

National News

Clinton to ban contracts with strikebreakers

Vice President Al Gore, speaking on Feb. 20 before the AFL-CIO's Executive Committee winter meeting, told labor leaders that President Bill Clinton will soon issue an executive order prohibiting federal agencies from signing contracts to buy goods or services from companies that had permanently replaced workers lawfully on strike, according to the *New York Times*. The order would also authorize, but not require, the secretary of labor to terminate existing contracts with companies hiring replacement workers.

The order comes after the Senate last year rejected a bill, which passed the House, that would have banned the hiring of permanent replacement workers for strikers. Gore also said that the President would veto bills aimed against organized labor, including efforts to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act of 1936, requiring federally contracted construction companies to pay prevailing wages, and the Service Contract Act of 1965, which requires similar wage considerations for service contractors.

GOP nomination: Gramm, Alexander in, Weld out

Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for President on Feb. 24 in College Station, Texas. He was endorsed by four senators, as well as by Texas Gov. George W. Bush, and was introduced by Hollywood actor Charlton Heston.

His announcement was preceded by a fundraising dinner in Dallas attended by 2,800 contributors. Gramm's campaign spokesman Gary Koops said the event raised \$4,149,280. That exceeded the previous record of \$2.1 million, also set by Gramm in his 1990 Senate campaign.

Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander announced his candidacy on Feb. 28 in his hometown of Marysville. As George Bush's education secretary, Alexander

helped usher in the proposed America 2000 school "reforms." He has so far vowed to abolish the Department of Education, promising to turn its functions over to the states. "Since 1981, I've urged that we get the federal government totally out of elementary and secondary education," he told NBC. "Same with welfare, same with job training. People in this country want decisions moved back home." Populist nostrums aside, Alexander, as University of Tennessee president, became involved in Chris Whittle's televised commercial education operations.

Also on Feb. 28, Massachusetts Gov. William Weld announced he would not seek the presidency, claiming he did not want to be "an absentee father or an absentee governor." Notwithstanding, Weld demurred that he would consider the vice-presidential slot if asked.

Death penalty spreading despite soaring costs

Under the impetus of the Conservative Revolution, several states are now considering the introduction of the death penalty. New York State will pass the death penalty by early March, in a deal struck between legislators and Gov. George Pataki. The New York Catholic Conference and the state's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have both condemned passage of the bill. All of New York's Catholic prelates and thousands of leaders from other denominations have signed a request to the legislature for a year-long moratorium on a capital punishment law.

The Iowa House was scheduled to approve a death penalty bill in late February, while the state Senate vote was expected to be close. Gov. Terry Branstad said he would sign the bill. In Wisconsin, a new bill limiting capital punishment to those who kill children under age 16 is expected to be introduced. In Massachusetts, the reelection of Gov. William Weld has innervated the move for the death penalty. The warden of North Dakota's state penitentiary, a death penalty opponent, has warned he might resign if the bill introduced there should become law.

Meantime, it has been revealed that im-

plementing the death penalty in a state such as New York can add \$1 billion to annual budgets, which are otherwise facing drastic cuts in services.

Houston Democrats hand GOP an election reversal

Less than a week before Texas Sen. Phil Gramm announced his presidential campaign, the Conservative Revolution suffered a significant defeat in Houston, the fourth largest city in the country, when voters repudiated a Republican city council candidate who had campaigned as an anti-government conservative and called for 10% across the board budget cuts. Elected was Democratic former Judge John Peavy to the at-large council seat. The special election was called to replace Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat who was elected to Congress in November.

In the November elections, the population of Harris County (which includes Houston) voted heavily Republican. Texas law allows the voter to mark the ballot for a straight Republican or Democratic vote rather than for individual candidates. For the first time, a large number of Texans voted the Republican ticket this way, sweeping out of office all Democratic judges (including all minority judges, such as Peavy), and helping Republicans George W. Bush and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

In the Feb. 18 polling, Peavy won his councilmanic seat by 53-47%.

Discovery delayed in Jones suit vs. Clinton

A federal judge in Little Rock, Arkansas has granted President Clinton's motion to delay all discovery in Paula Jones's sexual harassment lawsuit against Clinton, pending appeals court rulings on whether she can proceed with the suit. Clinton's lawyers had asked U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright to stay her Dec. 28 order that allowed the taking of sworn statements from witnesses and other fact-finding procedures.

Briefly

Clinton has appealed to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, trying to get the lawsuit thrown out.

Jones, who charged that Clinton, while governor of Arkansas, had sexually harassed her, only brought the suit after his election to the White House. In December, Judge Wright held that the trial should be delayed until Clinton is no longer President, but that discovery could proceed. Jones has appealed the judge's decision to delay the trial.

The new ruling means that discovery could be delayed until after the 1996 elections. Clinton's lawyer Robert S. Bennett called the ruling a "significant victory for the institution of the presidency."

Jones is known to have mapped her legal strategy with British journalists and others who are seeking to force Clinton from office through such specious scandalizing.

D.C. court briefed on LaRouche exoneration

Civil rights veteran Amelia Boynton Robinson briefed approximately 30 judges, prosecutors, federal magistrates, probation officers, and court clerks at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on the urgency of exonerating Lyndon LaRouche, during her address to the court's celebration of Black History Month on Feb. 16. Robinson, vice chairman of the Schiller Institute, which LaRouche and his wife founded in 1984, stressed that the nation's very survival depends on whether statesman LaRouche is exonerated and can "sit at the policymaking table."

Mrs. Robinson, who was nearly beaten to death 30 years ago during the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, told the court officers: "The pen with which [President] Johnson signed the Voting Rights Bill was signed with blood. Many people gave their lives to stir up controversy. The problem today is, you have people saying, 'I don't want you to disturb my way of life.' But there has to be controversy, if there is to be positive change. We were very unpopular in Selma. Blacks were unpopular. Whites who spoke out were unpopular. But wherever there is unity, there

is strength." We need that unity today, she said, to rid the nation of its economic cancer and the cancer of hate and divisiveness.

"Many nations in the past have either called in wise men or have refused to get the wisdom of people when it's necessary. Whether we in America listen to our wise men today will determine if this nation survives," she warned. People today think they're free, but nobody is free, no nation is free, until the inalienable rights of every American and everyone worldwide are realized, she said, which is why she is demanding that Lyndon LaRouche be exonerated and "be allowed to sit at the table and share his wisdom."

Farrakhan blasts Fed, central banking system

Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan gave a lesson in American history to 15,000 people on Feb. 25 in Chicago, as part of the week-long events leading up to Saviors' Day on Feb. 26.

In a four-hour presentation motivating his call for 1 million black men to march in Washington in October, Farrakhan outlined the difference between the economic policies of America's Founding Fathers and the anti-American policies that led to the 1913 establishment of the Federal Reserve System. While the Founding Fathers had a limited vision, which did not include people of color, he said, their principles were based on the universal rights of all people. "This is the special quality embedded in the founding principles of America."

He continued: "The Founding Fathers knew that a privately owned bank was unthinkable. They knew that this would undermine the sovereignty of the nation. They knew that only Congress should have the power to print currency and issue credit and loan money. They fought aggressively against private banks controlling the printing of money and the issuance of credit."

Farrakhan documented the history behind the founding of the Federal Reserve. Shortly thereafter, he continued, the IRS, FBI, and the Anti-Defamation League were created to consolidate the coup d'état against the sovereignty of America.

● **HILLARY CLINTON** told a television interviewer on Feb. 20 how "amazed" she is by First Lady Dolly Madison during the War of 1812. "Here's this woman who saves these treasures from the White House in the face of the advancing British, about to burn the White House down, and she just rushes around and she cuts out the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington and escapes. . . . Every time I see her portrait, I think what an incredible example of patriotism that represents."

● **MILTON FRIEDMAN** called for an end to U.S. public education, arguing that the post-industrial society and free trade have ushered in the "revolutionary" age of cheap labor, making an educated workforce unnecessary. The Mont Pelerin Society economist, who advocates the legalization of drugs and defends the practice of usury, prescribed a formula for radical deschooling in a Feb. 19 *Washington Post* commentary.

● **VIRGINIA ACLU** chief Kent Willis called on Feb. 17 for legalization of drugs and an end to the war on drugs. Speaking to a Virginia Commonwealth University audience, he cited Milton Friedman, William F. Buckley, and George Shultz: "They have all concluded that the war on drugs does not and . . . will not work, and that our only way out is to declare peace."

● **BROOKINGS** Institution fellow Cliff Gaddy, interviewed Feb. 23 on public radio's "As It Happens" show, blamed the existence of crime in Russia on the lack of complete free enterprise. Gaddy's analytic "skills" were sharpened several years ago by participating in a statistical study of the economics of Russian prostitution.

● **SCHOLARS** in Rome, reports *EIR*'s visiting correspondent there, have traced the term "Christian Coalition" to an eating club formed by the resident lions at the Roman imperial Circus Maximus.