

National News

Baltimore's 'Clean Needle Exchange' blasted

Maryland gubernatorial candidate Lawrence K. Freeman, who is running in the Democratic primary, called Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke's planned needle exchange for heroin addicts "the hideous lie that there is some 'safe' way for our brothers and sisters to inject poison into their veins," in a July 19 statement. The needle exchange, operating under the cover of stopping the spread of AIDS, went into effect on July 25. Freeman, a LaRouche Democrat, tied Schmoke's initiative to his advocacy of drug legalization and implanting teenagers with the long-term contraceptive Norplant.

Freeman pointed out that AIDS is not only continuing to rage unabated in Baltimore, and that the epidemic has broken out of the so-called high-risk populations, but he blamed the disease breakout on the very "safe sex and clean needles" campaigns. "If we were serious about dealing with the AIDS epidemic," he said, "we would start by supporting universal AIDS screening, to determine who among our citizens are in need of help." He called for reinstatement of classical public health efforts used to stop the spread of dangerous diseases and funding for such promising new treatments as low-dose oral alpha-interferon, which has been pioneered in this country by the Abundant Life Clinic in Washington, D.C.

Southern lawmakers hear LaRouche case

Some 500 legislators from the southern states were presented with the stark facts behind the legal witchhunt against Lyndon LaRouche by Rochelle Ascher, who had just been released from an unjust imprisonment as a LaRouche associate 90 days earlier. The lawmakers were meeting in Norfolk, Virginia at the Southern Legislative Conference, over July 16-20.

At the session on "Southern Justice,"

Ascher introduced herself as the only one there who had had the "privilege" of having been in prison. She presented the group with the history of the "Get LaRouche" task force, including in Virginia, which imprisoned six individuals with sentences ranging from 10 to 77 years. At the opening of the session, the legislators had been talking in circles about how to finance the building of prisons, given the court orders to release inmates from overcrowded facilities; how to finance education, given court orders on the inequity of property tax structures for the poor and rich; and how to increase revenues through gambling and tourism. Ascher intervened: "Unless you are prepared to deal with the collapsing economy, which is about to blow out, and deal with drugs at the top, and this means Oliver North," whose Contra operations were a cover for drug running, "then you can keep building prisons till you're blue in the face, and nothing will change."

A black North Carolina legislator approached her later, saying, "I thought we were the only people who got this kind of 'justice.' But, you're white, LaRouche is white, and they're going after you just like they went after [Martin Luther] King and his movement."

NSC's Lake refutes 'clash of civilizations'

President Clinton's National Security Adviser Anthony Lake refuted the thesis of Harvard's Samuel Huntington that the West and Islam represent an irreconcilable "clash of civilizations," in a signed commentary for the *Washington Post* on July 24.

Lake wrote: "We cannot be a bystander in the [Middle East] region. Yet it's important not to view our involvement either as a struggle for mastery over the Middle East or a 'clash of civilizations' pitting western values against Islamic and other religious traditions. Indeed, the Clinton administration strongly disagrees with the view that there is no common ground for understanding between 'the West and the rest,' that the United States, as the sole remaining superpower, must be drawn to a new crusade

against Islam."

Lake rebutted Huntington in very similar terms earlier this year, in arguing on behalf of the Clinton administration's approach to the Islamic Salvation Front of Algeria as an effort to foster national reconciliation in that country, which has been torn by civil war.

Bishops file amicus against 'assisted suicide'

The U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC) and state Catholic conferences on the West Coast have asked a federal appeals court to overturn the federal court ruling that legalized assisted suicide in Washington State, in a friend of the court (*amicus curiae*) brief filed July 11, according to the July 21 *Arlington, Virginia Catholic Herald*. "The [lower court] decision sweeps away the most basic power of government—to protect its citizens from harm. . . . This is a case about deliberately and intentionally making people die," the brief states.

The brief was submitted to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. It joined the State of Washington, the appellant in the case, in seeking a reversal of the May 3 ruling by a U.S. District Court in Seattle declaring that the state's law against physician-assisted suicide violated the U.S. Constitution.

The USCC is the public policy arm of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Brit hack reporters fear for their visas

"British Reporters Fear U.S. 'Hit List,'" reported the July 22 *New York Post*: "Many British journalists working in America today are feeling quite paranoid, fearing they are on some new version of the White House Enemies' List," because of their hack operations to destroy the U.S. presidency by scurrilously puffing up scandals against

Briefly

● **103 CONGRESSMEN** sent a letter to President Clinton on July 21, demanding a full public debate before any decision is made to invade Haiti. They reminded the President that the consent of Congress is required for war.

● **SPACE COLLABORATION** is the best foreign policy toward Russia, NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin told the July 20 Italian daily *La Repubblica*. "Only a naive man can think that foreign policy was extraneous to space conquest. . . . Bill Clinton told me that it is our national interest to invite the Russians to collaborate. . . . Should we isolate them? Isn't that the sure way to the rebirth of militarism and fascism?"

● **PRESIDENT CLINTON** honored the Apollo astronauts at the White House on July 20, the 25th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon. Clinton called on the nation to "recommit itself to the spirit of discovery." The Apollo program "returned a sense of confidence" to the country and the "best way to honor these men is to continue that quest" of exploration, he said.

● **LLOYD BENTSEN**, the U.S. secretary of the treasury, called for strengthened powers for the International Monetary Fund, at the Bretton Woods Conference on July 20-22 in Washington.

● **ROBERT MCNAMARA** said that the policies of Henry Kissinger will lead to tens of millions of deaths, in Stockholm on July 23. Kissinger, he charged, is trying to impose the same "balance of power" policies that led to World War I, and such policies would lead to 160 million deaths in the next century. "The mistakes of World War I" must be avoided, he said.

● **THE READINESS** of U.S. military forces is poised for a slide into the condition of "hollow forces," a panel of retired military officials warned in a report to the Pentagon on July 22.

President Clinton. "The British press has been having a field day with Whitewater bimbos and alleged drug use on the part of President Clinton," leading some British reporters to "fear their visas will be pulled," wrote the *Post*.

The *Post* identified *Sunday Telegraph* Washington correspondent Ambrose Evans-Pritchard as "the journalist who has gone after Clinton the hardest." The *Telegraph* is published by the Hollinger Corp., whose board includes Clinton administration enemies Henry Kissinger and Margaret Thatcher. The *Post* quoted Evans-Pritchard, "There have been indirect attempts to cause me trouble, but I have the protection of working for a reputable paper." The *Post* continued, "Evans-Pritchard knows about the claims that the whole Whitewater affair was somehow engineered by British intelligence to damage Clinton. 'It's nonsense, of course, but it shows the paranoia that's so rampant,' he says."

Virginia parole repeal called 'racist, slavery'

Members of the Virginia Assembly's Commission on Sentencing and Parole Reform, set up a year before Gov. George Allen took office, slammed his proposal to do away with parole as racist and pro-slavery, in a hearing attended by Richard Cullen, co-chairman of the Governor's Commission on Parole Abolition and Sentencing Reform, according to the July 22 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Salim Khalfani, a ranking member of the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP, said he was concerned that Proposal X was an effort to stir up "white fear" to pay for prisons at the expense of social programs. He also said the governor's plans to build work camps as less costly alternatives to prisons "reminds me of chain gangs and slavery."

Khalfani also said that Allen's appointments to the upper management of the Department of Corrections seem "to be overwhelmingly vanilla, or white." In fact, there are some real Bull Connors among them, such as the new head of state corrections,

Ron Angelone, who is being sued in Nevada by the American Civil Liberties Union for having beaten, stunned, stripped, and shot prisoners while he was head of corrections there. If a prisoner tries to escape, Angelone is quoted, "we shoot him."

Secret Service arrests potential assassin

A Pennsylvania fugitive who had made threats against President Clinton was arrested in Cape May, New Jersey on July 19, where he was discovered to be in possession of a large number of semi-automatic rifles and pistols, and a considerable stock of ammunition.

Federal authorities alleged that Paul F. Walling had fraudulently purchased some 40 firearms over a three-month period, using the identification papers of his dead brother. The Secret Service was tipped off to other aspects of Walling's recent behavior by a friend of his, Dale V. Loveland, who is a Pennsylvania police officer. Loveland became concerned several months ago, when Walling began ranting against Clinton and said he would like to shoot the President and Attorney General Janet Reno because of their support for gun control.

Loveland said that during that time, Walling became more and more fixated on guns and explosives, and finally disappeared several weeks ago after being fired from his gas-station job for threatening his boss with a pistol. Loveland's concerns were conveyed to the Secret Service by his department on July 14, the day before a scheduled visit to Philadelphia by President Clinton. Agents discovered a cache of weapons at Walling's residence that afternoon, but did not apprehend Walling until Saturday, the day after Clinton's visit.

According to Secret Service affidavits filed with the arrest warrant, Walling made his initial threats in his diatribe to Loveland, and, when questioned after his arrest, said, "I have seen Clinton in the crosshairs on my scope."

Walling is wanted on theft and fraud warrants in several Pennsylvania jurisdictions, according to press reports.