

National News

ARGUS, U.S. Marshals under investigation

At least two different formal investigations are now ongoing against the founder of the private military group ARGUS (Armored Response Group United States), which was instrumental in the Oct. 6, 1986 military raid against Lyndon LaRouche in Leesburg, Virginia. One investigation is by the Department of Justice and another by the District of Columbia Police, according to the Oct. 3 *Washington Post*. The object of the investigation is to determine how ARGUS co-founder J.C. Herbert Bryant used his links to the U.S. Marshals Service to avoid an arrest for carrying illegal guns in his car when he was detained on Sept. 2 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington. Bryant also heads the Marshals Service Association.

Henry Hudson, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia who ran the LaRouche railroad in 1988 and the illegal bankruptcy against companies and publications associated with him in 1987, is currently the head of the U.S. Marshals Service. D.C. Police say that Bryant "represented to us he was a U.S. marshals deputy."

Rock singer rips pope photo on NBC program

Bald Irish rock singer Sinead O'Connor called for people to "fight the enemy" and ripped up a photo of the pope on "Saturday Night Live," Oct. 3, in a shocking display of satanic hatred, which took even the cynics at NBC network by surprise. O'Connor, in a later interview, blamed child abuse on the Catholic Church. In her appearance on "Saturday Night Live," she performed the song "War" written by the late Jamaican marijuana advocate Bob Marley. When she reached the final refrain, "We have confidence in the victory of good over evil," she pulled a photograph of the pope out from behind her back and ripped it into four pieces, flinging them into the face of the audience. "Fight the real enemy," she spat.

Joseph Zwilling, a spokesman for the New York archdiocese, where NBC and "Saturday Night Live" are based, told press: "To me what she did was an act of hatred and promoted intolerance. Pope John Paul is a tireless advocate for peace." A spokesman for Bishop Daily said, "I'm sure the Holy Father would be the first one to say a prayer for her to come to grips with whatever is angering her."

O'Connor's action comes at the same time that Madonna, another former Catholic and rock star who has viciously attacked the church, has come out with a so-called "music video" that displays such explicit hetero- and homosexual activity, that even the hard-core MTV will only air those portions of it late at night. MTV had earlier placed strictures on the video "Erotica" that Madonna could not "desecrate" the cross or show sexual relations with animals or minors.

Cisneros takeover of network gets FCC okay

The Federal Communications Commission approved the sale by Hallmark of Univision, the largest Spanish-language TV network in the U.S., to a consortium headed by Mexican TV magnate Emilio Azcárraga, Venezuela's Gustavo Cisneros, and Norman Lear's partner Jerrol Perenchio, according to UPI. The FCC approved the deal on Sept. 23, but it was not reported until Oct. 1. The approval process was expected to take up to a year; instead, the FCC rushed it through in five months.

Approval was granted without a hearing, although several objections had been filed against the transaction. One of the objections was filed by *EIR*, which, among other issues, noted that Cisneros does not believe in free speech and has a proven record of squashing dissent, and that he does not meet the U.S. character qualifications to run a broadcast company, given several instances in which his name and/or the name of his companies and associates have been alleged to be linked to corrupt activities, including drug-trafficking and drug-money laundering.

Royko roasts blackout of Iraqi child mortality

In a most trenchant column, which was printed in the Virginia *Winchester Star* on Sept. 30, syndicated columnist Mike Royko takes up the theme of the recent study on deaths of Iraqi children, which was published in the Sept. 24 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The study by the Harvard School of Public Health, a followup from last year by the Harvard team that visited Iraq, attributed the high child mortality to the U.N. embargo and the U.S. bombing of non-military-related infrastructure, and found this year that 46,900 more children under the age of 5 had died as a result of the continuing hardship inflicted on Iraq by the "allies."

Royko lampoons the media for not considering this story newsworthy, and puts forward dramatic ways in which the story could be tailored to media tastes: If 46,900 children were put in a football stadium, and then it were blown up, or if a giant meteor were to hit Disney World some afternoon.

Local Mich. candidate blasts Kevorkian backers

Following Dr. Jack Kevorkian's fifth murder, state representative candidate for the 28th District in Michigan Karen Roberts, of Warren, blasted the death lobby in the state legislature. "How is it that in the last two years Dr. Kevorkian got away with five murders?" she asked in a statement on Sept. 30.

She singled out for condemnation House Judiciary Committee Chairman Perry Bul-lard and Rep. Lynn Jondahl of the Judiciary Subcommittee, who prevented Senate Bill 32 from reaching the floor: "While Senate Bill 32 is highly inadequate because its penalty for so-called physician assisted-suicide, or killing the sick . . . falsely distinguishes between euthanasia and murder, and therefore promotes euthanasia; nonetheless, it starts right by classifying assisted-suicide as a felony offense.

"More than simply killing people, Kevorkian is consciously assaulting the most important values of Judeo-Christian civilization, and thus opening the door to even more horrible crimes, the way the Nazi practice of euthanasia opened the way to the concentration camps. . . . Is it not obvious," Roberts asked, "that once the principles of the sanctity of life have been eliminated, the state, to reduce its expenses, will be more and more tempted to look at some lives as being a burden and to see their elimination as a relief? Perhaps Mr. Bullard and Mr. Jondahl's stalling tactics have just such a goal."

DOJ covers for Bush in Iraq bank loan case

In an unexpected move which surprised both the judge and the defense team, federal prosecutors in the Atlanta, Georgia case involving the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro moved Oct. 1 to withdraw a plea bargain agreement with defendant Christopher Drogoul and allow the case to go to trial. The government had previously opposed allowing him to withdraw his guilty plea, but made an about-face when CIA documents implicating the White House's involvement in illegal loans to Iraq surfaced at Drogoul's sentencing hearing. The newly discovered evidence that Drogoul was not acting as a "rogue" banker, as the DOJ had contended, but had approval from the Bush administration, led Drogoul to withdraw his guilty plea, which the government opposed. The threat of more hearings, with more evidence of government involvement being aired this close to the election changed prosecutors' minds, and the unexpected Department of Justice move now shuts the BNL case down until well after November.

The *New York Times* said Oct. 2 that the hearings "provided a daily reminder of the administration's policy of aiding Mr. Hussein before the Persian Gulf war, and spawned charges of an administration cover-up." Under pressure, from this "daily reminder" in both the courtroom and hearings by Texas Rep. Henry Gonzalez's House Banking Committee, CIA director Robert Gates ordered a belated internal investiga-

tion into why the agency made "incomplete statements" to the Justice Department about the affair on Oct. 7.

Judge Marvin Shoob stated that, based on what he had heard, "I have concluded that the substantial financing of Iraq by BNL-Atlanta was well known in international banking circles, that it was well known in the United States, and by U.S. intelligence." On Sept. 30, Drogoul said that two front companies with U.S. intelligence agency connections used BNL in connection with the loans to Iraq. Drogoul said that the Iraqi minister of industry and military production had told him, "We're all in this together. The intelligence service of the U.S. works very closely with the intelligence service of the Iraqi government."

Slaves of Saudis ask for U.S. asylum

Defense lawyers for two Asian women kept as slaves by the older brother of Saudi King Fahd in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Houston, filed a summary with immigration authorities in the women's deportation proceedings, according to the Sept. 29 *Houston Chronicle*. The summary states that domestic workers have been tricked into signing employment contracts.

"We have actual written confirmation of the agreement between the Saudi and Philippine governments requiring the return of slaves who escape," said defense lawyer Jerry S. Payne, who is trying to win political asylum in the United States for his clients. Payne made public an internal report sent in 1987 to the Philippine government from its embassy in Riyadh which said: "The Kingdom's concept of domestic helpers is that of a slave, having no rights whatsoever. They can be given away as presents. They can be maltreated and when they complain they are under the police jurisdiction and immediately land in jail, even if they are the complainants."

After "strong recommendations" from the embassy in Saudi Arabia, Philippines President Corazon Aquino instituted a temporary ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Saudi Arabia in 1988, but later the ban was lifted under a Saudi threat to ban oil sales to the Philippines.

Briefly

● **DONALD PHAU**, an associate of independent presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche convicted in Virginia for his political organizing activities, had his appeal denied by the state Court of Appeals. Phau has been sentenced to 25 years in prison. The trial judge, Clifford Weckstein, had been caught secretly communicating with the LaRouche-hating Anti-Defamation League about the "LaRouche cases" he was hearing.

● **A KEY CHARGE** in the Iran-Contra indictment against former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger was dismissed. Federal Judge Thomas Hogan struck down the charge that Weinberger obstructed Congress by withholding his notes and diaries from congressional investigators in 1987.

● **THE NEXT VICTIM** Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry has lined up for the Virginia electric chair is wheelchair-bound paraplegic Charles S. Stamper. He is scheduled to be executed on Oct. 28, and a clemency petition has been submitted to Gov. Douglas Wilder.

● **THE U.S. NAVY** officially changed its strategy from preparation for deep-water war to dealing with regional hot-spots. "It is a fundamental shift from open-ocean warfighting," said Defense Department spokesman Pete Williams on Oct. 3. The Navy said it was forming a new Naval Doctrine Command to develop details of the new strategy which cohere with the exigencies of the "new world order."

● **'NEW YORK'** magazine's Oct. 5 issue attempted to debunk the theory that the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in the downing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988 as a "LaRouche hoax." The article follows the format of an earlier article in *Time* magazine which claimed that the "October Surprise" was concocted by LaRouche investigative journalists.