality control. I went precisely to the end of the quality-control process, and we found a lot of defective pieces due to poor methods.

**EIR:** Many of our readers do not know what a *maquiladora*

is. Can you explain it to us?

**Soto:** A *maquiladora* is what is called a twin plant. That is, it is a U.S. plant that sends everything to Mexico. All the components are U.S.-made but fully assembled in Mexico; then they sell it back to the United States. And because they sell it to a twin plant in the U.S., they sell it very cheap. Then they declare in Mexico that they have no earnings. If they have no earnings, they don't pay taxes in Mexico.

What they leave in Mexico are salaries and some worker training, but that's it.

**EIR:** These are manufacturing plants from the U.S. that get installed in Mexico, then? What does the plant you were working for make?

**Soto:** They make what is called *arneses*. These are the electrical wires that are assembled into one big wiring harness that serve all the electric requirements of Ford's tractor-trailers. This company was from Alabama.

**EIR:** Therefore, jobs originally from Alabama, are now being performed by workers who are paid 50¢ an hour in Mexico?

**Soto:** That's before I went in and organized a strike movement, and now salaries are a tiny bit better, maybe 60 or 70¢ an hour.

**EIR:** With the North American Free Trade Agreement, the idea is that you would have many more of these *maquiladoras*.

**Soto:** Yes, that's one part of it. The general idea is that trade barriers are going to practically disappear over a period of about 10-15 years. In some sectors, they have already disappeared; in some sectors, they will disappear abruptly; in others it's going to be a very long process. So, one of the aspects is that more plants of that kind are going to come to Mexico.

Another aspect is the agricultural one. For example, there are a lot of barriers for Mexican and American products. If those barriers disappear, wheat and corn—for example—which are more and more cheaply grown in the United States,

because you have all that snow, are going to be imported into Mexico.

And our corn and our wheat, which are more expensive to grow—not because of low productivity but because we don't have the rain and snow you have, and so we have to irrigate—it's not going to be worth it for us to grow those crops. And that's going to be a big problem for Mexico, because that's going to mean that we're going to depend on U.S. or foreign crops. You know there is this crazy idea that Mexico can simply plant cherry tomatoes and zucchini for the U.S. supermarkets, but what about the basic crops that we need for *our* population?

**EIR:** Recently, there's been talk about a growing resistance to this North American Free Trade Agreement. What can you tell us about this?

**Soto:** Well, I don't share that view: I think there is some resistance, but that it is scattered. There is resistance by some industrialists who have been hit hard by the elimination of the trade barriers that the Mexican government has already carried out. For example, the toy and clothing industries. And then there is also the auto industry, which in Mexico means General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford. Here, too, there has been some resistance because of what is called the "rules of origin." The Americans want a very high percentage of "rules of origin," you know, higher than 60%, so that Japanese or European automakers could not use Mexico as a bridge to reach the United States. But Mexico needs Japanese and European investment!

**EIR:** So you're saying there is more interest inside Mexico to lower the "rules of origin"?

**Soto:** Yes, there's a big fight there.

**EIR:** You mentioned some benefits that might come from the *maquiladoras*, in terms of the wages and labor training in Mexico, but do you see NAFTA as providing any benefits overall to the Mexican and U.S. economies?

**Soto:** I think the global effect would be negative. Right now, especially in the northern part of Mexico, *maquiladoras* are very popular among workers, because there is such a high unemployment rate in Mexico. But overall, I think we are going to lose a great deal of our sovereignty, of our capacity to act as a sovereign nation. The most important thing is that we are joining this agreement precisely at the worst moments of the U.S. economy.

You know, it is like marrying somebody who has some very disturbing symptoms. Before marrying this person, you should make certain that person is healthy.

The U.S. economy suffers from many, many problems, but the most important one is that of low technology, of the obsolescence of the industrial base. With this North American Free Trade Agreement, the most important incentive [for the U.S.] is low wages in Mexico, which means that a lot of

U.S. plants would abandon the fight for productivity: They would try to lower the cost of their product not by higher technology but by moving to Mexico.

**EIR:** Aren't the jobs you are seeing right now in the northern part of Mexico jobs that were previously in the United States, rather than new jobs?

**Soto:** Exactly. Some protest, of course, that this is not a one-to-one relation; that a job lost in the United States would not remain that way, because new jobs would be created by exports. But I don't think this is so, because how would the U.S. compete with these low-quality products from the *maquiladoras*, if it doesn't completely renovate its industrial base?

**EIR:** You mention the question of farmers in the United States being able to sell more goods in Mexico. Is NAFTA, in the long run, going to be good for American farmers?

**Soto:** That's a complicated question. Some sectors of U.S. agriculture are going to benefit, because they are going to sell their crops. Others, however, will suffer: For example, the food and vegetable growers will suffer because Mexican vegetables are cheaper and of good quality.

**EIR:** Will the Mexican Congress have a chance to debate this agreement, if and when it is signed?

**Soto:** No, the Mexican House of Representatives, by the Constitution, does not have the right to review international treaties. It is the Senate which does that, but the Senate is almost completely controlled by the ruling party. And, therefore, it would be nothing more than an act of protocol to approve it.

**EIR:** Is there anything else regarding the North American Free Trade Agreement that you would like to tell our readers?

**Soto:** Well, what I would like to say is that NAFTA has been presented to both populations—yours and Mexico's—as the panacea for everything. And if you are against it, you are either a Marxist freak or a protectionist freak, or something like that. What I want to tell your readers is that, even if the world has changed as much as it has in these past months, the basic rules of economy have not changed.

The ABCs of economy haven't changed. If you don't produce by improving your technological base and elevating the consumption of the productive work force, then you will not be able to compete with other countries. So, NAFTA is an escape valve for both the U.S. and Mexican problems, and is not the solution. The only solution is the complete reversal of the direction of the U.S. economy. You have to innovate, you have to select some areas of the economy where you would be the best, and we'd have to do the same in Mexico.

Maybe you will have to change your government to accomplish that.

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## Book Reviews

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# Africa caught in the grip of drugs

by Ives Zilli

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### La Piste Blanche

by Eric Fottorino

Edition Balland, France, 1991

175 pages, 85 French francs

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In less than 10 years, Africa has become a revolving door for the heroin traffic, and then for cocaine, which it reexports from multiple channels on to Europe, or to the United States. Fottorino's book, which means *The White Trail* in translation, is the result of a detailed investigation, and supplies hundreds of figures relating to drug trafficking and seizures. These facts no longer allow anyone to underestimate this new plague against the African continent. Africa is a zone of transshipment, but also a center of consumption of ever-growing importance.

Heroin, cocaine, and other psychotropic substances are invading Africa, as rapidly as a cloud of locusts. In the Horn of Africa it is the "Asiatic barons" who rage; on its western flank, it is the Nigerian and Ghanaian cocaine ants who go to get their supplies in Colombia and in the islands where everything is possible: Madagascar, Mauritius, the Comoro Islands, São Tomé e Príncipe, Cape Verde. Drugs have simply take over the weapons- and ivory-trafficking routes. Already, 30% of the heroin intercepted in Europe transits through Africa.

### Lagos revolving door

Since the 1984 appearance of the Nigerian branch, the drug routes have become lost in the tropical tangle; there are links identified as going through N'Djamena, for example, or via Brazzaville and Libreville. But most of the routes lead to Lagos. Over the years, the Nigerians have come to control couriers from Benin, Togoland, Ivory Coast, and Senegal. One Ghanaian and Tanzanian channel has specialized in forwarding drugs on to Greece, Scandinavia, and Spain, while the Malis and Zaireans divide up the French, Belgian, and German markets. The airports of Central Africa—Kinshasa, Bangui, Kigali—play a greater and greater role. The Equato-

rial Guineans have put into place a heroin network destined toward Spain, and then Malabo. One circuit, additionally, starts out from the capital of Equatorial Guinea in the direction of Mauritania and Las Palmas, then continues on toward Madrid, Copenhagen, and Athens. Libreville is an important place for apportioning out the heroin from Asia which arrives there from Kenya via Luanda. Other known links connect Zambia to Pretoria, with the aid of Greeks in Lubumbashi and Johannesburg. Without forgetting the classical connections of Mauritius Island, Réunion, and the Comoro Islands, with Paris-Roissy.

One might wonder if the maritime cannabis route from Tangiers to northern Europe is not also used for heroin trafficking. The technique of transshipping drugs in the Mediterranean in the areas where the NATO radars based in Gibraltar are blind, has been demonstrated. Flat-bottomed boats that make very few waves draw up alongside cargo ships on the high seas, take on the weed and convey it to Le Havre, Hamburg, or Rotterdam. The major containerized trade, which has been developing between Brazil and the western coast of Africa, is suspected of including a massive flow of hard drugs; some estimate even that the smugglers who use air routes are but the small hands of a considerable hidden business. On the cocaine trail, one often meets nationals of Sierra Leone and Senegal, and the Syrian-Lebanese are heavily implicated in crack trafficking in Dakar.

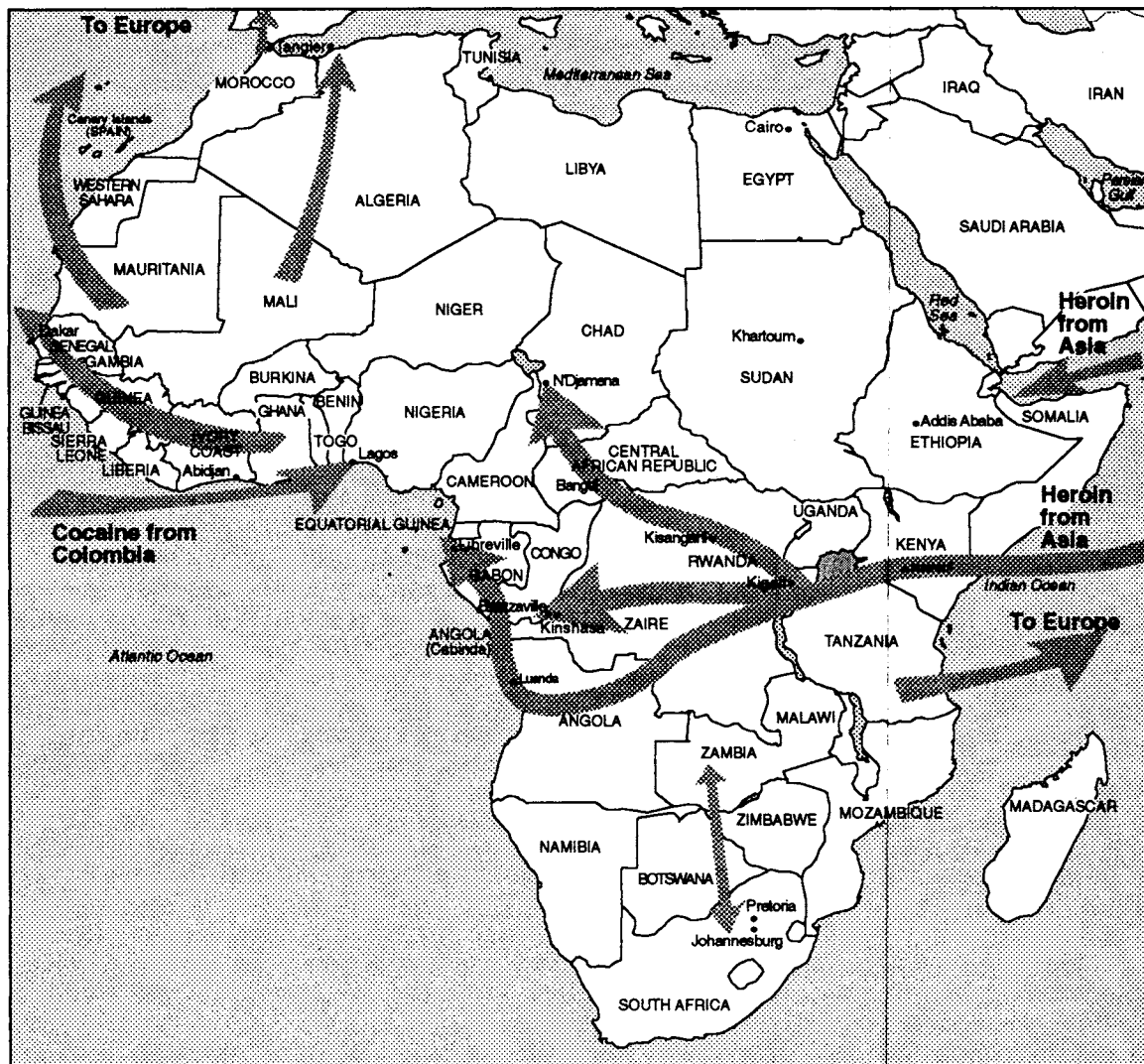
### Local consumption explodes

But the old continent is not any longer only a transshipment route, it has also become a place of consumption. Barbiturates and amphetamines smuggled in from western and eastern European and Indian laboratories, when they are not produced on the spot with the help of European chemists, ravage the populations which have already been decimated by malnutrition and epidemics. It is the most disinherited area of the planet that is targeted, and hence the least equipped in troops and equipment for detecting the drug traffic. Psychotropic substances are also causing millions of Africans to gamble with death. International diversions, thefts committed to the detriment of illicit factories by clandestine laboratories—the traffickers have no shortage of ideas nor of means for attaining their objectives and destroying the youth of the continent. Capable of producing phony import licenses, and of masking their products as emergency medical aid, they are a terrible threat to public health.

West and Central Africa are especially inundated with stimulants: aspirin, amphetamines from Bulgaria up to 1987, Yugoslavian pemoline which is run through the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and the Netherlands to enter into Nigeria, Guinea, and Togoland. Several million ephedrine pills were seized in Conakry between 1985 and 1989, coming from Europe and Asia; an old stock of Bulgarian amphetamines is still circulating in Ivory Coast, Mali, and Burkina Faso; the presence of precursors—chemicals known to be needed to



**FIGURE 1**  
**Drug**  
**running**  
**in Africa**



make narcotics—has been noted. An important network was dismantled in Abijan. North Africa, for its part, is a hotbed of traffickers in methaqualone, a depressive drug, also called Mandrax, which plunges the user into a twilight mood. Southeast Africa is the main market for consumption of this substance; a clandestine laboratory discovered in 1987 has allowed the seizure of 14 million doses, or 90% of the world seizures of methaqualone. Mandrax continues to flow in, coming from India, via Nairobi and especially Malindi, a Kenyan city where old Red Brigaders, Italian mafiosi, and a few French criminals all hang out together. The quantity of seizures is terrifying. For example, 20 tons of amphetamines have been seized in the capital of Benin.

### Drugs and Structural Adjustment Plans

The economic situation of the African continent offers an open field to drug trafficking. More than 20 countries are applying the draconian austerity plans (called Structural Adjustment Plans, SAP) imposed by the International Mone-

tary Fund and World Bank. For some of them, like Senegal, this involves a treatment which has been going on for more than ten years. These plans, whose aim is the maximum repayment of debts in the shortest term, take no account whatever of the country's development needs. In a context where there is no longer any investment policy, where unemployment has never reached such catastrophic proportions as now, and where a country must find a maximum of hard currency to pay its debt while its raw material prices are sinking on the international markets, the drug economy offers all kinds of racketeers (who are taking the lead in promoting the opening of the African economies) a rapid and easy gain.

Africa, faced with this new scourge, can do nothing alone; the international community must come to its aid and rapidly reestablish the conditions for a true economic growth, lest, in the wake of famine, epidemics (of which AIDS is the gravest), and desertification, drugs—the "Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse"—will end up wiping out the continent's youth and leaving it no chance for a future.

## Food cartels tighten their grip

*Many recent leveraged buyouts and mergers involve food companies, and it's bad news for farmers and consumers.*

**T**hanks to a frenetic pace of mergers and acquisitions over the past decade, the U.S. food industry is now so concentrated, that even the Government Accounting Office sounded the alarm over monopolistic pricing practices, in a report issued last October. The result of the trend is rising profits for the food cartel companies, while smaller entrepreneurs and the family farmer are driven out of business.

While most of the economy is depressed, the earnings of 11 large independent food companies are expected to climb nearly 13% this year, according to the annual industry review of *Business Week*. The reasons are not hard to find.

The biggest players in this dirty game have been leveraged buyout specialists. According to an August 1991 report by Anthony Gallo of the USDA Economic Research Service, there were 4,500 mergers, acquisitions, and leveraged buyouts (LBOs) in "the food marketing system" between 1982 and 1990. The largest buyout of all time was the \$24.7 billion LBO of RJR/Nabisco by Kohlberg Kravis and Roberts (KKR) in 1989, and the third largest was the acquisition of Kraft Inc. by Philip Morris Co. Inc. in 1988 for \$12.644 billion. Another notable deal was the \$5.8 billion purchase of Pillsbury by the British conglomerate, Grand Metropolitan PLC, in 1989.

In 1989 the food and tobacco industries were the most active areas of mergers and acquisitions, as measured by value, and the tenth most active, as measured by number of transactions. In 1990, the sector was the sixth most active, measured by value.

The second largest deal-of-the-year in 1990 was Philip Morris's purchase of French coffee and chocolate maker Jacobs Suchard for \$3.8 billion.

It is now estimated that the Kraft subsidiary of Philip Morris controls 57% to 70% of the national cheese market. In addition, Philip Morris paid \$5.6 billion in 1985 to buy out General Foods (Brim, Jell-O, Kool-Aid, Maxwell House, Post, Sanka, Tang). Philip Morris also owns Oscar Mayer (Claussen, Louis Kemp, Louis Rich), and Miller Brewing.

Another food conglomerate which has grown monstrosly through acquisitions is ConAgra, the sales of which have exploded from \$1.7 billion in 1981, to \$19.5 billion in 1990. In 1990, ConAgra purchased the remnants of Beatrice Co. from KKR for \$1.3 billion, emerging as the second largest food processor in the United States, behind Kraft. ConAgra controls 23% of domestic flour milling, and is also one of the four largest meatpackers, who together control 70% of the meat market. ConAgra now owns Armour, Banquet, Butterball, Chun King, Healthy Choice, Hunt-Wesson, La Choy, Monfort, Orville Redenbacher's, Patio, Peter Pan, Reddi-Whip, Sizzlean, Swift-Eckrich, Swiss Miss, and Taste O'Sea.

In October, the General Accounting Office reported to Congress that the USDA has failed to ensure that competitive markets exist in the national beef market, with 70% of the market controlled by Iowa Beef, Cargill, ConAgra, and National Beef. (A monopoly is considered to exist if a company or cartel dominates 65% of

the market).

The GAO report argued that "packers are more able to engage in anti-competitive behavior to depress prices paid to livestock producers." The study said the USDA was unable to identify "on an ongoing basis anti-competitive practices such as price manipulation or the apportionment of territory." This is polite talk for the common knowledge that the USDA and the Department of Justice stood by while the food monopolies grew.

In 1972, GAO noted, the smallest packing plants had 41% of the business and the largest had 8%. By 1989, the ratios had been reversed, with the smallest plants having 8% of the market, while the largest had 67%. The big packers are systematically underpaying farmers.

Perhaps the food conglomerate that most warrants examination, however, is KKR. Besides controlling RJR/Nabisco, KKR controls the nation's largest food retailer, Safeway Inc., as well as another major food retailer, Stop & Shop Cos.

Moreover, KKR now holds 15% of ConAgra, as a partial payment for the sale of Beatrice. KKR had swallowed Beatrice for \$8.2 billion in 1986, but the deal quickly ran into financial difficulties, partly as a result of unresolved product liability cases. Consequently, KKR was unable to realize the profits it had made on other LBOs, and proceeded to break Beatrice into 10 major pieces, which were sold for a total of \$7.7 billion, before the last major chunk taken by ConAgra for \$1.3 billion.

Thus, KKR—perhaps the largest business concern in the U.S.—stands as a link between food processors such as ConAgra and food retailers such as Safeway, achieving a degree of control that approximates the control "from upstream to downstream" of the large integrated oil companies.

# Letters to the Editor

## *The 'American System': LaRouche's, Hamilton's*

I have a suggestion for future editions of *EIR*.

In many articles, especially those authored by Mr. LaRouche, the term the "American System of political economy" is used as if we all know what that means.

I have read many editions of *EIR* and have yet to see the term explained. Perhaps you can use the following quote which I found in "The LaRouche Congressional Campaign Platform" (courtesy of Susan Schlanger).

On the bottom of page 22 under the sub-head of "Foreign Affairs" there is an explanation of the "American System of political economy." I quote:

"This is a system of national economy committed to fostering the steady increase of the average productive powers, and standard of living of labor, through fostering capital-intensive, energy-intensive entrepreneurial agricultural and manufacturing investment in employment of scientific and technological progress. This means the creation of the indispensable climate for successful entrepreneurial enterprises, the fostering of adequate amounts of capital-intensive, energy-intensive, regulated investment in basic economic infrastructure: water management systems, generation and distribution of power, general transportation, general communications, and of health and education services."

Maybe someone needs to come up with a glossary of terms Mr. LaRouche frequently uses.

Sincerely,  
Richard J. Anastasi  
Irving, Texas

**The Editor Replies:** I take the opportunity to amplify on the theme. Anthony Wikrent, a member of *EIR*'s economics staff who contributed the passages from Henry Carey to our issue on American System economics (Vol. 19, No. 1), has provided the following excerpts from *The Federalist Papers*, no. 11 by Alexander Hamilton. This may be the first mention of the term, "Amer-

ican System." Note that he saw this as a means of countering the colonial depredations of European empires. Hamilton was arguing here, of course, for the necessity of forming a federal Union by ratifying the Constitution drafted in 1787:

"The importance of the Union, in a commercial light, is one of those points, about which there is least room to entertain a difference of opinion, and which has in fact commanded the most general assent of men, who have any acquaintance with the subject. This applies as well to our intercourse with foreign countries, as with each other.

"There are appearances to authorize a supposition, that the adventurous spirit, which distinguishes the commercial character of America, has already excited uneasy sensations in several of the maritime powers of Europe. They seem to be apprehensive of our too great interference in that carrying trade, which is the support of their navigation and the foundation of their naval strength. Those of them, which have colonies in America, look forward, to what this country is capable of becoming, with painful solicitude. They foresee the dangers, that may threaten their American dominions from the neighborhood of States, which have all the dispositions, and would possess all the means, requisite to the creation of a powerful marine. Impressions of this kind will naturally indicate the policy of fostering divisions among us, and of depriving us as far as possible of an *active commerce* in our own bottoms. This would answer the threefold purpose of preventing our interference in their navigation, of monopolizing the profits of our trade, and of clipping the wings by which we might soar to a dangerous greatness. . . .

"A further resource for influencing the conduct of European nations towards us . . . would arise from the establishment of a federal navy. There can be no doubt that the continuance of the Union under an efficient government would put it in our power, at a period not very distant, to create a navy which, if it could not vie with those of the great maritime powers, would at least be of respectable weight if thrown into the scale of either of two contending parties. . . . A price would be set not only upon our friendship, but upon our neutrality. By a steady adherence to the Union, we may hope, ere

long, to become the arbiter of Europe in America, and to be able to incline the balance of European competitions in this part of the world as our interest may dictate. . . .

"Under a vigorous national government, the natural strength and resources of the country, directed to a common interest, would baffle all the combinations of European jealousy to restrain our growth. This situation would even take away the motive to such combinations, by inducing an impracticability of success. An active commerce, an extensive navigation, and a flourishing marine would then be the inevitable offspring of moral and physical necessity. We might defy the little arts of little politicians to control, or vary, the irresistible and unchangeable course of nature.

". . . I shall briefly observe, that our situation invites, and our interests prompt us, to aim at an ascendant in the system of American affairs. The world may politically, as well as geographically, be divided into four parts, each having a distinct set of interests. Unhappily for the other three, Europe, by her arms and by her negotiations, by force and by fraud, has, in different degrees, extended her dominion over them all. Africa, Asia, and America have successively felt her domination. The superiority, she has long maintained, has tempted her to plume herself as the Mistress of the World, and to consider the rest of mankind as created for her benefit. Men admired as profound philosophers have, in direct terms, attributed to her inhabitants a physical superiority; and have gravely asserted that all animals, and with them the human species, degenerate in America—that even dogs cease to bark after having breathed a while in our atmosphere. Facts have too long supported these arrogant pretensions of the European. It belongs to us to vindicate the honor of the human race, and to teach that assuming brother moderation. Union will enable us to do it. Disunion will add another victim to his triumphs. Let Americans disdain to be the instruments of European greatness! Let the thirteen states, bound together in a strict and indissoluble union, concur in erecting one great *American system*, superior to the control of all trans-atlantic force or influence, and able to dictate the terms of the connection between the old and the new world! [emphasis added]"

# Business Briefs

## Ibero-America

### Venezuelan President hit for IMF pact

The Jan. 27 edition of *El Diario de Caracas* editorially slammed Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez for his two and a half years of adherence to International Monetary Fund dictates. This has led to "an anarchic country, semi-paralyzed by strikes and insecurity . . . but much more dependent on the dollar to meet its needs." The daily urges major modifications in Pérez's economic program, "before we find ourselves forced to annul the [IMF] 'letter of intent' for violating our independence."

*El Diario's* editorial is a warning that the increasingly violent anti-austerity demonstrations hitting the country are but the tip of the iceberg. On Jan. 23, more than 5,000 Venezuelans protested in two separate Caracas rallies against the Pérez government's termination of popular subsidies which have caused dramatic price rises. The demonstrators were dispersed by police wielding plastic bullets and teargas, and fears of a new *Caracazo*—the 1989 protests which led to thousands of deaths—are again rising.

## International Credit

### Military commander blasts IMF policy

Gen. Thaumaturgo Sotero Vaz, former chief of staff of Brazil's Amazonian military command, sharply attacked Collor government's imposition of the International Monetary Fund's anti-inflationary recipes and warned that they are bound to lead to widespread social unrest, in a broad-ranging interview published in the Jan. 22 edition of *Veja* magazine. Such policies, he said, "place us in a position of subservience. There are clear signals that we are accepting recipes imposed by one or another agency, such as the IMF, which go against the will of the people."

Inflation can't be contained at the cost of hunger or unemployment, he said, "because at

some point, someone is going to throw the first stone and then it will be too late." Gen. Sotero Vaz warned that Brazil is getting close to "the limit . . . and it's quite probable that we'll see situations of rebellion . . . In Manaus, for example, lootings of supermarkets have already occurred."

In the same interview, the general noted the U.N.'s backing for U.S. military adventures in Panama and Iraq, and warned of a similar intervention into the Amazon for the purpose of imposing limited sovereignty.

## Health

### CDC calls conference on drug-resistant TB

The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia has convened a two-day conference of health officials and tuberculosis experts from 46 states around the United States to start devising a national strategy against tuberculosis. The CDC's action comes as a response to dangerous forms of drug-resistant tuberculosis which have struck in 13 states, and whose spread they say is now out of control.

Federal health officials say the outbreaks chiefly involve people infected with HIV, the virus thought to cause AIDS, but they also admitted that it is not known exactly how many people are infected or what proportion they represent among the total number of tuberculosis victims.

"At no time in recent history has tuberculosis been of such great concern as it is now, and legitimately so, because tuberculosis is out of control in this country," said Dr. Dixie Snider, the disease centers' top TB expert.

Thirteen patients contracted drug-resistant tuberculosis and 11 died at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, New York, the fourth hospital in New York City and the sixth in New York State where multiple drug-resistant TB cases have been detected in recent months. In this outbreak, federal health authorities said, 85% of the tuberculosis patients were also infected with HIV.

AIDS and TB are also sweeping through the New York prison system. Some 26% of the women inmates and 16% of the men at Rikers

Island are infected with the HIV virus, while from 15 to 22% of the inmates have tested positive for TB exposure.

## Energy

### Japanese reactor to use Moon's helium

Japanese scientists are designing a fusion reactor that will use helium mined on the Moon for fuel. Joining the international effort begun in the United States, Hiroshi Momota, from the National Institute for Fusion Science, and Tsutomu Iwata, of the National Space Development Agency, are working on deuterium-helium-3 fusion reactor designs, and ways to get the helium-3 fuel from the Moon.

According to an article in the *Washington Times*, with money from the Japanese Education Ministry, Momota has produced a conceptual design for a D-helium-3 fusion reactor, which he says could be ready by the year 2011, at a cost of \$350 million for a prototype. Mr. Iwata remarked that he thinks a Moon base to mine the helium-3, and a commercial fusion reactor to use it, could be ready in another 30 years. They both state that though Japan leads internationally in helium-3 fusion research, Japan would be at a disadvantage in mining the Moon rocks.

## Technology

### Develop E-beam waste treatment method

Researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Florida International University, and the University of Miami have built an electron-beam accelerator which produces a 1.5 million volts energy pulse of about 100 nanoseconds duration. Electron-beam technology has potential uses in destroying hazardous waste, sterilizing medical waste, sewage treatment, and food processing.

A pilot project at a municipal plant in Dade County, Florida has shown that this technolo-

gy is highly effective in purifying drinking water. Here, 99% of many hazardous chemicals were destroyed, and other chemicals that are highly resistant to treatment were reduced 80-85%.

The Los Alamos accelerator is more powerful than the beam used in the Florida project. It will be used to study chemical reactions during treatment. In this process, the electron beam reacts with the water molecules to produce highly reactive chemical agents that in turn react with the contaminants and reduce them to non-hazardous compounds.

Electron-beam technology may play a role in treating nuclear waste and water mixtures, which is a concern at Department of Energy facilities.

## Russia

### 'Shock therapy' called wrong treatment

"Shock Therapy Is the Wrong Treatment" read the headline of a commentary in the Jan. 22 *International Herald Tribune* by Melvin Fagan, former director of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe. The commentary charged that Yeltsin is "following the advice of foreign advisers and some fledgling economists in his entourage who seem to have gained their knowledge of market economics from Milton Friedman-type textbooks."

"Boris Yeltsin's shock therapy is likely to bring economic anarchy that destroys the nascent democracy throughout the former Soviet Union," Fagan wrote.

Attacking the so-called price liberalization policy, Fagan added, "In fact prices have not been liberalized, they have been hijacked. Prices are set by people whom Mr. Yeltsin himself has called 'Mafia-type' intermediaries; they hold back goods from official markets so as to profit from scarcity. . . ."

"The first rule of sound economic management for a government is to maintain a stable price-income ratio—preventing sudden impoverishment—that allows only very slight changes. . . ."

"Action should then have been taken to increase the incomes of the people, privatize en-

terprises, remove profiteers from the distribution system, and reorganize retail trade. Only then, when sufficient goods were available, should prices have been allowed to rise—gradually."

"At present the need is to use the powers of government to enforce lower prices for essential consumer goods while eliminating the black marketeers who control distribution. The Army may have to be used to receive goods from producers and move them to the markets, using its own trucks and storage facilities."

## Transport

### Japan launches superconducting ship

Japan launched the world's first superconducting ship Jan. 27 from the port of Kobe, marking the beginning of the end of 150 years of propeller-driven shipping. The "Yamato One," shaped like a small submarine, is powered by superconducting electromagnetic propulsion (SEMP). It was built by the Ship and Ocean Foundation, formed by Japan's major shipbuilders, Mitsubishi Industries, Hitachi, and Mitsui.

When an electric current passes through a strong magnetic field created by a superconducting coil, a force is generated which ejects water from a duct at high speed, propelling the ship forward. SEMP could theoretically allow speeds close to 100 knots, about 125 miles an hour.

"This kind of ship should be better at high speed, where propellers don't work so well," said Kensaku Imaichi, director of the foundation.

For the next several months, the 98-foot Yamato test ship will remain in port while engineers inspect the machinery. When test runs begin this summer, it will carry 10 people and move at only about eight knots, but the speed of the SEMP ships will increase with improvements in superconductor technology. The aerodynamic design of the ship is meant for much higher speeds than the initial tests.

## Briefly

● **LONRHO CORP.** of England is in much deeper financial trouble than publicly admitted, the late-January issue of the German *Wirtschaftswoche* business weekly reported. Lonrho has suffered a 30% drop in stock value since early December 1991, and matters will not be helped if the firm invests massively in Russia and eastern Europe this year. The London brokerage house James Capel recently assessed bookkeeping methods at Lonrho as "quite liberal."

● **ALGERIA'S** new military government, the High Council of State, ordered an emergency meeting Jan. 19 of key ministers in the still-existing Ghazali civilian cabinet to "draw up concrete steps to relaunch the economy." The linchpin of the reported program is a reversal of oil nationalization, opening up oil and gas fields to foreign partners.

● **AIDS** will kill 20 million by the year 2000, William Draper III, head of the U.N. Development Program, warned Jan. 20 at a UNDP regional meeting in the Philippines. "The lengthening shadow threatens the lives of tens of millions of Asians," Draper said. "In this region, AIDS is spreading at a tragic and potentially catastrophic rate, putting progress in human development at risk."

● **KYRGYZSTAN**, one of the former Soviet republics, will receive American help to privatize agriculture, announced U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's envoy, Robert Fowler, during a trip there. The announcement came at approximately the same time that Kyrgyzstan legalized opium cultivation.

● **JAPAN** has agreed to extend China \$5.69 billion in loans for coal and oil exploration, Reuters reported Jan. 25 from Tokyo. This is above the \$6.5 billion package previously agreed to for 1990-95. Japan's Export-Import Bank and the Bank of China are expected to sign as early as March.

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## Magellan unveils the mysterious planet Venus

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*Is Venus geologically alive? The answer to this question was one of the priorities of scientists when the Magellan radar mapping spacecraft was launched in 1989. Carl Osgood reports.*

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Besides Earth, only two other bodies in the Solar System are known to be geologically active. One of those is Io, a moon of Jupiter, and the other is Triton, a moon of Neptune. These two moons, however, are at opposite ends of the spectrum. Io's volcanoes produce very hot sulfur materials, and are probably influenced by the massive gravitational effects of Jupiter. Triton, on the other hand, has a surface temperature only 30° above absolute zero, and its volcanoes likely produce liquid nitrogen.

The wealth of data about Venus returned by the Magellan spacecraft is allowing scientists to more adequately compare geological processes that occur on Venus with those that occur on Earth. This process, which comes under the new discipline known as comparative planetology, allows scientists to gain a greater understanding of how the Earth was formed and how it has developed, by comparing both the similarities and differences between planets and other heavenly bodies.

Unlike the outer planets, about which little was known when they were visited by the Voyager missions in the 1970s and '80s, Venus had been previously explored by space probes (21 of them, in fact), and scientists already had much data on the planet's atmosphere and a more limited amount on its surface prior to the launch of Magellan. However, the surface data that existed did not answer the question of whether Venus had active volcanoes or earthquake-like activity. The data from Magellan's high resolution mapping radar were expected to provide answers to these questions.

The first radar observations of Venus were attempted in the 1970s by both Soviet and American space probes, and

by a ground-based observatory in Puerto Rico. While these radar observations provided the first glimpse of Venus's surface topography, the resolution was very poor, ranging from no better than six-tenths of a mile to several miles, and covering only small portions of the surface. Beginning in 1979, the Pioneer Venus mission provided the first extensive observations of the Venusian atmosphere and also radar mapped 93% of the planet's surface to a resolution of about one-half to one mile.

What became the Magellan radar mapping mission was conceived in the late 1970s as the Venus Orbiting Imaging Radar (VOIR) mission. It was to incorporate a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which uses computer processing to get the resolution equivalent to an antenna that is 200 feet across, using an antenna that is only 12 feet in diameter. In addition, the mission was to make measurements of Venus's atmosphere. The VOIR didn't make it through President Reagan's first budget, however, and in order to save the program, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration redesigned the mission and the spacecraft to cut costs.

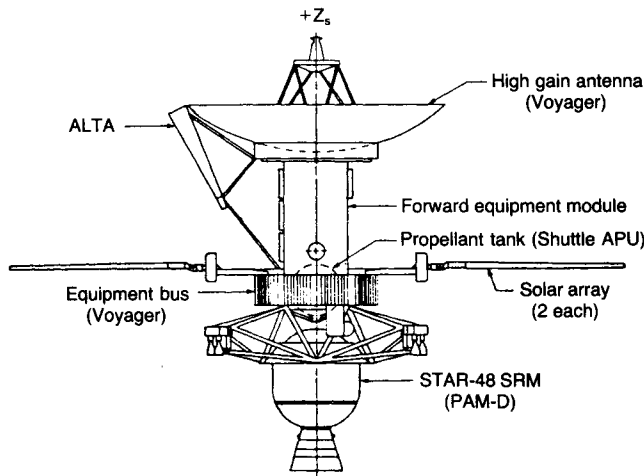
Ultimately Magellan retained only the SAR of VOIR, and that was built using much hardware from previous missions. The antenna, for example, was originally built as a flight spare for the Voyager missions and does double duty as a radar antenna and as the transmitting antenna for sending data to Earth and receiving commands from Earth (see **Figure 1**). The synthetic aperture technology allows Magellan to produce radar images of the surface to a resolution of about 400 feet.

Magellan was launched by a Space Shuttle crew on May



FIGURE 1

### Magellan key spacecraft characteristics



Source: NASA

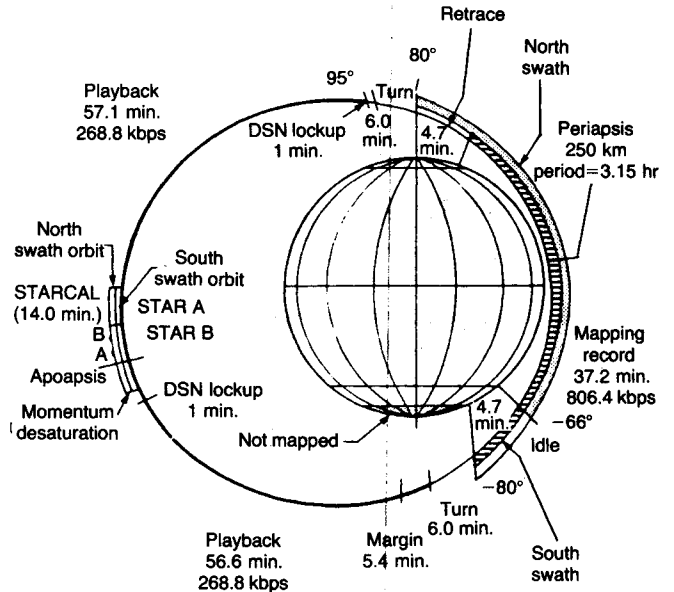
The Magellan Venus Radar mapping spacecraft, shown in cruise configuration. Its 12-foot high-gain antenna is its primary data acquisition instrument.

4, 1989 and entered orbit around Venus on Aug. 10, 1990. It was placed into a highly elliptical polar orbit (Figure 2) that brings the spacecraft to within 150 (periapsis) miles of the surface at its closest approach and out to 5,000 miles (apoapsis) at its greatest distance from the surface. During the near side of the orbit, Magellan's radar is pointed at the surface for mapping. On the far side of the orbit, Magellan turns itself toward Earth to transmit its data. During its first mapping cycle, it mapped a swath 16 miles wide by 9,600 miles long from the North pole to 70° South latitude during each orbital pass. It takes 1,789 passes to cover the entire planet. The images from each mapping pass are then put together to create mosaics of the whole planet. In this manner, more accurate maps of Venus have been created than exist for much of Earth—the ocean floors have never been mapped as accurately or as completely as Venus has been by Magellan.

Engineers had to overcome problems with Magellan's attitude control system, however, before mapping could begin. The system uses a star sensor to detect the stars Sirius and Rigel so it can turn itself in the right direction for either mapping or transmitting data back to Earth. The sensor had difficulty detecting the stars, and as a result the spacecraft put itself into a "safe" mode several times, pointing its solar panels directly at the Sun and, consequently, its antenna

FIGURE 2

### The elliptical orbit of Magellan



Source: NASA

pointed away from Earth and contact was lost. When contact with Earth was lost, Magellan went into a cone-shaped sweeping motion until it regained contact. Engineers got around the problem by reprogramming the computer to bypass a failed memory, which, they speculated, was damaged by a hit from a cosmic ray. These problems delayed the start of mapping for about one month after Magellan entered Venus orbit.

On Jan. 4, one of Magellan's two transmitters failed, again interrupting mapping. The backup transmitter had been shut down in March 1991, because it was overheating, which introduced noise into the transmitted data. Engineers are confident that they can restart normal mapping with the backup transmitter on Jan. 24 by reducing the data transmission rate to 115,000 bits per second, or 43% of the normal rate.

### Earth's sister planet?

For centuries, Venus had been called Earth's sister planet, because of the similarities between the two planets in size, density, and distance from the Sun. However, the thick cloud layer covering Venus made it impossible to view the surface. It wasn't until the 1960s that scientists were able to get any data on what surface conditions were like. What they found was nothing even approaching the most extreme conditions found anywhere on Earth. The surface temperature is about 850° Fahrenheit, and the atmospheric pressure at the surface is 90 times that of Earth. It was also discovered that Venus rotates in a retrograde direction, opposite that of



NASA

*This crater, called Golubkina, has many of the typical features of an impact crater such as we find on the Moon. It was originally discovered by a Soviet radar survey in the early 1980s.*

Earth, and that a day on Venus is longer than a year—it takes the planet 225 days to orbit around the Sun, compared to 243 days to rotate on its axis.

The surface of Venus appears to be relatively young and shows signs of constant renewal. Venus is cratered, but the average crater density is 1,000 times less than on Earth's Moon and there are plains of lava flows with no craters at all. None of the craters is smaller than about four to six miles in diameter, as anything smaller burns up in the thick atmosphere. Some of the smaller craters also have multiple impact points indicating that some of the meteors broke up into pieces and struck simultaneously.

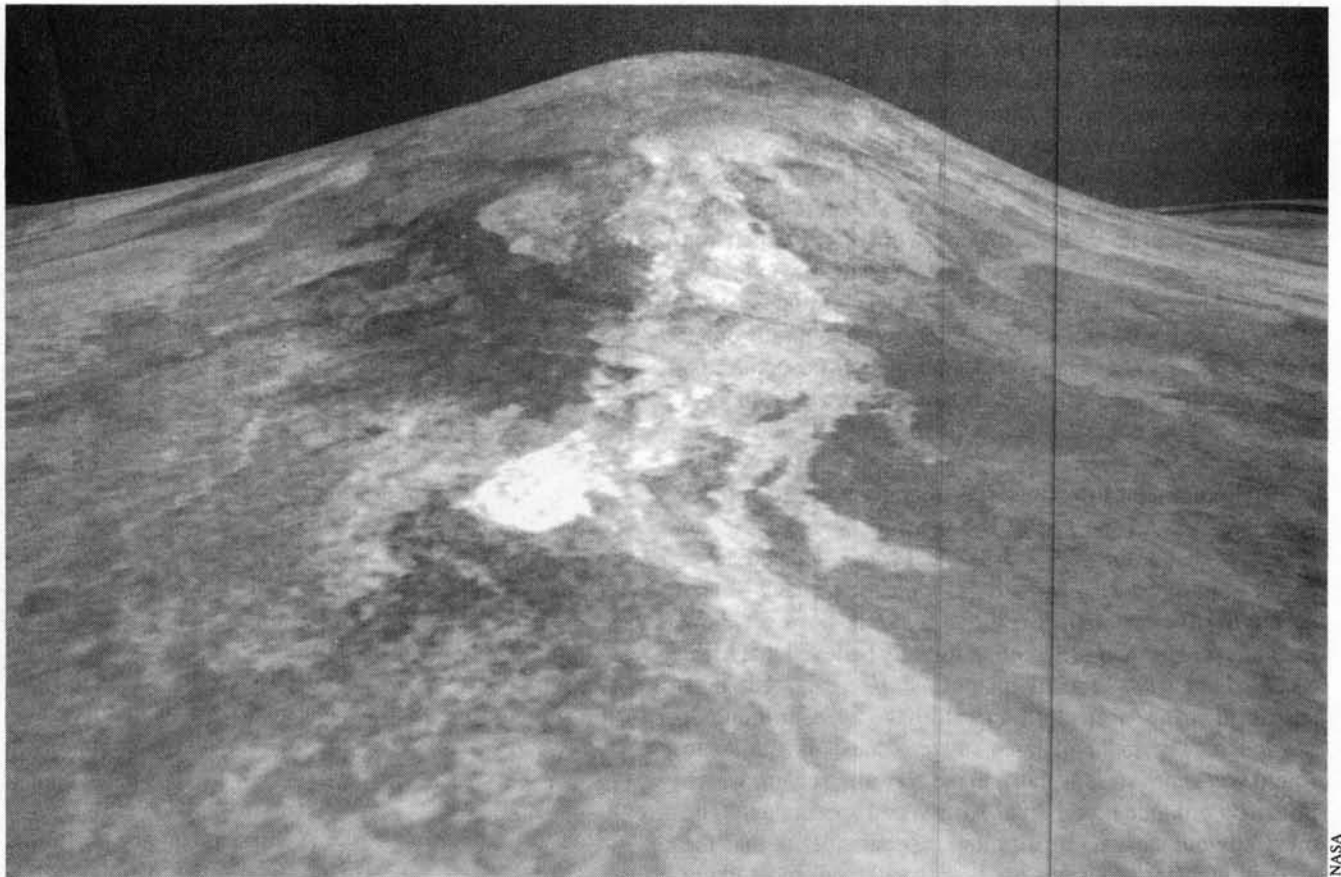
The 20-mile-wide crater Golubkina, which was originally discovered by a Soviet radar survey in the early 1980s, was one of the first craters surveyed by Magellan. It has many of the same characteristics as craters on the Moon. The inner walls are terraced, a central peak rises from the center, and boulders and other debris extend in all directions from the rim. Dr. Steven Saunders, the Magellan project scientist, said that this indicates that cratering on Venus is not all that different from cratering on Earth, the Moon, or Mars.

### **Widespread volcanism**

The relatively young age of the impact craters suggests that widespread volcanism occurs from time to time, which

destroys all the craters. Ocean-sized floods of lava once inundated the surface. Most of the lowland areas were created by vast lava flows either from one catastrophic phase of volcanism 400 million years ago, or from a series of different eruptions over that period of time. One image from Magellan showed a volcano measuring 600 miles wide, with some lava flows 300 to 400 miles from the lip of the crater. A comparable feature on Earth is the Columbia Plateau in the northwestern United States. A layer of basalt underlies an area of about 77,000 square miles, up to 1 mile in thickness. The lava welled up through thousands of fissures over a time span of about 10 million years. It is possible that this same process occurred on Venus to produce the vast lava plains. The higher surface temperature of Venus would allow lava to stay liquid longer than it would on Earth, thereby allowing it to flow farther and cover larger areas than it would on Earth.

One of the most unusual features found on Venus is volcanic pancake-shaped domes. These domes are about half a mile high and are 15 to 20 miles across. In one region of the planet, seven of these domes stretch out in a remarkably straight line. Scientists speculate that they were formed by extremely viscous lava pouring out of volcanic vents. Dr. Saunders reports that the pattern "is telling us something about the eruption mechanism, the viscosity and the eruption rate." Similar lava domes are seen on Earth, but only inside



NASA

*This image of the volcano, Sif Mons, was produced by combining radar data with altimetry data. The volcano, 1.2 miles high, is located in an area called the Western Eistla Regio that may have been formed by the upwelling of hot material from the interior of the planet. The bright areas at the center of the image are considered to be recent lava flows.*

the caldera of active volcanoes.

The wide variety of volcanic formations suggests variations in the thickness of molten rock flowing on Venus. Their consistencies range from that of toothpaste, as seen in the pancake domes, to water-like liquid that forms channels hundreds of miles long. This indicates differences in the chemical composition of the hot rock flowing from inside the planet. On Earth, the composition of lavas is generally determined by the presence of iron or of silicon compounds, and also the amounts and types of gases dissolved in the lavas. These gases include carbon dioxide, nitrogen and even a considerable amount of water vapor.

### **Volcanic gases in the atmosphere**

On Earth, sulfur compounds are also an important product of volcanic eruptions. The upper atmosphere of Venus is known, from earlier Pioneer Venus data, to contain sulfur compounds, including sulfur dioxide and sulfuric acids. On Earth, such compounds are produced by what are called pyroclastic eruptions, which primarily produce ash, dust, and hot, explosive gases. These volcanoes result from the

buildup of gases coming out of solution in the hot magma and building up pressure inside the cone when the volcanic vent is plugged. When the internal pressure exceeds the capacity of the plug to hold it, an explosion occurs. Examples of this type include the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980, and more recently, Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines. So far, no volcanoes of this type have been observed on Venus, but, if they do exist, they could account for the presence of the sulfur compounds in the atmosphere. Before there could be volcanic explosions, however, the hot lava must have concentrations of volatile gases great enough to overcome the high atmospheric pressure that is the equivalent of 2,500 to 3,000 feet underwater on Earth.

That such volcanic activity has a major effect on the atmosphere is a well-understood process on Earth. In 1984, the explosion of the El Chichón volcano in Mexico, which dumped huge quantities of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere, was followed by an average drop in global temperatures of about 1° Celsius. In the 1950s, one geochemist even came to the astonishing conclusion that all of the water in Earth's oceans and atmosphere could be accounted for by

volcanic activity throughout the history of the Earth.

Unusual materials have been observed on Venus, associated with these volcanic mountains, the source of which is causing some speculation among scientists. The tops of the mountain range containing the tallest mountain on Venus, the 38,000 foot Maxwell Montes, are covered with a material that is highly reflective, like ice. Dr. Saunders and other scientists speculate that the material consists of either iron sulfides, magnetite, or hematite. These electrical conductors are not found at the much hotter, lower altitudes. John Wood, a member of the science team from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, theorized that these compounds are converted from lava deposits by the chemical action of the sulfuric acid in the atmosphere.

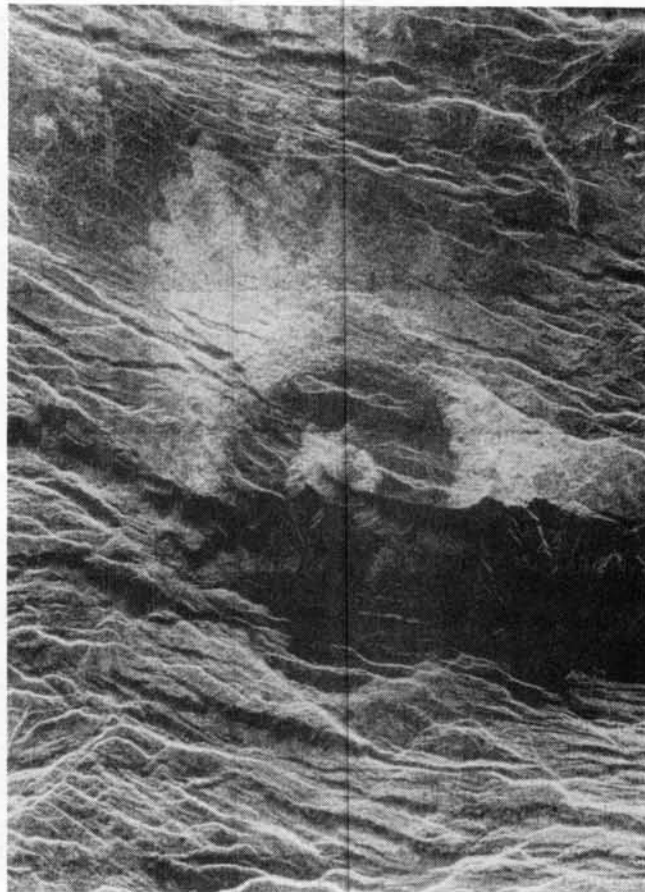
The presence of this material, therefore, seems to be a good indicator of the age of the volcano. Venus's second highest volcano, the 28,000-foot Maat Mons, located on an equatorial highland, is radar dark, indicating a lack of any such reflective material. It is difficult to tell, however, how long this process takes. Scientists initially believed that Maat Mons could have erupted in the last 10 years, but now suspect that the last eruption could have been millions of years ago. The radar pictures suggest that it is similar to shield volcanoes such as those in the Hawaiian chain, which primarily produce liquid lava. John Wood speculates, "The most obvious answer [for its dark appearance] is that the summit of Maat Mons has not been weathered, most likely because it has not had time to be weathered. We consider this the best candidate for a currently active volcano on Venus." The science team hopes to locate evidence of new lava flows from Maat Mons during next year's mapping cycle.

The evidence, however, suggests that surface renewal due to volcanic activity is a slower process than on Earth. Roger Philips, a geologist from Southern Methodist University, speculates that Venus produces about one-tenth of a cubic mile of lava per year, compared to an annual average on Earth of 7.7 cubic miles of lava. Therefore, it is believed that plate tectonics plays a longer-term role in renewing the surface of Venus.

### Do 'Venus-quakes' occur?

Other parts of the surface are plains that show much evidence of tortuous tectonic activity. On Earth, earthquake activity usually occurs along the areas where two tectonic plates meet, such as the San Andreas fault in California. "Venus-quake" activity appears to occur over wide regions, instead. There are linear mountain ranges, such as are common on Earth, rift zones, fractured plains and wrinkled plateaus. Scientists speculate Maxwell Montes was formed by the same type of compression forces that created the Himalayas.

However, the radar data did not confirm previous theo-



This "half-crater," located in a region known as Beta Regio, has been cut by many fractures since it was formed by the impact of a large asteroid.

NASA

ries of Earth-like plate tectonics. One theory, developed from Pioneer Venus radar data, suggested that one region of Venus, known as Ovda Regio, was the product of the same type of forces that produced Earth's Mid-Atlantic Ridge. In the Pioneer pictures, Ovda Regio resembled Iceland, which is a plateau built on the ridge by an upwelling plume of mantle material that feeds volcanic outpourings on the surface. When scientists examined the higher resolution Magellan images of Ovda Regio, however, they found none of the features of crustal spreading such as that characterized by the Mid-Atlantic ridge.

Two theories have since come to the fore to explain features like Ovda Regio. One, suggested by Sean Solomon of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is that churning mantle rock, just beneath the surface crust, can grab the crust above it and drag it around, causing ridges, plateaus, and mountains where the crust piles up on itself, or great rifts where it gets pulled apart. The second model is the "blob tectonics" model suggested by Robert Herrick and Roger Philips of Southern Methodist University. In this model a blob of hot mantle rises towards the surface, pushing



the crust upward, and as the blob flattens out in the subsequent dome, the magma punches through the crust forming volcanic hot spots. Herrick and Philips have identified four areas, including Ovda Regio, which they believe are the products of such "blob" activity.

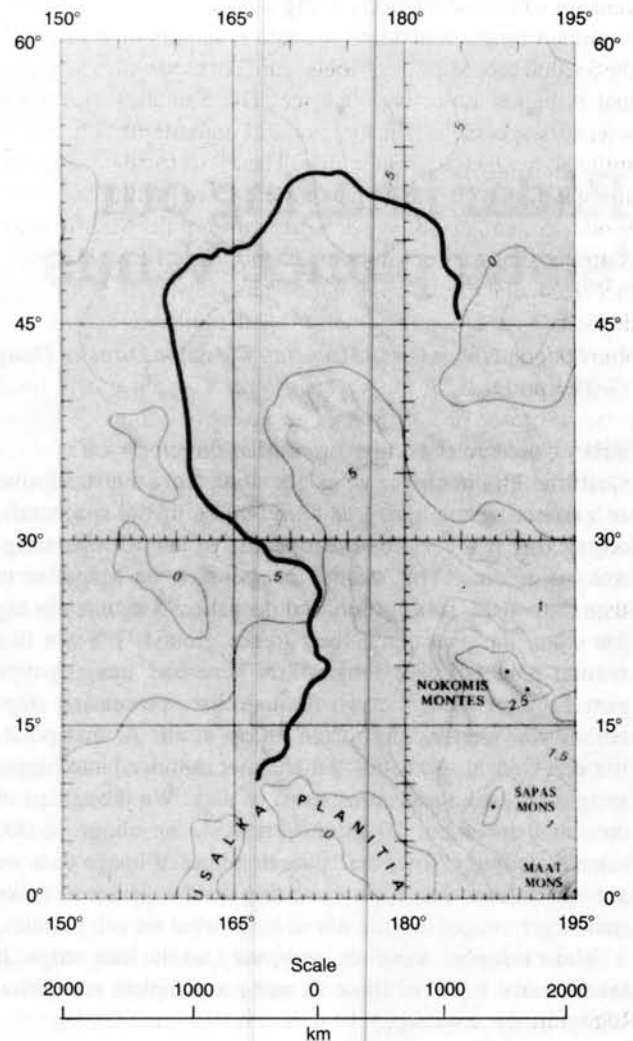
### No erosion on Venus

One of the striking characteristics of all the surface features found on Venus is the lack of erosion. On Earth, geological formations begin being eroded by water and wind as soon as they form, and growth of vegetation causes further distortion. The presence of life on Earth also greatly affects atmospheric processes, making any direct linear extrapolation of conditions on Venus to those on Earth to be, at best, incompetent. On Venus, there is no water, no life, and the wind, at the surface, is very slow, about two to four miles per hour (at the lower elevations), which causes some dust movement, but little else. This results in newer formations being superimposed over older ones, such as fault lines running through impact craters. For scientists, this means there is a record of everything that has occurred. The processes of volcanic activity or cratering or tectonic movement are there, unlike on Earth where many features eventually get erased by the flow of water.

The Magellan spacecraft completed its first mapping cycle of Venus last April, and because the quality and quantity of data that it returned exceeded expectations, project scientists immediately got approval to begin a second mapping cycle. One of the goals of the second mapping cycle is to determine whether Venus is still geologically active by comparing images from the first cycle with images of the same areas from the second cycle, taken nine months later. At one point during the second mapping cycle, scientists found what they thought to be a landslide, in a region known as Aphrodite Terra, that had not been seen in the first cycle. However, upon further examination, they concluded that the "landslide" was actually the result of ambiguities in the radar data, because of differences in the radar angle from the first cycle.

Also on the second cycle, Magellan discovered a channel that is the longest known in the Solar System, longer than the Nile River, at 4,200 miles (see **Figure 3**). Dr. Saunders said that the very existence of this channel is a puzzle. "If the channel were carved by something flowing," he said, "the liquid would have to have very unusual properties. There are no likely candidates for a liquid. Lava, even very high temperature types, would need to have a very high extrusion rate to flow so far. This is not consistent with uniform narrow channel morphology." The challenge that this channel provides is in the understanding of planetary geological process and related fields such as material properties and fluid dynamics, particularly under extreme temperatures and pressures, since geologic materials undoubtedly act different under the surface temperatures and pressures of

FIGURE 3  
**Hildir channel on Venus**



Source: NASA.

*Hildir Channel is the longest known channel in the Solar System. Segments of it were first seen in the Soviet Venera 15 and 16 radar images. Both ends of it appear to be buried by younger materials, making its source difficult to identify.*

Venus, compared with those of Earth.

All of this raises interesting questions about the origins of the Solar System. How did Earth and Venus, which initially seemed so similar, end up so different? Some scientists speculate that Venus today is what Earth was in its very early evolution. The crust of Venus could be representative of what Earth's was in the first 100 million years or so, of its existence. Then, by some still-unknown process, the mantle underlying the crust crystallized into the plate tectonic system that we know, today.

## Radar imaging our 'sister planet' Venus

*Carl Osgood interviewed Magellan's Mission Director Doug Griffith on Dec. 27.*

**EIR:** Could you describe the mission director's job?

**Griffith:** I'm in charge of all the work from the standpoint of monitoring the health and well-being of the spacecraft, seeing that it's got proper sequences to keep it operating, and taping data. That's quite an operation on Magellan to tape radar data, it turns out, and then there's an equally big job when the data come back to the ground. It's not like normal planetary missions which have had imaging-type cameras. The radar data go through three processing steps before you see any kind of an image at all. At that point, it's very long strip images that are later mosaiced into bigger images. We take enormous strips of data. We take strips of data that are about 20 kilometers wide by about 16,000 kilometers long. Now, that's the first kind of image data we get back; those then have to be mosaiced together to make into larger images that are not so long, what we call noodles. You can imagine, those are very, very small, long strips. It takes nearly 1,800 of those to make a complete revolution of Venus for coverage.

**EIR:** You're working with radar data, rather than photographic imaging data; therefore, if you look at a particular feature from two different angles, it gives you more detail, doesn't it?

**Griffith:** Yes, it does. As a matter of fact, one of the things that happens is you get a real difference in what the feature looks like, depending on the angle that you're looking at. If you look at a surface facing you that's a steep slope, you get a high return from the radar, a lot of reflected energy coming back. Or if it's a very rough, or a flat surface, and has a very rough nature to it, that kind of thing, in that case, will end up not having a terrific radar return. Smooth surfaces have a lot of radar return, a lot of reflectivity. Now, if the surface is sloping away from you, it turns up very dark on the radar imagery. If it's sloped towards you, you see it in a sort of broadside; it's very reflective, and you get a lot of imagery back, and you get a lot of registration.

You've probably seen some of the 3-D movies that have appeared on television. You have shots where it looks like you're flying over a very regular surface, and you see bright-looking surfaces: Those bright-looking surfaces are the surfaces that the radar is looking directly at. If it's dark-looking, it's something that's away from the view of the radar. You can come back and look at it from the other angle and see that other surface.

**EIR:** I've seen this in some of the articles on some volcanoes that have been imaged, where certain ones are highly reflective, and at least one is very dark.

**Griffith:** Well, it turns out that many, many of the high-structure volcanoes have high reflectivity around the peaks of them. That means there's some kind of chemical process going on within the atmosphere that changes the nature of the surface material to make it very reflective, after it's "weathered." Of course, the weather varies at low altitude, and it's a highly corrosive atmosphere, like sulfuric acid, and that increases what they call the dielectric constant, so you get a lot of reflectivity.

Now, there's one volcano called Maat Mons where the peak appears very dark, which would indicate that it's erupted in the fairly recent time period. Now, "recent" may be a few years or a few million years. It's hard to tell, and there is a lot of speculation as to how fast this weathering process takes place on the volcano since the last time it erupted. It's very obvious that there has been a lot of volcanic activity on the surface of Venus.

**EIR:** Is there any current volcanic activity?

**Griffith:** I don't believe that we have found any direct evidence that anything's happened in the last year, because we're just about to finish the second rotation of Venus, and one rotation takes 243 Earth days, but in that time frame, we don't yet believe we've seen anything that indicates there is something that actually changed—an eruption, a landslide or some kind of feature like that.

A few months ago, they thought they saw a feature that looked like a landslide. They're reasonably certain that it was an artifact of interpretation of the radar data, because we're looking at it at two different angles: We're comparing a right looking with a left looking, where you look at it at different directions; you get what they call a "layover effect" in the radar image, where it sort of doubles back on itself, and it gave them a false interpretation of something that looked like a real feature change on the surface. I think everybody expects to see something, but how much will you see?

The geologic processes make the changes on the order of tens of thousands of years, which is sort of a flashback in time in geologic terms. That's very recent. So, starting to look for things on a one-year basis, that's just like an instant of time, and there would have to have been some kind of very



significant eruption process, like our volcanoes on Earth, for that to have happened. . . .

**EIR:** What about the structure of the crust?

**Griffith:** Oh, yes. Everybody's wondering: Are there real tectonic-type plates like we have on Earth, these plates that subduct one another, and rotate, and so forth? It's not clear whether there's much of that kind of plate structure on Venus, and that may be due to the fact that the planet's so hot and probably pliable, compared to what we think of our normal crustal surface; the surface temperature is something like 600°C. . . . There are definitely some really active zonal regions where there's more deformation, or stress activity happening, but you don't have a pattern such as in the Pacific Basin's Rim of Fire. . . . On Venus, the volcanoes seem to be fairly uniformly distributed. They don't occur in bands, like that.

**EIR:** So Venus doesn't have the same kind of continental structure?

**Griffith:** It doesn't look like it—not in the same sense that Earth does. But there are regions of highlands and lowlands that delineate what you might almost call an edge of an active region, or a crustal-type region or a plate-type region, but not quite the same thing. There's a very uniform distribution of volcanoes. There's a very uniform distribution of impact craters on Venus, from outside meteorites and asteroids that have struck the planet over the millions of years, and they're also very uniformly distributed all around. . . .

**EIR:** There's some speculation that renewal of the surface by volcanic activity is slower than on Earth.

**Griffith:** Yes, it is; it appears to be much slower. Of course, the only thing that's really renewing the surface on Venus is, by and large, volcanic activity, because there's no erosional process, such as water, even though Venus has some very fast high-altitude winds, about 200 kilometers per hour, which is quite fast.

In the surface winds, we see some very definite wind features which are starting to be of very much interest to the scientists, but they're not really highly destructive surface wind features. The winds are 2-3 kilometers per hour. They're not very fast, but we can see what you would call blowing sand, or particles, or streaks that indicate that there have been various surface winds. In addition, we've also found out that they have some of the same rotational effect that we have on Earth, where winds come down from the North and South poles toward the equator and then circulate up in the circulation cell—a Hadley cell. You see that in both the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere coming right up to the equator region.

**EIR:** What kind of effect do you think the atmospheric conditions have on the geologic processes?

**Griffith:** Very high winds on the surface and all that mass in the atmosphere would really move things, but the winds on the surface are so low nothing gets moved very much to any extent. Now, you do see plume effects from crater impacts, where they show an outward plume that indicates that material was thrown up into the atmosphere, and the winds in the atmosphere blow it downstream from the impact crater from a meteorite or an asteroid that hit the surface.

**EIR:** How does Venus compare with Earth, in other ways?

**Griffith:** The things that are alike on Earth and on Venus, and the things that are different, are very interesting. One thing they've found from the standpoint of gravity: You expect the gravity field to be higher in regions that have high altitudes, and where there's a lot of mass concentrated in it, and on Venus, it is; whereas, on Earth, it's just the opposite. On Earth, high mountains tend to have smaller gravity fields for some reason. The gravity field due to the distribution of mass on the planet follows your intuition more on Venus than it does on Earth. . . .

**EIR:** What are the plans for Magellan after the completion of the second mapping cycle on Jan. 15?

**Griffith:** After that, we have five more activities planned. We're in an elliptical orbit, right now, where the periapsis is about 250-270 kilometers and the apoapsis, the far point, is about 8,500 kilometers, and we're going to try to circularize the orbit with aerobraking: After cycle three, we're going to do one more cycle, where we'll concentrate on taking gravity data; late in cycle four and in the beginning of cycle five, we're going to lower the periapsis, where the spacecraft is actually dipping slightly into the upper atmosphere to get some drag, or aerobraking. That will gradually bring down the apoapsis altitude to about 300 or 400 kilometers and it'll be in a near-circular orbit. Then we can do some really detailed gravity studies of the planet. We'll also be able to get much higher-resolution data over the poles. The way our orbit goes right now, the periapsis is very close to the equator, so our highest-resolution data is around the equator and our lower-resolution data is around the North and South poles. If we can get it down to a near-circular orbit we can get higher-resolution data around the poles, as well as do some general high-resolution image studies.

One of the big payoffs is going to be in the gravity field. As we get closer to the planet, we will be getting a good gravity map of the planet. Then we're going to spend a couple of cycles getting both new gravity data and new, high-resolution imaging data, particularly over the North and South poles in the latter part of cycle five and in cycles six and seven.

So, we have a really good plan mapped out to carry us through about the summer of 1995. I think we will have accomplished most of the objectives we would like to from the scientific point of view.

## Reopen the search for the assassins of John F. Kennedy

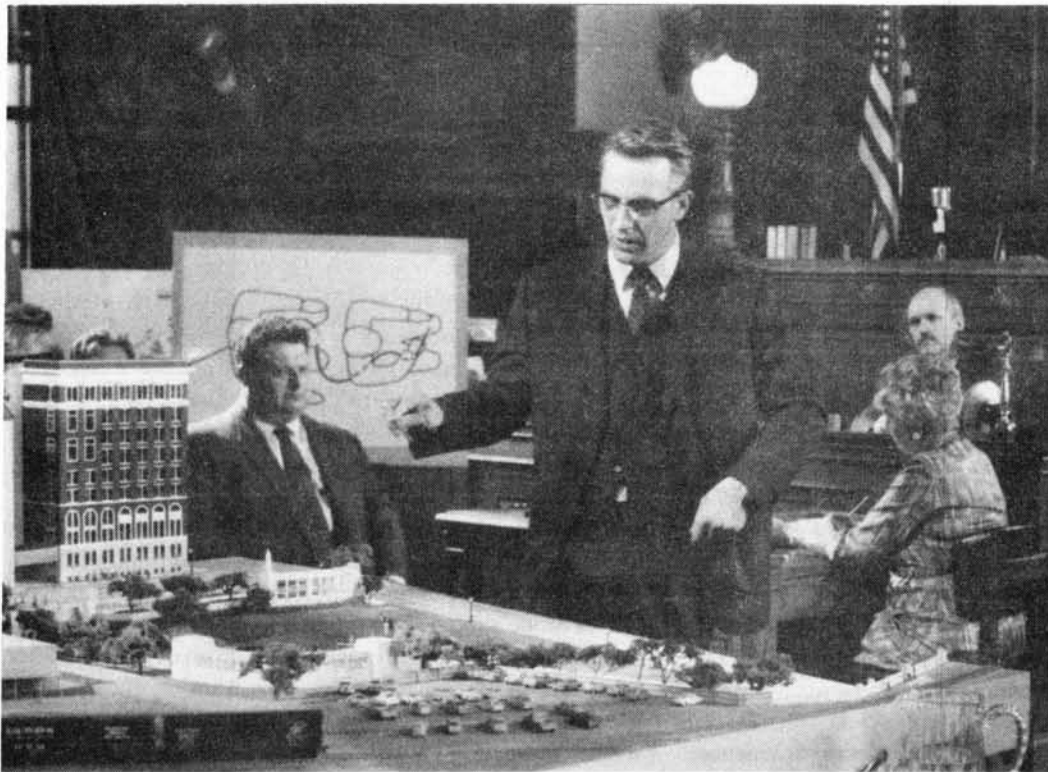
by Jeffrey Steinberg

"I have been accused by a number of people, some of them journalists, of a distortion of history. And if there is any common thread of attack running through the claims of those critics of 'JFK,' it is the notion that somehow there is an accepted, settled perspective, a carefully thought-out and researched body of history about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, all of which I have deliberately set out to subvert, using as my weapon the motion picture medium, and taking as my target the impressionable young who will believe anything as long as it is visual."—Oliver Stone, Jan. 15, 1992

Since early December, over 10 million Americans—most under 30 years of age—have flocked to movie theaters and received a shocking lesson in contemporary history. Director Oliver Stone's epic three-hour film "JFK" has catalyzed a renewed clamor for the truth to be told at last about one of the darkest moments in American history: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. By the time the 1992 general elections take place, a projected 50 million people, nearly one out of every five Americans, will have seen the film. In an era in which the majority of Americans rarely take the time to read, the Stone film drama is having a profound impact.

Statesman and historian Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., who was railroaded into federal prison in 1989 by the same faction that 26 years earlier conspired to kill President Kennedy, has called the Kennedy assassination and its coverup the beginning of the end of America as a force for good in the world. Thus, the settling of accounts for that tragic event is, in LaRouche's view, an urgent and unavoidable precondition for reversing the policy course during the period from 1964 to the present that has led the United States to economic ruin and moral decay.

Drawing heavily from the 1967 investigation by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, the archives of the Warren Commission, and the files of the 1978 congressional investigation, Stone has crafted a devastating, irrefutable critique of the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the "lone assassin" of President Kennedy in November 1963. Beyond that, as Stone has said in recent interviews, the film "JFK" simply presents one well-documented hypothesis as to the motives for



Warner Bros., Inc.

*In the film "JFK," New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison (Kevin Costner) presents his case to the courtroom, showing the path of Kennedy's motorcade. The spot where Kennedy was shot did not present the optimum target from the Texas Book Depository, but was perfect for crossfire from three directions—one of many pieces of evidence refuting the Warren Commission's "lone assassin" theory. In the background is a diagram of the "magic bullet" which allegedly defied physical laws in order to kill the President.*

killing America's youngest President. The film does not pretend to provide all the answers to why Kennedy was killed. Indeed, as *EIR* suggests in the report that follows, it does not even ask all the right questions.

But as an artistic intervention into the popular conscience, "JFK" has rekindled a debate and triggered a groundswell of pressure for opening the archives and unearthing the truth—a demand which *EIR*'s editors fully endorse. And not surprisingly, the film has called forth violent attacks from an army of establishment loyalists, many of whose own careers were forged through their cooperation in burying the truth about who killed Kennedy and why.

No lesser figures than President George Bush and former President Gerald Ford (the last living member of the original Warren Commission panel) have stepped forward to denounce Stone and to urge Americans not to be "fooled" by the movie.

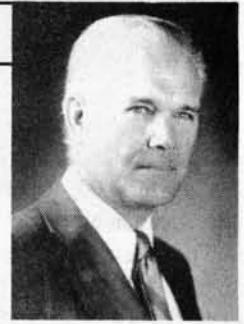
Stone explained the reason for the attacks to a crowded luncheon audience at the National Press Club in mid-January: "So long as the attackers of that comforting lone gunman theory could be dismissed as kooks and cranks and writers of obscure books that would not be published by 'reputable' publishing houses, not much defense was needed. Now, that myth is under attack by a well-financed and, hopefully, well-made motion picture. Now, either enormous amounts of evidence have to be marshaled in support of that myth, or else those who are questioning must be attacked. There is no evidence; therefore, the attack is on."

## Permindex revisited

At the heart of the Stone film is the 1967 trial of Clay Shaw, the New Orleans "businessman" who was indicted by Garrison on charges that he conspired to kill Kennedy. Shaw was the New Orleans World Trade Mart director and a board member of the international trade expositions firm Permindex-CMC (Centro Mondiale Commerciale), founded by leading British intelligence figure Maj. Louis Mortimer Bloomfield of Montreal, Canada.

In 1978, at the request of Lyndon LaRouche, a team of U.S. Labor Party investigators conducted a probe of Bloomfield and Permindex, expanding on the original work by Garrison. Those findings were included in the bestselling book *Dope, Inc.*, and were later published in a special report issued by *EIR*.

Next month, *EIR* plans to publish an updated and expanded edition of *Dope, Inc.*, which will include the original material on Permindex, detailing the links between the authors of the assassination of President Kennedy, the would-be killers of President Charles de Gaulle of France, and the assassins of Italy's state oil industrialist Enrico Mattei in 1962. The Permindex dossier suggests a far broader roster of assassins than the American "military-industrial complex" targeted by Garrison and Stone. It also suggests a far broader set of motives, implicating powerful forces on both sides of the Atlantic who saw Kennedy's plans to end the Cold War by a peace through superior strength approach to U.S.-Soviet relations, and his moves to bring the Federal Reserve System under constitutional control, as a grave threat to their global power.



## 'President Kennedy was killed by a Murder, Inc.'

*On Jan. 6, EIR counterintelligence director Jeffrey Steinberg spoke with Col. Fletcher Prouty, a retired career military officer who served in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and who was an adviser to Oliver Stone on the movie "JFK." In 1971, Colonel Prouty wrote a prophetic book, *The Secret Team*, which warned about the emerging power of what today is known as the "secret parallel government." The following are excerpts from that interview.*

**EIR:** What are some of the most striking pieces of evidence, in your judgment, supporting the view that President Kennedy was the victim of an assassination conspiracy?

**Prouty:** What interests me most are fundamentals: If a President is assassinated by a single individual, that's pretty easy to handle, because you can say he was a nut, he had no motive, he just killed the President. And that's what people have been forcing us to believe. But suppose you go further. Let's say that a group of people, with a major interest in something that Kennedy—or any President—was interfering with, planned to try to change the situation through lawful means, by an election or something like that. They're planning to get rid of the President within the Constitution. That's a plan. But add to the plan the word "evil," and at that point you have a conspiracy.

Now, Lyndon Johnson, in 1973, just before he died, called an old friend down in Texas, a man named Leo Janus, who was a writer, and he dictated to Leo Janus some of his thoughts about his presidency, and about the Kennedy assassination. Anyone who wants to read this can look in the July issue of *Atlantic Monthly* magazine for these words that Lyndon dictated to Janus.

First, Johnson told Janus that he believed Kennedy died as a result of a conspiracy. He believed that Lee Harvey Oswald never killed the President by himself. In other words, Oswald was part of a conspiracy. Third, and much more important, he said, *we* are operating a Murder, Incorporated. Now, how many people could tell us what the "we" means? Did Lyndon mean himself and Lady Byrd Johnson? Did he mean himself and his cabinet? Did he mean himself and the U.S. government? Who were "we"? See how interesting that word is in that connotation? This is Lyndon Johnson, the ex-

President, one of the wisest and most active politicians this country ever knew, saying "we" are operating a Murder, Incorporated.

What does Murder, Incorporated mean? He's not talking about the mafia. He's talking about an organization that can kill people and is incorporated—that means in perpetuity. As Oliver Stone's movie points out, although he's writing about the death of JFK, he also mentions the death of Martin Luther King and of Bobby Kennedy. This Murder, Incorporated goes on in perpetuity. I could give other names now, because it's my business; I know people were killed in foreign countries by this same Murder, Incorporated.

**EIR:** What were some of the motives behind the assassination of John Kennedy?

**Prouty:** Kennedy was a rare President. His father had been ambassador to the Court of St. James at the time that World War II broke out. He was very European-oriented, as far as his own American background was concerned.

I was three or four months older than Kennedy, so I relate to his age easily. Most Americans were rather parochial people before World War II. We didn't know much about Japan, or Africa, or Indonesia, or Germany, or France. But not Kennedy. He was brought up in London, went to the London School of Economics. His father was the ambassador. He knew things about world politics that many other people in Washington didn't have the slightest idea of. That is one key point relating to the question of motive.

Now, at the end of World War II, a carefully orchestrated change in government took effect in our country. Truman was President, but immediately the strong team behind Thomas Dewey challenged his presidency—a strong, business-oriented, Republican team. They lost the '48 election by a very slender margin. Dewey's speech-writer during that time was Allen Dulles. It's very important, because Allen Dulles was not in the CIA then, but he was trying to be a kingmaker.

Truman served through the period of the beginning of the Korean War, through the period of McCarthyism, through the period of the Red Scare. This is when the Cold War was beginning to take shape. The Defense Department was created in 1947, as it is established today, and the CIA was



created by the same law in 1947.

When Eisenhower became President, everything was in order for this strong, business-oriented, international-looking group to begin to organize the U.S. government for world power. After eight years in office, the plan was to bring Richard Nixon along to be the heir-apparent.

But in 1960, Kennedy ran against Vice President Nixon and won that election by the narrowest margin ever recorded in a presidential election.

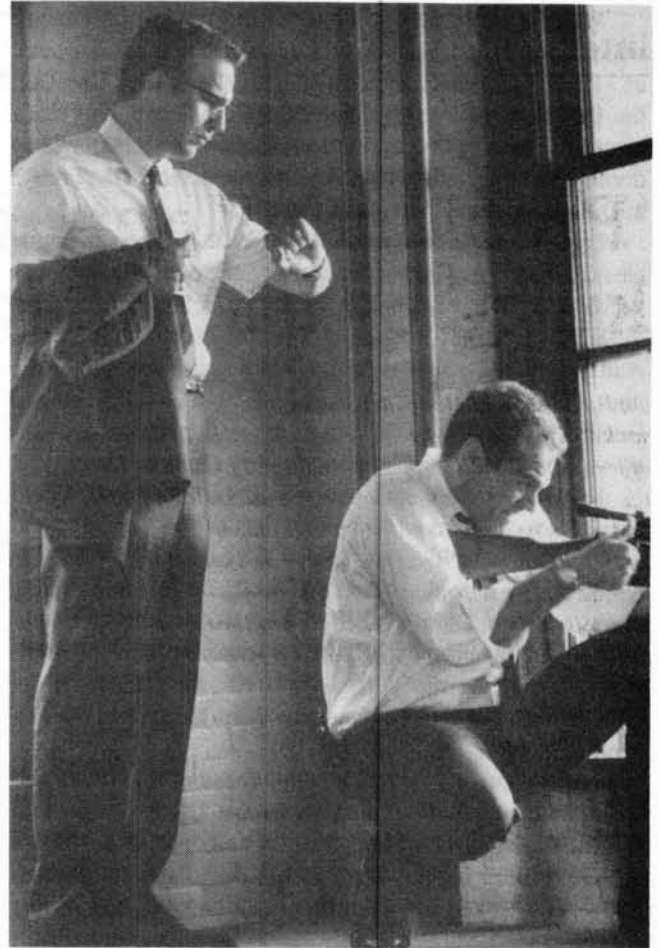
Almost from the beginning, Kennedy ran into obstacles that, at least by appearances, seemed to be laid at the steps of the CIA and its allies. Take the Bay of Pigs program, which should have been a relatively simple little operation. The actual reason for its failure was that there were certain changes made in President Kennedy's own directives. Kennedy ordered that the men would not invade the beach until all of the Cuban combat aircraft were destroyed. Well, Castro only had at that time 10 aircraft. Seven were destroyed. So Kennedy issued orders the next day to destroy the last three before the brigade would hit the beach. Those orders were countermanded, the remaining planes were not destroyed, and as the result, the Bay of Pigs operation failed.

Some people blame the failure on the fact that Kennedy didn't provide air cover. Well, there is a National Security Council Directive, No. 5412, that denies this government, and the President, the use of military forces for clandestine operations; and that's what Kennedy had to follow. At that time, certain people were looking for every excuse to attack Kennedy. Especially, these attacks seemed to come from the CIA interests, and the military interests also.

Another little-known factor that I consider significant has to do with the politics of the Pentagon budget. When Kennedy became President, the largest procurement ever contemplated by the Defense Department was already under way. It was under way because certain people thought Nixon would be President, and that he could use \$6.5 billion for the procurement of the TFX fighter plane to the advantage of the Republican Party. The money had been more or less saved up for Nixon to start off with, to give him a good base for his reelection in '64.

With Kennedy's election, he turned the tables on that TFX plan by awarding the contract in 1962 to another company, General Dynamics Co., instead of Boeing. He did this at the recommendation of a very intelligent man, Arthur Goldberg, who was then secretary of labor. Instead of benefiting the GOP, the TFX contracts were concentrated in districts where the Democrats needed help to build their electoral strength.

Now, that's politics from way back, and that's the kind of politics that just had the situation boiling. That's what got Nixon and the other Republicans absolutely worked up over Kennedy, because they could see that, with that kind of politics, they weren't going to win back the White House in 1964.



*Jim Garrison (Costner) and his chief investigator Lou Ivon (Jay O. Sanders) clock the time it would have taken Lee Harvey Oswald to fire three shots from the window of the Texas Book Depository, proving the impossibility of the alleged feat.*

At the same time, Kennedy moved to get more control over the Federal Reserve System. He was going to achieve this by having the federal government begin again to issue currency, which it does not do today. Today the Federal Reserve System issues currency, not the government. And, he was going to either end or reduce the oil depletion allowance.

Each of these programs that Kennedy attacked were, in a broad sense, the pets of the Republican regime that was trying to fight its way back into power on this Cold War theme of anti-communism, which we now see was a trumped-up theme from the beginning.

Then, there was the issue of Vietnam. Southeast Asia is a very resource-wealthy area. We know that some of the largest undeveloped oil fields in the world are in offshore lands off Vietnam.

When it came time to consider the future of Vietnam, which during the Eisenhower years was being administered as a colony of France under a head of state called Bao Dai, the CIA brought into Vietnam Ngo Dinh Diem, and made him the head of the South Vietnam section of Vietnam. They divided Vietnam into two halves after the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu. This was in 1954.

By the time Kennedy was President, it had become quite clear to many people that the country of South Vietnam was very shaky. What Kennedy was saying is: Our job is to get those people strong enough to fight for their own interests. And he realized that Ngo Dinh Diem was not going to be the man, but that there was a strong general, a Buddhist named General Minh, who could assume the leadership of the country—provided the people in the country replaced Diem.

Kennedy worked out a plan which, had it worked, would have removed Diem while he was on a trip to Yugoslavia to make a speech in Belgrade to the Parliamentary Union. He would bring his brother there. His brother's wife had already gone to Europe, Diem's other brother, who was an Archbishop, had already been called to the Vatican by the Pope at the intercession of Kennedy. In other words, the plan was to get the Diems out of town without any guns firing, and then let Minh take over.

Unfortunately, a couple of days ahead of that, there had been some very serious attacks by the Diem government against Buddhist churches. Monks were put in jail and a terrible uprising began. Some monks immolated themselves in the streets, and the country was in turmoil; and in that turmoil, which is not ordinarily connected with a coup d'état, Diem and his brother were killed.

So, people have said Kennedy had Diem killed. In fact, during Watergate, if you'll recall, Colson had this man Hunt working in the White House forging files that would show that it was Kennedy's plan to kill Diem. I mean, they were forging files to make it appear that way—which proves that they weren't that way before the forgeries. I know from my own contacts at that time exactly how the plans were going.

At that point, Kennedy had become anathema to powerful groups in this country. They realized that his reelection was almost a certainty. Kennedy used to speak freely about that. He'd say, "As soon as I'm reelected, I am going to stop this business of the CIA running covert operations. I will get my advice from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And if we must run a covert operation, we'll run it with their advice and assistance, and not with the CIA." That was a written document from the White House.

He sent Robert McNamara and Maxwell Taylor to Vietnam to make a complete report on the situation in Vietnam. From August to the end of November 1963, there were over 50 meetings in the White House, the State Department, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the office of the secretary of defense, on the subject of the future of Vietnam. My own immediate boss, Maj. Gen. Victor Krulack, attended over 50 of those

meetings himself. And when he would come back from those meetings, he would generally have a talk with me because I was one of his principal writers. I'm very current on what he did, and all of this is in a document you can buy from the Government Printing Office. I'm not asking people to look for obscure papers. It's all been printed in a 1991 document which we can read.

Finally, on Oct. 11, 1963, the Kennedy White House published a most important document, called National Security Action Memorandum 263. The popular things that it said were that, first, he would take 1,000 men home from Vietnam. At that time, 1,000 men was an appreciable number. There were only about 15,000 men over there, and most of them were in an advisory capacity or doing maintenance work and other support things like that. They weren't combat troops.

The next thing was that he categorically stated that by the end of 1965, all U.S. personnel would be out of Vietnam—not just Army or the military, all U.S. personnel would be out of Vietnam by 1965.

When that document was published, headlines went around the world. I have a copy here in my own files of the *Stars and Stripes*, the military paper, issued the day after, published in Tokyo. The headline across the top is "All Troops Out of Vietnam in '65." This was important information, and it was public information.

From that moment on, Oct. 11, 1963, to those working close to the scene in the Pentagon, and to those people who had the prospect of building helicopters and fighter aircraft and guns and tanks and all the rest of it, this was terrible. This was anathema. They had had plenty of orders through World War II. There was a big buildup for the Korean War, and now, for 10 years, they had been building up on the prospect that there would be even a bigger war, a consumers' war, for them in Vietnam.

Amid all these pressures, it's not too unrealistic to see that some of them sat somewhere and said, "Look, we've got to do some planning. We've got to get this guy Kennedy out of office." And the more they thought about it, and the more they talked about it, they realized that legitimate honest-to-God planning, political planning, was not going to get him out. Kennedy was going to win.

At that point, somewhere, a small voice said, "We're going to get that bastard out right now," and there are ways to do it. As Lyndon Johnson said, "We have a Murder, Incorporated," a professional group—no Lee Harvey Oswald, or other goons like that—a professional group, trained, equipped, salaried, and everything, to do assassinations. They were given a job. They did their job; they killed the President. There was a coup d'état in this country and, following it, the biggest residual job people have had within that group has been to run this cover story.

Who on earth has the power to make the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, senior members of Congress,



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*"There was a professional group, trained, equipped, salaried, to do assassinations. They did their job; they killed the President. There was a coup d'état in this country and, following it, the biggest residual job people have had within that group has been to run this cover story."*

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businessmen, and other leaders of this country, sit down, call themselves the Warren Commission, and sign their names to things that are patently incorrect and untrue? That takes power to do that to big business. And Lyndon Johnson had to do that. He was under the same duress.

Now, if people can't see that after 28 years, then they're not reading the same history you and I are. That's the story of Kennedy's death.

**EIR:** What do you anticipate will be the impact of the movie "JFK"?

**Prouty:** Education. The fact that the media will no longer pursue major events and activities that are important to the American people, leaves us with an uneducated population. People can't figure these things out themselves, especially when all the pressure is on the other side, on, we'll say, the Warren Commission side in this case.

What the movie has done is to *annihilate* the Warren Commission. You watch. By next year, the Warren Commission will be scrap paper blowing down the streets. And then the people will start asking, "If it wasn't this young fellow Oswald up there with one gun shooting three bullets, what was it, and why? Why did these people conspire to kill Kennedy?" And that's what the movie is going to do to the people that see it.

And since Stone is talking to people of the '60s decade, the movie is talking to the people of the '70s decade and to the older people, we are going to see quite a bit of action along this idea of why did it happen, and then we're going to ask questions: Why did a lot of other things happen? Why did we go into Vietnam with 550,000 troops? Why were *10 million Americans* flown from the United States to Saigon for the Vietnam War? We didn't ever do anything like that in World War II in terms of numbers.

Why did we drop more bombs on Indochina during this war, when our enemy was running around in pajamas and had no airplanes—you know, that kind of a war—why did we do that? People are going to start asking those serious questions that Oliver Stone has laid out in this movie. The movie is serving not only an interesting purpose, but an *absolutely essential purpose*.

**EIR:** Do you have any insight, from having been directly involved in the production, as to how it came about that the

movie was done?

**Prouty:** Your question is very important, because the movie did have a carefully planned, you might say, objective, to accomplish something. We certainly have to attribute the beginning of the idea to Stone, who has made the '60s decade his period, and he wants the people of the '60s generation to have a voice in things, and if he can help, he's trying to help.

Now, he told me that, beginning in the late 1960s, he had read about as many good books about the Kennedy assassination as he could find. And he found that most of them buried themselves in trivia. You know, how much did the bullet weigh, or how many men were at the autopsy, and all that sort of thing, which is important, but reasonably irrelevant when you're trying to put across a big story.

A number of years ago, Jim Garrison, who was the district attorney in New Orleans, had written a book called *On the Trail of the Assassins*, and was having a little trouble placing the book, so he sent me the manuscript. I read Garrison's manuscript and realized it was a very, very good book, but it was parochial. It was the story of the assassination seen by the district attorney of New Orleans with, certainly, an awareness of Dallas, an awareness of Miami and the Cuban exiles, and that group of people who were roughly under what we called the Mongoose program. But it was parochial.

Garrison felt a strong necessity to try people in New Orleans, to see whether or not they were involved in this conspiracy. He wasn't trying the murder, he was trying the conspiracy. This made his book better than the other ones Stone could find. But still, since the trial ended in an acquittal, that wouldn't make a movie. You can't come up to the acquittal and then say, "There's the story."

But what Stone realized was, that once you present that book in the film, you have presented all of the literature of the Warren Commission. All of the literature of the assassination buffs, you know, where was Oswald, how many shots, what did Ruby do, and it's very important, because a lot of the public doesn't know that.

And as you see in the movie, when Kevin Costner (Jim Garrison) comes to Washington and meets with Donald Sutherland ("Mr. X") and they start talking about this, Sutherland tells him all this background and he says, you see, now, we have to find out why the President was killed. So,

the scheme of both of those together made the basis of the movie.

After I had read Garrison's manuscript, which I thought was valuable, I wrote him a long letter, and I told him pretty much what I've said here. You've done a good job with that, but you don't know Washington. You're not experienced with Washington, with Frankfurt, Germany, with London, with the whole scope of what really happened and why Kennedy was anathema to certain groups of people in power. And that has to be taken care of.

Garrison took my letter and his manuscript to Stone, and Stone saw that the conjunction of the two was exactly what he needed. So he came here to Washington to see me. And I must confess, I didn't know who Oliver Stone was. I'm not a movie-goer. I was embarrassed by it. But he's a great guy.

And then, right after I had seen him, I had a heart operation, and I'm in the house here, on my back, and I'd just come out of the hospital, when Stone was kind enough to come by my home, and stay here an hour or two talking with me about his plan, because he had developed it by then, and he handed me a package. He said, "This is the first copy of the first draft of my movie. I want you to read it, and see what we have here."

Well, it was delightful reading for a man that couldn't

even get out of bed at that time, and I began to see the magnificence of the scope of this thing, that it was going to take all of this work that Garrison laid out through his trial, and then it was going to add the picture of the bigger power structure and really give the story that the movie portrays.

**EIR:** Why such a magnitude of attacks on this movie? Even President Bush made statements in one of his press conferences in Canberra, Australia attacking the movie.

**Prouty:** It confirms the power structure. There's no other answer. When you find that President Bush is telling the world press—he uses some place in Canberra, Australia to tell the world press, "I much prefer the Warren Commission report to this film by Oliver Stone"—it just affirms that judgment.

I was a professor at Yale when Bush was a student. I know what Bush was learning at Yale in those days, it was a darn good college in the '40s. You don't think he learned how to understand what's going on in this world?

Why does *he* back the Warren Commission report, with all its failures? And he's not the only one either. Many, many others have done it. That's the power structure trying, with one last gasp, to see if they can't hold the dam up that Oliver Stone is bringing down.



"JFK" portrays (left to right) the "patsy" in the Kennedy assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald (Gary Oldman), and his associates, David Ferrie (Joe Pesci), and Jack Ruby (Brian Doyle Murray).

# Scribblers assail Oliver Stone's 'JFK'

Seven months before the movie "JFK" premiered last December, an army of establishment politicians and columnists began surfacing with wild slanders against the movie and its director Oliver Stone. The campaign of press vilification was reminiscent of the National Broadcasting Corp.-led effort to pillory New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison back in 1967, when he first announced the investigation and eventual indictment of Perminex-Centro Mondiale Commerciale's Clay Shaw for the Kennedy assassination conspiracy.

According to Col. Fletcher Prouty, USAF (ret.), the campaign during the 1960s to discredit Garrison was aided by a "for eyes only" memo prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency for distribution among publishers and editors who had worked with the CIA. Some of the reporters and public figures who were involved in that smear campaign 25 years ago—like the *Washington Post's* George Lardner—have resurfaced today as the leading trashers of Oliver Stone and his film. In fact, Lardner launched the campaign to discredit the Stone film before the movie even went into production, publishing commentaries on the first draft of the script, which was leaked to him behind Stone's back.

Here is a sample of some of the diatribes that have appeared in the press about "JFK."

**George Lardner**, "On The Set: Dallas in Wonderland—How Oliver Stone's Version of the Kennedy Assassination Exploits the Edge of Paranoia," *Washington Post*, May 19, 1991.

"Film maker Oliver Stone . . . the controversial, Oscar-winning chronicler of the 1960s and the war in Vietnam, is in the midst of a \$35-40 million production about the murder [of John F. Kennedy] tentatively titled 'JFK.' His hero: former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, whose zany investigation of the assassination in the late 1960s has almost faded from memory. . . . What this means is that Oliver Stone is chasing fiction. Garrison's investigation was a fraud. . . .

"A copy of the original script was obtained by [Harold] Weisberg and made available to the *Washington Post*. And while there isn't space to list all the errors and absurdities, large and small, some are deserving of special mention.

"For this reporter, one of the most interesting flights of fancy involves the death of David Ferrie, one of Garrison's prime targets. I was probably the last person to see him alive.

"In reality, in the wake of the JFK murder, authorities had received a wild batch of second-hand reports about Ferrie, a

vain, nervous flight school instructor based in New Orleans: that he knew Lee Harvey Oswald and might have hypnotized him, that he might have gone to Dallas as a 'getaway pilot' for a presidential assassin. Dismissed from Eastern Airlines in March 1963 because of a record of homosexual arrests, Ferrie had been interrogated shortly after the assassination by Garrison's men, the Secret Service, and the FBI (which found nothing). But Ferrie became a Garrison target when the DA [district attorney] decided in the fall of 1966 that the 'truth' about the assassination remained untold by the Warren Commission, but was still within his grasp. . . .

"On Feb. 22, 1967, five days after the *New Orleans States-Item* disclosed Garrison's probe, Ferrie was found dead in his apartment. Garrison promptly pronounced him 'one of history's important individuals' and claimed that he had been about to 'arrest' Ferrie on unspecified charges. 'There's no question about the fact that its suicide,' the DA said.

"The coroner, Dr. Nicholas Ghetta, held flatly that Ferrie, 49, died of natural causes despite several undated notes found in his apartment that suggested suicide and unrequited love for a man named 'Al.' Ghetta said death was due to a cerebral hemorrhage. Ferrie, he declared, could only have killed himself by worrying himself to death under the 'stress and strain' of Garrison's investigation.

"Stone gives Ferrie's demise a different spin, at least in the script he started with. In a scene labeled the 'Night Before,' Ferrie runs into the toilet, looking terrified, chased by two Cubans. . . . They catch Ferrie at the sink and start forcing medicine down his throat. Moments later, they are busy typing a note, perhaps trying to force Ferrie to sign it as 'he convulses, dies.'

"Strange, I used that same bathroom a few hours later, in the course of a four-hour conversation with Ferrie (he said he was convinced Garrison's investigation would turn out to be a 'witchhunt'). Ferrie was very much alive when we walked downstairs at around 4 a.m. I didn't see any Cubans—or anyone else.

"Stone, who is reportedly revising the script as he goes along, will begin filming in New Orleans shortly, taking his star-studded cast with him. . . . All the hoopla will, of course, obscure the absurdities and palpable untruths in Garrison's book and Stone's rendition of it."

**Gerald Ford and David Belin**, "Kennedy Assassination: How About the Truth?" *Washington Post*, Dec. 17, 1991.

"The media treatment of the Kennedy assassination tragedy and the Warren Commission report is a microcosm of one of the central problems facing our democratic society: False sensationalist claims are given wide dissemination and the truth is submerged, and the responsible press usually does not undertake sufficient effort to expose the fraud that is being perpetrated. Two vivid examples are the recent series of five one-hour A&E television programs about the Kennedy

## Stone answers critics of Jim Garrison

*At a luncheon lecture at the National Press Club on Jan. 15, Oliver Stone responded to a questioner who charged that Jim Garrison had undertaken the prosecution of Clay Shaw for conspiracy in the assassination of Kennedy, as a public relations stunt to win the Louisiana governorship:*

Why anyone would in 1967 seek to be a governor of a state by going against the CIA and the entire government by suggesting they killed a President is beyond me. Jim's political life was over the moment he brought those charges. He was taking on the establishment in a major way and he paid the price.

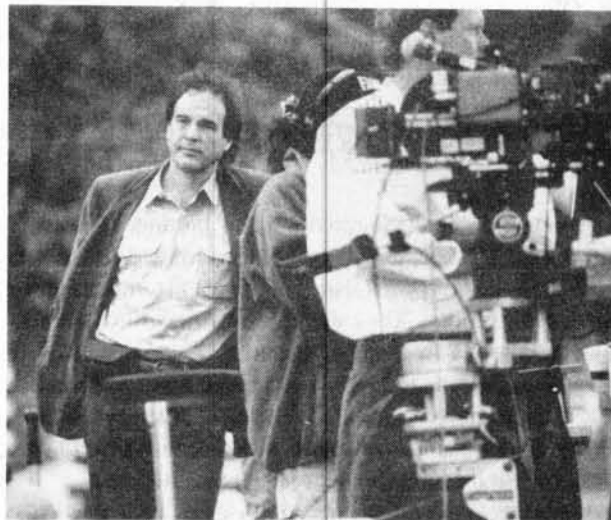
As for the case itself, I just want to remind you that he has been vilified and trashed over and over and over again in the press, and he has now become a non-person, in the sense that Stalin's opponents became non-people. There are no specifics ever brought up. It has become a media mantra, a buzz-word, a credo. The journalists cite each other to substitute for critical analysis.

Jim had an interesting history. He was an FBI man, he was a war hero, he was elected three times DA of New Orleans. Why? Because he was popular. He was unpopular in the press, in the *Times-Picayune*. He was unpopular with Clay Shaw's friends. He was unpopular with the establishment of New Orleans. But he was elected three times. Since then he has become an appellate judge.

He had a case. There were two evidentiary hearings. It went to a three-judge panel. He presented his facts. Those three judges in 1967 said "go to trial." He went to a grand jury of 12 jurors and they said "go to trial." It was hardly the frolic described. It was no whim. He had witnesses and evidence. Three major witnesses, however, died before he could get to trial. Obviously, Oswald; obviously, Ruby. And we have Guy Bannister. And we have David Ferrie, who was the key witness to the possible connection of Shaw, Bannister, and Ferrie. We have found since the trial significant new evidence that Shaw knew Oswald; not only through Perry Russo, but through the Clinton witnesses. In Clinton, Louisiana, 10 people—8 of them black—pointed to Shaw being in Clinton with Lee Harvey Oswald at a CORE rally. Dean Andrews pointed to a man called Clay Bertrand, who Jim found out to be Clay Shaw.

That testimony was thrown out of court by the judge. . . .

The jury came back and said that Clay Shaw was not guilty, but they were polled after the trial and they said



*Director Oliver Stone on the set of "JFK."*

Jim Garrison had convinced them there was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, but they just couldn't make the links to Clay Shaw. . . .

After Clay Shaw died, Judge Haggerty, who presided over the case, and in a sense hurt Jim's case by refusing to take the Clay Bertrand testimony, said in a television interview: "I do believe to this day that the jury should have found Clay Shaw guilty. I do not believe Clay Shaw told the truth at the trial."

After the trial, they found a picture that showed that Clay Shaw and David Ferrie were at a party together. I think that Shaw perjured himself time and again, denying he knew Oswald, denying he knew Ferrie, and denying he was a member of the CIA—that we found out he was. He has a history with the CIA that was pointed out by Richard Helms. Finally, under oath, he told the truth. Victor Marchetti supports that theory, saying that during the trial, Mr. Helms was very concerned with the fate of Clay Shaw and offered all the help he could.

In addition to that, we now know that Mr. Shaw was on the board of directors of Perminindex, a fascist organization in Italy that was thrown out of Italy for illegal activities, among them, promoting financial transactions in the attempted assassination of Charles de Gaulle, the President of France. So, don't think, here we have this innocent businessman pictured by the press.

I think we have a serious case that was brought and lost and failed, and that is as it is; but there is something more than meets the eye. I liken Jim Garrison's case somewhat to the Lawrence Walsh case in the 1980s, when he tried to bring that same covert arm of the government to light of day.



assassination called 'The Men Who Killed Kennedy' and the new Oliver Stone-Kevin Costner film, 'JFK.'

"The common denominator of these commercial productions is the big lie—the assertion that the top echelons of our government were conspiratorially involved in the assassination and that Lee Harvey Oswald was not the lone gunman who killed President Kennedy and Dallas Police Officer J.D. Tippit.

"In 'JFK' the big lie is disseminated through Kevin Costner, who portrays New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. . . . In the A&E series, the big lie is disseminated through key interviewees who are portrayed as purported experts, such as Col. Fletcher Prouty (a consultant to Oliver Stone in the production of 'JFK'), who asserts: 'You see, you're dealing with a very high echelon of power. . . . Otherwise, how could you have gotten people like the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to participate in the coverup?'

"False charges of this kind are a desecration to the memory of President Kennedy, a desecration to the memory of Earl Warren and a fraudulent misrepresentation of the truth to the American public. . . . The basic format underlying the dissemination of lies is to cover up the overwhelming weight of the evidence and instead paste together scraps of testimony to form a case for conspiracy and an attempt to cover up the guilt of Lee Harvey Oswald. . . .

"There are some who assert in the face of this conspiracy barrage by the mass media, particularly movies and television, that we will never know the truth. That is simply not accurate. The truth is known. Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman who killed President Kennedy and Dallas Police Officer J.D. Tippit. Those of us who served on the Warren Commission and those lawyers on the staff who examined the evidence in depth know that to be the truth—beyond a reasonable doubt."

**Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.),** "The Paranoid Style," *Washington Post*, Dec. 29, 1991.

"I did not think there had been a conspiracy to kill the President, but I was convinced that the American people would sooner or later come to believe that there had been one unless we investigated the event with exactly that presumption in mind. . . . The Warren Commission did not see its work in anything like the perspective I had hoped for. It was Lyndon Johnson at his worst: manipulative, cynical. Setting a Chief Justice of no great intellect to do a job that a corrupt FBI was well content should not be done well. Edward Jay Epstein laid it all out in a master's thesis written at Cornell a few years later.

"More relevant to the present moment, however, is Richard Hofstadter's incomparable essay 'The Paranoid Styles in American Politics,' which, as it happens, he delivered as the Herbert Spenser Lecture at Oxford within days of the Kennedy assassination. He begins: 'Although American political life has rarely been touched by the most acute varieties



Jim Garrison (Kevin Costner) at the grave of John F. Kennedy, in Oliver Stone's film.

of class conflict, it has served again and again as an arena for uncommonly angry minds. . . . Hofstadter (as also Daniel Bell) was at this time primarily concerned with the conspiratorial fantasies of the right. . . . But he knew well enough about the paranoid style of the left also. . . .

"And so to 'JFK.' It could be viewed as parody. The homosexual orgies in the New Orleans town house of the villain Clay Shaw are straight out of Maria Monk's nunnery in Montreal. The generals boozing it up as they plan the murder of their commander-in-chief are straight out of *Ramparts* in a slow week in the '60s. The black waiter who hears nothing is, well, MGM in the '30s. A John Birch look-alike is the fake erudition. Garrison is forever going on about those who practice to deceive, about riddles wrapped in mysteries inside enigmas. . . .

"But it is not parody, and it is not funny. It could spoil a generation of American politics just when sanity is returning. All of us in politics ought to see it: This is what citizens under 30 or 40 are going to be thinking soon."

**George F. Will**, “ ‘JFK’: Paranoid History,” syndicated column, Dec. 26, 1991.

“Oliver Stone’s movie ‘JFK’ will give paranoia a bad name and give us all pause. . . . This is the message of Stone’s celluloid diatribe. Much of America’s establishment conspired to kill Kennedy because he loved peace and ‘they’ wanted war. Strange that a society so sick allowed such a saint to be President at all, but this is cartoon history by Stone, who is 45 going on eight.

“In his three-hour lie, Stone falsifies so much that he may be an intellectual sociopath, indifferent to truth. Or perhaps he is just another propagandist frozen in the 1960s like a fly in amber, combining moral arrogance with historical ignorance. . . .

“Back in Stone’s formative years—those 1960s he loves so ardently—members of the John Birch Society thought President Eisenhower had been a communist. Intellectually, Stone is on all fours with his mirror images, the Birchers, who, like Stone, thought Earl Warren was a traitor. Stone and they are part of a long fringe tradition, the paranoid style in American politics, a style ravenous for conspiracy theories.

“Why is actor Kevin Costner lending himself to this libel of America? Is he invincibly ignorant or just banally venal? Nothing else can explain his willingness to portray as a hero Jim Garrison, who, as New Orleans’ district attorney, staged an assassination ‘investigation’ that involved recklessness, cruelty, abuse of power, publicity mongering, and dishonesty, all on a scale that strongly suggests lunacy leavened by cynicism.

“After covering the assassination story for 28 years, the journalist who knows most about it is the *Post*’s George Lardner. He documents Stone ‘stomping on presumptions of innocence, cooking up false admissions, ignoring contrary evidence and giving a conspiratorial tone to inconsequential facets of the tragedy that were explained long ago.’

“. . . ‘JFK’ is an act of execrable history and contemptible citizenship by a man of technical skill, scant education, and negligible conscience.”

**Wall Street Journal**, editorial, “ ‘JFK’: The Movie,” Dec. 26, 1991.

“What Mr. Stone is basically selling is political grotesquery itself. Thus former New Orleans DA Jim Garrison—played by Kevin ‘Dancing With Wolves’ Costner—becomes a relentless truth-seeker. We have to say we admire Mr. Stone’s brass, and particularly his skill at finding advantage in attacks on the film’s historical veracity; he suggests this further proof of a plot. . . .

“The keystone of this publicity campaign is an imprimatur of seriousness from the op-ed page of the *New York Times*, on which Mr. Stone argued his script with a straight face. No surprise, since the *Times* op-ed page also launched Gary Sick’s movie deal for ‘October Surprise.’ . . .

“Anyone who wants to know what rocks the Warren Commission left unturned should not turn to Mr. Garrison. Instead, read Edward Jay Epstein, author of *Inquest*, a critique of the commission, *Counter-plot*, a critique of Mr. Garrison, and finally *Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald*.

“Lee Harvey Oswald, as even ‘JFK’ is forced to acknowledge, was a former Marine who defected to the Soviet Union and returned to Dallas. Mr. Epstein fleshes out this information: Oswald disappeared from sight during a year of his Moscow visit. His wife married him after a month’s acquaintance, and Oswald was also befriended by her uncle, a colonel in the secret MVD. In Mexico City, eight weeks before the assassination, Oswald met with a Soviet intelligence officer, and also with Cuban officials in seeking a visa. While in Dallas, Oswald was befriended and helped by George De Mohrenschildt, a shadowy figure with intelligence connections around the world. De Mohrenschildt agreed to a series of interviews with Mr. Epstein, but after the first was found shot, an apparent suicide.

“It’s too early to draw any real conclusions from these facts, which are not inconsistent with Oswald being simply a lunatic. But there is reason enough to hope that with the changes in Russia, someday we will be able to see the KGB files on Oswald. . . . Maybe someday the Cuban files too. . . .

“Pending more definitive evidence, the bare facts of the Epstein revelations would make a corking movie. But somehow no one wants to make a movie speculating that the KGB killed Kennedy. Instead, inevitably we suppose, Oliver Stone makes a movie about the CIA killing Kennedy, the *New York Times* turns the script into an op-ed article, the critics rave, and the talk shows are overwhelmed by the media blitz.

“What sells, it seems, is precisely the hatred for the U.S. government and institutions that saturates ‘JFK.’ All this somehow reminds us of a great book by the late Richard Hofstadter entitled *The Paranoid Style in American Politics*.”

**The Times** (London), editorial, Dec. 28, 1991.

“Mr. Stone is certain to engrain his version on the fertile minds of millions. . . . With their mixture of naiveté and distrust of government, Americans have long been partial to discerning the machinations of the hidden hand. . . . The ‘60s and the early ‘70s were bliss for conspiracy theorists beginning with the prescient film the ‘Manchurian Candidate.’ . . .

Every child of the counterculture knew for a fact that a murderous cabal in Wall Street and Washington controlled everything. The Optimistic Reagan Years saw a respite from such paranoia, save for the escapades of Lyndon LaRouche, the perennial Democratic presidential candidate, now in prison, whose followers are certain that Queen Elizabeth II heads the world’s biggest drug cartel.”



# The strategic issues behind the Kennedy assassination

by Lyndon LaRouche

*LaRouche, a political prisoner and Democratic presidential candidate, has commented upon several occasions on the assassination of President John Kennedy since the release of Oliver Stone's movie "JFK." The following comments were made on Jan. 19.*

As most people by now know, the Oliver Stone film "JFK" is a truthful account of the fraud known as the Warren Commission coverup of the Kennedy assassination. The film also contains some lines of potential speculation as to what the motive might have been for the assassination. I'm not pleased with the military-industrial complex line, I don't think that that is accurate—of course that's not original to Stone, others have it. I know a bit of the truth because I was involved at a later stage in the investigation of aspects of the Kennedy assassination myself, working with some very high-level people in the United States and in Europe on this question. And I can say plainly that the same combination of forces, together with George Bush, which killed Kennedy, put me in prison, and essentially for the same motive behind the Kennedy assassination.

The lesson to be learned is this. In the time of President Kennedy, the reigning approach toward Russia, or toward the Soviet Union, was that of Henry Kissinger's bankers, an approach which was associated then with Bertrand Russell's front operation called the Pugwash Conference, with people like Leo Szilard, a Russell crony, key in this. What Kennedy did in going for a peace through superior strength policy, toward seeking peace with Russia on that basis, was to threaten to overthrow the entire strategic approach represented by Bertrand Russell and other backers of the policy which Henry Kissinger was pushing. Now Henry at that time was a fairly low-level but becoming-conspicuous figure temporarily around the Kennedy administration, until Kennedy ordered him fired. He was a contract employee, so to speak, of the government, and Kennedy ordered him kicked out. And so I don't think that Kissinger was at a high-enough level to have been involved in the Kennedy assassination, though he, like Bertrand Russell, would have been sympathetic to its purposes.

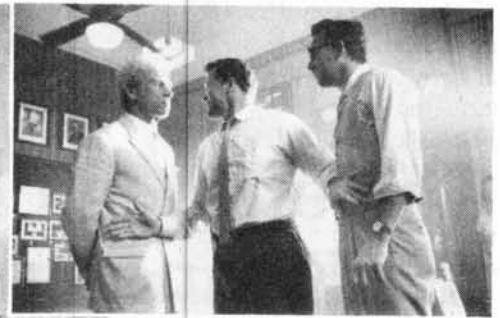
## The international picture

To understand the Kennedy assassination you have to take your eyes away from the United States as such and look more broadly around the world at some other assassinations and attempted assassinations which were going on in that period, along with a few other events. For example, the same year we have the Profumo scandal which toppled the Macmillan government and led to the bringing forth of the Harold Wilson government in England, which was a part of this pattern orchestrated by the same people who killed Kennedy—they brought Wilson to power in England. Another thing was a couple of assassination attempts against President Charles de Gaulle of France. This is more obvious because de Gaulle was following a line quite similar to that being pushed by Kennedy. Konrad Adenauer was kicked upstairs in Germany, to weaken the French-German alliance by introducing new elements of economic policy in Germany, which were, shall we say, not quite as Gaullist as those of Adenauer himself. There were destabilizations in Italy, and elsewhere at the same time. The objective was to preserve a policy of ongoing Pugwash negotiations with Moscow, deals already struck with Khrushchov, which Kennedy implicitly threatened, by taking an approach which dovetailed with that of de Gaulle and Adenauer in Europe.

That is the reason for killing Kennedy: that he threatened the architecture of strategic policy of those forces in the world which are most easily recognized by the man in the street as the evil forces which employ and deploy creatures such as Henry A. Kissinger.

## Strategic defense and monetary reform

That lesson is important for today. Back in 1982 and early 1983, I had an association with the Reagan administration in connection with what became known publicly after March 1983 as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). This involves my negotiation, on behalf of the Reagan administration, with a back-channel with the Soviet government, and what I was proposing to the Soviets is parallel to what Kennedy was pushing in 1962 and 1963, particularly in 1963. At that point, once it became obvious in 1983, that the President had adopt-



*The opening of the headquarters of Permindex-Centro Mondiale Commerciale in Rome, May 29, 1959. The firm was forced to leave Italy. French officials also suspected Permindex as behind the assassination attempts against President Charles de Gaulle. Inset: (left to right) From the film "JFK": Clay Shaw (Tommy Lee Jones), Assistant D.A. Bill Broussard (Michael Rooker), and Jim Garrison (Kevin Costner) after Garrison confronted Shaw with charges about his ties to the Italian fascist front.*

ed this kind of policy, at least temporarily, Henry Kissinger and others moved to have me thrown into prison and have the movement associated with me destroyed.

That's not speculation. That's a matter of official documented record, that Kissinger moved against me on two issues for his masters: on the issue of my negotiations for international monetary reform—and Kennedy had angered them by his Federal Reserve actions—and by my strategic operations in which I was negotiating with the Soviets through a back-channel for the Reagan administration on a package which included the SDI. And those are the reasons that this special operation was run against me to try to destroy the movement associated with me, and either to kill me or to put me in prison. The issues were the same which prompted the same group of people, I wouldn't say the same personalities, but the same forces, to kill Kennedy back in 1963.

### **Kennedy was going for superiority**

*In response to a suggestion that President Kennedy was assassinated primarily because he was pulling out of Vietnam, LaRouche made the following comments on Jan. 6.*

... Kennedy was looking for peace. He was trying to get Cuba out of the Soviet orbit, with bribes and what-not. He was also at the same time, as the speech he was going to deliver at Dallas the day he was assassinated indicates, moving to scrap the so-called balance of terror, the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction, for one of technological, mil-

itary, and other, superiority.

From a quite different standpoint, I was doing the same thing in 1982-83, when I was negotiating for the U.S. government in this back-channel with the Soviets, on what became known as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Look at the opposition to Kennedy and who killed Kennedy. It was the same people who were out to kill Charles de Gaulle, it was the same people who were responsible for bringing the Harold Wilson government to power in Britain, and so forth.

The issue was the Pugwash agreement, the Bertrand Russell line. Russell, if he was not one of the people who planned the assassination of Kennedy, was certainly entirely sympathetic to it, and to its objectives in particular.

You had in the postwar period a Versailles System modified by the Yalta agreements, which established what had been implicitly established prior to World War II, the Soviet Union as a strategic factor, together with the Anglo-Americans, in running the world. That is, a co-dominion, a condominium if you please, between the Anglo-Americans and the Soviet power. Yalta essentially established that formally.

Now within the Yalta system, Russell and Churchill—there was no difference between Russell and Churchill on the main lines of strategic policy or their hatred and contempt for the United States—came up with what became known as the Pugwash agreement, to which Henry Kissinger, McGeorge Bundy, and so forth, were all committed. And that was exemplified by the attempt to bring in this "new world order," which is what Bush was trying to do at the beginning of 1991.

So, there you had Kennedy trying to negotiate a solution to the strategic conflict on *his* basis, which was pro-Third World in many respects, like de Gaulle's policy, pro-Third World; that is, pro-development of the Third World. It was essentially a Catholic position, that is, in line with what we recognize in 1967 as *Populorum Progressio*, and in line with the Catholic Solidarist position, particularly when you consider that Africa and Central and South America represent a good deal of the composition of the Catholic Church, their parishes.

Now comes 1982-83 and the freak-out against me, when I'm negotiating with Moscow—it's over the same issue. It's called the Great Game, the establishment of an Anglo-American/Moscow oligarchical empire, with Anglo-American domination, which is what the original objectives of World War II were, for a new Versailles System. And the other objective is to keep the southern part of the planet in complete subjugation.

### The sacredness of human life

Kennedy was going against that, in his own way; I was going against it in another way. But we both were hit by the

same people over the same issue. The issue of the Vietnam War does not stand out by itself. . . .

Whenever you talked about justice for the planet as a whole, against the oligarchical system, you came up against it. It's in all the leftists and all the rightists and so forth, who were all a bunch of fascists on this question. Then Martin Luther King was killed for the same reason. Not the war in Vietnam per se, but the idea of the dignity and the sacredness of individual human life, and that rights under natural law coincide with that. That has been the underlying issue.

But the center was Kennedy's approach to dealing with the communist world, how to resolve this conflict with military strength but at the same time with development alternatives: the same thing I did, exactly in that sense, with what became known as the SDI—which is what Reagan offered, of course, initially, in March and continuing into part of April 1983. And that's why Kennedy was killed. That is the gut issue, the immediate strategic gut issue, why the backers of Henry Kissinger killed John F. Kennedy in the same way that Kissinger's backers put me in prison.

## Beware 'authoritarian personality' kookery

*Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche made the following comments on "JFK" on Jan. 20.*

The general line of attack recently has been to charge that Oliver Stone is playing into what is described as the paranoid style of American politics, that is, Americans as a bunch of screwed-up conspiracy seekers. The attack on the movie from this standpoint, as from the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other quarters, references Richard Hofstadter's book called *The Paranoid Style in American Politics*. This book is based on lectures which he delivered in England in November 1963, the month during which President Kennedy was assassinated by an international cartel associated with a group called Permindex.

The thing that people should bear in mind before taking Hofstadter too seriously, is to recognize that Professor Hofstadter was a genuine kook. He was, specifically by his own attribution, under the influence of a group called the Frankfurt School, which was founded on the initiative of the Communist International in 1922 and 1923 under the influence of a Communist International cultural war figure, Georg Lukacs, former cultural minister in the short-lived Bela Kun communist dictatorship in Hungary.

The group that was pulled together was associated with a bunch of Adam Smith worshippers around Max

Weber, the sociologist in Germany, which was dedicated, at Lukacs's proposal, to destroying western Christian civilization. That was their objective. One of the leading features of this group's work is best known among Americans as the theory of the "authoritarian personality." This is a theory which denies that there is any truth; there are only absurd opinions and each person has an equal right to his own absurdity and truth be damned, or be ignored.

These people are real kooks. For example, one of the people who pushes this theory is a fellow named Chip Berlet, who came through the National Student Association—for those of you who remember the CIA running this student group and the big scandal around that. Well, Chip Berlet was in there; and he was a lobbyist for the homosexual and drug-using faction within the NSA back in the 1970s. He went on to become a key figure of *High Times*, that is, the drug-pushers' magazine, and he now works for the Anti-Defamation League and some of the government officials in running nasty things against me most of the time.

Chip Berlet is one of the people who believes, most assiduously, in Hofstadter's book and in the Hannah Arendt "authoritarian personality" doctrine of the communist kooks to whom I referred.

So, in looking at the attacks on the "JFK" movie, any time you see somebody attacking the movie as playing into the paranoid style of American politics, the so-called Hofstadter thesis, you know you're dealing with a genuine follower of a kook, who may have borrowed some of the kookishness themselves.

## Heat is on Russia's Yeltsin to break with 'shock therapy'

by Konstantin George

As the economic crisis inside Russia intensifies day by day, President Boris Yeltsin is coming under increasing pressure to break with the disastrous "shock therapy" of Economics Minister Yegor Gaidar, the darling of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and with the "free market" mafia of Harvard University's Jeffrey Sachs. Gaidar, the architect of the Jan. 2 price "reform" which sent the price of consumer goods soaring, while doing nothing to put food on the shelves, is proposing to follow up these measures with massive budget cuts that would cripple Russia's high-tech military and industrial sectors.

A solid bloc of opposition to Gaidar has crystalized in the Russian leadership, centered around Vice President Gen. Maj. Aleksandr Rutskoy, and the head of the Russian Parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov. These figures and the powerful forces they represent from the military and military-industrial complex, have been exerting enormous pressure on Yeltsin. A showdown on these questions has been put off until later in February, when Yeltsin returns from an overseas tour. The big open question is, which side will Yeltsin take, after his summitry in London, at the U.N. Security Council and at Camp David with President George Bush?

On Jan. 30, just before Yeltsin's departure to Britain and the United States, Vice President Rutskoy, interviewed in *Pravda*, blasted "the Russian economics minister . . . and the group of incompetent academics" surrounding Yeltsin, who has been "shielded from the people by his advisory group," for "conducting an experiment on the Russian people" which has brought "poverty in catastrophic proportions." Rutskoy emphasized that the economic-social crisis they have caused "will lead to the breakup of Russia . . . into 100 banana republics, each with its own army." "Russia is on the verge of collapse," he warned.

The pressure on Yeltsin to break with Gaidar was first reflected in a Russian cabinet meeting of Jan. 23, where for the first time, Yeltsin distanced himself from the "shock therapy" policies of Gaidar. The Russian President accused Gaidar and other members of the cabinet of having launched "an unthought-out," across-the-board price decontrol, failing, as he put it, to provide "adequate social protection" for the population.

Since that day, Gaidar has come under very heavy attack by the Russian Parliament, with no one taking his side. The German daily *Berliner Tagesspiegel* commented on Jan. 29, "Yeltsin is plugging for Gaidar only as far as the elementary loyalty of a boss requires." When the "storm broke out in the Russian Parliament" over Gaidar's budget cuts, "Yeltsin was deliberately absent, and no one in the leadership jumped to his defense." Gaidar knows that if his policies don't produce results, Yeltsin will make sure that he is the first to go, the paper said. The pressure building up is so strong that Gaidar himself is now trying to hang on by singing a different tune, as this IMF sweetheart denounced the West for using "the food weapon" against Russia.

### Germany gives in

The day of the turn against Gaidar also marked the commencement of what threatens to become a national wave of protest strikes against his policies. It was also the day that, as the news came in from the Washington "Coordinating Conference on Assistance to the New Independent States," the Russian government could plainly see that the brutal sacrifices the country was making on IMF dictate would not be "rewarded" with anything approaching adequate western aid and credits (see article, page 6).

The hidden agenda of the Washington conference was

characterized by an Anglo-American crackdown on Germany, and German submission to that. This had the effect of lowering the existing level of desperately needed goods entering Russia and other states via normal trade channels.

The German submission occurred in the form of, first, a government announcement, as the Washington conference was in progress, that a paltry ceiling was being imposed of DM 5 billion (\$3.2 billion) in Hermes state-backed export guarantees for exports to the Community of Independent States (CIS) for 1992. The move, as suicidal to German national interests as it is crippling to the national interests of the CIS nations, means, unless it is amended or revoked, a shutdown of the huge industrial and capital goods complexes in eastern Germany, whose livelihood rests on exports to the CIS. The Bonn submission to U.S. dictates also threatens to add 300-500,000 eastern German workers to the unemployment lines.

The decision on the Hermes credits was followed up by a second disaster, a speech on Jan. 27 by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to the General Staff heads of the nine European countries comprising the West European Union. Kohl unveiled a new policy, again clearly reflecting Washington pressure, making all aid to the CIS conditional on these states' respecting arms control and "proliferation" agreements. As these states have been and are respecting such agreements, there was no reason for such an insult.

These two decisions send precisely the wrong signal to Moscow and other capitals, that Germany will do nothing to act as a counterweight to the Anglo-Americans. The same signal was received from Japan, which "offered" the infinitesimal sum of \$50 million in aid, a sum smaller even than what Great Britain has agreed to provide.

### **The strike wave**

With no international "rewards" in sight for pursuing the Gaidar policies, any incentive for sticking with the IMF recipe for disaster disappeared. Events on Jan. 23 provided the first proof that the military and military-industry opposition to shock therapy was forming a potentially unstoppable alliance with organized labor from heavy industry and defense plants, targeted at Gaidar. Tens of thousands of workers protested that day, marching through the heavy industry and military production centers of Yekaterinburg (the former Sverdlovsk) and Perm in the Urals, in Komsomolsk on the Amur in the Russian Far East, site of one of Russia's largest military aircraft production plants. The protests were joined by the coal miners of Vorkuta in northern Russia.

Simultaneously, two crucial sectors of the work force—the coal miners, who had spearheaded the national strike waves of 1990-91, and the oil workers—threatened strike action unless Gaidar's price rises were rolled back, and consumer supplies at lower price levels were secured. The demands from the coal miners were presented to Yeltsin Jan. 22 by a delegation from the Siberian Kuzbass mines. Similar

demands are being made by the oil workers of the Tyumen West Siberian fields, which account for three-quarters of Russian oil production. An oil strike alone would collapse the economy and bring down the government. Strikes have also been threatened by Russia's 4.5 million health-sector workers, by teachers, and other public employees in many cities.

The threat of a national strike wave forced Yeltsin to issue a decree tripling the wages of the Kuzbass coal miners and giving hefty wage increases to the workers of the health sector, causing that strike threat to evaporate, at least for now. This fire-brigade pattern of extinguishing strikes or strike threats threatening critical parts of the economy, continued during Yeltsin's Jan. 28 appearance in the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossisk. There was more to his agenda there than the Black Sea Fleet issue. Yeltsin was also there to end the strike of Novorossisk seamen and port workers which had begun the day before, crippling Russia's most important Black Sea port. End the strike he did, through wage increases, including stipulation for part payment in dollars.

### **Ukraine: The clock is ticking**

The fight on economic policy in Russia is mirrored in the Ukrainian republic. For Ukraine, the dismal outcome of the Washington conference, and the de facto credit and aid embargo Ukraine has been subjected to since its Dec. 1 independence, has produced intense anger and a sense of betrayal by the West. Alongside this, there are clear moves toward tight control over the economy through a system of rule by presidential decree.

This was explicit in the speech by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to the opening session of Parliament on Jan. 28, in which he demanded emergency powers to deal, through rule by decree, with the economic crisis in the nation. Said Kravchuk: "The foundation of our state is taking place in difficult times. The economic downturn is continuing. . . . People are losing faith in our ability to improve the situation." He announced that he will begin holding consultations with all parties, including Rukh and the other opposition parties, to form a new government.

Kravchuk also took the occasion to comment on the reports of "conflict" between Ukraine and Russia, denouncing the mass media, both within the CIS states, above all Russian media, and the western media, for having fanned the problems existing between the two states out of all proportion to their real level. He accused the mass media of fueling the dispute with Russia over the division of the Black Sea Fleet, and of helping to make an issue out of the question whether Crimea should belong to Ukraine or Russia. Finally, he blasted the media for painting a false, slanderous picture of Ukraine: "The mass media want to present Ukraine as a military monster which apparently doesn't want economic reforms, and is only interested in the army."

# 'Shield' demands tools for production

*A programmatic resolution passed in January by "Shield," the organization of younger officers in Russia, Ukraine, and other states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, exemplifies the revival of "American System" dirigist economic policies now under way within certain institutions in the republics of the former Soviet Union. It demands the creation of a CIS "special fund" to finance the means to enable hundreds of thousands of soon to be demobilized soldiers and officers to become productive, modern private farmers. This plan is the cornerstone of a demand for full social protection for all active and demobilized officers, soldiers, and their families.*

*The resolution is a striking example of a revival of late 19th-early 20th century "American System" dirigist traditions exemplified by the policies of Count Sergei Witte, who transformed Russia into a leading food exporter, gave it the highest industrial growth rate in the world, and the prospect of becoming Europe's leading industrial power by the 1920s, had not World War I and the Bolshevik nightmare intervened. We reprint the full text of the resolution.*

## **Resolution of Shield Moscow Union**

In evaluating the situation unfolding in the country and in the Armed Forces, the conference considers that the question of social protection in the full sense for military serviceman, military dependents, conscript members, and members of their families, should be decided at the national level.

The formation of the CIS does not carry full clarity on defense questions. The instability of the political and economic situation is also being reflected within the ranks of the Armed Forces. Many nations of the former Union have expressed the demand for the creation of their own Armed Forces. This is their right to create their own Armed Forces, as with any sovereign nation. Since these countries took part originally in the creation of the Soviet Armed Forces, these countries therefore have the right to decide the fate of the Armed Forces of the former Union.

Concerning what this fate will be and who will determine it, the role of each nation ought to remain proportional to its share in the common budget of the former Federation and its former republics. This can be arranged by the council representing the heads of state of the nations of the CIS. And

the sooner this is done, the sooner the present unnecessary and dangerous tensions will be lifted.

The biggest concerns for the military are that which the impending budget cuts will call forth, and the absence of a reliable system of social protection. Moreover, any military servicemen ought to be reassured that when he goes into retirement after years of service, or in the case of loss of their ability to work (disability), he can receive sufficient pension and benefits, housing, and a plot of land. This can only be guaranteed by law. Under the absence of such guarantees, the Army will cease to be a clearly defined organism, turning into an unruly system. And what can happen when the Armed Forces get out of any governmental control was demonstratively shown by the Yugoslav experience. This [Yugoslav model] variant for nations and states of the former Union is most unwelcome and must be excluded. That is why we call on the heads of the states of the former Union to sit down at the negotiating table, and hold negotiations on the entire complexity of questions concerning the Armed Forces.

It is necessary to therefore quickly adopt a package of laws which would guarantee departing military servicemen a normal status and conditions to enable them to adapt to the free market conditions now beginning. In this context we call for the following:

- The right to professional retraining, at state expense.
- The receipt of adequate severance pay, including to cover retraining.
- The receipt of credit on favorable terms.
- The right to a free plot of land, together with favorable terms for procuring equipment and materials required for farming.
- Exemption during the first three years after service from all taxes.
- Obviously for this program to be realized, the creation of a special state fund is needed, for the protection of military servicemen, their dependents, conscripts, and their families. Such a fund can be created in part on the basis of allocations drawn from the profits of entrepreneurs, shareholding companies, bourses, and banks. Thus, allocations into the fund will come in part from private enterprises, the rest from the state and state enterprises. Proceeds from the fund will back state guarantees for retaining production enterprises, ensuring the supply of the construction materials, farm production technology, fertilizer, and equipment required.

All these measures will allow, on the one hand, the lifting of social tensions caused by the burden of uncertainty on military servicemen, and on the other hand they will give the reforms a healthy impetus. One can expect no less. Any delay in this threatens to have irreparable consequences, the breakdown of all that has been achieved to date, and halting in its tracks the first steps of democratic reform. People must be assured that their earthly labors are being protected, and those to be protected must receive firm guarantees that they will possess proper social protection.



# Croatia needs new model, free from collectivism and unbridled capitalism

"I want to take the opportunity of this interview to cordially thank all the people of good will and generous heart who supported us, who are helping us, and have acted on behalf of the recognition of the free state of Croatia," says the archbishop of Zagreb, Franjo Cardinal Kuharic. As the first phase of this war for Croatian independence draws to an end, the spiritual leader of the Croatian Catholics cordially agreed to review the situation with *EIR* in a conversation with Umberto Pascali on Jan. 25. The interview has been translated from Italian by *EIR*.

"I also salute all the Croats in America, Canada and in the whole world, they have been the collective ambassador of Croatia. Now is the time to devote ourselves to the reconstruction of what has been destroyed. I think we need to organize diocese to diocese and city to city links, sister city relations, for example, to rebuild the many churches that have been destroyed or damaged, the villages, the cities of Croatia."

During the months of the terrible war of aggression against Croatia, Cardinal Kuharic has exerted himself in thousands of ways for his people, both in Croatia and abroad, yet at no time has he made any concessions to localism and he has vigorously fought all vindictive and revanchist tendencies. The dialogue with the Serbian Orthodox Church, despite his lucid analysis of the "earthly" manipulations to which it has been subjected, remains one of the Cardinal's basic commitments.

At the same time, the Cardinal's deep affection toward his people and his concern for the future, for the reconstruction, are evident. He hopes for the pursuit of a "cautious" method based on the encyclical *Centesimus Annus*, distant from both collectivism and "unbridled capitalism." In talking with a magazine published in the United States, the conversation necessarily touched on his visit here at the beginning of November, his heartfelt speech on Nov. 11 to the U.S. Catholic bishops meeting in Washington, and his letter to George Bush.

The Cardinal wrote in that letter, in part: "The new Constitution of Croatia clearly guarantees the full rights of all citizens who live in the democratic state of Croatia. The Church is making every effort to bring about peace and reconciliation. The good that the Church seeks for the Croatian people, we also desire for all people who live within our

borders. We have this same wish for the Serbian people. . . . This war of fierce aggression on our homeland and our freedom is a blemish on the entire body of Europe and the free world. . . . We are of the firm opinion that in order that peace may be achieved and the aggression of war come to an end, it is necessary that full diplomatic recognition be given to the republics of Slovenia and Croatia, as well as to the other republics which seek, under international law, independence and security within their own borders.

"Having full confidence in your personal efforts and stand for freedom and justice, we implore you, Mr. President, to intercede on our behalf. With your great sense of compassion and the authority and position you have in the world, you can bring an end to this war so that peace once again can come to the suffering people, not only Croatians, but all others who are feeling the devastating effects of this senseless violence. With great hope, we anticipate your understanding and help."

But not only did that help not arrive, but today the Bush administration stands stubbornly isolated in its non-recognition.

**EIR:** After six months of war of aggression, Croatia is now recognized by a large part of the world. As the spiritual leader of your country, what is your overview at this point of the war of independence?

**Kuharic:** The recognition is a reality and favorable to peace. The governments that have recognized Croatia as an independent, sovereign, and free state have confirmed the fundamental principles of the coexistence among the peoples, because all peoples have the right to live free in their own homeland, in their own land, in order to build positive, friendly relations with other free peoples. Thus now a recognized Croatia enters into the circle of nations, of the free states of Europe and the world, and can represent itself, can speak on its own behalf, can express its culture, its history, and can develop its identity. Thus it is an absolutely positive situation.

Thus now all the states that have recognized Croatia should insist so that their decision be respected and replicated both by the Serbian government and Army, so as to stop a war against a free and independent state. The cease-fire is fragile, it is true, but it holds despite provocations because the Croatian Army does not respond to those provocations. We hope there will now be a strong dialogue for the peace



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*There are two forms of atheism. There is a theoretical atheism, which denies God, and there is another atheism that says: Yes, yes, God exists, but I want to live as I please, not as God has commanded in his precepts.*

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of Croatia and all these lands.

**EIR:** When you visited the United States in November, you gave an extraordinary speech in front of the Bishops' Conference. You spoke also about a letter you had sent to President Bush, asking that he intercede for recognition. But the administration is still digging in its heels. The Croatian community here is very disappointed and hurt by this attitude. Many Croatians stress how among the very first states to recognize the independence of the United States was the republic of Dubrovnik, the Croatia of the time. . . .

**Kuharic:** It is true, but now the situation is very different. I hope the United States will come out for recognition because they promised that, if Europe recognized Croatia, then they would follow suit. We rely on hope. In diplomatic circles a joint U.S.-Russia recognition was rumored. In a recent interview to a magazine from Zagreb, the U.S. ambassador, Zimmerman, said he favored Croatia's freedom. He said also that, maybe, there is the possibility to change the U.S. position. Why does the United States not recognize us? I do not know. Maybe there are special reasons. . . .

**EIR:** The Croatian Catholic Church has always had a crucial role in the national history. . . .

**Kuharic:** The Croatian Catholic Churches follow the universal principles that are valid for everybody and everywhere. Thus, the principles of human rights, of national rights, of the dignity of the human person, of freedom, of justice. It pursues these principles also in the democratic state of Croatia. It always calls for peace, for forgiveness, reconciliation, and works so that nobody falls into the temptation of hate and revenge. We are always and everywhere in favor of the respect of the rights of all men and of the minority, so that there will be a real democracy. This is what the Croatian Church says today.

**EIR:** You have been one of the protagonists of the recent Synod that saw the Bishops of both eastern and western Europe gathered together for the first time. The Synod stressed the necessity of the strengthening Europe. How do you see the role of Croatia in this new Europe?

**Kuharic:** Croatia is a country with a great majority of Catholics. It is a country with 13 centuries of evangelization. It is part of western Europe. Now, in this particular moment, Croatia must carry out a great moral and spiritual renewal

because, after so many years of communism, one can see, the profound consequences of an atheistic system perpetuated by the school system and the mass media. We must reawaken the Catholic conscience of the people. A major work of re-evangelization, a major moral and spiritual renewal awaits us. And this is true regarding both eastern and western Europe.

**EIR:** If on one side there is the clear danger of communism, on the other there is the danger of free-market extremism. Two parallel dangers.

**Kuharic:** There are two forms of atheism. There is a theoretical atheism, which denies God, which denies also the spiritual dimension of the individual and his eternal destiny, and there is another atheism that does not deny God, but denies to God the right to guide the life of man. This practical atheism says: Yes, yes, God exists, but I want to live as I please, not as God has commanded in his precepts. It is a liberalism that leads to moral nihilism. It is present in the West exactly as it is present in the East under the form of the consequences of theoretical atheism: as pessimism and hedonism.

**EIR:** One of the elements of this phenomenon is reflected in the economic domain, in the sense of unbridled liberalism; for example in the repeated efforts to apply, in countries barely liberated from communism, the super-monetarist model associated with the name of Jeffrey Sachs. We have seen this model in action in the Yugoslavia of three years ago, in Poland, and today in Yeltsin's Russia. Applying this "shock" method creates more problems than it pretends to solve. Many say that there is no better way to cause a country to return to communism.

**Kuharic:** The Pope wrote clearly in the encyclical, *Centesimus Annus*, that we must follow neither socialism, nor unbridled capitalism, but that also in economics a new model must be found, in which man, the human person, will be the norm for justice; and hence the individual will be subject of the economic system, and not [an object to] be overwhelmed, and dominated. Today modern society, after communism, after the experience of collectivism which has had so many negative results, but also after the experience of unbridled capitalism, this society must rethink how to organize social life so that it may be truly just, in favor of the dignity of the individual human being, of the family, of life. Today we

must study more attentively the social doctrine of the Church.

**EIR:** The government of ex-Yugoslavia hired Jeffrey Sachs with his "economic shock therapy."

**Kuharic:** Let us hope that we do not have to follow these models. I hope that Croatia will be cautious. I think that Croatia will try to find its way. Now here they are studying laws. We have a Constitution and now we must apply it with legislation. It is much work, many laws left over from the communist period must be changed.

**EIR:** How do you see the future of relations with the Serbian Orthodox Church?

**Kuharic:** The Catholic Church is always open to dialogue with the Orthodox Church. I want to reemphasize that the Church opposes absolutely any kind of vengeance and all hatred. At the moment a dialogue between the two churches does exist. The Orthodox Church agreed to it; just this week there was a meeting in St. Gall, Switzerland between representatives of the two churches, under the patronage of the European Bishops' Conference. I have just received the delegates who returned from the meeting. At the end it was decided to take the dialogue up again here in Zagreb or in Belgrade. Now, one hopes for a little more peace.

**EIR:** The recent letter from the Serbian Orthodox Patriarch, Pavle, seemed to many to be very polemical.

**Kuharic:** It was a political letter, perhaps dictated by someone [else]. Let us hope now that the atmosphere has changed. The Orthodox Church in Croatia must accept reality. Until now it has not recognized the Croatian state. It recognized only the Yugoslav state. The Orthodox Church in Croatia must have all the guarantees and all the liberty for carrying out its pastoral work. We are determined to do everything so that their liberty will be guaranteed *in toto*, but they must accept the reality of the Croatian state. They cannot expect the creation of a Greater Serbia. There will be no Greater Serbia. There will be a Serbian state and there will be a Croatian state. One would expect that the Serbian Orthodox Church should make its voice heard against aggression, against the destruction of churches, of hospitals, villages, cities. Because if there were a war on Serbian territory, if Croatia were to wage a war of aggression against Serbia, we Catholics would raise our voices against this, and we have the right to expect the same from them.

More generally I must say that the relations between the Orthodox and Catholic churches have been undermined by prejudices. The Serbian Orthodox Church is perhaps too much tied to national policy, a policy which is not always in favor of justice toward one's neighbors. Perhaps this exerts some influence over the attitude of some of the representatives of the Orthodox church. I would wish to see a free church, open to sincere and fair dialogue, and I want to hope that relations are more favorable to ecumenicism.

## Situation getting desperate in Armenia

In late January, *EIR's* correspondents in Germany received a dramatic report from the Yerevan member of parliament Haik Babokhanian on the situation in Armenia. The most dangerous developments are in Karabakh, the Armenian enclave within the territory of Azerbaidzhan, the neighboring republic of the former U.S.S.R. which has been in conflict with Armenia for several years. The people are suffering under a total blockade by the Azeri military, which has cut off cities and villages from electricity, gas, water, and food supplies. The people have no bread. In addition, in recent days five cities have been bombed by the military, and several civilians have died as a result.

The troops of Mutalibov, the President of Azerbaidzhan, are directly going against the civilian population. Every day citizens of Karabakh are being massacred, often in such a bestial way, that the population becomes terrorized. Karabakh is completely cut off from Armenia.

Things are not much better in Armenia itself, which continues to be blockaded by its Muslim neighbors. Shortages of gas, oil, and electricity are rampant. Very little gas remains to heat houses and apartments in the cold of winter. Children go early to bed in order to try to huddle together for warmth. Electricity is turned off six hours a day. Due to lack of energy, the factories are idle, so people are without jobs and wages. The liberalization of prices means that families are uncertain of meeting the high costs of necessities. With a monthly income of 300 rubles one can no longer afford butter at 135 rubles a kilogram or meat at 75 rubles/kg. Particularly hard hit are families with many children and old people, whose incomes are under 200 rubles. Poverty and despair are spreading fast. Because the civil war is raging in Georgia, and has still not ended, rail links to Georgia have also been blocked. The only way to get out of the country is by airplane, but because of lack of fuel, at most two planes a day leave the airport in Yerevan.

No aid has been offered from the West, in contrast to numerous offers of help extended to Moscow. The only aid is coming from the Armenian diaspora in Europe and America. The governments are doing nothing. Bush's recent conference in Washington about coordinating help for the cities in Armenia is understood as mere theater, which will do nothing to help the people in these winter months.

# Cuban executed in U.S.-Fidel deal

by Carlos Wesley

The Jan. 20 execution of Cuban exile Eduardo Díaz Betancourt by Cuba's communist regime may have been designed to strengthen Fidel Castro's hold on power, by smashing the resistance within Cuba. The killing was seen as another step in the elaborate ballet between Castro and the U.S., as the U.S. government negotiates the sort of power-sharing arrangement with the Cuban dictatorship which it has already completed with El Salvador's FMLN guerrillas and Nicaragua's Sandinistas.

On Jan. 16, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Cuba's Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca held talks in Mexico at the signing of the so-called peace accords on El Salvador. During the talks, mediated by Sandinista leader Danny Ortega, the former President of Nicaragua, Baker told Malmierca that the U.S. would like Cuba to hold Sandinista-style elections, but Malmierca said no, at least not yet, according to Ortega. "I simply made the point," said Baker, "that the United States would support free and fair elections in Cuba, that we did not represent a threat to Cuba."

Malmierca told the media in Mexico that there have been ongoing talks for sometime between the U.S. and Cuba to resolve the "contradictions" between the two countries. The principal stumbling blocks to improved relations, said the Cuban foreign minister, was the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo and the over 30-year-old U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.

This followed a visit to Cuba by former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara. "There is no threat to U.S. security from Cuba today. I say that quite categorically," McNamara said in Havana on Jan 12.

Díaz was captured along with Cuban-Americans Pedro Alvarez Pedroso and Daniel Santovenia Fernández attempting to infiltrate Cuba from the U.S. last Dec. 29. They were carrying arms and explosives, with the intention of launching a terror campaign to bring down the government, Díaz said at trial. The infiltrators allegedly had on them names, addresses, and phone numbers of leaders of the opposition in Cuba.

According to the Jan. 25 *Diario Las Americas*, published in Miami, there were reports "that the government of the United States could be acting as an informer for the Fidel Castro regime regarding the infiltration of commandos into the island." The FBI, CIA, and other U.S. agencies are fully aware of the activities of the anti-Castro groups that deployed

the three men, but did nothing to stop the suicide mission.

In fact, the U.S. limited itself to pro forma condemnation of the Castro government for executing Díaz, a recent emigré from Cuba (the other two, who had long been resident in the U.S., had their death sentences commuted). White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "We in no way approve of the activities of these three men." The U.S. will criticize Cuba at the U.N. Human Rights Commission current session, which opened in Geneva on Jan. 27.

But, at the same time, the U.S. and Cuba are conducting talks, supposedly to update an immigration agreement. The State Department said the talks are to "normalize relations in areas that are important to us," reported UPI, although there are no immediate plans to lift the embargo, for fear of alienating the politically influential Cuban-American community in an election year.

## Living standards of slaves in the 1840s

The idea that three invaders could overthrow the Castro brothers was ludicrous and doomed from the outset. But it did give Castro an excuse to round up the leaders of the internal resistance, at a time when the collapse of the Soviet Union and his own economic mismanagement has driven the island back to the 19th century—at best.

There has been severe rationing of electricity and fuel since the disappearance of the U.S.S.R., formerly Cuba's principal oil supplier. In the countryside, public transportation often depends on horse-drawn buses, and even ambulances are horse-drawn, according to the regime's own propaganda.

According to an article in the Jan. 24 *Wall Street Journal* by Vicente Echerri, the average per capita caloric intake "is not only inferior to the Cuban diet of the 1950s, but also to the nutritional ration allocated to slaves in the colonial Cuba of 1842." But the blockade is not solely responsible for Cuba's economic mess.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government and media are still silent on the charges made in the interview in the Mexican magazine *Proceso* by Iliana de la Guardia, whose father, Col. Antonio de la Guardia, was executed in 1989 by the Castro regime for alleged drug trafficking. While her father was guilty, she said he was trafficking drugs on orders of the Castro regime to get foreign exchange. In fact, Fidel Castro personally asked him to take care of Medellín Cartel co-founder Robert Vesco, the fugitive financier and former U.S. Republican Party moneybags, who has been given asylum in Cuba.

Leaders of anti-Castro groups complain that the Bush administration is not interested in an opposition that is not controlled by the Anglo-Americans coming to power. Thus the U.S. taxpayer-funded National Endowment for Democracy has upped its budget to "bring democracy to Cuba." The money is being spent to pay for activities such as the Jan. 28 conference on Cuba sponsored by the Republican Party's International Republican Institute.

# U.N. vote overturns international law

by Joseph Brewda

On Jan. 20, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution formally arrogating to itself the right to overturn international law under the pretext of combatting terrorism, in this case relating to alleged Libyan responsibility for downing a Pan American jet over Scotland in December 1988. The British-sponsored resolution, which passed 15-0, is part of a larger complex of resolutions that were mostly adopted at the time of the Gulf war, which gave that body the supposed authority to violate national sovereignty out of professed concern for "human rights," "minority rights," and the like.

In enthusiastic comments to the press after the passage of the resolution, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Thomas Pickering emphasized: "The resolution makes clear that neither Libya nor any other state can seek to hide support for international terrorism behind traditional principles of international law and state practice." British Ambassador David Hanney claimed that Libyan and other citations of international law were "simply irrelevant."

The permanent member-states of the Security Council—Britain, the U.S., France, Russia, and China—are intent on imposing a global dictatorship under the cover of such measures. An unprecedented meeting of the Permanent Five heads of state, called by Britain and set for Jan. 31 at U.N. headquarters in New York, is meant to further this process.

## Colonies have no rights

Resolution 23422 demands that Libya "immediately provide a full and effective response" to British and American demands that it surrender two alleged Libyan agents for trial over the downing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. It requires that Libya disclose all that it knows of the crime and pay appropriate compensation.

The passage of the resolution followed weeks of sensational media claims that Libyan agents carried out the atrocity, substituting for earlier claims that Syria and Iran were responsible. Claims against the latter two states were quietly dropped when they allied with the Anglo-Americans in their war against Iraq, a war Libya had opposed. British and U.S. federal authorities indicted the two Libyans in November, and demanded their extradition.

From a legal standpoint, the resolution and extradition

demands are wildly contrary to normal practice. The resolution presumes that the investigation of the crash is complete, which it is not. In fact it is not even currently known at what airport the presumed bomb which destroyed the plane was placed onboard. It presumes that extradition of the two accused should immediately follow, although evidence is lacking—in fact no evidence has been formally presented to Libyan authorities at all. It presumes that the two Libyans had already been tried and convicted in British and American courts, which they have not. Implicitly, the resolution presumes that the accused are guilty until found innocent. Further, there are no extradition treaties providing for the two alleged terrorists' surrender by Libya to either the United States or Britain. Extradition to and by whom? Perhaps through the same means that the U.S. Justice Department acquired Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega?

If any state's Attorney General, from, say, Virginia or Oregon, were to attempt to extradite someone from Illinois or Florida, based on the reasoning used by the U.N. Security Council, he or she would be thrown out of court. As Libyan Industry Minister Jadallah Belgassem told the Security Council, the resolution "contradicts the established principles and fundamentals not only in my country, but also in the constitutions of different countries of the world."

## Bombs away

If Libya does not promptly turn over the two alleged terrorists, then "the council is ready to face up to its full responsibilities," in the words of Ambassador Pickering. "The voice of the international community in this regard is clear and determined." Already, according to U.S. press leaks, the U.S. Air Force has drawn up contingency plans for bombing Libyan air and sea ports, industrial infrastructure, and, above all, the recently completed "Great Man-made River" pipeline, which carries water from southern aquifers to the coast. The pipeline will make Libya food self-sufficient, which the imperial powers consider in itself to be a cause for war.

In order to prepare the mood for the coming raid, which some project for U.S. presidential primary season this spring, CIA director Robert Gates testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee the same week that the U.N. resolution was adopted. There, Gates railed against the threat of "Arab terrorism," warning that "developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process are likely to stimulate attacks against various participants," including the United States. In the same testimony, Gates warned that Libya had stockpiled up to 100 tons of chemical weapons.

Meanwhile, to ensure that the Third World knows there is unanimity in the new world order, it was Russia's top U.N. official, Undersecretary General Vasily Safronchuk, who was dispatched to Libya to inform Col. Muammar Qaddafi that he had better cooperate, or he would get the Iraq treatment.

# German neo-Nazis 'made in U.S.A.'

by Rainer Apel

At a press conference in Vienna on Jan. 17, Austrian Interior Minister Franz Loeschnak and Vienna Chief of Police Günther Bogl dropped a bombshell, presenting evidence that a group of 20 Austrian neo-Nazis that had been exposed over the preceding days, was receiving logistical and financial support from the Nebraska-based Nazi party (NSDAP-AO) of Gary Lauck, and other extremist groups in the United States.

Then on Jan. 20, at press conferences in Budapest and Vienna, similar charges were made by Hungarian police authorities. In the city of Győr, Hungary, a group of seven extremists was arrested, along with weapons and munitions, in a joint Hungary-Austria search effort.

In Germany, the Federal Prosecutor's office and the Berlin anti-extremism authorities launched probes last autumn into support for European neo-Nazis by the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).

Police spokesmen were reluctant to give out detailed information, but they said at the Jan. 17 Vienna press conference that a lot of arms and explosives were found with the group, as well as evidence of live plans for political assassinations. The Vienna-based group had been planning "the violent overthrow of the Austrian government" and "assassination of President Kurt Waldheim, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, and Interior Minister Franz Loeschnak," journalists learned.

## The U.S. connection

The police findings confirmed the bragging of a certain Dennis Mahon of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Grand Dragon of the KKK there, about how he had helped instruct German and other neo-Nazis in guerrilla warfare. In a mid-November interview with the *Tulsa Tribune*, Mahon said that he had just returned from a tour of Germany where he had trained neo-Nazi youth.

The Klan and other U.S.-based racist groups are not just active in Germany, but also in other European countries. These transatlantic links have been well known and partially documented for several years. The main question is what the U.S. authorities intend to do about the problem.

"Gary Lauck of the United States, who prints and ships all of this [Nazi propaganda] into our country, has become a major problem for us," Tilo Jochem of the German Federal Anti-Crime Agency (BKA), told Chris Wallace of ABC News "PrimeTime," in a feature on the neo-Nazi issue aired

Jan. 2, "We would like the American authorities to help us."

But they are not helping, and counter-extremism experts in Germany have been wondering for some time why the U.S. authorities never moved against Lauck.

The fact is, that the intelligence services of several nations have long deployed extremist groups for their own political purposes. At this point in history, the Anglo-American establishment is trying to block the emergence of reunified Germany as a political force, by raising the bogey of "the threat of a Fourth Reich." This is where the two-bit neo-Nazi groups fit in.

On the ABC News program, the KKK's Mahon had a forum for his racist propaganda. He was filmed at a secret meeting of German neo-Nazis in the forests around Berlin, shouting: "*Sieg Heil, meine Kameraden!* I come to you from America as a fellow brother in the struggle for your race and your future. We are in this forest now to show solidarity with you from America."

Also on the program, Gottfried Küssel, an Austrian neo-Nazi, announced: "We will have war in Germany. . . . It will be the big bang. . . . The big bang is war on the streets, violent war on the streets with guns and with riots and so on."

Shortly after the program was transmitted, Austrian police located and arrested the 20-man neo-Nazi group. Küssel, Vienna Chief of Police Bogl said, was suspected of being "at the center of an international distribution network" of neo-Nazi propaganda and logistics from the United States into the German-speaking parts of Europe. U.S.-printed propaganda was also found with that 20-man group.

## Target for investigation: the ADL

European security officials anxious to find out more about the "American connection" would do well to start their probe at the United Nations Plaza headquarters of the Anti-Defamation League in New York City. For years, the ADL has maintained an army of agents provocateurs inside the radical right in the United States.

While no direct evidence exists at this point that either Lauck or Mahon is currently on the ADL dole, several leads do exist.

Lauck started out as the right-hand man of another self-described Hitler fan, the Chicago-based Frank Collin. In the mid-1970s, Collin grabbed headlines when he led a Nazi Party march through the Chicago suburb of Skokie, a town heavily populated by Jewish eastern European refugees who were survivors of the Nazi concentration camps. It later turned out that Collin was himself Jewish, and was probably supported in his Skokie stunt by the Chicago office of the ADL, which helped organize a large counter-demonstration.

A few years later, in an even more blatant instance of ADL shenanigans, Jewish Defense League figure Mordechai Levy was caught organizing a neo-Nazi and KKK rally in Philadelphia.



## East German 'dirty networks' survived

*The case of 'Tageszeitung' editor Till Meyer is a real eye-opener on continuing terrorist contacts with the Stasi after unification.*

About 75% of the daily news in Germany is presently absorbed by new revelations about the depth of penetration that the Stasi, the East German secret police, had within its own population and within select West German institutions. A special law, put into effect on Jan. 1, gives German citizens access to the millions of file-cards and other data of the Stasi, so that they can read what was written about them, who spied on them, and who authorized such spying operations.

Rumors that there are personal data on 6 million former East Germans—of a total population of 17 million—may be exaggerated, but there are many files, indeed. The Stasi even had informants among families: Children spied on their parents, husbands on their wives, etc.

The western aspect of this story is also extremely interesting: It is on the public record now that senior members of churches, the scientific institutions, political parties, and especially the media were on the payroll of the Stasi, some for many years. The case of Till Meyer, a leading journalist at the leftist Berlin daily *Tageszeitung*, whose identity as a longtime Stasi informer was made known in mid-January, is particularly revealing. (Meyer has meanwhile admitted he had worked for the East Germans "out of political conviction.")

A co-founder of the 1967 "June 2nd Movement" in West Berlin, a forerunner to the terrorist RAF/Baader Meinhof gang, Meyer was involved in the 1975 abduction of Berlin CDU politician Jürgen Lorenz. He was arrested for the kidnapping and sentenced

to 15 years of jail, not expecting release earlier than the early 1990s. But in early 1978, a team of RAF terrorists led by Inge Viett liberated him from the Berlin Moabit prison, escaped to East Berlin, and traveled on to Bulgaria. All of that occurred with the explicit approval of the Stasi, which maintained a special channel of communication with Viett.

Several months later, Meyer was spotted and arrested in Bulgaria by a West German police squad, with the consent of the Bulgarian government. The exact circumstances of that police operation remain rather mysterious to this day. Inge Viett, however, a member of the hard-core of the RAF who should have been arrested, was allowed by Bulgaria's authorities to escape to Czechoslovakia and from there back to East Germany. Viett was finally arrested along with Christian Klar and other RAF members on east German territory during the German reunification process in 1990.

The East Germans safehoused Viett and her core group in late 1978, and allowed them to redeploy to the West via the Mideast, sometime in early 1979. The whole group was back in its various hideouts outside Germany (France, Belgium, and the Netherlands) in 1980 and began to map out another series of spectacular terrorist attacks on senior NATO officials and German politicians. Assassination attempts against Gen. Alexander Haig and Gen. Frederick Kroesen failed, fortunately.

During the entire period, Viett maintained close contact with the Stasi, and this also enabled her to es-

cape arrest by West German anti-terrorism search squads. Well-placed informants for the Stasi in West Germany had provided crucial information about ongoing or planned police operations, giving early warning to the RAF group.

This takes us back to Till Meyer. Released early from prison in 1986, Meyer became an editor at the Berlin semi-underground daily, *Tageszeitung*. His job was to monitor new developments in the police and in counterterrorism, and security matters in general, where he was able to spread a lot of disinformation about the RAF/Baader Meinhof, saying they were hiding out in the Mideast when they were in East Germany, preparing for another round of terrorist attacks. Meyer also passed on useful information to the Stasi on how much counterterrorism experts knew in the West about core members of the RAF group, like Inge Viett and Christian Klar, who had withdrawn from active terrorism and "retired" in East Germany. His disinformation prevented many counter-terrorism experts from recognizing that a new generation of the RAF "command-level" had replaced the core around Viett and Klar in the mid-1980s.

Stasi Lt. Helmut Voigt, in charge of operative contacts to the terrorist scene in and outside Europe, was the one receiving Meyer's information. Voigt oversaw the combat training of select RAF members in machineguns, explosives, and the Soviet-made RPG-7 anti-tank missile (that type was used against General Kroesen near Heidelberg a year later!) at a remote East German Army camp near the Polish border in 1981. He disappeared from view after the events of November 1989, and is said to have joined those "out-of-work intelligence agents" who work with terrorists underground.

## The Envigado scandal

*Those who are fighting the sellout to the cartels and narco-terrorists are asking, "Who really rules in Colombia?"*

The widely read Colombian magazine *Semana* reported in mid-January that Medellín Cartel chieftain Pablo Escobar is using his Envigado prison-estate as a protected command center for his trafficking operations and assassination bureau. Citing unnamed government sources, *Semana* revealed that Escobar's top hit-man, Dandenys Muñoz Mosquera, had casually crossed several lines of prison guards—both military and civilian—to visit the cartel "godfather" in his prison last September. Muñoz Mosquera, who had just escaped from a Colombian jail cell, was accompanied by his brother, a fellow assassin and fugitive. Neither man was challenged, much less detained, and the brothers then proceeded to New York on a suspected assassination assignment. An anonymous tip led to Dandenys Muñoz Mosquera's capture there.

*Semana's* revelations follow on the heels of the new book *Mi Guerra en Medellín*, by retired Army Col. Augusto Bahamón, which reports that Escobar owns the land where his made-to-order prison is located, and chose his own prison guards from amongst his criminal cohorts (see *EIR*, Jan. 24).

Fabio Ochoa, the scion of the infamous Ochoa clan which runs the Medellín Cartel along with Escobar, has publicly protested the claim that the cartel prisons are luxurious or that criminals enter and leave them at will. Ochoa added that, in his view, the best Colombian government in the past ten years has been the current one under César Gaviria.

"Who Rules in Colombia?" was the striking headline of an article appearing in the Jan. 19 issue of the Bogotá daily *El Espectador*, written by former Justice Minister Enrique Parejo González, which challenged the unprecedented vacuum of legitimate power that currently exists in Colombia. "Regarding the violence, we are worse off now than before the surrender of the members of the so-called Medellín Cartel. The massacres continue, the assassinations are constant, insecurity is rampant, the impunity more alarming than ever. . . . The peace policy has been a failure."

Parejo had written an open letter to Attorney General Gustavo Arrieta Padilla three days earlier, citing the *Semana* and Bahamón revelations and demanding an official investigation. That investigation is now being reluctantly pursued by Justice Minister Fernando Carrillo and Defense Minister Rafael Pardo.

Carrillo, a former delegate to the 1990 National Constituent Assembly which banned the extradition to the U.S. of drug traffickers, shut down the National Congress and rewrote Colombia's Constitution, made headlines recently with his insistence that Escobar was becoming "more like any other prisoner in the penal system" every day. As Justice Minister, Carrillo has refused to investigate charges that President César Gaviria Trujillo personally covered up the existence of a videotape purportedly containing evidence that nearly one-half of the delegates to that Constituent Assembly had been bribed by the drug cartel. Trujillo is currently employed in per-

petuating the myth that Escobar and the other cartel chieftains who "surrendered" will receive the full weight of the law in their upcoming trials,

While it conducts its so-called "investigation" of the Envigado scandal, the Gaviria government has already moved full-steam ahead to conclude its sporadic peace negotiations with the narco-terrorist FARC. The government's newly named "peace adviser" is Horacio Serpa Uribe, one of three former co-presidents of the infamous National Constituent Assembly, and the treasurer for the failed 1990 presidential campaign of Ernesto Samper Pizano. Samper's main claims to fame are his close association with ex-President Alfonso López Michelsen, the political godfather of the drug trade in Colombia; and his persistent advocacy of drug legalization, going back to 1979.

Serpa told the nation Jan. 20 that "the peace dialogue will have to yield results" sooner or later, because of "the great effort we are making." Indeed, the government has been bending over backwards to accommodate the FARC; re-initiating contact again and again with the narco-terrorists despite their escalating involvement in drug trafficking, kidnaping, murder, and terrorism.

Indeed, the narc-FARC, as they are commonly known in Colombia, have reportedly taken advantage of the government-enforced lull in anti-subversive operations during 1991 to build 21 new fronts inside the country. According to the Jan. 27 *El Espectador*, intelligence reports indicate that the FARC has financed these new fronts through 70% control of the newly developed opium-heroin trade in at least eight Colombian provinces. The result, says *El Espectador*, is that the FARC "has today become one of the leading drug cartels in the country."

## Clearing things up on Chinese art

Due to an editorial lapse, the wrong picture was printed as one of the illustrations to Michael Billington's article, "Circa 1492: A Deeper Look at Asian Art," on pp. 56-59 of our Jan. 24 issue. Reproduced below is a detail from the intended **Figure 4**, the large horizontal scroll *Clearing After Snowfall*, by Shi Zhong of 1504. As mentioned by the author, this artist was influenced by the "Wild and Heterodox" school that emerged out of the Daoist/Buddhist swamp in the Tang dynasty in the 8th century; a school that confused painting with throwing ink on silk (a technique mistakenly believed by some today, to be "modern"). We also reproduce again the painted silk scroll which we printed in error, Tang Yin's *Clearing After Snow on a Mountain Pass*, from the National Museum in Taipei, a smaller work of approximately the same date and subject-matter. The latter is much closer to the classical, Confucian-influenced tradition, which Billington contrasted in the article to the *wen ren* degeneracy that hit bottom with the "Heterodox" artists. Although these scrolls do not reproduce well, especially in black and white, the "scribbly" methods of the first are in evident contrast to the refined detail of the Tang Yin landscape and to its complex, conservatively organized composition, which harkens back to a style of the 12th century which the artist was deliberately imitating.

It should be mentioned also, in **Figure 3** the album-leaf we illustrated was Shen Zhou's *Landscape With Figures*, rather than Wen Zhengming's *Rainy and Windy Landscape* as stated in the caption. Both, however, belonged to the same set, and are of similar character.



Courtesy National Gallery of Art

Tang Yin, "Clearing After Snow," early 16th century, National Palace Museum, Taipei. Painted silk scroll, 27x14".



Courtesy National Gallery of Art

Shi Zhong's "Clearing After Snowfall," detail, dated 1504, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Handscroll, ink on paper, 10x135".

# International Intelligence

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## ***Chevènement: Iraq war was to prop up Bush's image***

Former French defense minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement charged, in a speech at the Institut Français in Freiburg, Germany, on Jan. 17, that the war against Iraq was "avoidable, useless, and disproportionate," and that a negotiated solution was possible, but President Bush rejected that option from the start. Bush opted instead for a war which he hoped would rebuild his shaken domestic popularity.

Chevènement resigned from his post in the government of President François Mitterrand shortly after the outbreak of the war last year, in opposition to Mitterrand's support for the Anglo-American policy.

The former minister in his speech described the results of the war: Kuwait was liberated, but the old oil monarchy was put back on the throne; Lebanon—a longtime zone of French influence—has come under Syrian control; the U.N. embargo against Iraq is mainly affecting the "unfortunate population," and the Kurdish problem is still unresolved.

Moreover, the war whipped up Islamic fundamentalism, especially in the Maghreb states, and racism in various European countries in response, said Chevènement. The lesson to be drawn is that Europe gains no advantage by following the directives of the one remaining superpower, but rather should work out a genuine policy and defense of its own, he declared.

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## ***Euthanasia advocate in Germany is in trouble***

Henning Atrott, the president of the German Society for a Humane Death (DGHS), has come under criminal investigation for his role in selling cyanide pills to a patient in a psychiatric hospital and assisting the patient to take them. The patient, who was supposedly being "helped" to commit suicide because he suffered from an AIDS-related psychosis, died. Although he did have AIDS, it was not true that he was psychotic.

The "liberal" DGHS is the counterpart

of the Hemlock Society in the United States, and is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people.

Atrott's murderous campaign for "death with dignity" has been opposed by the Club of Life and its founder, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, since the Club was founded in 1982.

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## ***Vice President Rutskoy says Russia faces chaos***

Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, one of the chief critics of the economic policy of Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, warned in a recent interview that chaos and lawlessness are becoming the order of the day.

Rutskoy has not made any public statements since early January, when he apparently went into a hospital for a routine checkup of war wounds from the Afghan war. A Dec. 25 interview with him was published in the January issue of *Argumenty i Fakty*. It begins with the following lines: "I am like the emperor without clothes," Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy told our correspondent N. Zhelnorova, referring to his current position—a title, but no power."

Rutskoy warned that "it is impossible to make a transition from dictatorship to democracy bypassing the process of firm authority, the power of the law. Therefore, we are now in the most vulgar, banal dictatorship—the dictatorship of the street and that of street leaders."

Asked who has the real power in Russia, Rutskoy replied: "Everybody talks about combatting crime, but nobody does anything. Crime will decrease when we start to show seriously that we care about our people. . . . But crime feeds on the young. Look at the students' stipends and the price of slacks, shoes, dresses. Thus—prostitution, drug dealing, profiteering, racketeering.

"We do not have a real power today. Power is where the laws are observed. Everybody disregards them these days."

He denounced the current economic policy of the government: "It is unacceptable

that we are pushing millions of people into poverty. Before the great perestroika started, we had 20 million people below the poverty line; now we have 100 million."

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## ***Anti-Beijing reporter in Hong Kong is killed***

The leading anti-Beijing journalist in Hong Kong, Chan Kang-nan, was assassinated on Jan. 27. He was an outspoken anticommunist, as well as an opponent of the independence movement in Taiwan. Chan was bludgeoned to death in his apartment building by two men, who didn't take several thousand dollars that he had in his pocket.

His murder follows by two months a public attack by the P.R.C. government against the Hong Kong press corps, who were threatened as lawbreakers who would be prosecuted for their attacks on the Beijing leaders, after Communist China takes over control of Hong Kong from Britain in 1997.

Chan, who wrote for the *Express*, a leading Chinese newspaper, had recently exposed an attempt by Beijing to set up an "advisory" team of prominent Hong Kong residents to prepare for 1997, which is seen as an attempt to force through P.R.C. policy in the period before the turnover. Chan is famous for many articles exposing P.R.C. corruption and swindles, especially in the Special Economic Zones, and for having many reliable sources within the P.R.C.

Sources close to the deceased say that the hit most likely came from Communist Party leaders in the south of China, rather than from Beijing. They also report that in the colonial environment of Hong Kong, where protection from the British is not to be expected, the hit will have a significant effect in silencing criticism of the P.R.C.

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## ***Mitterrand's party suffers election losses***

The Socialist Party of French President François Mitterrand lost large percentages in legislative and cantonal elections which took place Jan. 26. In the north, the SP lost

18% against the Greens and the National Front in a legislative election, and lost entirely in four cantonal elections.

Even more humiliating, the "elephants" of the Socialist Party—the top national leaders—were booed and kicked out of an anti-racist demonstration organized by left-wing layers in Paris on Jan. 25, which brought out some 50,000 people. The organizers of the demonstration asked former prime minister Michel Rocard, Socialist Party president Laurent Fabius, Pierre Mauroy, and others to leave, accusing them of attempting to co-opt the movement (which was originally set up by the Socialists).

## **Brainin leads trio in concert at 'Verdi' tuning**

For the first time in recent history, three piano trios were performed in concert at the low "Verdi" tuning of A=432 by an ensemble of some of the world's most prominent musicians. The concert in Wiesbaden (Germany) was inspired by Lyndon LaRouche's fight for a renaissance in music and the return to the scientific tuning which had prevailed until modern performers and conductors drove the pitch into the stratosphere, in search of "brilliance."

The Jan. 18 concert featured Norbert Brainin, formerly the first violinist of the Amadeus Quartet, and an endorser of LaRouche's presidential campaign; pianist Günter Ludwig; and cellist Klaus Stoppel. They played Mozart's Trio in E major, KV 542; Beethoven's Trio in D major, Op. 70, No. 1, "The Ghost"; and Schubert's Trio in E-flat major, Op. 100. Stoppel was replacing Martin Lovett, the cellist of the Amadeus Quartet, who had an accident before the concert.

According to the review published in the daily *Wiesbadener Kurier*, at the lower tuning, "the impression which the trios by Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert left on the listener, was a different one. The sound was softer, with less sharp tones, particularly in the high passages of the violin. The reason is rather easy to perceive: In fact, during the time of the classics, a tuning of C=256

(which corresponds to A=432) was used; also the art of building violins which was developed during that time, and before, was based on this. Thus, the sound quality of the instruments is richest at this tuning. . . . All in all, this was a vote for the 'new' old tuning."

LaRouche, in a campaign which has drawn great international attention in the music world, maintains that only the lower tuning corresponds appropriately to the registration of the human voice; and that therefore that tuning is indispensable to convey the poetic qualities of the musical line, as intended by the classical composers.

## **Chilean Supreme Court to ask Bush to testify**

The Supreme Court of Chile on Jan. 28 approved a judge's petition for President George Bush to testify in an investigation into the 1976 assassination of Orlando Letelier, an exiled opponent of former military ruler Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Letelier was killed in Washington in a car bombing, at a time when Bush was director of the CIA.

The former chief of Pinochet's secret police, Manuel Contreras, and his deputy Pedro Espinoza were indicted on murder charges four months ago by a Chilean judge. Contreras, who headed the feared National Information Agency (DINA), is accused of ordering the Letelier killing. His lawyers claim the CIA murdered Letelier, using anti-Castro Cuban agents.

Among the five questions the defense want to ask Bush, is whether Michael Townley, an American explosives expert who worked for DINA, was a CIA agent. Townley was expelled from Chile by the military in 1978 and confessed before a U.S. court that he went to Washington on orders from Contreras and planted the bomb under Letelier's car.

Letelier was Chilean ambassador to Washington and later foreign minister during the government of Marxist President Salvador Allende, who died in the 1973 coup led by Pinochet.

## **Briefly**

● **KAZAKHSTAN** wants to keep the nuclear weapons stationed on its territory, according to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who at the end of January visited the four "nuclear republics" of the former Soviet Union—Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

● **AN EXILED LEADER** of El Salvador's FMLN guerrilla group, Facundo Guardado, returning home on Jan. 24 pursuant to the new peace agreement, proclaimed, "We won, and victory is ours." Guardado was the architect of the prolonged assault on the capital San Salvador, in November 1989. Reuter comments that "there is a widespread impression in El Salvador that the government conceded more than its rebel adversaries in the peace accords."

● **DENG XIAOPING**, the leader of Beijing's "gang of ancients," appeared in public on Jan. 23, for the first time in nearly a year. Deng, 87, was on a holiday visit to the Special Economic Zone of Shenzhen. One Hong Kong newspaper called Deng's visit "very significant. He knows that economic failure destroyed the Soviet Union."

● **A CANADIAN** diplomat who met with Penan tribesmen and anti-logging activists in the Malaysian state of Sarawak was accused of having "blatantly interfered in Malaysia's internal affairs" by Sarawak's industrial development minister, Abang Johari Abang Openg. "I deplore such an unwarranted act by a representative of the Canadian government who has obviously abused our hospitality and openness," Abang Johari said.

● **VENEZUELAN** Foreign Minister Armando Durán traveled secretly to Cuba at the end of January to urge Fidel Castro not to execute Cuban exiles who had been captured and sentenced to death. The mission was reportedly carried out on behalf of the heads of state of Venezuela, Colombia, and Spain.



## A sorry 'State of the Union,' by an emperor in old clothes

by H. Graham Lowry

Like a snarling bully, imitating the mad Emperor Caligula, President George Bush used his State of the Union address on Jan. 28 to demand an end to the crises threatening the nation—while offering nothing but measures to worsen them.

The man who led the United States into a genocidal war against Iraq now intends to apply the same frenzied rage “to the economy that we brought to Desert Storm.” Referring to what he simply called “hard times,” Bush observed that “unemployment is too high, some industries are in trouble, and growth is not what it should be.” Echoing the refrain from his declaration of war against Iraq, he bellowed, “This will not stand!”

Though he presides over a bankrupt nation slipping deeper into depression, Bush proclaimed to the world “one sole and pre-eminent power: the United States of America.” He rhetorically crafted the impression that he had personally ended the Cold War and eliminated “imperial communism,” despite his prolonged refusal to recognize the nations which declared independence from the Soviet Union, or even the dissolution of that entity itself. Three days later, he sat down with the head of the brutal Chinese communist regime, seeking improved relations. While babbling that “the world trusts us with power” and “to do what’s right,” he made no mention of the dangerous economic crisis in the former Soviet Union, which he has chosen to exacerbate with “shock treatment” measures.

At the top of his list of “long-term” solutions, Bush clung to his deranged “free trade” policy to level the economies of nations around the globe—including the United States. “We will work to break down the walls that stop world trade. We will work to open markets everywhere . . . to eliminate tariffs and subsidies. . . .” He promised “more good American jobs” (at below subsistence wages) through the North

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

In his State of the Union message and in the budget he presented to Congress the next day, Bush proved to be an emperor in the same old clothes. The “growth package,” which his aides had ballyhooed for months, was laced with more misery for the depression’s victims and demands for greater executive powers to impose austerity.

### More economic insanity

The President who promised to create 30 million jobs during eight years in office submitted a budget document which claims to create “half a million jobs during the next four years”—less than the number *lost* just by California and New York during the past year. To “care for those in trouble today,” Bush asked for immediate action on a token, 13-week extension of unemployment benefits—which the House had already passed earlier in the day. Bush also claimed that his new transportation bill would generate “jobs building roads, jobs building bridges, and jobs building railways.” The budget he submitted the next day *cuts* this year’s spending for transportation, energy, and water projects by 10%.

Despite the devastating impact of a decade of real estate speculation on the current financial crisis, Bush declared, “Real estate has led our economy out of almost all the tough times we’ve ever had.” Now that the real estate bubble has burst, Bush wants to restore the “passive loss” rules, which allow realtors to deduct their market losses from income earned in other businesses. In hopes of pumping up another bubble, Bush also wants to “make it easier for pension plans to purchase real estate”—which should certainly make it easier to send your pension up in smoke.

But for those who can still manage to make a killing, Bush again demanded a whopping cut in the capital gains tax rate, by almost 50%. And this time, he thundered, “I cannot

take 'no' for an answer." He denounced "various so-called soak-the-rich bills that are floating around this chamber."

For those Americans who have managed to establish Individual Retirement Accounts, but cannot purchase a home, pay their medical bills, or put their children through college, Bush generously offered to permit them to liquidate their IRAs "without penalty"—but his budget projects increased federal revenues from taxing those monies as income!

### **'Austerity, like it or not!'**

Along with his belligerent declaration that the United States is "the kindest nation on earth," President Bush vowed to enforce further austerity. He pledged to "strengthen the family," and then submitted a budget which cuts funding for discretionary programs for children and families by \$433 million, or 7%. He would freeze spending for child welfare services, and reduce low-income energy assistance nearly a third, by \$435 million. He plans to waive federal regulations in order to speed up state efforts to impose "workfare," throw more people off welfare, and legitimize laws such as New Jersey just passed, to deny additional aid to mothers who have children after they are on welfare.

Bush ordered a freeze on all domestic discretionary spending and on federal employment. He would cut \$1 billion a year over the next five years from federal pensions, and have the employees pay for the difference. All of this will be imposed, Bush warned, under the existing budget law's "enforceable spending caps." He acknowledged that there are "those in Congress who would ease that discipline now. But I cannot let them do it—and I won't." Despite the Constitution's clear definition of the budgetary authority of Congress, Bush bellowed, "Maybe you need someone to help you say 'No.' . . . And you know what I need to make it stick. Give me the same thing 43 governors have: the line item veto!"

### **LaRouche's reply to the State of the Union**

While the official Democratic Party leadership—and their anointed presidential contenders—quibbled over Bush's address, none of them offered anything other than variations on what to cut. But Bush's most dangerous rival, Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, replied with a program for real economic recovery.

"Mr. Bush has no conception whatsoever of what's going on in the world—not in the slightest," LaRouche said in a statement from prison Jan. 29. "Like King Canute of England, he hopes that if he orders it done, the winds and the waves and the volcanoes and the weather systems will somehow obey his will, whenever it comes upon him to give such an order.

"On the domestic side, his program is pure farce. He has no program. Just to take an example of the problem: We have, in the United States presently, a combined federal and state budget deficit—operating deficits—of in excess of a

half-trillion dollars a year. Much of this deficit, of course, is caused by debt service, as in the case of the federal debt margin, which is caused by debt service payments chiefly.

"There are three things you can do about this. One, you could cut federal programs and state programs. That would cut jobs and programs, which would mean you'd lose more revenue from the ripple effects at the state and local level than you would save by the cuts. That doesn't work.

"You can increase taxes by a half-trillion dollars or so, on the state and federal level. That won't work either, because the gouging, by tax revenue increases, will sink the economy even deeper, and you will lose more money on the tax revenue side, from those tax rate increases, than you will gain.

"The only solution is the third option, and that is to increase the tax revenue base by in excess of a half-trillion dollars a year. That can be done, only by creating *at least*, directly, through direct programs, about 6 million new added jobs. These could be about 3 million new jobs in public works, through new authorities, state and federal authorities, to which the federal government, through the banking system, makes cheap, low-cost, long-term loans.

"At the same time, we could create 3 million other jobs additionally, in the private sector, to vendors to these federal infrastructure projects—that is, water systems, power systems, rail, repair of transportation systems, medical, and so forth kinds of programs. That would work.

"The ripple effects from creating 6 million new jobs in this way, would be to boost the total federal revenue, the total GNP (or GDP if you prefer), above a trillion to a trillion and a half more than it is today. That would give us the tax revenue increases needed to approximately balance the budget. It would get us started on the recovery, and the budget would come into balance fairly soon as long as we keep that kind of flow.

"However, to do that, to get that kind of growth program, means nationalizing the Federal Reserve System, creating new issues of low-cost currency which are loaned at very low interest rates to public projects and to worthy private investors, to assist their growth programs. That will get the program going. That means creating about a trillion dollars a year of new credit, of this type, through those mechanisms. That's perfectly safe, because as long as we restrict loans, to things which produce new physical assets for our nation, such as water systems, new rails, and so forth, new power stations, we are not actually having an inflationary effect.

"It is only when we let the money go through the system—cheap credit—onto the streets, the way it goes now, that any increase in credit of any magnitude, threatens to cause hyperinflation.

"So, if George refuses to bite the bullet on any of these questions—I doubt if he really understands them—the economy is headed into the deepest depression of the 20th century; and, added to that, George Bush's State of the Union address on Jan. 28 was also a bust."

# LaRouche campaign gains ground

by Anita Gallagher

Lyndon LaRouche's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination has broken through the bureaucratic cretinism of state electoral and Democratic Party officials and qualified for ballot status in 14 states as of Jan. 30. It has also seized the high ground in the Democratic presidential campaign battlefield with a bold stroke: purchase of a 30-minute prime time television spot for Lyndon LaRouche to address the American people, which aired nationally on Feb. 1.

## Nationally televised broadcast

The extraordinary broadcast—in this day of the 30-second “sound bytes” for policy “discussion”—opens with the warning that Lyndon LaRouche is not in the studio in person because he is George Bush's political prisoner. The announcer then walks the audience through the history of LaRouche's opposition to the disaster of Reagan-Bush economic policy, quoting Presidents Reagan and Bush on the “recovery,” and juxtaposing that to 1984 and 1988 footage of LaRouche warning that the United States was in a depression caused by a collapse of physical production, not the stock market. LaRouche calls for nationalizing the Federal Reserve, and creating 6 million new jobs, with 3 million in the public sector, and rebuilding the transportation, water, and power systems of the United States.

The broadcast also contrasts the records of LaRouche and Bush on foreign policy, with clips of LaRouche's 1988 prediction of the reunification of Germany, and warnings of the worldwide food crisis, and attacks “those Democratic candidates who would like to do the same foolish things” as Bush. The broadcast addresses the responsibility of the American voters for the candidates they have elected for the last 25 years, and warns the American people that, should they vote the way they have for the past 25 years, “You will be in this depression for a very long time.”

The broadcast appeared as LaRouche had qualified for ballot status in 14 of the 38 states which hold primaries: Mississippi, South Dakota, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Colorado, Louisiana, Maryland, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Texas, Michigan, and Illinois. Ballot access efforts in other states are in progress.

In Michigan, the LaRouche campaign has cracked the politically motivated refusal of Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin and the Michigan Democratic Party to acknowledge LaRouche as a candidate “nationally recognized

by the media.” On Jan. 28, the American Civil Liberties Union won an injunction ordering LaRouche's name included in the Democratic presidential primary on March 17. In a hearing before State Judge Peter Houk in Lansing, the ACLU elicited testimony from state elections official Christopher Thomas which appeared to shock the court: that the determination of “a nationally recognized candidate” was based solely on the examination of four newspapers and one magazine for a mere one-month period. The court found the scope inadequate. This marks the first time that LaRouche has succeeded in winning ballot status in Michigan. On Jan. 30, the Michigan Attorney General announced that he would seek to appeal the decision.

On Jan. 30, Florida federal Judge Federico Moreno refused to place LaRouche and three other candidates on the ballot for the state's March 10 primary, in a suit brought by the Florida ACLU. The ACLU will appeal the case to the federal 11th Circuit Court of Appeals immediately.

In Texas, the LaRouche campaign defeated a court challenge to its ballot status by the head of the Texas Democratic Party, Bob Slagle. Slagle has a long history of “dirty tricks” to block LaRouche from reaching his supporters in the Democratic Party—supporters who, in 1988, elected LaRouche Democrat Claude Jones chairman of the Harris County (Houston) Democratic Party. Slagle, in language reminiscent of Chicken Little, argued that LaRouche's election, since he is incarcerated, would precipitate a constitutional crisis. The Texas Supreme Court, composed entirely of Democrats, unanimously ruled against Slagle on Jan. 23, and ordered that LaRouche's name be put on the ballot. The court also rejected Slagle's pragmatic argument that the ballots were already being printed without LaRouche's name, stating, “The fact that the printing of ballots has begun does not extinguish LaRouche's right to appear on those ballots.”

## FEC dirty tricks

Where the Supreme Court of Texas has ruled consistently with the U.S. Constitution's explicit pronouncement that to run for President, a person need satisfy only three requirements—be a natural born citizen, be a resident of the U.S. for 14 years, and be at least 35 years of age—the Federal Elections Commission is attempting to create legal obstacles where none exist to deny LaRouche matching funds. On Jan. 15, the campaign submitted papers to the FEC demanding that LaRouche be certified to receive the funds for which he qualified, by the FEC's own admission, more than one month ago. The FEC, which has frequently collaborated with LaRouche's enemy, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, knows that its denial of matching funds could cost LaRouche ballot status in states where “matching funds” are part of the criteria.

Refusals to recognize LaRouche's qualifications for ballot status in Tennessee, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Connecticut are in the process of being challenged.

# Education bill just another bandaid

Part 1, by Joyce Fredman

The U.S. Senate passed the Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act by a vote of 92-6 in late January, the same week that the "Education President," George Bush, delivered his State of the Union address. The bill, whose principal sponsor was Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and which is meant to address the crisis facing American children and their schools, allocates \$850 million to poor communities and schools with "experimental" programs. It amounts to no more than a gimmick in the face of the demise of education fueled by the economic depression and the collapsing tax base.

The amount of money itself is ridiculously small for a system badly in need of a major overhaul: \$850 million translates to roughly 4,000 of the country's 80,000 public schools receiving \$200,000 each. More importantly, there are no fundamental operating changes asked for in exchange. What is called for, in general terms, is more teacher training in science and math, expansion of the Head Start program, and an extension of adult literacy programs. While these are laudatory goals, how they are to be brought about is another question. One of the more dubious aspects of the bill is its call for a council of political leaders and education experts to develop a national academic report card. Which "experts" will be asked to set what kind of standard is not defined.

The recent legislation is the culmination of a years-long process. During the past four years, education has been one of the favorite topics on Capitol Hill. As the country's abysmal test scores and dropout rates have made headlines, politicians have held forth *ad nauseam* about the urgency of turning the situation around. Recently, a three-part series putting American education on trial was aired on nationwide television; the results of a recent study out of Stanford University showing the tripling of teenage suicide and the doubling of teenage homicide, gave grist to the mill.

But not one of these experts on either side of the political spectrum has called for adequate funding for education. As Bush's State of the Union address made clear, citizens are being offered nothing but jingoism.

## Bush, Alexander, and 'choice'

When Lamar Alexander replaced Lauro Cavazos as secretary of education, there was great fanfare from both Bush and the media about the "revolution" that was going to take place in U.S. education. "Alexander brings a degree of political acumen to his job that was never seen under his precedes-

sors," wrote *Time* magazine on Sept. 16, 1991. This was the man to sell the President's program for "choice" schools. Since he took his position in the cabinet in December 1990, Alexander has made no secret of his disdain for the public school system. His younger son William attends a private school in the Washington area. He was the leading spokesman for Bush's program to allocate money for parents to send their children to the "school of their choice."

Last year in Iowa, Alexander was the main pitch man to the governors for the President's national goals. Even as Senator Kennedy's bill passed, Alexander reiterated his resolve: "The President will keep fighting for more radical change in the American system. We will especially keep fighting to give middle and low income families more of the same choices of all schools that wealthy families already have."

What Alexander has never addressed, is the economic environment in which these schools operate. As 93% of their budgets come from state and local sources, a good deal of the "choice" is predetermined. Across the country, *de facto* decisions are being made about the quality of education, thanks to state and city budget crises.

One hideous example is the Windy City. The Chicago School Board was granted the right to use \$13.2 million in future state appropriations to offset state budget cuts now. But the board *still* must cut about \$3 million to plug a hole in its budget left by state budget reductions, and it still faces a projected \$275 million deficit in next year's budget.

## No more schools, no more books

Jonathan Kozol, in his book *Savage Inequalities*, describes some of the schools that will be asked to cut back:

"But even substitute teachers in Chicago are quite frequently in short supply. On an average morning in Chicago, 5,700 children in 190 classrooms come to school to find they have no teacher. The number of children who have no teachers on a given morning in Chicago's public schools is nearly twice the student population of New Trier High School in [the wealthy suburb of] nearby Winnetka.

" 'We have been in this class a whole semester,' says a 15-year-old at Du Sable High, one of Chicago's poorest secondary schools, 'and they still can't find us a teacher.' . . . The shortage of teachers finds its parallel in a shortage of supplies. A chemistry teacher at the school reports that he does not have beakers, water, bunsen burners. He uses a popcorn popper as a substitute for a bunsen burner, and he cuts down plastic soda bottles to make laboratory dishes.

"Many of these schools make little effort to instruct their failing students. 'If a kid comes in not reading,' says an English teacher at Chicago's South Shore High, 'he goes out not reading.'

"Another teacher at the school, where only 170 of 800 freshmen graduate with their class, indicates that the dropout rate makes teaching easier. 'We lose all the dregs by the second year,' he says.

“ ‘We’re a general high school,’ says the head of counseling at Chicago’s Calumet High School. ‘We have second and third grade readers. . . . We hope to do better, but we won’t die if we don’t.’

“At Bowen High School, on the South Side of Chicago, students have two or three ‘study halls’ a day, in part to save the cost of teachers. ‘Not much studying goes on in study hall,’ a supervising teacher says. ‘I let the students play cards. . . . I figure they might get some math skills out of it.’

“At the Lathrop Elementary School . . . there are no hoops on the basketball court and no swings in the playground. For 21 years, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, the school has been without a library. Library books, which have been piled and abandoned in the lunch room of the school, have ‘sprouted mold,’ the paper says. . . .

“The school board president in 1989, although a teacher and administrator in the system for three decades, did not send his children to the public schools. Nor does Mayor Richard Daley, Jr., nor did any of the previous four mayors who had school-age children.

“ ‘Nobody in his right mind,’ says one of the city’s aldermen, ‘would send [his] kids to public school.’ ”

## Experimental curriculum

If the funding for these proposals is absurd, the discussions of curriculum and teaching techniques are an even bigger farce. In Texas last year, eight new American history textbooks were held up from adoption because of 195 factual errors pointed out by a *citizens committee*.

These were not minor details, but they were, rather, fairly egregious bloopers like, “The United States easily settled the Korean conflict by using the atomic bomb,” or, Sputnik was “the first successful intercontinental ballistic missile launched by the Soviet Union; it carried a nuclear warhead.”

Besides the sheer incompetence is the pervasive suffocation of “political correctness.” In the state of Illinois, there is an English test that must be passed by anyone who teaches English in the sixth through twelfth grades. The questions deal with material drawn from books by feminist, Asian, Indian, or African authors. However, authors that one need not have ever heard of include: Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, John Donne, William Shakespeare, John Milton, Jonathan Swift, William Wordsworth, and Alfred Lord Tennyson. *To be continued.*

## 100,000 march for life in nation’s capital

Over 100,000 Americans poured into Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22 to mark the 19th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s legalization of abortion, with the annual March For Life. This year, scores of religious, political, and pro-life leaders joined thousands who traveled from as far as Hawaii, Alaska, and Poland, to remind the nation’s leaders that they once “took an oath to protect their people.” The nation was reminded of the 28.5 million lives lost to abortion since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling. March For Life president Nellie Gray told the rally: “The Nuremberg Tribunal told us that a country that engages in killing its children, is engaged in crimes against humanity.”

Endorsing that message were a number of religious leaders, including Bernard Cardinal Law (Boston); James Cardinal Hickey (Washington, D.C.); Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua (Philadelphia); and Bishop René Gracida of Corpus Christi, Texas; Bishop Herman of the Orthodox Christian Church of Pennsylvania; and Dr. Robert Rea of Lincoln Christian College and Seminary in Illinois. In addition to several leaders of the Rabbits For Life of New York, 100 Jewish leaders, including Rabbi Abraham Abraham of the International Rabbinical Council, joined the rally.

President George Bush, in a two-minute message via

telephone, told the rally, “I want to reaffirm my . . . commitment to the simple recognition that all life is a precious gift.” As the crowds were handed leaflets exposing the truth about Bush’s role in enforcing National Security Study Memorandum 200, which policy caused the sterilization of millions of Brazilian women (as revealed by *EIR*), U.S. Reps. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) and Robert Dornan (R-Calif.) exalted Bush’s remarkable “moral courage” for vetoing several pro-abortion bills.

Among the speakers were Reps. Romano Mazzoli (D-Ky.) and Paul Kanjorski (D-Penn.), Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), and Pennsylvania legislator Steven Freind, who crafted the Pennsylvania abortion restriction law that the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear this term.

Groups at the podium included National Doctors For Life; National Association of Pro-Life Nurses; Baptists For Life; National Organization of Episcopalians for Life; Afro-Americans Against Abortion; American Life League; Republican National Coalition For Life; Operation Rescue, National Right to Life Federation; Eagle Forum; United Federation of University and College Faculty For Life; Feminists For Life; Christian Action Council; and Southern Baptists Convention Christian Life Commission.

None, however, other than “LaRouche in ‘92” and Club of Life representatives in the audience, demanded the termination of malthusian economic policy and an economic program which would ensure the inviolability of human life.



# Virginia death row inmate spared; debate rages over judicial barbarism

by Paul Gallagher

On Jan. 23, the Commonwealth of Virginia again came within 12 hours of executing a death-row prisoner with a very strong claim of innocence. The state's courts reached a new low in judicial barbarism, combining with Attorney General Mary Sue Terry to bar the new evidence of prisoner Herbert Bassette's innocence from being raised or heard. Finally, in Bassette's last hours on Jan. 23, Gov. Douglas Wilder saw that new evidence and commuted his sentence. Bassette now has his life—a life in prison without parole—but has no more chance of proving his innocence than he did before, unless Virginia's laws and judicial procedures are changed by the scandal.

The police-state character of the Virginia judicial system has been increasingly debated since *EIR*'s Dec. 20, 1991 cover story, "Virginia: A Case Study in Judicial Barbarism." The changing climate was signaled, when Wilder's decision to commute Bassette's sentence was endorsed by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, the state's largest and most influential daily, which has been a strong voice for capital punishment. The newspaper—which had opposed Wilder's only other commutation last year, in the case of Joseph Giarratano—also called on the Virginia legislature to change the 1950s-era laws which currently make it virtually impossible to appeal a death sentence.

Governor Wilder made it clear that he had seen new evidence calling Bassette's guilt into question: "The test to be applied is not whether one believes that the accused committed the crime in question," he said, "but whether one holds the belief without any reasonable doubt. After a thorough review of the evidence, including evidence presented to me by counsel for Herbert Bassette which was not before the jury when they rendered their verdict . . . I cannot in good conscience erase *the presence of a reasonable doubt* and fail to employ the powers vested in me as governor to intervene" (emphasis added).

Wilder's announcement, made at a Northern Virginia forum on health care policy, was greeted with applause by many in the audience, although there had been little publicity about Bassette's case and only a few weeks' mobilization to stop his execution by the Schiller Institute, the Virginia Coalition on Jails and Prisons, and others.

Is the governor—in Virginia, Texas, and elsewhere—

going to be the *only* source of consideration of exonerating evidence, mitigating factors, or human mercy?

Giarratano's murder conviction, after all, rested on "confessions" he made while completely drugged; he remembers nothing of the days in which the murders attributed to him occurred. Similarly, Bassette was convicted of murder without any physical evidence, and entirely on testimony from three "accomplices" whose sentences added to a collective grand total of 12 months as a reward for their stories. When a witness stepped forward later to recant, she said she had been intimidated and her testimony "steered" by the prosecution. In this period of drug addiction and violent crime, prosecutors have manipulated the public's desire for "revenge" to steer murder convictions, increasingly asking the death penalty in cases involving minors and the mentally retarded. Virginia has led the way in making these convictions and sentences *irreversible*.

The callous figure of would-be governor Mary Sue Terry is central to this barbarism. One European nation recently refused to extradite a man facing capital murder charges to Virginia, in part, because the most horrible feature of Terry's policy is her commitment to speed the executions of prisoners in capital cases, including the mentally retarded and minors, even when doubts about their guilt emerge after trial.

## Nowhere to take exonerating evidence

Why was evidence of Bassette's innocence ignored until it reached the governor? The answer shows a new low in the descent of this nation toward a police state; it lies in some of the new Supreme Court decisions eliminating centuries-old rights of citizens, suspects, and defendants against police and prosecutorial power, many of which have been handed down in cases arising from the suppression of such rights in Virginia.

Bassette has always maintained his innocence. His new evidence, detailed in *EIR*'s Jan. 24 issue, is substantial. Another man has signed an affidavit all but admitting a 1966 armed robbery of which Bassette was convicted, and would publicly exonerate Bassette if given clemency himself (Attorney General Terry refuses to do so). A key prosecution witness in the murder case has recanted, named a different murderer, and said that her testimony against Bassette was

coerced by prosecutors.

Bassette's first *habeas corpus* motion, based on evidence of innocence of both crimes, was denied by Henrico County Circuit Court Judge George Tidey. Why? Because this evidence was not available within 21 days after the end of Bassette's murder trial. Joseph Giarratano's defense attorney, Gerald Zerkin, in an interview that appeared in the Jan. 25 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, explained that the Virginia Supreme Court has had rules since the 1950s which effectively bar new evidence after that 21-day period! Worse, said Zerkin, another state court rule prevents a defendant from raising any new claim in an appeal, unless it was already properly raised *every time it could have been raised* during trial and previous appeals. In effect, these rules make appeals virtually meaningless, reducing them to a mere retest of procedures, rather than a rehearing of truth and law.

Bassette's attorneys' next attempt to present the new evidence, to the Virginia Supreme Court, was equally futile. That court wasted 11 of Bassette's remaining 12 days before execution, waiting for Attorney General Terry's office to file a response to the evidence. But Terry's brief was merely a copy of a brief submitted in a previous case, and said only that the new evidence was barred by procedure. The Supreme Court agreed without a hearing.

Bassette's attorneys then rushed to the federal court of Judge Robert Merhige, Jr., who had previously granted such a *habeas corpus* motion to death row prisoner Wilbert Evans. But in the meantime, the federal appeals court above Judge Merhige had overturned that ruling, with a shocking decision that if the state courts deny a new evidence hearing on procedural grounds, a federal court cannot grant one. The American civil rights struggle would have been a much longer and bloodier battle if such a doctrine had ruled during the past 40 years. Judge Merhige denied Bassette's hearing, saying that now his hands were tied by the state law.

Twenty-four hours from execution, and facing only the same hostile federal appeals court and the U.S. Supreme Court, Bassette's lawyers had no choice but to drop their legal claims in order to leave Bassette's life in Wilder's hands. Despite having clear, taped, signed evidence of Bassette's innocence of armed robbery, and evidence indicating a possible frameup for murder (by the same lucky "accomplices"), the attorneys had been utterly unable even to present that evidence in any state or federal court. Nor can they present it now that his sentence has been changed to life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

### **Terry: Innocent? Fry 'em, anyway**

Herbert Bassette's treatment is standard procedure in Mary Sue Terry's Virginia courts, and now in the federal court circuit above them, with growing encouragement from the U.S. Supreme Court. Death row prisoner Roger O'Dell, for example, is so sure of his innocence and so desperate that he asked the help of TV "personality" Phil Donahue, to *have*

*his own execution televised* so that the public would be shocked by having to watch the execution of an innocent man. O'Dell's evidence of innocence (the evidence of his guilt, again, was flimsy and circumstantial) was barred in the Virginia courts by a ridiculous procedural trick, and the courts decided after the fact that his attorney had filed the wrong piece of paper in requesting an appeal hearing. Three U.S. Supreme Court justices, Blackmun, Stevens, and O'Connor, wrote to the federal circuit court about O'Dell's appeal in strong language: "The evidence raises serious questions about whether petitioner was guilty of the charged crime or was capable of representing himself." Yet the Supreme Court has not granted O'Dell a hearing either.

Mary Sue Terry remains unmoved. Her public statement said that Bassette was "lucky" to have escaped death in her electric chair. Terry has executed nine men in six years as Attorney General; six more, including Bassette, were expected to die in 1992. In the 10 years before Terry's election, Virginia executed only four men. Twelve of Terry's assistants work on ensuring that further *habeas corpus* reviews for death row prisoners are barred, even where her office knows that it withheld evidence which might have changed the trial. Many prosecutors nationwide do this; Terry fights for it and brags about it. Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche labels her America's Ilse Koch (the sadistic concentration camp overseer known as "the Bitch of Belsen").

But the pro-capital punishment *Richmond Times-Dispatch* was compelled to issue the following call: "It is chilling to think that even in a hypothetical case in which there turned up absolute proof of a condemned man's innocence, Virginia's appellate rules bar judicial consideration of the new information. The General Assembly ought to consider corrective legislation . . . to eliminate the slightest risk that the state might be sending an innocent or undeserving person to the grave."

The same Richmond daily has recently exposed political corruption by the Virginia Supreme Court. In one blatant case, the court ruled 6-1 to uphold a voters' referendum against localities pledging their tax revenues for bonds; then suddenly reversed itself under political pressure from state officials, including Terry. Now the court is defying clear state law by refusing to show the public any documents relating to this sudden "rehearing." These documents may show that the political reversal was steered by Justice Elizabeth Lacy, who got appointed to the court after a similar political decision against LaRouche's associates, when she was State Corporations Commissioner in 1987.

Held together by only selfish motives, the barbaric judicial system is not certain to perdure. It may be a sign of the times that on Jan. 22, Sheriff Marshall Honaker of Bristol, Virginia committed suicide after federal investigators said he embezzled \$500,000 from his own jail for his personal use. He was an influential supporter of Terry.

# Elephants and Donkeys

by Kathleen Klenetsky

## Cuomo in the wings

With Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton's campaign foundering on the shoals of extramarital shenanigans, speculation is once again rife that New York Gov. Mario Cuomo might enter the fray.

Despite protestations to the contrary, Cuomo continues to act like a candidate. For instance, he appeared on the ABC News program "Nightline" in mid-January, after having repeatedly refused to do so. He also went on the nationally televised Larry King show Jan. 29. And supporters are trying to arrange a speech for the governor at Harvard during the week before the Feb. 18 primary in neighboring New Hampshire.

## Death penalty becomes campaign issue

The death penalty has emerged as a major issue in the Democratic presidential race, following the execution in Arkansas of a brain-damaged prisoner.

On Jan. 24, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton rushed back home to personally oversee the execution of convicted murderer Ricky Ray Rector.

Rector had been lobotomized by doctors while being treated for a self-inflicted gunshot. His lawyers and others, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund, argued that Rector's brain damage was so severe that he could not participate in his own defense, as required by Arkansas law. But the courts rejected the argument, leaving Clinton as Rector's only hope of avoiding death. Clinton refused to commute Rector's sentence, and Rector was killed by lethal injection on the evening of Jan. 24.

Clinton's role in executing a men-

tally incompetent individual—an act far more immoral than any womanizing the candidate may have indulged in—was immediately attacked by Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, who, in a Jan. 24 campaign statement, demanded Clinton's withdrawal from the race.

Clinton "ought to resign from the race, although he is presently an acknowledged front-runner, because of his association with this kind of disgusting, grisly, gruesome campaign publicity stunt," said LaRouche.

"Most of us ought to recognize that there's something deadly wrong with our American legal system, which is merely symptomized by the fact that at a time that all civilized nations generally are dumping the death penalty as a barbaric relic of the past, the United States has plunged full steam ahead into such executions," LaRouche added.

"The disturbing thing is that, not only are we going back to human sacrifice in this form, like some ancient pagan set of barbarians, but at the same time, our criminal justice system has decayed."

LaRouche accused Clinton of "presiding in the fashion of an Aztec priest over the disgusting ritual human sacrifice of a death-row victim."

Clinton's stand on the death penalty has clearly been motivated by political expediency. His press spokesman admits that Clinton changed his policies on the death penalty over the last decade. In his first gubernatorial term, in the 1970s, Clinton commuted the sentences of 70 inmates. Since his reelection in 1983, he has commuted only seven.

According to Rector's lawyer, Jeffrey Rosenzweig, Clinton was depicted as being soft on crime during his 1980 gubernatorial reelection campaign, which he lost. "My personal opinion is that in his heart of hearts

he's against the death penalty," he says. "In my opinion this is a very easy way to show you're tough on crime."

This is the third execution that has taken place on Clinton's watch. Thirty-five more Arkansas prisoners are currently on death row; of these, Clinton has already set execution dates for 25.

Democratic presidential candidates Paul Tsongas and Sen. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska are also in favor of capital punishment.

## Moynihan signs on with Kerrey

Sen. Daniel "Fat Pat" Moynihan (D-N.Y.) has formally endorsed Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey for the Democratic presidential nomination on the ludicrous grounds that Kerrey reminds him of John F. Kennedy.

Moynihan has not only agreed to serve as Kerrey's senior adviser on both domestic and foreign policy, but will also personally line up campaign contributions for him—no small commitment, since Moynihan has a pipeline into such organized crime-linked money sources as Robert Vesco's former lawyer and Anti-Defamation League bigwig, Kenneth Bialkin.

Kerrey may be younger and prettier but, policy-wise, he and Moynihan are two peas in a pod, especially when it comes to population control.

Kerrey's pro-genocide Senate record reportedly is one of the key reasons why shadowy Omaha billionaire Warren Buffet has backed Kerrey's political career.

Moynihan, of course, was the author of the Nixon administration's notorious "benign neglect" policy, and one of the government insiders who campaigned in the 1960s for the U.S. government to get involved in population control.

## Pressler targets Surinam for 'Haiti treatment'

In comments on the Senate floor on Jan. 28, Sen. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) warned that Surinam could be the next target for U.S. economic and other sanctions. Pressler warned of the danger of a military coup in that South American country, similar to that which overthrew the renegade regime of Jean-Baptiste Aristide in Haiti.

Pressler intimated that the Surinam military is supporting itself with revenues from the drug trade, which would give further political cover to impose sanctions or launch an invasion.

Pressler has written a letter to President Bush saying that he should "send an unmistakable signal that a military coup is completely unacceptable, and that any coup will be opposed vigorously and effectively." In the case of a military coup, Pressler recommended the immediate imposition of economic sanctions.

## Pressure rises for U.S. to recognize Croatia

More resolutions have been introduced in Congress calling for recognition of the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. Over 40 nations have already recognized the two nations.

Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) and Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) introduced a resolution on Jan. 7 calling for recognition. Pell expressed concern that the United States was "behind the curve," and that other countries, particularly Germany, were taking a leading role. Pell observed that had the United States acted at an earlier date, much of the bloodshed which has occurred in Croatia

could have been avoided.

Pell pointed out that EC recognition of the two countries did in fact bring the Serbs to the negotiating table, contrary to claims that recognition would encourage the Serbs to fight. "I believe," said Pell, "the European Community's push for recognition of Slovenia and Croatia played a part in the cease-fire's holding. Regrettably, the United States can claim little responsibility for these positive developments."

## Intelligence chiefs hit nuclear proliferation

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Jan. 22, both CIA head Robert Gates and the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Gen. Thomas Clapper, said that they would be reorienting their intelligence activities to concentrate on the "danger" of nuclear proliferation.

As both Gates and Clapper indicated, this will involve closer monitoring of all technology transfers because of the so-called dual-use (civilian and military) nature of most high-technology equipment. Clapper said that these "include technologies associated with nuclear power, pesticides, chemical fertilizers, and vaccines."

This is a part of the policy of the Bush administration to place tighter restrictions on all export of high-technology products to Third World countries, a genocidal policy of "technological apartheid" toward the Third World.

Clapper said that he would "seek to sharpen the [intelligence] community's ability to conduct sophisticated assessments of our potential adversaries' military capabilities." Mooting

further regional instability in the Mid-east, Clapper warned of the "resurgence of Iraqi and Iranian military power and nuclear proliferation."

In addition, Gates indicated that the intelligence community would be spending more time in monitoring "economic intelligence"—the trade patterns of U.S. allies. The intelligence community "will focus more sharply on the dynamics of the international economy and the implications of the technological revolution." With the Cold War over, the U.S. will now be viewing its former allies in Europe and Asia as economic adversaries.

## Stokes moves for release of House Kennedy files

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), the former chairman of the congressional committee that investigated the Kennedy assassination, announced on Jan. 21 that he would ask Congress to order the release of all government documents on the slaying, in an effort to dispel public suspicions that the government was involved in a conspiracy to kill the President. Stokes said the release of the documents could strengthen evidence that mob figures were involved in the assassination.

The committee files could be released only if the House votes to do so. Secret material held by other government agencies, however, can be made public only with the approval of the House, the Senate, and the President. Prospects for such approval are highly unlikely.

Stokes said that FBI transcripts of conversations of several mafia leaders before the assassination had been reviewed by the committee, but were

returned to the FBI, and copies were not in the committee's files. Also of interest, said Stokes, would be the CIA files on Lee Harvey Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union in 1959 and his 1963 trip to Mexico City.

A senior aide to Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Me.) said that Mitchell supported the fullest possible disclosure of government documents related to the assassination.

## **Leahy seeks conditions on Israeli loans**

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) is expected to introduce a resolution which, under the guise of penalizing Israel for its policy of expanding settlement in the Occupied Territories, is in reality a way to let the Israelis continue without suffering a cutoff of aid from the United States. The Israeli settlements are in direct violation of official U.S. government policy.

In the face of Israeli intransigence, and with Palestinians warning that there can be no further progress on the Mideast peace talks as long as the Israelis continue establishing new settlements, the Bush administration has been trying to come up with a compromise that would maintain a semblance of a "peace process," i.e., keeping the Palestinians at the negotiating table without forcing the Israelis to stop their settlements. The Leahy bill reportedly represents that compromise.

The central issue is the \$10 billion in loan guarantees wanted by the Israelis to finance the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, facing the breakdown of his coalition and new elections, has refused to cease

settlement activity.

The political clout of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee on Capitol Hill has been somewhat curtailed this year because of the economic crisis, which has meant that critical eyes are focused on every dollar appropriated in foreign aid, whoever the recipients might be.

The Leahy resolution would restrict loan guarantees in the first year to \$2 billion, from which would be deducted any money which Israel spends to settle immigrants in the Occupied Territories. Such a compromise seems to be satisfactory to Shamir, who would continue to receive aid without curtailing the illegal expropriation of Arab land.

## **Infrastructure needed to lower deficit, group says**

At a Capitol Hill press conference Jan. 23, Sens. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) and Paul Simon (D-Ill.) were joined by economists Ray Marshall and Marcus Alexis, who laid out the Coalition for Democratic Values' plan for reviving the U.S. economy. They stressed that investment in infrastructure was necessary for recovery and sustained economic growth.

Their specific proposals were pitiful, however: a \$150 billion defense cut to finance a \$100 billion spending package over a five-year period for infrastructure and human services, job training, and health care.

Ray Marshall said, "To reduce the deficit, you have to have growth." Marcus Alexis agreed, saying, "Growth will generate revenues, the program will have a positive effect on the deficit."

Marshall opposed lowering workers' wages and decried the current

trend of doing so. He said that one can always find someone with lower wages, so that this cannot be the basis for competition. We need the "high-wage, high-productivity option," he said. He noted that productivity has gone down so much, that it takes three times more labor now than in the 1950s to do the equivalent work. Half of the slowdown of productivity is the failure of public investment, he said.

Simon attacked the notion of a consumer-led recovery, saying that when we invest in infrastructure, we can determine where the money is directed, whereas we can never be sure what consumers will do with their money. The largest portion of our debt, he said, is due to the high interest rates.

## **Ways and Means extends jobless benefits**

The House Ways and Means Committee approved on Jan. 28 a \$2.7 billion measure to provide an additional 13 weeks of benefits to an estimated 2 million unemployed workers. The extension would be financed with \$2.2 billion in revenues which are said to have gone unspent in the last fiscal year, and \$500 million from changing the method of paying corporate estimated taxes.

Previous extensions, legislated last year, met with considerable opposition from the White House, which considered them too costly. But the increasing economic decay, symptomized by rising unemployment, and the President's falling popularity have led to a change of heart on the part of the White House. President Bush said he will support the new extension and would sign the bill before a scheduled Feb. 7 congressional recess.



# National News

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## Teachers group takes on 'animal rights' kooks

The National Science Teachers Association has released a statement supporting animal dissection and experimentation in the science classroom at the high school and college levels, an issue of the *Putting People First* newsletter reported in January.

The statement affirms the belief of the group that observation of and experimentation with living organisms offer students unique opportunities to learn about the processes of life.

"Carefully developed objectives for dissection labs can lead to an increased appreciation of living things. Such activities demonstrate the complexity of organisms and highlight the structures and processes that bind living things through evolution," the statement read.

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## Spannaus announces for governor of Virginia

Nancy Spannaus, editor of *New Federalist*, the newspaper of the LaRouche movement, announced her candidacy for governor of Virginia on Jan. 16. Spannaus expects to challenge the Bush Democrat, Attorney General Mary Sue Terry, for the Democratic nomination. A former independent Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1990, Spannaus received over 500,000 votes against incumbent John Warner.

Spannaus said that she would "seek to reassert in the Democratic Party the principles of scientific and technological progress which alone can reverse the current economic depression, principles last seen in the programs of President John F. Kennedy. Virginia needs a governor who understands the need to reassert the American System of economics."

Spannaus said that Terry was morally unqualified to be governor and had demonstrated no respect for human life. She cited the fact that Terry wants to execute prisoners whether they are guilty or not.

Spannaus stated that this same lack of

respect for human life is shown in Terry's refusal to follow the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court to refund monies illegally taxed from federal retirees living in the state, and her actions to shut down the Avtex defense plant for phony environmental reasons.

Spannaus also attacked Terry's venal prosecution of the political movement associated with Lyndon LaRouche, in which even documents released by the FBI testify to her political use of her office.

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## Catholics invoke 'hate crimes' law

Roman Catholics fed up with seeing their religious leaders ridiculed by militant homosexual groups have decided to use a weapon from their detractors' arsenal. After a disruption of New York Cardinal John O'Connor's recent talk in Boston, where demonstrators carried placards associating O'Connor with deviant sexual behavior, a Catholic group filed a complaint under the state's new hate-crime law, a law that homosexual rights groups and the Anti-Defamation League lobbied for, the Jan. 25 *Washington Times* reported.

"Clearly the attack on Cardinal O'Connor was due to his religious beliefs," said C.J. Doyle, director of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights in Massachusetts. "It is hypocritical and unacceptable for homosexual militants to demand tolerance and preach hate . . . against religious leaders."

The 1991 hate-crime statute added "harassment or intimidation" for reasons of race, religion or sexual orientation to the criminal code. When no "bodily harm" is involved, the misdemeanor carries penalties of up to a year in prison or a \$1,000 fine.

Attacks on the Catholic Church by homosexual groups across the nation have been increasing. Last November, two individuals stormed a news conference of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington and hurled condoms at Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk.

"Definitely, the Catholic Church is their biggest target," said the Rev. Gregory Coiro, spokesman at the Archdiocese of Los

Angeles, which has dealt with several homosexual protests.

The confrontations are creating "an atmosphere of hate that could lead to violence," said John Puthenveetil, president of the Catholic League. "I'm concerned about the increasingly strident nature of the activities."

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## Casolaro death called suicide

West Virginia authorities closed the investigation into the August death of Joseph Daniel Casolaro, in a decision announced in January, calling his death a suicide.

Casolaro, an investigative journalist from Fairfax, Virginia, was following up leads in Martinsburg, West Virginia into the Inslaw scandal, in which the Justice Department allegedly stole software from the Inslaw firm and then bankrupted the company rather than pay for the contracted services.

Arlington physician Dr. Anthony Casolaro, Danny Casolaro's brother, restated that his brother was killed by someone trying to stop his investigation into the scandal that former Attorney General Elliot Richardson had termed "nastier than Watergate." On Aug. 10, his body was found in a full bathtub at the Martinsburg Hotel. Casolaro had told friends that he was going to Martinsburg to meet a key source.

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## State Dept., ZPG lobby caucus on Eco-92

The U.S. State Department has been meeting with key environmental and population control groups to map out strategy for the eco-fascist "Earth Summit" or Eco-92 to be held in Brazil in June. The meetings were revealed as President Bush told the Jan. 25 March for Life rally, which drew over 100,000 participants in Washington, D.C., that he was "pro-life."

According to an official of one of the leading population control groups in Washington, population-environmental groups including the National Wildlife Federation,

the Population Crisis Committee, Zero Population Growth, and Planned Parenthood, met Jan. 24 with Nancy Carter, head of the State Department's Office of Population Affairs, to coordinate their approach to the population issue for the Prep-Comm 4 meeting, which opens in New York in March, and for the Eco-92 summit. Carter was scheduled to brief the Council for Environmental Quality and administration staffers on the discussions. A final population strategy session involving anti-population U.N. non-governmental organizations and the official U.S. delegation to Prep-Comm 4 will take place in Washington on Feb. 10.

The same official said that the Eco-92 conference could be a "watershed" on the population issue, and that it will be used to set the stage for a major push for population reduction leading into the 1994 U.N. World Population Conference.

## Alabama mayor calls for action against FBI

Mayor Richard Arrington, Jr., of Birmingham, Alabama, ordered jailed for contempt of court, is escalating a political fight against the federal prosecution of himself and other black leaders. "Letters went out from the mayor's office to a host of local and national organizations inviting them to participate in a hearing [in Birmingham] next month into 'the selective prosecution and harassment of black leadership,'" the Jan. 20 *New York Times* reported.

Arrington, the first black mayor of Birmingham, was sentenced to 18 months of Thursday-to-Monday incarceration in a federal penitentiary and a \$1,000 per day fine until he turns over his appointment logs to a federal prosecutor. He charges that the FBI would use the logs to identify his contacts and intimidate them into joining the attack against him.

Arrington is accused of taking a kickback from Tarlee Brown, his former business partner. Brown recently received a lenient sentence in his own corruption case in return for working with the Justice Department against the mayor.

A target of nearly a dozen U.S. Justice Department "corruption" investigations,

Arrington has never been indicted. State Rep. John W. Rogers, Jr. has likened the prosecution to the anti-black assaults of former Birmingham police commissioner Eugene (Bull) Connor.

"Through a 1989 Freedom of Information Act filing, Mr. Arrington has documented some of his assertions that federal officials have shown an inordinate interest in him. . . . He has produced affidavits from other targets . . . who said they were asked by investigators to work under cover in implicating Mr. Arrington. 'They usually go after people who are vulnerable and facing other charges such as tax charges and they squeeze them,'" the *Times* quoted Arrington.

Sources familiar with the Justice-FBI harassment tactics say that such hearings have been mooted in Alabama leadership circles for some time, but the decision to fight back is a significant political step.

## Bush's pills can cause hallucinations

The sleeping drug that President Bush takes can cause hallucinations, and may have made him faint in Japan. But critics of the pill say the *more usual* side effects are psychotic episodes including amnesia and thoughts of suicide, the Jan. 20 *New York Times* reported.

The Upjohn pharmaceutical company, makers of Halcion, deliberately concealed data showing that the drug may cause paranoia, hallucinations, suicidal tendencies, and other "psychological distress" in over 30% of users. The company allegedly hid from U.S. federal regulators the full results of its own tests on the drug.

Ilo Grundberg, a 57-year-old Utah woman who shot her mother to death during an alleged Halcion-induced episode, was given an out-of-court money settlement by Upjohn. Dr. Ian Oswald, head of the psychiatry department of the University of Edinburgh, who was Grundberg's expert witness, studied Upjohn's files for two years. Oswald concluded that Upjohn has known and suppressed the truth about the drug for 20 years, which then led to a ban against Halcion in Britain.

## Briefly

● **THE SCHILLER** Institute and the Food for Peace movement will host a conference in Chicago, Illinois Feb. 22-23, entitled "The American System of Economics Is Needed Today." It will focus on ending the plague of "free trade," and reviving economic systems based on the outlook of George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Lyndon LaRouche.

● **400,000** people requested reprints of articles which ran in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in October which profiled how U.S. corporations have been looted. Managing editor Steven Lovelady told the Jan. 22 *Washington Post* that there were *more* than 400,000 requests but, "At some point you have to say no, we've got to put out a newspaper."

● **PAT DOWELL** resigned from the *Washingtonian* magazine because editor Jack Limpert refused to run her favorable review of Oliver Stone's movie "JFK." Dowell wrote, "If you didn't already doubt the Warren Commission report, you will after seeing Oliver Stone's brilliantly crafted indictment of history," the Jan. 25 *New York Post* reported.

● **GEN. GORDON SULLIVAN**, the U.S. Army's Chief of Staff, has reportedly been ordered to make a new report on the Gulf war because the previous one was "too negative." The original 1,000-page, lessons-learned study prepared in October has been classified.

● **THE VIRGINIA** Court of Appeals denied on Jan. 17 a rehearing *en banc* to Michael Billington, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche sentenced to 77 years for "securities fraud" violations. A three-judge panel had denied his appeal on Dec. 3. His attorneys will appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court.

● **VICE ADMIRAL** William O. Studeman has been nominated by George Bush to become the deputy director of the CIA. He currently heads the National Security Agency.

## Editorial

### *Strawberries: delicious and victorious*

The nation's first irradiated strawberries went on sale at Lorenzo's Italian Market in North Miami on Jan. 25, and from first-hand reports, the berries looked good, smelled good, and tasted "delicious." Within a short time, the irradiated berries were sold out, even though the non-irradiated berries were selling at \$1.69 per pint, 31¢ cheaper.

Although irradiated strawberries have sold in France, Hungary, and other countries since the 1980s, and although the United States pioneered the technology of food irradiation, the Florida plant that processed these berries is the first one to irradiate produce for domestic consumption. This fact in itself is a victory over the antiscience, antinuclear mob, which has campaigned for years against food irradiation, stopping three previous attempts in other parts of the country to commercialize this beneficial technology. The antinukes, primarily the group Food & Water, Inc., used several hundreds of thousands of dollars in foundation grants to pay for lying radio ads that told the Florida population that food irradiation "might kill you." Food & Water activists bullied elected officials, produce growers, supermarket managers, trade associations, the media, and, of course, the public—to try and stop the Vindicator plant in Mulberry, Florida, from operating.

The main thing that the Food & Water group had going for it was the profound ignorance and fear of radiation in the general population, which over the past 25 years has lost the capacity to make judgments on the basis of scientific evidence, preferring to believe the scare stories of the radical environmentalists. The media, for the most part already disposed to be antinuclear, reported in detail every allegation by Food & Water's propagandists, no matter how outrageous, and gave short shrift to the scientific community, which almost without exception backs irradiated food as safe and wholesome.

Curiously, after boasting on the radio and in print that Food & Water would have "thousands" of picketers at Lorenzo's Market Jan. 25, a convoy of 20 trucks following the delivery truck from the Vindicator plant in Mulberry to the North Miami market, and a parade

through the city that would include Ralph Nader's troops, nothing happened. At most there were six picketers, one of them Food & Water's paid staffer in Tampa. It's true that these picketers leered and jeered at the strawberry buyers and provided the usual misinformation for the many reporters present, but six picketers is a far cry from "thousands," and clearly the group did not succeed in stopping the strawberries.

Irradiated strawberries are free of bugs and will stay in the refrigerator up to three weeks without getting moldy. However, even more critical are the advantages of low-level irradiation for shellfish, poultry, and other products that harbor disease-causing pathogens. Right now in the United States, food-borne illnesses kill 200 people per week, and another 33 million people a year become ill from pathogens like salmonella and campylobacter.

The Vindicator plant is ready to irradiate poultry and shellfish, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has already approved the process for poultry as safe. (Use for shellfish is still under study.) The go-ahead has been held up since September 1991 in the Office of Management and Budget, however, which must review such regulations for "cost-effectiveness." President Bush's pledge to hold up all new regulations for three months ensures that the irradiated poultry regulations will continue to sit at OMB, unless there is a public outcry.

Insiders report that the holdup also has something to do with the Republican financial clout of the poultry industry, which fears what might happen to its market once salmonella-free poultry becomes available to a health-conscious public. The industry does not oppose irradiation processing, it should be noted; it just wants to delay it.

Readers can partake of the strawberry victory by asking your local supermarket to get some of those irradiated berries, and lobby to free the poultry regulations from the OMB. If you have ever been hoodwinked by the antinuclear kooks running around this nation—and we have reason to suspect that many of our readers have been—this is a good chance to stand up not only for your body, but also, for your mind.

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