

National News

Privatization vultures circle welfare 'reform'

Like most states, Maryland is being inundated with offers from private companies to take over every aspect of its welfare "reform" policy, moving in like vultures over a fresh kill. America Works Inc. will find jobs for the former welfare recipients—for a fee. Lockheed Martin Corp. will track down "deadbeat dads"—for a fee. Electronic Data Systems Corp. or Maximus Inc. (which has already ripped off Mississippi for millions of dollars), will manage the public assistance caseload, screen applicants, and mail checks—for a fee. That fee, in the case of one New York-based agency, is \$5,000 for each job placement which lasts at least six months.

According to the May 28 *Washington Post*, a recent survey by the American Public Welfare Association indicates that more than 30 states have hired, or plan to hire, contractors to deliver services to current and former welfare recipients, as they enter the "job market."

The National Governors Association is promoting privatization of all sorts in its current newsletter, under the heading "States Look to Privatization to Deliver Services, Lower Costs." The newsletter reports that states are currently looking at privatizing prison construction and operation, university hospitals, health and social services, information technology, veterans' nursing homes, and child support enforcement, as well as maintenance, janitorial, data processing, and printing services.

N.Y. Times horrified by LaRouche role in Russia

Alarm over the influence of Lyndon LaRouche, concerning a possible shift in Russian policy on the International Monetary Fund, rang out in a *New York Times Magazine* feature May 26 on Russian Presidential candidate Gennadi Zyuganov. In an article titled "Red Scare; The Hacks Are Back," *Times* Moscow Bureau co-chief

Alessandra Stanley complained that Zyuganov, head of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, "rails against the International Monetary Fund, and the stringent conditions on its loans to Russia, as an intolerable affront to Russian sovereignty."

"His grounding in Western economic theory is hazy," intoned the *Times*. "In his address to the Central Committee, Zyuganov lashed out at the IMF and cited the American political extremist Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. ('the well-known U.S. economist and entrepreneur') as an authoritative source."

EIR previously reported on Zyuganov's attention to LaRouche's writings, in its Jan. 26, 1996 issue. At a December 1995 seminar, transcribed in that issue of *EIR*, Russian journalist Konstantin Chermnykh remarked that the "current communists do not find everything they need in classical Marxism. The charter of the Communist Party contains quite a number of points, borrowed directly from the Rio de Janeiro proclamations of the United Nations. Nevertheless, when Gennadi Zyuganov, in his speech at the second party congress, came to criticize the IMF, he invoked the name of Lyndon LaRouche, because evidently he could not find ammunition from either Marx, from the Rio meeting, or from any religious groups with which he might have been in contact."

Chermnykh continued, "Why have [some] communists, instead of going off to read Marx, and anti-communists, instead of going off to read Friedrich von Hayek, come [to this seminar] together to study LaRouche? This must mean something!"

Enviro-quacks see 'doom' in flight technologies

The space program and the use of supersonic aircraft will lead to global doomsday, according to several dozen papers presented during the semi-annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Baltimore May 22. The same gaggle of quacks who promoted the hoax that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are depleting the ozone layer, is now claiming that lowly 737s, Super Sonic Transports (SSTs), Titan rockets, and the Space Shuttle, will all deplete the ozone

layer, increase ozone "pollution" in the troposphere, and cause global warming.

The kaleidoscope of doomsday scenarios is spinning back to the original ozone-depletion theory, peddled by James MacDonald in 1971, that the Boeing SST's release of water vapor would deplete the ozone layer, and increase skin cancer rates. MacDonald's ravings at a Congressional hearing became the final straw, in killing off the crucial SST program. (MacDonald had previously told Congress, that a massive blackout in New York City, had been caused by UFOs hooking up to the power lines to recharge their batteries.)

At the Baltimore conference, top ozone-hoaxster Richard Stolarski chaired two entire sessions promoting this latest fraud, with a total of 23 papers presented. Claims that the sky is falling included: that sulfur dioxide and trioxide as well as soot particles released from SSTs, will interact with chlorine to cause ozone depletion; that the contrails of SSTs cause global warming; and that alumina from space-shuttle boosters and Titan rockets will damage the ozone layer. Interestingly, with this attempt to revive the original hoax, the ozone quacks have become suddenly silent, about their fraudulent claims in supporting the disastrous ban imposed on CFCs—the vital compound for refrigeration systems.

Democrats must retake Congress, Sweeney says

Restoring a Democratic majority in Congress is an essential precondition of defending labor's interest in the United States, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney told the German daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in an interview on May 28.

Sweeney denounced U.S. corporations which "manipulate the asset value at the expense of their own employees." He gave the example of AT&T, a company which raised its asset value by announcing the layoff of 40,000 employees. Immediately after the firing of several thousand employees, it was revealed that AT&T chairman Robert Allen had a salary of \$16 million, placing him among the ten highest paid corporate execu-

tives. Following widespread criticism, AT&T responded by announcing that fewer layoffs than originally planned would occur—which sent the asset value down.

The same method has been used at Boeing, Sweeney charged, attacking the “growing gulf between rich and poor in the United States,” which requires an “increased role by American labor unions, to reduce the crude social imbalances in our country.” A recruitment drive that plans to add 1 million new members to the U.S. labor unions, has been launched, and the recent House vote for an increase of the minimum wage is a relative success, too.

As far as the November elections are concerned, the AFL-CIO thinks that President Clinton’s re-election is as important as “the restoring of Democratic majorities in the Senate and House,” Sweeney said.

Legislatures restrict HMO health care cutbacks

State legislatures are being “deluged” with complaints from patients, doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, about the cost-cutting practices of insurance companies and HMOs, according to the May 19 *New York Times*. “We believe the whole concept of managed care is spurious. It is predicated on financial incentives to restrict care and access to care,” said Dr. Carl Weber, a surgeon in White Plains, New York, who is leading a group of doctors pressing the state legislature to take action.

Over the past 18 months, 34 states have outlawed various practices typical of HMOs; and over 400 bills have been introduced so far this year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Fourteen states have made it illegal for insurers and HMOs to refuse to pay for emergency-room visits. Twelve states have passed legislation compelling HMOs to pay, when a patient goes directly to a specialist without first obtaining approval from their “gatekeeper” primary physician. Six states have made it illegal for HMOs to impose “gag rules”—preventing physicians from informing their patients about alternative treatments which might cost more than the HMO is willing to pay.

Eighteen states have banned “drive-through maternity care,” in which HMOs force doctors and hospitals to send mothers and newborn infants home less than 48 hours after delivery, by refusing to pay for any further services. A number of states are also considering the banning of “capitation,” in which an HMO pays a doctor a flat fee for each patient per annum, with no further reimbursement for special or extended medical care. Doctors have complained that capitation creates a strong financial incentive to deny patients care they need.

Medical journal study promotes euthanasia

The most widely read medical journal in the world, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, has once again lent its support to establishing all forms of Nazi euthanasia as a basic medical option in the United States. In a survey published in the latest issue, the *Journal* claims that nearly 20% of critical care nurses admit to “hastening the deaths” of terminally ill patients, without the knowledge of doctors, families, or the patients themselves.

The study, entitled “The Role of Critical Care Nurses in Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide,” was conducted by David Asch, a physician and “ethicist” at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Of 852 practicing critical care nurses, responding anonymously to the survey, 19% allegedly reported that they had given a patient lethal doses of medication, or had merely pretended to provide life-sustaining treatment ordered by a doctor, “with the intent of causing or hastening that patient’s death.” Most of the nurses said they had done so *only* three times or less; but 5% reported they had killed *at least* 20 patients.

Whether cloaked as “euthanasia” or “assisted suicide,” acts intended to result in a patient’s death are acts of murder, plain and simple. This “study” is part of expanding effort to justify such Nazi practices, under the pretense of encouraging broader debate about “compassionate choices,” and redrawing what Asch calls “the moral divide.”

BRITISH Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind is the latest of the Queen’s servants to blather about the supposed U.S.-British special relationship, now described as the “unique” relationship. “Our unique security ties show this identity of interest,” Rifkind told Washington’s National Press Club May 28. “The classic example is the sharing of nuclear technology and intelligence.”

THE JUSTICE Department is investigating allegations of stock and mail fraud by Lloyd’s of London’s underwriting syndicates, against some 2,700 American “Names,” the *Wall Street Journal* reported May 22. The U.S. Attorney’s office for the Southern District of New York has enlisted the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in the probe, which reportedly began in late winter.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Agency has imposed a \$1.1 million fine on a scrap metal company, for failing to remove CFCs from four junked refrigerators. After repeated raids, the intrepid environmental enforcers came up with the four loaded fridges at the Camden Iron & Metal and SPC Corp., a large scrap metal salvage and recycling company in the Philadelphia area.

THE JONES ACT, requiring that maritime trade between U.S. ports be carried under U.S. flag on ships built and manned by Americans, will be subjected to Congressional hearings June 12 for the first time in a decade. The act was passed early this century, in keeping with principles established by the first Congress, and is virtually the last protection remaining to the nation’s sinking maritime industry.

BANKRUPTCY filings in the U.S. soared 16.8%, to a record 980,126, during the 12 months ending March 31, and could top the million mark this year for the first time. The previous 12-month record was 977,478, in the year ended Sept. 30, 1992. By comparison, there were 331,098 bankruptcies in 1980; 412,431 in 1985; and 782,960 in 1990.