

National News

Sheriff in 'Get LaRouche' task force probed

Loudoun County, Virginia Sheriff John Isom, who played an important role in the multijurisdictional "Get LaRouche" task force, is now under investigation by the FBI, the March 12 *Washington Post* reported.

The investigation reportedly centers around actions by Isom's department and the office of Commonwealth's Attorney William Burch in connection with the 1988 conviction of William Douglas Carter, convicted of malicious wounding of his former wife. The conviction was overturned in February 1992 because a now-suspended Loudoun sheriff's deputy, Doug Poppa, testified that he told Burch and Capt. Vernon Beamer that Carter's former wife had told Poppa she would shoot herself to send her former husband to jail. Burch's team did not disclose this to the defense.

War College warned of Britain's 'Kurdish' trap

A U.S. Army War College study, circulated in September 1991 and recently made public, warned the military officers involved in the supply missions to the Kurds in northern Iraq that the Bush administration and the media were leading them into a British trap.

The white paper was authored by Stephen Pelletiere, one of the authors of a pre-war study which analyzed the frameup of Iraq, and accurately forecasted the resulting war. In the latest paper, Pelletiere questions the characterization of the Kurds as helpless victims, noting that they have made plenty of enemies in the last 100 years, slaughtering Armenians in the late 19th century, massacring Assyrian Christians in the 1920s, and in turn surviving aggression directed against them.

"Why, then, are these people—who have proved so resolute over so many years—now perceived to be in need of international protection?" he asks. Furthermore, "Why is the remedy that is being promoted for them one that is patently unworkable?"

The study demonstrates that the United States is repeating the actions of the British in the earlier part of the century, when they orchestrated chaos in the region "in an attempt to secure the oil region of Kirkuk for themselves"—by backing the Kurdish tribal prince Shaykh Mahmud. The author warns: "U.S. military leaders need to be aware that the strategic environment in northern Iraq is supercharged . . . the administration may decide to continue granting support, and then, of course, the U.S. military will back the President. But Army leaders should be apprised that this is a most dangerous situation we have become involved in . . . it is not as benign as the media and some in Congress are making it out to be."

He concludes, "The British seem to be maneuvering toward establishment of an independent Kurdish entity in northern Iraq. . . . Such an entity would have to be administered by the Kurds, which is an impossibility . . . all of this current agitation for Kurdish 'statehood' must be seen to be misguided."

Editor slaying said a warning by drug cartel

Manuel de Dios, the former editor of *El Diario La Prensa*, the largest Spanish-language daily in New York City, was assassinated in Queens, New York. The March 13 *New York Times* reported the suspicion that this was a hit by the Medellín Cartel, and was meant as a warning to investigative journalists.

De Dios had recently been involved in projects which his associates felt placed him in harm's way. He had boasted knowledge, beyond his recent testimony, in the case of the Cerro Maravilla-terrorist murders in Puerto Rico. This scandal exposed the fact that the FBI and local police had fabricated the incident which led to the murder of two known nationalists. (The movie "Show of Force" is based on this.)

Recent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) disclosures on the matter have led to several high-ranking government officials being fired for their role in the coverup. In addition, De Dios had published a book on the Medellín Cartel and had started up a new magazine that investigated the current drug scene.

Israel illegally selling arms, says U.S.

An internal U.S. State Department investigation has found that Israel illegally resold American weapons technology to other countries, including China, the March 14 *Washington Post* reported.

State's inspector general has recommended that Assistant Secretary of State Richard A. Clarke be disciplined for failing to act on repeated warnings that the Israelis were reexporting U.S. armaments, despite the fact that such action is prohibited by law. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger may also be implicated in the scandal.

State Department officials told the *Post* that Israel had routinely been treated differently from other countries in deliberations on illicit technology. They maintained that Clarke, a known Israeli sympathizer, would not have made the final decisions on such matters unless his superiors had given him the go-ahead. Clarke's boss is Eagleburger, who, according to the *Washington Post*, ordered Clarke not to discuss the inspector general's report with the media.

'Buchanan=anti-Semite' lies disproved

Columnists Roland Evans and Robert Novak harshly criticized Bush Republicans who have joined in with journalists and Democrats in labeling Patrick Buchanan as an anti-Semitic proto-fascist, in their column in the March 11 *Washington Post*.

The columnists singled out William Bennett, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), and Republican National Committee chairman Rich Bond who, the columnists say, share President Bush's anger at having been forced to run a primary election campaign to secure the nomination.

The columnists investigated a series of recent incidents trumpeted as "proof" of Buchanan's latent anti-Semitism and racism, and found either that the event was quite different than the published reports or simply never happened.

In one example cited, Charles Krautham-

mer, in a syndicated column, had labeled Buchanan as "fascistic" for a 15-year-old column said to have praised Adolf Hitler as "an individual of great courage." In fact, the column was a warning against appeasement, and pointed to those politicians in 1937 who failed to see "Hitler was marching along the road toward a new world order where western civilization would not survive."

Suit filed over pensions lost to junk bonds

The U.S. Department of Labor is suing five companies over lost pensions resulting from the seizure of Executive Life Insurance Co.

The five companies, all of which sold junk bonds to raise funds for takeovers, later cashed in their pension funds to pay off some of the junk-bond debt incurred in the takeovers. They bought annuities from Executive Life, which are cheaper than a fully funded pension, to replace the pension funds. Unlike pension funds, which are insured by the U.S. government, the annuities are not insured. Since the seizure of Executive Life, which failed largely due to their disproportionately large holdings of junk bonds, retirees in these companies are getting only 70% of what they were promised.

The Labor Department sued the employers to force them to pay the difference between the payments due under the pension fund, and what retirees are actually receiving from the annuities, now that Executive Life has been shut down. The five companies cited in the suit are Halliburton Co. of Dallas; AFG Industries of Ft. Worth; Smith International and Pacific Lumber, both of Houston; and MagneTek of Los Angeles.

Climate experts question global warming validity

Most climate experts question validity of the global warming theory according to a new survey, the National Coal Association reported in its Feb. 24 newsletter. A survey of 400 randomly selected experts on climate, released by the Center for Science, Technology, and Media, found that only a minority support the global warming theory.

The Gallup Organization conducted the poll, which found that the scientists involved in climate study are the least likely to believe that global warming has occurred, and that experts emphasize the uncertainty of knowledge in the field.

The poll also found that the media frequently distorted the scientific view on global warming. "Among scientists who expressed opinions in news stories, nearly three-quarters asserted that global warming was genuine. . . . Overall, news stories presented scientists as a group least likely to express doubts about global warming." Therefore, the public is receiving a slanted perception from the media on the scientific debate of global climate change, the National Coal Association concluded.

LaRouche files to oust judge in 2255 appeal

Attorneys for Lyndon H. LaRouche on March 11 filed a supplement to their petition requesting that the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals disqualify Judge Albert V. Bryan from presiding over LaRouche's 2255 petition. The 2255 petition seeks relief based on the unlawful government prosecution, conviction, and jailing of LaRouche.

The supplement recounts the government's last-minute request for an extension of time to answer the 2255 and LaRouche's request for bail pending the outcome of the 2255. The supplement then states that Bryan issued rulings on these motions, even though LaRouche's attorney, Odin Anderson, objected to Bryan hearing the motion, and even though the Fourth Circuit is considering LaRouche's petition to have him disqualified.

"Upon conclusion of the argument," reads the supplement, "Judge Bryan denied the motion for bail and granted the government's application for a 30-day extension, even though this same judge repeatedly denied defense motions seeking a continuance on the same grounds during the period between arraignment and trial. It appears in the case of these petitioners that when liberty is at stake, continuances for the defense are disfavored. However, when liberty is enthralled, continuances requested by the prosecution are freely granted."

Briefly

● **THE MAINE** state legislature defeated a bill to legalize doctor-assisted suicide, the March 6 *Maine Times* reported. When the bill was introduced, its Republican sponsor said, "Sometimes Maine likes to be a leader."

● **A SEQUEL** to the malthusian *Limits to Growth* book published 20 years ago, will be published before March 20, "on the eve of the Earth Summit," according to publisher Chelsea Green. The new book, *Beyond the Limits: Confronting Global Collapse, Envisioning a Sustainable Future*, is authored by Donella Meadows, Dennis Meadows, and Joergen Randers.

● **DEPUTY** Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, speaking in Nebraska at the Governor's Agriculture Conference on March 5, admitted, "Food production needs to increase by 40% by the year 2010 in order to maintain the current level of food intake for the growing world population."

● **DANIEL S. GOLDIN** was nominated by President Bush on March 11 to be the next administrator of NASA. Goldin served as vice president of the TRW Space and Technology Group, and managed the development and production of the satellites TRW has produced for NASA, including the Gamma Ray Observatory and the Tracking and Data Relay satellite.

● **A NORTH** American Free Trade Agreement could be signed within a few weeks or months, Trade Representative Carla Hills told a conference in Washington on March 12. Hills doubted, however, that Congress would act upon it before the elections—referring to the intense domestic opposition to NAFTA, especially from organized labor.

● **PLANS** for a third shipment of milk powder to Iraqi children by American dairy farmers was announced by spokesmen for the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq at a press conference in Owosso, Michigan on March 11.