

National News

Chicago trade board to auction pollution rights

The Environmental Protection Agency has selected the Chicago Board of Trade to auction pollution rights, the Sept. 25 *Wall Street Journal* reported. According to this plan, EPA will dole out pollution "credits" to the 110 dirtiest power plants. Each credit "allows" the utility to spew one ton of sulfur dioxide each year. The utilities will get only as many credits as the amount of sulfur dioxide they now emit. Power plants that are able to reduce emissions earn extra credits, and the CBOT also will be given a number of credits, all of which can be auctioned every March to the highest bidders.

Going beyond the EPA's craziness, the CBOT also plans to offer futures contracts on the pollution credits, meaning that utilities, speculators, or whoever, can trade in commitments to buy or sell bundles of 25 credits. Of course, the new speculative bonanza received praise from the Environmental Defense Fund's Joseph Goffman.

Support builds for march on Washington

A march against the death penalty, beginning in Richmond, Virginia on Sept. 27 and ending in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 7 has been gathering international support. The march was called by the Rev. James Bevel to demonstrate at the Supreme Court when it hears the case of Leonel Herrera, an innocent man who has been sentenced to die, but whose appeals were turned down for procedural reasons. The Reverend Bevel is the running mate of independent presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

A leaflet to be distributed at the Supreme Court says: "If the Courts are going to go all the way and endorse judicial murder of people who are probably or actually innocent, they should take off their black robes, and put on their white robes and hoods."

On Sept. 25, the International Student Non-Violent Constitutional Committees

formed to support the march and rally.

Others within the U.S. issued statements supporting the march and demanding an end to the death penalty, including: Sa'ad el-Amin, a Richmond attorney and civil rights activist; the Rev. Russell A. Ford, the chaplain for Virginia's death row; and O'Neal Mercer, head of Region 13 of the NAACP.

International support has been received from "Mothers for Peace" in Zagreb, Croatia: "We support your action and hope that not only the barbaric practice of the death penalty, which we, after becoming free from communism, happily abolished, will disappear in your country, too, but that also through your movement the United States will become again a force of good in the world."

From Germany, support was also sent by Helmut Eichinger, chairman of the Association of German Farmers-West, and a founding member of European Farmers for LaRouche.

Billington begins 77-year term in Virginia gulag

LaRouche associate Michael O. Billington addressed marchers who are demanding an end to the death penalty on Sept. 28, before turning himself in to the Virginia prison system to serve a 77-year sentence for his political organizing with Lyndon LaRouche (see accompanying story).

"It is not just a sentence against me," he told the marchers. "It is a sentence against you, and each and every citizen in this nation and around the world who refuses to compromise. The reason for this is a threat." He explained how the show trial proceeded despite the fact that he had already served three years in federal prison on the same charges. On the eve of his trial, his attorney turned on him and joined the prosecution, and the judge refused to allow him to hire another attorney to defend him. Finally, a stiff sentence was imposed when he refused to plea bargain in exchange for no jail time. "I could win my . . . so-called freedom, if I would lie before the court, before the nation, before the world, before God—lie, and say

that this fight is a fraud."

During a brief incarceration in Virginia, he said, he had a chance to meet and talk with Joe Giarratano, a death row inmate whose sentence had been commuted. Giarratano, he said, had grown up a "drugged-up zombie," but in 12 years on death row, had turned his life around. The latest casualty of Virginia's electric chair, Willie Leroy Jones, he concluded, was denied that inalienable right to be redeemed. "But . . . those of us here . . . can in fact contribute to Willie Jones's ability to make his life worth something to the future of humanity, by fighting for the justice that was lacking in this nation when his death was imposed. No one can tell what Willie Jones might have contributed." He continued, "It is not just what Willie Jones lost by being killed. It is what the rest of the world lost by his being killed, that we have to also consider."

Concluding, he said: "I call on you to use the fact that I have been subjected to this barbarous sentence for a positive purpose . . . to wake up those citizens, to make them fight, to join us and we can win this war. So, Godspeed!"

Prouty writes new book on JFK murder

Col. L. Fletcher Prouty (ret.) told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Sept. 23 that President John F. Kennedy was moving to end some of the policies prevailing during the Eisenhower period, vis-à-vis the Cold War; and that certain financial and political interests saw Kennedy's intended shifts as a threat. Prouty said that in particular, Kennedy was against the war buildup in Vietnam. In the film "JFK," the character of Prouty, fictionalized as "Mr. X," was played by Donald Sutherland.

Host Charles Gibson pressed Prouty that it seemed hard to believe that such a far-reaching conspiracy to cover up the Kennedy murder could exist, involving the CIA, NSA, FBI, etc. Prouty pointed out that every President since Kennedy has publicly said he believes the Warren Commission report, when none of them does. "That's our conspiracy," he said. "Who's telling them to

say that?" He singled out Lyndon Johnson, saying that he knew that Oswald was not the lone assassin.

INS raids Nebraska meatpacking plant

In one of the biggest Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) enforcement actions ever, Nebraska law enforcement and INS agents raided the Montfort meatpacking plant, owned by Conagra, in Grand Island on Sept. 22. Three hundred seventy-one illegal aliens from Mexico working third shift at the plant were arrested. According to the media, there were over 500 illegal aliens, constituting a night shift slave-labor work force at the plant. The total work force at the plant is 2,000.

The wives and children of the arrested workers have been left stranded in Grand Island. It is widely known that the meatpacking plants in Nebraska are staffed by Mexican workers who supposedly have work papers.

Death penalty challenged in several states

Virginia attorney John Flannery brought a constitutional challenge to the death penalty in a motion on Sept. 17, as part of his defense of James Starkey, who was charged with capital murder in July 1991. "There is no question that execution is this state's and this nation's penalty for the poor; it's just not used against the rich," Flannery's motion states. A hearing on pre-trial motions is set for Nov. 2.

In Illinois, U.S. District Judge Marvin Aspen struck down a death sentence on the grounds that the instructions given the jury were too confusing for many jurors to understand. Judge Aspen overturned the sentence of James P. Free, Jr., who was convicted of murder in 1979. According to a recent report in the *Washington Times*, Free's attorney, Kimball Anderson, said up to 80 other condemned Illinois inmates might be able to use

the ruling in their appeals.

Meantime, in impromptu remarks on Sept. 23, Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer told the *Washington Post* that he will introduce legislation in January to limit death penalty appeals to two years. Schaefer also said he will review the cases of the state's 14 death row inmates "and find out why they're sitting there." Maryland has not executed anyone since 1961. "If you're not going to invoke the death penalty, then we ought to take them off death row and possibly have an alternate sentence," Schaefer said. Schaefer said he did not know whether he will try to advance the execution date of anyone.

'Gays' rack up gains in schools, state laws

A *Sunday New York Times* Sept. 27 editorial endorses teaching first-grade children "the positive aspects" of homosexuality. The editorial carries an accompanying illustration of two recommended children's books, *Daddy's Roommate* and *Heather Has Two Mommies*, which it praises for depicting sodomy and lesbian relationships as "loving and strong." The *Times* says first-grade teachers are rightly "instructed to foster positive attitudes about sexual orientation"—any and all sexual orientation, and gives the excuse that, "At a time when gay-bashing has become one of the most vicious hate crimes among teenagers, the need for greater understanding is imperative."

In California, Gov. Pete Wilson (R) has signed a law forbidding employers from discriminating against homosexuals in hiring, firing, promotions, or demotions. The Sept. 27 *Los Angeles Times* reported that Tim Kincaid of the Los Angeles Log Cabin Republican Club said, "We commend the governor for standing up to the religious bigots in the party."

Another Republican governor, William Weld of Massachusetts, has extended family bereavement and hospital visitation privileges to homosexual pairs, according to *USA Today* Sept. 24. "It is believed to be the first time a state has extended such benefits to same-sex partners as unmarried heterosexual couples."

● **NEW JERSEY** Superior Court Judge Joseph Sadofski declared the state's hate crimes statute unconstitutional on Sept. 26 on the grounds that it violated free speech. He reportedly based his ruling on the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision overturning Minnesota's statute, whose model legislation was crafted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

● **EDWARD DERWINSKI** resigned his post as Secretary of Veterans Affairs last month. The Veterans of Foreign Wars had vowed not to endorse George Bush's reelection while Derwinski occupied the post, associating Derwinski with the administration's moves against veterans' rights at government hospitals.

● **'DR. DEATH'** Jack Kevorkian murdered his fifth victim, cancer patient Lois F. Hawes, by poison gas Sept. 27. The announcement was made by Kevorkian's attorney, Geoffrey Feiger, who is referring to the deaths as "assisted suicides." Although Kevorkian, an unemployed pathologist, has been stripped of his medical license, the state of Michigan continues to treat him leniently and call for the medical profession to "debate" the issue.

● **GEORGE BUSH** rebuffed the requests of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali for troops and funding for U.N. peacekeeping forces, and instead offered now-vacant American military bases as training camps for a U.N. army to intervene aggressively into conflicts, during his address to the U.N. General Assembly.

● **U.S. AMBASSADOR** to Moscow Malcolm Toon, who is the American co-chairman of the Russian-American Bilateral Commission on POWs, effectively told the Russians to say there were no live American POWs held in detention, but the Russians on the commission claim a thorough investigation may take more time.