

National News

Rostenkowski to file for dismissal

Attorneys for Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.) said on July 6 that they will file motions within 30 days to dismiss on constitutional grounds the 17-count federal corruption indictment, reported the *Washington Times*. "Essentially we believe that the indictment is illegal and improper," said defense attorney Dan Webb, in attacking the validity of the indictment, based upon the general concept that only the Congress can make its own rules and enforce them.

The defense legal team expects to file three motions that would argue: Rostenkowski is shielded from prosecution because of the Constitution's speech-and-debate clause, which provides for federal lawmakers' immunity for official actions; Rostenkowski is protected under the Constitution's separation-of-powers doctrine that gives Congress wide latitude in its internal rule-making process in setting standards of conduct for its own members; the grand jury may have been tainted by improper evidence submitted by prosecutors involving protected internal records of the House.

'Get LaRouche' gang taking more hits

The Virginia State Bar filed a lawsuit in Loudoun County, Va. Circuit Court on June 8 against the county's Commonwealth's Attorney William Burch to seek his disbarment. Burch worked in tandem with county Sheriff John Isom's office as the local branch of the international "Get LaRouche" apparat in the county seat of Leesburg, where LaRouche lives.

Burch suppressed exculpatory information he had received from a sheriff's deputy in a malicious wounding case. The defendant was convicted and spent four years in prison before winning a new trial, and acquittal, when the deputy came forward to tell the truth about Burch.

The court filing against Burch by Assistant Bar Counsel Richard C. Vorhis,

charges him with misconduct for hiding this and other exculpatory information, and asks that his law license be suspended or revoked. Burch had previously been advised of these charges, and had asked for a hearing before a three-judge panel, rather than the State Bar itself.

Also in Virginia, state Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Lacy has come under fire for accepting a large number of honoraria and giving paid lectures, according to the July 10 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "Accepting speaking fees has almost become taboo in the political world, and for many politicians and judges it is illegal," wrote the daily.

As head of the State Corporation Commission, Lacy ruled that political loans to LaRouche-associated firms were securities, setting into motion the railroad of his associates. She was awarded a seat on the high court, whence she upheld the barbaric sentences against the very same individuals.

So. Dakota high court nixes video gambling

A recent decision by the South Dakota Supreme Court which declares video gambling illegal because it is not based on any skill—essentially ruling that it is a game of chance—has the state in an uproar. Lobbyists, bar owners, and others are descending on the legislature to demand that the state law be rewritten to accommodate their gambling machines, or alternatively that they be compensated. In order to do this the state Constitution would have to be rewritten, requiring a voter referendum, because the state constitution permits gaming based on "skill" but not games of chance.

It is alleged that the loss of video gambling, which is highly addictive, will cost the state \$65 million in revenues and 3,000 jobs. The widespread presence of the video machines and Indian reservation gambling has prepared the way for a \$100 million casino complex being built in Deadwood, which is partly owned and promoted by actor Kevin Costner. The money behind the complex is rumored by South Dakota ranchers to be Paul Christiansen, a partner of Minneapolis mob banker Carl Pohlad.

Biodiversity treaty ratification expected

The Senate is expected to ratify the biodiversity treaty by August, *EIR* learned from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 6. The treaty was approved by the committee and will soon be brought to the full Senate for ratification. If ratified, the treaty, a major step toward the creation of a one-world government, would be used to mandate draconian land-use policies under the guise of ecosystem management. Under the language of the biodiversity treaty, all species have equal rights.

The ratification of the treaty is not a sure bet, however. In the past two months, several secret documents from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior have been unearthed, detailing how they are creating a fascist form of government based on the guidelines embedded in the biodiversity treaty (see our *The Green Front* column of July 15, 1994). The distribution of these secret documents has caused a furor across the country, especially in the farmbelt. These forces are gearing up for an aggressive campaign against the ratification.

Biochemist trashes 'risk-analysis' methods

The *New York Times* acknowledged in its July 5 issue that University of California biochemist Dr. Bruce Ames may be right in his criticism of present risk-analysis methods used by government agencies like the EPA. In the Science News section, *Times* health reporter Jane Brody reviewed Ames's leading criticisms and presented enough evidence to demonstrate the validity of his statements. Brody quoted many of Ames's assertions, including: "pesticides lower the cancer rate"; "pollution seems to me to be mostly a red herring as a cause of cancer"; and "environmentalists are forever issuing scare reports based on very shallow science." She then elaborated Ames's rea-

soning, which emphasizes that cancer rates are very low except among older people, and that cancer is the by-product of the body's metabolism. "Much of cancer is built in; a good part of it due to aging," Ames says.

Brody quoted Ames's famous line that "99.99% of the pesticides Americans consume are natural constituents of plants." She also noted that Ames argues that synthetic pesticides are an anti-cancer weapon, because "their use increases the yield of fruits and vegetables and lowers their cost, enabling more people to consume foods that appear to protect against cancer." Ames considers that the biggest risk of cancer faced by Americans comes from poor diets, especially the lack of fruits and vegetables in the diet.

Ames, who invented the laboratory method that uses rats to determine the cancer risk of synthetic chemicals, has been warning for years that these tests, where extremely high doses cause rats to contract cancer, overestimate cancer risks.

U.S. set to sign new U.N. law of the sea

After two decades of negotiations, the Clinton administration announced on June 30 that it would sign an amended form of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea treaty, according to the *New York Times*. For over a year the administration had been negotiating with more than 50 countries to amend the sea mining section of the treaty that had upset previous administrations. Sixty-one countries have ratified the treaty, which would take effect in November.

The treaty has generated disputes between rich and poor countries because of its underlying premise that "the oceans and the sea bed are a common heritage of mankind to be shared through a just and equitable economic order." The Reagan White House had rejected the treaty in 1982, saying that it clashed with free-enterprise principles by requiring mining companies to pay hefty royalties and share sophisticated technology with poor countries. Current chief Ameri-

can negotiator Wesley Scholz says "we have converted the sea-bed part of the agreement into a market-based regime." The administration has persuaded other countries to delay setting royalty payments and to drop production quotas that the treaty set for private sea-bed mining companies. Officials state that the amended provisions seek not to redistribute the wealth, but to create incentives for sea-bed mining. Companies will no longer have to pay \$1 million a year to explore for minerals on the ocean floor. The industrialized nations have also persuaded poor countries to drop provisions forcing the transfer of mining technology. Scholz also said that the U.S. and other industrialized nations would have an effective veto over decisions by the International Seabed Authority, to be based in Jamaica.

Many Pentagon officials were eager for Washington to ratify the treaty, because it guarantees the right to pass through straits and specifies that countries have full sovereignty over the seas within 12 miles of their shores. The treaty also gives countries control of rights to fishing, oil, and gas within 200 miles of their shores.

Church of God: Masons are 'Christless religion'

The General Assembly of the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) passed a resolution at its annual meeting in Charleston, West Virginia in late June, which declared Freemasonry incompatible with Christianity, according to the July 4 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "Freemasonry is a Christless religion that omits . . . the name of Jesus Christ in its prayers and rituals and has a false view of God and the nature of His salvation," the resolution said. It also accuses Freemasonry of using "bloody oaths" and secretive rituals that "should be repugnant to the Christian."

The church has 550,000 adherents around the world, nearly half of them in the United States. "This is a recommendation," said David Lawson, Church of God associate general secretary. Each of the denomination's 2,300 American congregations is autonomous and will decide whether to implement the resolution, Lawson said.

Briefly

● **AIDS SURPASSES MURDER** as the leading cause of death among African-American men aged 25-44 in the nation's capital, according to Washington, D.C. health officials. A separate report issued in late June by the National Center for Health Statistics showed that AIDS became the number one killer of black men and black women aged 25-44 nationally for the period 1989-91.

● **PRESIDENT** Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton have established the Presidential Legal Expense Trust to help defray rising legal costs brought about from the Whitewater-Madison and Paula Jones legal battles. The fund, unprecedented in U.S. history, would allow individuals to contribute up to \$1,000 per year.

● **KEVORKIAN'S PETITION** drive to put a referendum on the Michigan ballot that would legalize so-called assisted suicide is failing badly. "I'm pretty sure we won't qualify for the ballot," Dr. Death Kevorkian told the *Lansing State Journal* on July 4.

● **THE MAYOR** of Pittsburgh, Tom Murphy, has announced a plan to tear down Allequippa Terrace, the largest poor housing project in the city, most of whose residents are black. He plans to take \$31 million in Housing and Urban Development money earmarked to refurbish Allequippa and use it to build middle-income housing units elsewhere.

● **'THE SENTINEL'** weekly newspaper in Baltimore, Maryland carried lengthy coverage of *EIR* editor Webster Tarpley's congressional testimony on the British hand behind the Whitewater scandal against the President, in its July issue. Columnist William Hughes began his column quoting Cecil Rhodes, who urged Britain to pursue "the ultimate recovery of the United States of America as an integral part of the British Empire."