

National News

Bush worries about sons' gubernatorial chances

In an interview with the *Houston Chronicle* that appeared on May 3, former President George Bush explained that he "is resolute he will give no more interviews this year," in part because of his concern for the gubernatorial campaigns his sons are running: George W. in Texas and Jeb in Florida. (Political wags have referred to the two as "sons of a Bush.") With the same eloquence that characterized his presidency, Bush said, "If I take a position on domestic—or even foreign—policy, reporters will want to know what they say and they differ or agree."

Perhaps trying to prove that he can do more damage to his own campaign by opening his mouth than his father can, George W. Bush responded to a question from the *Chronicle* about whether he has used illegal drugs, with a definite: "Maybe I did, maybe I didn't. What's the relevance? How I behaved as an irresponsible youth is irrelevant to this campaign. It does not matter what I did, nor what [incumbent Democratic Gov.] Ann Richards did. What matters is how I behave as an adult."

New slander against LaRouche under way

The circles around New York investment adviser John Train are preparing a new slander campaign against Democratic presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, *EIR* has learned. A former journalist for *New York* magazine, Christopher Byron, has been procured by *Worth* magazine as the task force's poison-pen. *Worth* boasts that John Train counsels them on investment tips.

In April 1983, after President Reagan had announced as U.S. policy LaRouche's Strategic Defense Initiative, Train assembled a private task force including NBC producer Pat Lynch; Dennis King, whose book *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism* was funded by the CIA-connected

Smith Richardson Foundation; former CIA employee and Anti-Defamation League (ADL) "fact-finder" Mira Lansky Boland; and National Security Council staffer Roy Godson. Slanders against LaRouche were soon shopped out to the *New Republic*, NBC's short-lived TV magazine "First Camera," and *Reader's Digest*.

In the late 1980s, Byron defended junk bond swindler Michael Milken, saying he was the victim of Ivan Boesky, who was blackmailed by the government to set up Milken for prosecution. Milken's foundation has been a major funder of the ADL's "World of Difference" multicultural curriculum, which, under the guise of teaching tolerance to schoolchildren, included a lying attack on LaRouche's earlier presidential campaign.

An *EIR* source, who has extensively investigated the Bush administration's cover-up of Syrian involvement in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, characterized Byron as "a U.S. government hack. He was fired from *New York* magazine because he was too blatant a hatchet-man, employed to go after anybody who was telling the truth on Lockerbie, doing this on behalf of the U.S. government. He's connected with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration."

Kahane Chai funding under close scrutiny

New York *Jewish Week* has succeeded in getting the New York State Attorney General's Office to formally look into violations of state law by Kahane Chai, one of the terrorist successors to the late Rabbi Meir Kahane's Jewish Defense League. Kahane Chai-controlled groups had been soliciting tax-exempt contributions for the Jewish settlers movement in the Israeli Occupied Territories. Dr. Baruch Goldstein, who carried out the massacre of 50 Muslim worshippers in Hebron in February, was a member of Kahane Chai in Brooklyn, before emigrating to the Kiryat Arba settlement.

The U.S. State Department Office of the Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism is directing an interagency task force that is looking into their U.S. funding sources. The

IRS is looking into the Kahane Chai-controlled American Friends of Yeshiva Harav Meir, which ran ads in Kahane's old newspaper in Brooklyn, soliciting allegedly tax deductible contributions to finance the settlers in the Territories. The State Department, however, has yet to follow Israel's lead and declare Kahane Chai a terrorist group.

The probes are causing some consternation among pro-Zionist groups, however. Shoshanna Bryen of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) in Washington, D.C. tried to brush off the investigation: "The talk of an interagency task force is only conversation; they go on all the time. Most of the settler groups are long-established religious organizations with tax-exempt status." Bryen may be whistling in the dark: One prominent JINSA member, Galen Kelly, is now serving a seven-year federal sentence in a "cult kidnap-for-hire" scheme; his co-defendants, now awaiting trial, are members of the Lubavitcher sect.

Minnesota party hacks exclude Van Bergen

LaRouche Democrat and Minnesota gubernatorial candidate Richard Van Bergen was illegally expelled on May 1 from the convention of the Second District Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, and his resolution in defense of the presidency was sabotaged by DFL hacks allied to Minnesota Attorney General Hubert "Skip" Humphrey. (The DFL is the Democratic Party in Minnesota.) As in 1990 and 1992, Van Bergen was expelled solely because of his support for Lyndon LaRouche.

Van Bergen had been elected as a delegate from the Wright County party to the state convention on April 9, only to have his credentials challenged at the state convention by Wright County DFL chairman Kevin LeVoi.

Van Bergen and his supporters had also collected 35 signatures on a petition to introduce his resolution condemning the "McCarthyite witchhunt" against President Clinton and the presidency, which began with the phony "Whitewatergate" scandal.

Briefly

The treacherous Humphrey forces sabotaged it, when they moved to adjourn the convention before the resolution could be considered.

Baltimore schools: local control and privatization

Baltimore School Superintendent Walter Amprey called for a system of so-called enterprise schools to begin on July 1. In a move which complements the city's hiring of the predatory Education Alternatives, Inc. (EAI) to run its schools on a for-profit basis, the city will turn over \$32 million of the school budget to local "site-based councils," which will decide how to spend monies for libraries, janitorial staff, teacher training, gifted and talented programs, and other school functions, according to the *Baltimore Sun*.

The new system, called enterprise schools, is being marketed as allowing local communities to break through red tape and regulations which impede "creative" decisions about how to spend money: Financially strapped districts will be able to decide for themselves what gets cut. Presumably, these autonomous districts will be free to contract with EAI for services, threatening union contracts that have been negotiated with the central school board.

Drug legalizer promotes city services privatization

Richard Dennis, a Chicago commodities speculator, leading funder of the pro-legalization Drug Policy Foundation, and a trustee of the Libertarian Party's the Reason Foundation, will be introducing a Chicago conference sponsored by the foundation on the privatization of public services. The conference deals with such topics as "Performance-Based Budgeting," "Innovations in School Management: Making Schools Work," and "Mining the Public Balance Sheet."

The Reason Foundation and its "Privatization Center" works closely with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, based in

Midland, Michigan, which, in turn, has the backing of Gov. John M. Engler. The Reason Foundation and Mackinac Center have co-authored numerous policy briefings, including one on the privatization of schools and school services which promotes Education Alternatives, Inc. (EAI), the Minneapolis-based company that runs public schools for profit.

Other joint efforts of the New Age privatization institutes include: "Satellite Schools: The Private Provision of School Infrastructure"; "Designing an Effective Bidding and Monitoring System to Minimize Problems in Competitive Contracting"; and "Privatization and Public Employees: Guidelines for Fair Treatment."

Dennis's "Drugpeace Award" was given to pro-legalization economist Milton Friedman in 1991. Dennis is also the author of a book, *Let's Legalize Drugs*.

Burst water mains in Michigan cause emergency

President Clinton agreed to declare several counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula a federal disaster area, where the unusually cold winter and equally rapid thaw burst water mains. The *New York Times* reported that President Clinton said on May 6 he would declare a disaster in the area to provide \$7.1 million in federal assistance.

The cold winter caused a freeze far below the normal frost line, and unusually warm weather this spring thawed the ground faster, causing soil shifts which placed greater stress on the cast iron pipes. Roughly 1,025 broken water mains have been reported in a 10-county area, with 203 households forced to rely on temporary hookups (such as a garden hose from a neighbor's house); 71 homes and two businesses are completely without water; and 8,500 homes remain under orders to let their water run continuously to prevent the pipes from freezing.

"We'd never seen anything quite like this before, with so many water lines broken," Gary Pearson, head of the infrastructure program in the Chicago office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told AP. Local officials say that it will take all summer to fully restore water service.

● **THE EFFECTS OF OBE** showed up when some Pennsylvania schoolchildren were recently herded out to oppose a demonstration against the brainwashing curriculum called outcome-based education. One child wrote a signboard, complete without punctuation and misspellings: "Shut Up Go Home Bevis [sic] and Butt-head Are Cool They Kick A—."

● **MURDER CHARGES** were reinstated against Jack Kevoorkian by a Michigan appeals court this month, overturning a lower court's dismissal. The charges were brought in the 1991 deaths of Marjorie Wantz, who was found at autopsy to have no physical illness; and Sherry Miller, who suffered from multiple sclerosis and became deeply depressed after her husband left her.

● **PRESIDENT** Bill Clinton met at the White House on May 6 with Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. Mahathir is in the United States on a private visit with his wife, who is to receive an honorary degree from the University of Indiana at Bloomington. According to Malaysian sources, the initiative for the meeting was taken by the White House.

● **MARYLAND** Gov. William Donald Schaefer has signed a law giving Baltimore City permission to initiate a needle-exchange program for drug addicts, ostensibly to fight AIDS. Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke is an international spokesman for drug legalization. The city council is also debating making homosexual couples jointly eligible for city health benefits.

● **THE SAN FRANCISCO Chronicle** hyped the fears of overpopulation in a May 6-7 weekend editorial, "California's Population: Nightmare Potential." The editorial cited a new Census Bureau report that the state's population will be almost 50 million by the year 2020.