

National News

Dannemeyer: Probe 'ozone hole' fraud

Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) has announced his intention to introduce resolution into Congress to evaluate whether the argument that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) cause the ozone hole, is a hoax. The draft resolution calls for there to be an investigation of whether there has been any thinning of the ozone layer, whether it has been proven that CFCs damage stratospheric ozone, and whether phasing out CFCs will have any effect on the ozone layer.

The resolution calls for the formation of a presidential commission, whose membership would be equally apportioned between "representatives from the scientific community whose published experimental and theoretical research shows that chlorofluorocarbons have a negligible, if any, effect on ozone depletion, and representatives whose research makes contrary claims," to avoid yet another study which simply regurgitates the unscientific contents of the previous versions.

The resolution enumerates the impacts of banning CFCs, and particularly refrigerants, on the U.S. economy and world food chain, one of which would be the deaths of 20-40 million people in developing nations per year. It also notes that the main refrigerant replacement approved by the Environmental Protection Agency is toxic, and is so corrosive that it will require replacement of the equipment in which it is used every 3-7 years.

Treasury Dept. has been lax on money laundering

The Treasury Department's Office of Financial Enforcement (OFE), the key agency in the war on money laundering, is so understaffed and badly managed that it takes years to process cases, the General Accounting Office (GAO) told Rep. Jake Pickle's (D-Tex.) House Ways and Means oversight committee in late June.

The GAO noted that until 1990, OFE had only one specialist processing cases—three more have been hired since—and all three of its top positions have been vacant for protracted periods within the past two years. The GAO said that its review of OFE files showed no activity in many cases for months at a time.

Treasury officials defended the OFE, stating that as of March, OFE had its "full complement" of 15 full-time workers, and said that over the past nine months, the OFE had imposed penalties totaling more than \$1.5 million on various financial institutions, according to the July 1 *Washington Post*.

Pickle called the OFE's performance "pathetic" and said, "Despite the seriousness of the matter, I have concluded that there is no organized effort at Treasury to identify money-laundering activities and to take timely action to eliminate these activities."

Cisneros forced to reply to EIR challenge

In an apparent reversal of strategy, attorneys for Parenchio, Inc., a media firm owned by Venezuelan dirty money investor Gustavo Cisneros Rendiles and his brother Ricardo, responded to substantive issues raised by *EIR* in *EIR*'s recommendation to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that the firm not be allowed to purchase the Spanish-language Univision television network. (See *EIR*, July 3, p. 10.)

On July 6 *EIR* received a copy of a sworn affidavit submitted by Gustavo Cisneros to the FCC, in which he complained that "*EIR* was founded by and is considered to be controlled by Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, a perennial presidential candidate and convicted felon currently in prison. The allegations by *EIR* are preposterous, utterly false, and deserving of no credibility whatever."

Despite this, said Cisneros, "when I first heard about the allegations contained in *Dope, Inc.* which attempts to implicate not only members of my family, but also such distinguished personalities as the pope, Queen Elizabeth II, the Rockefellers, Ken-

nedy and Bronfman families, Henry Kissinger, and others in an international drug conspiracy, I considered the personal attack on my character, reputation, and honor too serious by itself." Cisneros bragged that he personally took steps "which enjoined the further distribution of the book in Venezuela."

Cisneros admitted that he and his brother Ricardo do "have a minority interest" in the company that controls "Aero Servicios Alas, C.A.," which owned an aircraft seized by the U.S. Customs Service in 1986. But, he said, the plane was returned to the company by the U.S. Treasury, "and no charges were brought against the company, the pilot, or anyone on board. Furthermore, neither I, my brother Ricardo, or any member of our immediate families have ever been charged, indicted, prosecuted or convicted for any criminal offense related to narcotics."

LaRouche suit against NBC thrown out

On June 22 Federal Magistrate P. Michael Mahoney filed a 15-page report and recommendation, granting the motions to dismiss all the defendants in *Lyndon H. LaRouche, et al. v. Schumacher, et al.* The decision follows a year of legal wrangling over motions filed in a civil rights action brought against Schumacher, a state's attorney in Ogle County, Illinois; Pat Lynch of NBC-TV; and the daughter of Harriet Driver, a supporter of and contributor to organizations associated with presidential candidate LaRouche.

The civil rights complaint arose from a grand jury investigation and subsequent prosecution of two LaRouche associates, Patricia Noble-Schenk and Ron Fredman, who after a personal meeting at the house of Mrs. Driver, were accused of breaking and entering and theft.

The grand jury investigation collapsed and the prosecution was aborted when Schumacher's behavior, in conjunction with Lynch and Driver's daughter, became so outrageous that Mrs. Driver suffered a stroke on the witness stand.

The magistrate in the subsequent countersuit against Schumacher and Pat Lynch, however, found that every allegation of misconduct in the complaint as to Schumacher "fell within the scope of his prosecutorial role"—including Schumacher's improper issuance of a subpoena *duces tecum*, and the disclosure of this information to a private law firm. Mahoney argued, in effect, that the grand jury investigation and any action related to it "involve actions preliminary to the initiation of a prosecution," and that prosecutors have absolute immunity from suit for all such activity.

Baboon liver recipient defended against PETA

In a July 2 press release, the group Putting People First (PPF) denounced a protest by animal rights activists at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where the first recipient of a baboon liver transplant is recuperating.

"On the very day the whole world is rejoicing in this medical miracle and wishing the patient a quick recovery, it is sick and macabre for PETA [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals] to exploit this occasion to promote its bizarre agenda that elevates animals above humans," said Kathleen Marquardt, chairman of Putting People First. "PETA always said the use of animals in medicine can't save human lives," said Marquardt. "Now they're saying maybe it can, but it shouldn't! This breakthrough shows me they are wrong either way."

'October Surprise' study lets Bush off hook

In presenting the preliminary findings of the House investigation into Reagan-Bush efforts to delay the release of hostages in Iran until after the November 1980 elections, task force chairman Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.) said on July 2 that the only conclusions which could be drawn for the moment is that

George Bush definitely was in the United States between Oct. 18-22, 1980, laying to rest the rumors that at that time he attended a secret meeting in Paris with Iranian representatives.

Hamilton said that they had arrived at these conclusions through interviews with Secret Service agents assigned to guard vice presidential candidate Bush and by looking through the classified Secret Service logs for that time period.

Hamilton added that this does not resolve any of the other allegations regarding a "deal" to delay the hostage release. Hamilton said the task force will continue its work, by looking at records, depositions and talking with witnesses. There are as yet no hearings scheduled, and Hamilton indicated that, when and if they do hold hearings, these may not be public.

Virginia passes euthanasia law

On July 1, the Commonwealth of Virginia passed a law making it legal for emergency medical technicians not to resuscitate non-hospitalized terminally ill patients.

According to the new law, patients will be provided with a medical bracelet that has printed on it "Do Not Resuscitate." The bracelet will be available only if the patient's physician and an "authorized decision-maker" for the patient have signed release forms. Emergency personnel may withhold cardiopulmonary resuscitation, tracheal intubation, or other advanced airways procedures, or artificial ventilation. Personnel are required, however, to perform procedures like opening airways and suctioning, giving oxygen, administering pain medications, controlling bleeding, and generally offering "simple creature comforts."

Virginia is one of five states to have recently passed a law allowing a physician or a family to kill off a "troublesome" family member who is terminally ill. The others are Montana, North Carolina, Connecticut, and New York. Virginia is pioneering the "Do Not Resuscitate" bracelets.

Briefly

● **THE LIBRARY** of Congress has put so many budget-dictated restrictions on public access to its book and periodicals, that serious research by private citizens is all but impossible. Librarian of Congress James Billington recently announced that not even library personnel will be permitted access to the stacks, giving the excuse that the measure had become necessary to prevent theft.

● **SAM ZAKHEM**, a former U.S. ambassador to Bahrain who purchased lavish ads in major U.S. newspapers urging the U.S. to go to war against Iraq, has been indicted along with two other "conservative activists" on federal charges of failing to register as foreign agents. They allegedly took \$7.7 million from the Kuwait government to purchase the publicity.

● **BILL CLINTON** explained to the *Washington Post* his faithful participation at the annual July Pentecostal revival meetings in Redfield, Arkansas, where the worshipers "speak in tongues"—i.e., in "speech" which is in no known or understandable human language. Said Clinton, "I love those people because they live by what they say."

● **RONALD REAGAN** may soon be indicted in connection with the Iran-Contra affair. According to a column in the July 3 *Washington Times* by William A. Rusher, Iran-Contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh "is preparing to crown his lackluster record by indicting former President Ronald Reagan for perjury. His hope is to put Mr. Reagan in prison."

● **THE BLOODS AND CRIPS**, the two key gangs involved in sparking the recent Los Angeles riots, expect to get substantial financial aid from U.S. companies, according to the *Baltimore Sun*. The two gangs have created a new corporation known as Hands Across Watts, and expect major donations to run the gangs' "job-training, child care, and recreational programs."