

National News

Medical murder issue put on Calif. ballot

California Secretary of State March Fong Eu announced April 9 that sufficient signatures had been filed to place the "Death with Dignity Act," sponsored by "Californians Against Human Suffering," on the November ballot. Random samples by county election officials established that nearly 428,000 valid signatures of registered voters were filed, exceeding the 385,000 required.

The measure would allow any mentally competent adult, with supposedly less than six months to live, to sign a statement asking a doctor to end his or her life. The statement must be witnessed by two doctors, and could be revoked. A physician proceeding under such a statement would be exempt from all civil and criminal liability. It is currently a felony under California law for a doctor to help a patient commit suicide.

Robert Risley, chairman of the right-to-die group which led the petition drive, is concerned that the murder trial for "assisted suicide" of Michigan's "Dr. Death," Jack Kevorkian, might hurt public support for the California initiative. Backers include the National Organization of Women, the California Senior Legislature, and the Gray Panthers, according to UPI.

Unità interviews U.S. civil rights heroine

The April 6 issue of the Italian daily *Unità* ran an interview with Amelia Boynton Robinson from her home in Tuskegee, Alabama. The famous 80-year-old civil rights veteran has been campaigning tirelessly to have Lyndon LaRouche freed from jail, and to support him for U.S. President. She told the Italian paper: "Third World children don't have the right to life because the banks impose a world equilibrium based on usury." The full-page interview, conducted by Antonio Cipriani, made the point that usury is the cause of much of today's evil. Said

Robinson, "Today the world is like an Alabama plantation, only the slaves are entire nations in which millions of children starve to death.

"In 1929, there was the plantation system with the owners who kept the workers as slaves through usury. But the same mechanism that we fought in Alabama is the one that rules the world today. There are those who produce wealth, and those who own paper money. The Third World countries produce for the rich countries and do not have food to feed their starving children. All this happens because of the debts that, with usurious interest rates, go on for decades. Today, the world is an international plantation where the powers that rule decide what is right and what is wrong, drawing unacceptable ethical principles. Nobody will ever have me believe that it is right that in Brazil or in an African country, children must starve to death . . . that those children do not have the right to life because the empire of paper money and of the banks established that the equilibrium of the world must be based on usury."

British pan Hollywood promotion of satanism

Recent commentaries in the British press have attacked Hollywood for promoting satanism and murder, as exemplified in the Oscar Awards presentations to the movie "The Silence of the Lambs."

On April 1, Geoffrey Brown of the *London Times* wrote, under the headline "Hannibal the Cannibal Opens Floodgates of Gore," that Hollywood's recent action is in contrast to what was done with Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho" 31 years ago. That movie was nominated for four Oscars, but won none. "Silence" won all four nominations. But this year, the 5,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have enthroned a film that "harnesses technical brilliance to despicable material," thereby threatening to "encourage more high-powered directors to follow suit, pander to the lowest human instincts, and debase their art. Given the world around us,

that would be unhelpful, to say the least."

On April 5, Philip Norman of the *Sunday Times* noted in an article, "Eating People Is In," that actor Anthony Hopkins had won his award "for portraying a cannibalistic mass-murderer in a movie about profligate killing, torture, transvestitism, decapitation, the flaying of young girls' bodies and dressmaking with human skin. . . . For murder to be big business is, of course, nothing new. But 'The Silence of the Lambs' was the first all-out blood n' guts, hide-under-the-seat horror movie ever to sweep the Oscars board." Norman worries that we will soon see several sequels to the movie ("The Silence of the Lambs 2," etc.), and that "Hannibal the Cannibal" muzzles will doubtless soon be in the shops, and eagerly worn by children everywhere."

Teamster leader removed in union-busting move

The federal overseer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters barred Teamster leader Robert Sansone for life from holding any IBT offices in early April, in another vendetta against organized labor. Sansone heads St. Louis Local 682, Joint Council 13, and the 60,000-member Missouri-Kansas Conference of Teamsters.

The government trustee, former federal judge Frederick Lacey, ruled that Sansone should have launched lie-detector and private detective investigations of Local 682 Vice President Anthony Parrino, although the government has proven no organized crime ties against Parrino, and Sansone says investigations by his own lawyers yielded nothing. If corporations were held to Lacey's standard, a lot of top jobs would "open up in a very big hurry," and "any time a member has a gripe against a union official, all he's got to do is . . . get an article published that he's a member of organized crime," said Sansone's lawyers, according to the April 8 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Former IBT president and FBI informer Jackie Presser had made charges against Parrino, stated Lacey, who has removed 54

Missouri Teamsters for alleged organized crime links, 16 of them for "failure to investigate." Sansone will appeal the ruling.

The Young Democrats of Missouri have accused Lacey of "McCarthyism." "When our government can, under contrived pretext, deny citizens their livelihood without the due process of law or evidence of actual wrongdoing, the very notion of individual freedoms and rights becomes a farce," declares their unusual April 4 resolution.

Bush attacks unions' political organizing

President George Bush intends to take steps to prevent labor unions from using money collected from non-union workers for political activities, the April 12 *New York Times* reported. The measures are intended to limit the activities of unions in support of Democratic candidates this year.

Bush issued an Executive Order requiring federal contractors to post notices telling employees of their right to object to unions using their money for political activities. Additionally, Bush will order the Labor Department to require unions to report separately on the amounts they spend for political activities, lobbying, and contract negotiations, so workers can identify spending for any political purpose they oppose. Further, Bush is urging the National Labor Relations Board to set up new procedures for swift handling of workers' complaints about union spending.

AMA condemns coerced use of Norplant

The board of the American Medical Association (AMA) has condemned the court-ordered use of the long-acting contraceptive Norplant for women convicted of child abuse. The AMA has also objected to state proposals to pay women on welfare for using Norplant.

The AMA position is that forcing child abusers to use Norplant "probably violates multiple constitutional problems" and for the courts to do this "raises serious questions about a person's fundamental rights to refuse medical treatment, to be free of cruel and unusual punishment, and to procreate."

Two states, Kansas and Washington, have defeated legislation that would have paid women \$500 to have the Norplant inserted and another \$50 a year for as long as they remained on the contraceptive. A similar bill is pending in Tennessee.

The U.S. Supreme Court has confirmed the "existence of a federal constitutional right to refuse medical treatment."

ACLU attacks ADL 'hate crimes' laws

Kevin O'Neill, the Ohio legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), is challenging the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) local hate crime statute. According to O'Neill, "the basic argument . . . is that it creates a thought crime." The Ohio Supreme Court is scheduled to review challenges to the law in May in three cases involving whites who allegedly taunted and threatened blacks.

According to an article in the April 6 *Washington Times*, the ADL's hate crimes laws have been challenged in many states, and in some cases have been overturned and rewritten. O'Neill fears the laws could be turned against critics of the government.

Most such statutes increase the penalties for criminal acts committed with "hateful" intent against a racial or religious group, such as vandalism that involves racial slurs. The ADL, which has acted as a private police force for federal and state governments, is fostering such laws in states, and soliciting support from *bona fide* civil rights organizations. Under the aegis of federal "hate crimes reporting" statutes, the ADL has been training local police departments on how to be "sensitive" about gathering hate crimes statistics and reporting them to the federal government.

Briefly

● **LAROCHE** presidential campaign organizer Mark Nafziger had charges against him dismissed stemming from his arrest during the nationally televised Democratic presidential campaign debate in Maryland. During the open microphone question period, Nafziger had attempted to ask the other candidates about the fact that Lyndon LaRouche remains a political prisoner.

● **JERRY BROWN**, a "friend" of American workers, was accused by the April 4 *San Francisco Examiner* of "aggressively [seeking] cheap land and labor for an American company in southern China." Brown, who received \$20,000 a year as a director of ICN Biomedicals Inc., visited Hong Kong and China in May 1989. At the time, Brown told an *Examiner* reporter that he was seeking a location for an ICN factory in China's Guangdong Province where some 70 million workers vie for factory jobs at wages that average \$200 a year.

● **REP. JILL LONG** raised the issue of a loss of U.S. sovereignty to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade bureaucracy, the April *Journal of Commerce* reported. The Indiana Democrat pointed to a recent Congressional Research Service report which concluded the U.S. would lose the right to block many GATT findings under a proposal by GATT general director Arthur Dunkel.

● **'NEW WORLD ORDER'** is a phrase with a history, according to political analyst and author Dennis Cuddy. "It was the title of a 1940 book by H.G. Wells, and it described precisely the idea of world government." Cuddy reveals that as a congressman in 1969, George Bush "introduced a resolution that would have transformed our Atlantic Alliance into a 'federal union' within the framework of the U.N."

● **DENVER**, Colorado will be the site of a youth event, during the trip of Pope John Paul II to the United States next year, according to recent U.S. television news broadcasts.