

National News

LaRouche backs Clinton on policy toward Cuba

Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche issued a campaign statement on Aug. 25, following President Clinton's decision to prohibit Cuban refugees from entering the United States illegally.

"Given the circumstances," said LaRouche, "President William Clinton deserves credit for the way he has responded to the latest political stunt by Cuba's leading São Paulo Forum member, Fidel Castro. Any different response would have played into the hands of former President George Bush and Bush's partners in the Hollinger Corp., in their efforts to destabilize the government of the United States.

"Now, Fidel Castro must see clearly that his latest game has failed. If he were wise, his next message to the Clinton administration would be a request for cooperation in arranging for his own orderly departure from Cuba, quietly but surely abandoning his connections to any further attempts at fomenting a South America 'Hullabalula' by the forces and super-wealthy backers of the leftist São Paulo Forum."

U.S. education status is grim, report says

Eleven years after the "Nation at Risk" report demonstrated the abysmal nature of American education, the biennial National Assessment of Educational Progress, released on Aug. 17, indicated that no progress has been made in reading and writing, and very little in science and mathematics. Although the report makes no attribution for the failure, the fact is that "outcome-based education" has achieved hegemony within the U.S. public schools in the intervening decade:

- Students of all ages have difficulty reading and responding thoughtfully.
- Only 2% of 8th graders and 11th graders were able to write effective responses to questions; only half of 8th- and 11th-graders

could write reports adequately, and those were described as brief but thorough. More sophisticated reports intended to use the same material to interest and inform the reader were filed by only 2% of 11th graders and 1% of 8th graders.

- About one-third of 11th graders said that they were not required to do daily homework in all school subjects, or had homework but did not do it; less than 10% of 11th graders can do "rigorous" academic work in basic subjects.

- More than half the students report watching at least three hours of television a day. All age groups showed an 8-10% decrease in the number of books, magazines, encyclopedias, and newspapers at home. Some 37% of American households are reported to have two or fewer such publications.

The report claims as a "success" a marginal increase in arithmetic skills among nine-year-olds.

Steinberg: Why did Isom hire the unstable Moore?

EIR's Jeffrey Steinberg has renewed his demand that the Loudoun County, Virginia Board of Supervisors investigate the hiring and promotion of former Sheriff's Lt. Don Moore, who is currently serving a federal sentence in connection with a May 1992 kidnapping, and who was the local liaison in the federal, state, and private agency "Get LaRouche" task force that railroaded Lyndon LaRouche to prison. Moore and the Cult Awareness Network's Galen Kelly, also now in prison, were earlier acquitted in an effort to kidnap LaRouche associate Lewis du Pont Smith.

In his letter, Steinberg, a county resident, reiterated that he had informed officials that Moore had boasted of his illegal operations in collusion with the Anti-Defamation League against LaRouche, including break-ins and stealing sheriff's department records. "Now, new and even more disturbing information has come to light," he wrote. At his sentencing, Steinberg continued, Moore had requested leniency, "not on his record as a law enforcement officer,

but on his longstanding mental illness. Documents on file with the U.S. District Court . . . show that Moore was suffering from crippling mental problems prior to his being hired to work for the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department, and certainly prior to his being given the highly sensitive assignment of being the department's official liaison to federal and state officials pursuing investigating the LaRouche organization."

In motivating his demand for an investigation, Steinberg demanded: "Was there any effort to review his long history of mental disorder and psychiatric treatment? Was there a review process once he was working for the department when he had to seek subsequent psychiatric assistance?"

Hazeltine: List Amish as endangered species

Environmental consultant Dr. William Hazeltine has challenged the hypocrisy of the Endangered Species Act by filing a petition with the Interior Department proposing to list the religious groups, Old Order Amish and Mennonites, as endangered. The groups, frequently referred to as "Pennsylvania Dutch," fled from religious persecution in Switzerland and Germany to the United States, and live simple and secluded lives. The Endangered Species Act allows the listing of isolated populations of mammals, and the petition claims that these people qualify for protection.

The petition was mailed to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on Aug. 10. He has 90 days to decide whether the petition has merit. "The Endangered Species Act seems to cover humans, because they are mammals, and the act clearly covers all mammals without limitation," Hazeltine said.

"The Amish and Mennonite people should be admired for practicing what they believe, and they deserve federal protection to be able to live as they desire. They are a more valuable part of our national heritage than some bird or beetle or some historic site."

In the past, the Interior Department rejected a petition by the Samish Indian Tribe,

Briefly

that asked that they be listed as endangered. The reason given for refusing to list this tribe was that they are not "wild." However, this rejection depends on a definition in the regulations which is not consistent with the definition in the act.

Gonzalez, unions blast Fed interest rate hike

Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.), chairman of the House Banking Committee, attacked the Federal Reserve's increasing of the fed funds rate to 4.0% on Aug. 16, saying that Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and the Fed "have mugged America." Gonzalez said the rate increase "by the Federal Reserve is another big step in the wrong direction which will injure the United States economy and place additional burdens on workers in a weak labor market."

The AFL-CIO trade union federation also denounced the interest rate hike in a formal statement. "The Federal Reserve seems eager to slay a non-existent dragon, rushing to raise interest rates for the fifth time this year to control an inflation that is nowhere in sight. . . . We urge the Fed to change course before more damage is done." The AFL-CIO statement said the Fed's rate hike was aimed only at relieving fears of inflation by "a few wealthy bondholders."

Texas Gov. Richards boasts of executions

Texas Gov. Ann Richards (D) boasted of her record for toughness and pointed to the state's large number of executions in a campaign rally at the annual Clute Mosquito Festival. Richards's opponent is George W. Bush, the former President's son, who is a strong proponent of the death penalty.

Richards declared herself to be the feminist ideal: tough on the job, but ladylike and feminine when arm-twisting recalcitrant legislators. When asked about the charges from Bush that she has failed to slow the

growing crime rate, she snapped back, "What does he know? He's never held a real job. Look at my record. More Texas inmates have been put to death on my watch than any previous Texas governor can claim. And I will keep adding to my record." The state has a shameful record of the largest number of executions in the country, many of whose victims were innocent.

Richards also confirmed that she has been offered a position as a spokesman for Estée Lauder for its new Feminist Senior Citizen line if she loses. However, she joked, "I think it will be four more years before I take that job."

Electrical workers still fighting union busting

Striking electrical workers in Lynchburg, Virginia are continuing to fight the cheap-labor policies that forced them to take to the picket lines in April. As a result of the strike by the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 163 against the Aero-fin Co., there have been major declines in production and quality at the plant, where 80 scabs are making a mess of the highly skilled work.

Aerofin refuses to budge from its demands that the union accept its "two-tier" wage proposal before negotiating a new labor contract, which means the original 120 union members remain on strike.

The strike began in April, after the company gave the union an ultimatum on the issue of accepting a new tier of lower-paid workers, who would get approximately \$100 a week less. The workforce, many of whom have been doing the highly skilled electrical work for 20 to 30 years, saw this as union-busting, and began walking the picketline.

The union soon filed a complaint for harassment with the National Labor Relations Board, citing the fact that Aerofin forced some unionists who were on disability to cross the picketline in order to get their compensation. The NLRB at the regional level turned down the complaint, but when the union appealed to the national board, the NLRB ruled for the IUE.

● **PRESIDENT Clinton's** plan to build a "vaccination warehouse" to provide mass immunization for the nation's children as the schoolyear opens was scrapped under pressure from Congress and the drug companies. The program was supposed to start on Oct. 1.

● **THE THREE-JUDGE PANEL** which dumped Whitewater independent counsel Robert Fiske, replacing him with Bush-leaguer Kenneth Starr, has refused to remove Starr, or to order a full accounting of Starr's partisan political activities. The panel issued a unanimous order on Aug. 18 rejecting the request from Sen. Carl Levin.

● **REP. FRANK WOLF (R-Va.)** gave quiet endorsement to the candidacy for U.S. Senate of Oliver North, who lives in Wolf's 10th Congressional District. Wolf had not issued a statement of endorsement, but it was announced that he was a member of a host committee for a North campaign reception in the Washington suburb of McLean.

● **THE ENOLA GAY'S** mission to drop the atomic bomb on Japan 49 years ago was defended in an editorial by the *Washington Times* on Aug. 21. The editorial promoted the lie that the nuclear attack was necessary to end the war, adding the twist that "unless it was dropped, ending the war with Japan would require the sacrifice of the lives of hundreds of thousands of U.S. servicemen—and, not to be forgotten, a still large number of Japanese lives."

● **JOHN DE CAMP**, the former Nebraska state senator who researched and wrote a devastating exposé of a high-level nationwide child prostitution and satanic sex abuse ring, has endorsed the Minnesota gubernatorial campaign of Lewis du Pont Smith. Smith, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, is campaigning for the recall of corrupt Attorney General Skip Humphrey.