

## National News

### LaRouche Democrats shake up Texas, California races

According to an article in the Feb. 15 *Houston Chronicle*, three weeks before the March 8 Texas Democratic Party primary, LaRouche associate Evelyn Lantz holds second place in the race for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate. With over one-third of the voters still undecided, former Attorney General Jim Mattox led with 29% of the vote and Lantz has 14%.

According to the *Chronicle*, "The latest Texas Poll also indicated the Democratic race remains a toss-up. . . . [Former Attorney General Jim] Mattox led with 29% of the likely primary voters, followed by Dallas investor Richard Fisher with 11% and U.S. Rep. Mike Andrews with 10%. Thirty-six percent were undecided, and another 14% of the likely 458 primary voters surveyed said they will vote for someone other than Mattox, Fisher, or Andrews. The only other candidate on the Democratic ballot is Lyndon LaRouche follower Evelyn Lantz."

In California on Feb. 17, LaRouche associates Mark Calney and David Kilber announced their campaigns for governor and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, respectively. Kilber exposed the race hatred behind the Anti-Defamation League's World of Difference program. Recent racial incidents at Ventura high schools have been covered in the local press, which mentioned the ADL and its contact with the local school superintendent.

### Intelligence world puts 'spin' on Ames arrest

The arrest of CIA Soviet counterintelligence official Aldrich Ames and his wife on charges of spying for the KGB and its Russian successor, has given rise to an immediate barrage of "spins" from political and intelligence factions.

The most prominent line is that the incident should be used to cut off all aid to Russia and to break off the Clinton administration's dealings with Russia. The *New*

*York Post* and the *Washington Times*, which have led the charge in the British-run Whitewater scandal against the President, quickly gave prominent coverage to calls to stop all aid to Russia. The *Post* quoted Sen. Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.) as saying, "We're giving them money, and they take the money and buy spies." However, administration spokesmen and their allies in the Congress insist that there will be no immediate repercussions in that area.

Neo-conservative circles are also saying that the incident is a vindication of the late James Jesus Angleton, (whose obsessive hunt for the Soviet "mole" in the CIA was said by many to have done far more damage than any mole could have done). Wyoming's Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R) told the *Washington Times* that the incident proves that "Angleton was right, and may be sleeping more soundly tonight than he has since he died."

### U.S. backs new Haiti plan opposed by Aristide

The United States is backing a plan promoted by Haitian parliamentarians that calls for deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to name a new prime minister, who would then work to establish the conditions for his return to power. According to Reuters on Feb. 15, the proposal does not set a specific date for Aristide's return. A senior State Department official told the *Miami Herald* that the United States welcomed the proposal.

A delegation of Haitian parliamentarians has been in the United States and met with Aristide's aides, but the ex-priest has so far refused to receive them. Michael Barnes, the Inter-American Dialogue and Anti-Defamation League member who serves as Aristide's chief lobbyist, said his client "has major reservations." Aristide still wants a tougher worldwide embargo against Haiti.

Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, is urging President Clinton to de-emphasize Aristide's return. "I think saying we're going to restore democracy there by putting one man back in power is . . . ignoring the Haitian

history," he told CNN, according to Reuters. Nunn called for the United States to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people, to take measures to prevent a mass migration of Haitians to the United States, and to build "the kind of consensus and infrastructure there that will allow Aristide to return at a later date under circumstances that will make . . . democracy viable."

### Civil rights heroine addresses women inmates

An address by 60-year veteran of the civil rights struggle Amelia Boynton Robinson was the featured event for 250 women celebrating African-American History Month at the Virginia State Correctional Facility in Goochland. The address was sponsored by the prison school principal Dr. Shripe, at the initiation of inmate Rochelle Ascher. Ascher is a victim of the "get LaRouche" frameup trials in Virginia; Mrs. Robinson was an observer of her trial in January 1989.

In welcoming Mrs. Robinson, one inmate gave a poetic recitation of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and his last speech, where he proclaimed, "I have been to the mountaintop; and I have seen the Promised Land." Another woman described how composer Thomas Dorsey had written the spiritual "Precious Lord," after losing his wife and newborn son, and then sang it, conveying the emotional depth of Dorsey's composition.

Mrs. Robinson then addressed the women, saying that, looking around the room, she saw a beautiful flower garden: "You don't belong here. Everyone can make a mistake sometimes, but you can't dwell in the past. You must look to the future, at your potential as human beings. You need to put all these guards standing around out of a job. They are just doing a temporarily necessary job, but they would probably prefer a better job." These remarks brought the house down in laughter and applause, including from a few guards, who were smiling and thanked her profusely after her speech.

At the conclusion, the prison choir sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic, dedicated to Mrs. Robinson.

● **ELECTION BETTING?** There is now a political futures market, with shares ranging from \$5 to \$500, being run on Internet by Iowa Electronic Markets, as part of a six-year-old "experiment" at the University of Iowa College of Business. The school has made markets in 13 elections in seven countries, the latest being the Senate race in Virginia, according to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, on Feb. 22.

● **PRESIDENT** Clinton, asked by nationally syndicated radio host Don Imus on Feb. 17 whether he thought Whitewater would balloon into a scandal like the Watergate affair that brought down President Richard Nixon, said, "No. . . . It's a simple straightforward thing and it'll be shown to be. I'm absolutely comfortable with that."

● **THE ANTI-DEFAMATION** League's January issue of *ADL on the Frontline* finally responded to *EIR's* book-length exposé of its dirty tricks and organized crime operations, more than a year after the book was published. The front-page article includes a photograph of the cover of the book *The Ugly Truth About the ADL*.

● **MICHAEL MILKEN'S** contract to market videos of his "business management" lectures at the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management is coming under fire from two state senators, who questioned the propriety of having the "board of regents entering into a contractual arrangement with people whose agenda is to redefine their role in history." Infamous as the king of junk-bond traders, Milken was convicted of securities fraud.

● **THE U.S. TREASURER** under George Bush, Catalina Vasquez Villalpando, agreed to plead guilty on Feb. 17 to charges of conspiracy, tax evasion, and obstruction of justice. Among her duties at the Treasury Department, Villalpando ran the U.S. Mint, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the U.S. Savings Bonds Division.

## U.S wants Paraguay to host army mission

The United States is trying to pressure Paraguay to make the same arrangement that Colombia made earlier, and permit a contingent from the U.S. Army to conduct long-range deployment exercises in exchange for having it build roads, schools, and health clinics. Additional conditions for the mission are that no Paraguayan military can come near the U.S. areas of activity, and the U.S. must get additional assistance, such as transportation, for the troops. President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, who apparently accepted the invitation in January, is now reported to be urging his Congress to reject it, to get him off the hook after the military strongly objected.

Deputy Minister of Defense Gen. Marcial D. Samaniego said on Feb. 15 that the only condition under which the Paraguayan Army would accept the deployment, is if it can participate in the exercises and activities. He said he expects Paraguay's Congress to ratify this condition, and added that if the U.S. rejects this condition, it will confirm suspicions about the purpose of the U.S. presence.

## Va. rejects riverboat gaming, backs workfare

Riverboat gambling was defeated in the Virginia House of Delegates on Feb. 15, in a 55-42 vote against a bill that would have legalized floating casinos in the state after a positive public referendum, and approval in local elections where the boats would dock—first off, Richmond and Hampton Roads on the James River. The measure was defeated by the combined vote of 28 Republicans, 26 Democrats, and 1 Independent. Speaker of the House Thomas W. Moss, Jr. (D-Norfolk) backed the measure, citing the usual pitch about providing jobs and tax revenues. Delegates from the James River estuary say that gambling jobs will mitigate the shutdown of the naval industry.

However, in a concession to budget-cut-

ting mania, on the same day, the legislature passed a pilot "workfare" program, pushed by Democratic Lt. Gov. Don Beyer. The program's most controversial feature is that it denies benefits (normally a paltry \$61 a month in any case) for any child born to a woman on welfare. The pilot program would force welfare recipients to become financially independent within two years. Health benefits would be made available for at least 12 months after the recipients go to work. The program also includes subsidies for private sector employers who hire welfare recipients.

## Blackmun affirms death penalty unconstitutional

Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun declared that the death penalty is unconstitutional on Feb. 23, and said: "From this day forward, I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death." Writing a dissent from the court's denial of an appeal by Texas death row inmate Bruce Callins, Blackmun became the only member of the current court to oppose capital punishment under all circumstances. In recent years, Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan had held that the death penalty was unconstitutional in all cases, but both have retired.

Blackmun cited the 1972 *Furman* case which invalidated the death penalty on the grounds that it "must be imposed fairly, and with reasonable consistency, or not at all." Blackmun wrote that "despite the efforts of the states and courts to devise legal formulas and procedural rules to meet this daunting challenge, the death penalty remains fraught with arbitrariness, discrimination, caprice and mistake."

"For more than 20 years, I have endeavored—indeed, I have struggled—along with a majority of this court to develop procedural and substantive rules that would lend more than the mere appearance of fairness of the death penalty endeavor. Rather than continue to coddle the court's delusion that the desired level of fairness has been achieved and the need for regulation eviscerated, I feel morally and intellectually obligated simply to concede that the death penalty experiment has failed," he wrote.