

National News

Massachusetts rejects Weld's death penalty bill

Massachusetts Gov. William Weld (R) was handed a solid defeat in his effort to impose the death penalty on July 27, when the State House firmly rejected his bill by a 86-70 vote, after an emotionally charged debate. Weld, who, as U.S. Attorney in Boston in 1984-88, ran the first effort to frame up Lyndon LaRouche, was trying to further his prospects for re-election by pushing a death penalty bill in a state which has refused the death penalty since it was reinstated in 1976 by the Supreme Court.

House Speaker Charles Flaherty, Jr. (D-Cambridge), who helped defeat the bill, told the *Boston Globe* that Weld pushed the issue primarily because he is running for reelection. After the vote, Flaherty said, "I don't deal in victories and defeats. We did the right thing. That's what's important."

Rep. Donna Fournier Cuomo (R-Andover), whose 17-year-old brother Joey was murdered by Willie Horton, voted against the death penalty. Cuomo is a longtime opponent of capital punishment. In 1988, then-Vice President George Bush had glorified this murder in his notoriously racist "Willie Horton" campaign ads against Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis.

Spannaus challenges North's hypocrisy

Nancy Spannaus, founder of the Defeat that Son-of-a-Bush Committee, blasted Oliver North as a "hypocrite," for his July 26 proposals to treat drug-users as severely as drug-pushers. Spannaus is a LaRouche Democrat who ran for the party's senatorial nomination in Virginia's Democratic primary in June. The political action committee she founded is aimed at defeating North, the state's Republican senatorial candidate.

"How dare Ollie North, a man who supervised the import of plane-loads of drugs into the United States as part of the Contra supply operation, posture as an anti-drug candidate!" said Spannaus. "This qualifies North as the hypocrite of the year.

"My political committee has documented at length that North functioned as one of the biggest drug-traffickers in recent U.S. history. Working under the supervision of Vice President George Bush, he carried out drugs-for-guns transactions, and paid government funds to known drug-runners as part of his dirty operations," she said.

Spannaus, the next day, congratulated independent candidate, former Gov. Doug Wilder, who was the first of North's three opponents to attack his dope record. Quoted in the July 27 *Washington Times*, Wilder said, "The evidence continues to mount that Oliver North did not care about fighting drugs throughout the 1980s and used his position to assist drug dealers and to thwart anti-drug investigations." Wilder cited a June Associated Press report on Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent Celserino Castillo's charges against North; and the July 28, 1988 congressional testimony by DEA agent Ron Caffrey, which suggested that North had leaked information that led to the assassination of DEA informant Barry Seal, a cocaine dealer who had the goods on the Contra drug-running operations.

Philadelphia daily exposes Clinton-basher

Larry Nichols, who has made it big on the talk show circuit and with the Jerry Falwell crowd with scurrilous accusations against President and Mrs. Clinton, got his comeuppance from an editorial in the *Philadelphia Daily News* on July 28. Wrote the *News*: "Nichols used to work for something called the Arkansas Development Finance Authority. He was fired as marketing director because his bosses figured there was little marketing potential in all those Nicaraguan Contra friends he was ringing up on state phones and playing spy and counterspy with.

"During his nasty divorce, Nichols portrayed himself as a deeply concerned daddy who wanted custody of his daughter. Hillary Rodham Clinton represented his wife. Nichols lost. He dropped out of his daughter's life for more than a decade and now owes 13 grand in back child support.

"This worthless bum is the source of much of the famous Jerry Falwell tape full of accusations against Bill Clinton. . . . He's the source of innumerable stories in the standardless press, which then generate analyses in places thought to have standards—like the [London] *Economist* and the *New Republic*.

"And naturally, he is cited in the frequent, contemptible editorials of the *Wall Street Journal*, the ones that condemn rumors and then repeat them with lip-smacking fervor."

Bush contributor linked to Las Vegas casinos

Richard Rainwater, a large contributor to the Texas gubernatorial campaign of George W. Bush, the former President's son and brother of Florida gubernatorial candidate Jeb Bush, has been tied into the casino gambling world, according to a July 29 article in the *Houston Post*. George W. Bush, whose party officially opposes efforts to legalize casino gambling in the state, received \$100,000 from Rainwater, who is a partner with Bush in owning the Texas Rangers baseball team.

Rainwater is also a limited partner in Kirkland Investors, which controls United Gaming, Inc. through a \$5 million investment the company made last year. United Gaming operates 5,000 gambling machines in 500 locations in Nevada, and 750 machines in Louisiana. The company also owns or operates casinos in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, and in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The *Post* noted that the 1995 session of the Texas legislature is expected to consider legalizing casino gambling. "Bush has taken no firm stand on casino gambling, but has said he is 'very nervous' about expanded gambling while Texas' horse and dog tracks are establishing a market," the daily wrote. According to the article, Dallas businessman Daniel Rabinowitz, who is part owner of a gambling casino being developed in New Orleans, has contributed \$105,000 to Gov. Ann Richards and \$100,000 to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, although Bullock opposes casino gambling.

Briefly

Veteran civil rights leader returns to struggle

Rev. Hosea L. Williams, a veteran of the civil rights struggle led by Martin Luther King, Jr., announced on June 23 that he would be "giving up the prestigious suite of elected politics and returning to the streets to struggle against the inhumanities that are destroying Americans, especially black people."

Williams has served on the County Commission of DeKalb County, Georgia for some six years. In his release, he said, "I want to apologize and ask the many citizens that were supporting my campaign for reelection to forgive me for resigning, but the economic deprivation and violence among our people, especially the youth violence, has not only the potential to destroy black people, but also the potential to destroy America."

Williams plans to expand his Feed the Hungry program, whose funding was eliminated from the Atlanta city budget.

Anti-life 'activist' charged in abortuary killing

A Florida abortionist and his escort were shot and killed by a man posing as an anti-abortion activist at an abortuary in Pensacola, on July 29. The alleged gunman, Paul Hill, opened fire with a 12-gauge shotgun at the Ladies' Center. The killings were immediately denounced by pro-life forces, who emphasized that the defense of the pre-born presupposes sanctity of all human life.

The murders are being handled as federal crimes, under the aegis of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE), which makes it a federal crime to picket an abortion clinic. Contrary to the media and pro-abortion lobby, there never was anything "pro-life" about Paul Hill. Most activists were wary of him, asking him to leave rallies. Nevertheless, these brutal killings will be used by the pro-abortion lobby to stop all lawful protest of abortion.

Married, with three children, Hill had no visible means of support over the last

year, but showed up irregularly at abortion clinic picket lines.

After the March 10, 1993 shooting death of another Pensacola abortionist by David Griffin, who has a similar profile to Hill's, Hill called into such television talk shows as Phil Donahue's to promote his "justifiable homicide" thesis. The pastor and elders of his Presbyterian church urged him to change his violent views, and to submit to church teachings. After he refused, they excommunicated him in June 1993. One signer to a letter by Hill pushing "justifiable homicide," is Rev. David C. Trosch, who, according to the Catholic bishop of Mobile, Alabama, is no longer "a priest in good standing" and is listed as "absent without leave."

President dubs September 'Classical music month'

A joint resolution declaring September "Classical Music Month" that was lobbied for by the Classical Music Coalition, passed Congress and was signed by the President. The resolution is intended "to increase the standing and presence of Classical music in American life, as an enriching part of our nation's varied culture." A press release from the Classical Music Coalition on the declaration said that their special goal is to make Classical music accessible to all Americans, especially in music programs in the public schools and communities.

The coalition has chosen seven cities to spearhead a grassroots effort: Meetings were planned in Cleveland, Kansas City, Minneapolis, New York, Phoenix, Seattle, and San Antonio. Similar efforts were expected to be launched in San Francisco, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

The coalition is comprised of executives from American Public Radio, American Symphony Orchestra League, Chamber Music America, Classical Music Broadcasters, Concert Music Broadcasters, Music Educators National Conference, Music Publishers Association, National Association of Recording Merchandisers, National Public Radio, Opera America, Recording Industry Association of America, and Young Audiences.

● **UNPLUG**, a youth group fighting the installment of Channel One commercial cable television by Whittle Communications into the schools, is lending support to the campaign against the programming by the National Education Association. NEA plans to use the leverage of its pension fund investments to pressure Channel One advertisers to pull out.

● **TEXAS EXECUTED** Robert Drew of Vermont on Aug. 2, despite eyewitnesses who said he did not commit the murder for which he was convicted. Texas prohibits a new trial in capital cases based on evidence discovered more than 30 days after conviction. The state counted on the fact that Drew was white to undercut broader support for his case from death penalty opponents.

● **STEPHEN BREYER** was confirmed by an 87-9 vote in the Senate on July 29 as the nation's 108th Supreme Court justice. The opposition was led by Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), who said that Breyer had showed "extraordinarily bad judgments" in investing in Lloyd's of London insurance syndicates, opening him to "unlimited liability of his resources," and potentially forcing him to stay out of some cases.

● **BLUE CROSS** Blue Shield of Virginia came under investigation for longstanding violations of both state and insurance regulatory laws in July. The office of state Attorney General James Gilmore is scrutinizing its "knowing or willful" violations that occurred with such magnitude and frequency that Gilmore's office believes it "indicates a general business practice."

● **SECRETARY OF STATE** Warren Christopher said that the world must be ready to act against the Bosnian Serbs if they persist in rejecting a peace plan, in testimony before a congressional committee on July 28. If the Serbs reject the plan, "the parties recognize that the pressure to lift the arms embargo may be irresistible," he said.