

National News

Environmentalists attack LaRouche movement

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) issued a report recently blaming the failure of the Biodiversity Treaty to pass the Senate on opposition from presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche and the Wise Use movement. The report, "How the Biodiversity Treaty Went Down: The Intersecting Worlds of Wise Use and Lyndon LaRouche," by EWG's Kenneth Cooke, has a timeline of the developing opposition to the treaty, and attributes the blocking of the treaty in the Senate to the single-handed work of LaRouche associate Rogelio Maduro. It contains quotes from *EIR*, and *21st Century Science & Technology*, among others.

The report also quotes environmentalist David Helvarg's new book, *The War Against the Greens*, claiming that the LaRouche movement "claims that Queen Elizabeth controls the world's drug cartels, that Prince Philip and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands pull the strings on the environmental movement and that drugs and environmentalism are key tools in a plan to bring on a New Dark Age."

EWG is noted for its calls for a re-vamping of pesticide laws to effectively ban most agricultural pesticides. Cooke is an advocate for the hoax of sustainable agriculture and works closely with the strategic think-tank the Aspen Institute.

Howard students blast 'Bell Curve' book

Students at Washington, D.C.'s leading black university, Howard University, held a press conference and day-long seminars on Nov. 21 to attack the new eugenicist book *The Bell Curve*, by Charles Murray and the late Richard Herrnstein. The book revives the old saw that intelligence tests show that blacks have genetically lower intelligence than Asians or whites.

The students' statement called the book "abhorrent to African-American scholars

and others." They must protect African-American children from "hearing negative stereotypes about their capabilities and predictions in this book that herald a grim future in which they are given little encouragement to succeed within their own society." The authors of the book, which lists races according to intelligence, similar to the practices of the Nazis' race science, "threaten the very foundations of the lives of these children by recommending a curtailment of programs, such as Head Start and the government-sponsored hot lunch program, when the authors know that most disadvantaged children use these programs for their very survival."

The statement says the authors have "forgotten . . . it is 'perfecting' of the individual in all of his or her aspects . . . that is the goal" of a sane society.

Bishops reject 'assisted suicide,' euthanasia

Euthanasia and so-called assisted suicide must never be allowed in Catholic hospitals, asserted the National Conference of Catholic Bishops at their annual meeting in Washington on Nov. 17. The statement comes one week after voters in Oregon passed the Death with Dignity Act which makes it legal for doctors to prescribe lethal drugs, which patients can use to commit suicide. Catholic facilities in Oregon say no suicides will occur in their hospitals or hospices, but the new law is unclear as to whether religious facilities can stop doctors from "aiding" a patient's suicide or fire them for doing so without a legal challenge.

In their updated document, "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Services," the bishops state that "suicide and euthanasia are never morally acceptable options."

Meantime, research doctors from the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions urged at a recent American Heart Association conference in Dallas, Texas, that hospitals save money by not performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on individuals whose cardiac arrests were not witnessed, who were already in a stupor or coma, or who have cancer or AIDS. Their study found that

CPR restores heart functioning in 47% of all cases, but "only" 10% of the total survived to be discharged from the hospital, and 5% survived more than two years following discharge.

School superintendent defends privatization

Baltimore School Superintendent Walter Amprey held a "pep rally" on Nov. 16 for Education Alternatives Inc., the private company he has hired to run 12 Baltimore schools. Individuals arrived at the meeting sporting sweatshirts which EAI had given them, reading "Schools That Work."

Amprey said he was launching a counteroffensive against critics of his "revolution." He said parents and teachers would be expected to show their public support for the work of the company. "We are going to speak out when people come forward, including politicians, who say they will kill this program in the schools." He said the criticism was political.

Critics of Amprey also attended his meeting. They charged he had abandoned his oversight role when he accepted money to lobby for EAI. Recent revelations about the company have included the fact that test scores at the EAI-run schools in Baltimore fell, while scores rose in public schools city-wide, and that EAI-run schools did not show the level of improved attendance that other schools did. A group of parents has called for an end to EAI's reign.

New trial ordered for Texas death row inmate

U.S. District Court Judge Kenneth Hoyt on Nov. 15 ordered a new trial for Ricardo Aldape Guerra, a Mexican national on death row in Texas since 1982. Aldape Guerra was convicted of killing a Houston police officer through what Judge Hoyt called "outrageous" actions by police and prosecutors in Harris County (Houston). Hoyt's decision was in response to an evidentiary hearing held in November 1993. Hoyt harshly

criticized the effort of police and prosecutors to "rush to judgment" in his decision:

"The police officers' and prosecutors' action were intentional, were done in bad faith, and are outrageous. . . .

"Their misconduct was designed and calculated to obtain a conviction and another 'notch in their guns' despite the overwhelming evidence that Carrasco [Aldape Guerra's companion, who was killed at the crime scene] was the killer and the lack of evidence pointing to Guerra."

Harris County sends more people to death row than any other county in the country; if Harris County were a state, it would have the third largest number of people on death row.

Rally protests Fed interest rate hikes

A rally sponsored by the AFL-CIO was held outside the offices of the Federal Reserve in Washington on Nov. 15, to protest the Fed's threat to raise interest rates. The rally was addressed by unemployed workers, a representative of farm organizations, and Democratic Sen. Byron Dorgan (N.D.).

Dorgan said it was wrong that the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee made all its decisions, including recommendations to raise interest rates, behind closed doors. In private, he said, the FOMC makes decisions that tax Americans 20 times more than Congress does. The goal of the United States is to achieve stable prices and full employment. He continued that those who suggest that there are too few Americans out of work are wrongheaded and their ideas are injurious to the economy.

Hillary Clinton expresses anti-abortion beliefs

David Walsh, who chairs the Department of Politics at the Catholic University of America, raised the fact that the media have ignored an interview that Hillary Clinton gave to *Newsweek* in which she explained her opposition to abortion and distribution

of condoms in the schools. Walsh made his observations in a commentary in the Nov. 15 *Washington Post*. Walsh noted that the First Lady's interview in the Oct. 31 issue of *Newsweek* went beyond what was expedient to merely reassure voters of the "traditional values" bona fides of the First Family, since she expressed her opposition to abortion in the context of her religious belief that the practice is morally wrong.

Walsh argued that her admission, from an advocate of "choice" on abortion, cannot be addressed from a narrow partisan framework, and reflects a real ambivalence many individuals have; not understanding that has prevented a simple resolution of the abortion-policy conflict. He compared this to Lincoln's observation that the moral dilemma of slavery could not be resolved until it were resolved rightly, by openly considering the full moral dimension of the problem.

Washington, D.C. ward weighs secession

Some residents of Washington, D.C.'s wealthier Ward 3 neighborhood have been debating whether to secede from the District and join neighboring Montgomery County, Maryland, according to the *Washington Times* on Nov. 20. Several dozen residents met with organizers John Nelson and Paul Egan to begin a coordinated secession effort.

Nelson began the effort a few months ago, and had enough volunteers to man 14 of Ward 3's 18 polling places on election day. The volunteers passed out "Free Ward 3" fliers that appealed to concerns about rising property taxes, the breakdown of the public schools, corruption and unresponsiveness of the District government, stagnating property values, and violent crime.

Ward 3 is separated from the rest of D.C. by Rock Creek Park, a ravine running generally north and south through the western third of the District, and the ward has a much higher income and social status than the rest of the city. Both Rep. Constance Morella (R-Md.), who represents Montgomery County, and Ward 3 Council member-elect Kathy Paterson have denounced the idea of secession.

Briefly

● **ABE FOXMAN**, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League, recently met with Southwest regional Jewish media to defend himself after a local Jewish newspaper ran a cartoon poking fun at his problems with the Israeli government, sources have told *EIR*. Foxman had been publicly raked over the coals by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin on two occasions earlier this year for his criticism of Israeli policies promoting the peace process.

● **ALASKA'S** northern coast may be reserved solely as a polar bear habitat in perpetuity, according to a draft Polar Bear Habitat Conservation Strategy that will be issued in December by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. FWS has been working with radical environmentalist groups on the project, which would close most of the coast to oil exploration and production.

● **KENNETH STARR**, the independent counsel investigating the so-called Whitewater scandal, is now working with investigators and the Resolution Trust Corp. to look into allegations that Madison Guaranty owner James B. McDougal manipulated loans through the S&L and diverted other money into Bill Clinton's 1984 gubernatorial campaign, according to the Nov. 19 *Washington Times*.

● **VIRGINIA** Gov. George Allen, speaking in New York at the 43rd annual Report to Top Management on Nov. 17, proclaimed that his program for parole abolition and tougher penalties for violent criminals are "important to provide opportunities for citizens and businesses to prosper and grow." Allen also chairs the Republican Governors Association.

● **PENTAGON** spokesman Lt. Col. Michael Wood categorically denied a report, published in the *European* on Nov. 17, that teams of CIA personnel are in Bosnia training the government army in tactical operations, providing satellite intelligence, and controlling air traffic.