

National News

Soros legalized dope washes out in Washington

Washington State voters gave a resounding defeat to George Soros and his drug legalizing campaign on Nov. 4, voting down the medical marijuana initiative by a margin of 60-40%. Soros and his two partners who funded the Arizona and California initiatives last year, put more than \$1.5 million into Washington State's Initiative 685.

Although opponents had only \$100,000 to throw against Soros's billions, they mustered high-profile national, bipartisan opposition. A week before the election, on Oct. 28, Clinton drug policy adviser Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.) joined William Bennett, who had served in the drug policy post under George Bush, at a press conference denouncing the Soros operation. Polls at the time, showed the initiative with a 6% lead, as Soros and his friends flooded the airwaves with ads, depicting cancer patients as victims of drug laws.

McCaffrey said, "What we are looking at in this proposition is the quasi-legalization of Schedule I drugs—heroin, PCP, LSD, as well as marijuana—under the guise of medical compassion." Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) said that the measure would "legalize drug abuse in our state." Republican Senator Slade Gorton attacked the out of state funding for the initiative, saying that "the state of Washington is being used as an experiment by millionaires and billionaires."

WWF flaunts blueprint to break up United States

Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) announced the release of its joint report on "North American Conservation Assessment," with the Environmental Protection Agency and NAFTA's Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), at a Washington, D.C. press conference on Oct. 28. The report details carving up North America into 116 distinct "bio-regions," and is the basis for a \$10 million campaign being

launched to sequester five areas of the United States as "the most threatened eco-regions." The WWF press release boasts that the "new study divides U.S. and Canada into 116 regions cross state and national boundaries." The special \$10 million fund is aimed at the Florida Everglades, the Klamath Siskiyou forest of Oregon and Northern California, the Chihuahuan Desert covering parts of Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico, the Bering Sea, and Southeastern U.S. rivers and streams in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Another report due around March 1998, will draw the WWF's new map for Mexico. A third volume, now being worked on, will be entirely devoted to North America's fresh water.

Very revealing were the remarks of Janine Ferreti of Canada, who is the director of the CEC, which was set up under the North American Free Trade Agreement. "CEC supported the work of the WWF and its [Mexican] partner Canabio, to do this assessment of terrestrial eco-regions of North America." Included in her vision is the establishment of a supranational "network . . . of protected areas which represent key eco-regions throughout North America," which would cross borders under the guise of needing "to protect the expanse of habitat required to support migratory species."

Unions protest hospital cuts in Philadelphia

Over 1,000 hospital workers organized by District Council 1199C of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees demonstrated outside Philadelphia's Hahnemann Hospital on Oct. 28, to protest 1,200 layoffs announced by the hospital's new owner, the Pittsburgh-based conglomerate, Allegheny Health, Education and Research Foundation. Allegheny also shut down Mt. Sinai Hospital on Oct. 15, eliminating 500 jobs and 255 hospital beds there. Allegheny officials cited reductions in payments from health maintenance organizations and government care cutbacks as a major reason for its problems.

District 1199C President Henry Nicholas told protesters that greater Philadelphia

faces the likelihood of 40,000 more health-care layoffs, in the next few years, which he said would collapse the Philadelphia economy. He called on the state government to repeal Gov. Tom Ridge's Act 35, which cut over 200,000 people off from state medical assistance, and his "Health Choices" plan, which forces the remaining medical assistance recipients into HMOs.

Reviewers pan Gere's anti-China 'Red Corner'

While paying lip service to the anti-China "message" of Richard Gere's film "Red Corner," reviewers embarrassingly note that the film, which was timed to release as President Jiang Zemin arrived in the United States to meet with President Clinton, "does, in fact, indict a system of oppression that crushes the liberty and the spontaneity out of all it rules. Unfortunately, it isn't the Chinese political system, it's the American star system."

"The star is Richard Gere," said the Oct. 31 *Washington Post*. "Good intentions be damned. What fills the movie is the poison vapor of vanity." The review calls the movie "a trivialized melodrama which can never find room to accommodate both the heat of its anger toward China and the radiance of its star's self-regard." Moreover, the *Post* reveals, the early screenplay set the action in Russia—not China.

TV film critic Gene Siskel also gave "Red Corner" his "thumbs down," saying that the long, moralizing lectures that Gere's character delivers to the Chinese judge, would never be allowed in a U.S. courtroom, much less within the Hollywood's tinsel dictatorship.

Starr's new way to keep Susan McDougal in jail

Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr has cooked up a new stratagem for keeping Susan McDougal in jail for contempt: On Oct. 31, Starr filed a motion seeking to extend the life of his Little Rock grand jury by an additional six months. The grand jury was

NEW JERSEY Gov. Christie Todd Whitman was blasted by her Democratic opponent on Oct. 29, for having gambled the \$2.8 billion state's pension funds in the stock market. "The governor has held the taxpayers of the state of New Jersey ransom to the market," said James McGreevey, who lost by a narrow margin on Nov. 4.

THE FEDERAL JUDGE presiding over Paula Jones's sexual harassment suit against President Clinton, issued a gag order on Oct. 31, preventing any public disclosure of proceedings in the case, as well as sealing all documents concerning pre-trial discovery. The order applies to Jones, Clinton, and state trooper Danny Ferguson, as well as their attorneys.

MASSACHUSETTS' House of Representatives on Nov. 5 defeated a bill to reintroduce the death penalty. The bill had earlier passed the House, but one legislator who had earlier voted for the bill, switched his vote, saying he couldn't live with the idea of killing an innocent person. The bill would have made Massachusetts, which last executed a man in 1947, the 39th state to have the death penalty. The bill was hyped by the parents of a 10-year-old boy, who was the victim of a rape-murder.

AMERICAN JEWISH organizations are heatedly debating cutting their contributions to Israel, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched an effort to make Israel's Orthodox Chief Rabbinate the sole interpreter of Jewish law in Israel. The Reform Movement of the U.S. met in Dallas (there are 1.5 million Reform Jews in this country) to discuss whether to end all fundraising for all Israeli causes. The issue could destroy what support Netanyahu has among U.S. Jewish organizations, facilitating his ouster.

STROBE TALBOTT, deputy secretary of state, left on Oct. 31 for a seven-nation tour of Asia. Between Nov. 2-13, he met with officials in New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Laos, China, Japan, and South Korea.

scheduled to expire on Nov. 7, and has already had one six-month extension beyond the normal 18 months.

The effect of extending the grand jury still further, would be to allow Starr to keep McDougal in jail another six months, in an effort to force her to testify. McDougal has said repeatedly that Starr wants her to lie to the grand jury, and that she refuses to cooperate with him in any way.

Starr's move is purely vindictive, since McDougal has already been convicted, but cannot serve her sentence until she is no longer being held for contempt. If Starr wanted further Whitewater indictments, he can always convene a new grand jury and have the old testimony read to it (most famously done in the LaRouche case in Boston in 1986). But disbanding the existing grand jury would mean that McDougal would have to be released, which is why Starr wants to keep it sitting as long as possible.

Oregonians uphold Nazi euthanasia laws

On Nov. 4, Oregonians voted 60%-40% to retain the first law in the nation that makes the Nazi crime of euthanasia legal. Ballot Measure 51 called for repealing the 1994 voter referendum, which became the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, that allows doctors to prescribe lethal medications for terminally ill patients to allow them to commit suicide. A permanent injunction had stymied the law, but was lifted after the vote.

It is already reported that the Oregon health plan, which denies such basic items as hearing aids to the state's poor, and does not cover the medical needs of vulnerable, disabled patients, will cover so-called "assisted suicide" for them.

Although the suicide law specifically prohibits the use of lethal injections, it is now revealed that a new "interpretation" of the law may allow doctors to give "suicide drugs" through an existing intravenous line—the method used by unemployed pathologist Jack Kevorkian. There are suggestions that the law even may allow a lethal "inhalant"—again, a treatment favored by Kevorkian. Dr. Death's lawyer and accom-

pllice, Geoffrey Fieger, rushed to Oregon on election day, to hold a press conference, where he demanded that patients should have the right to commit "suicide" at any point, rather than wait until they are declared to be "terminally ill," with only six months to live. (In fact, demonstrable pathology has never been a deterrent to Kevorkian's dispatching of some of his clients.)

The opposition to Measure 16 was extremely weak, rarely disputing euthanasia itself, much less the fact that the law allows physicians to do to patients, what the post-war Military Tribunal at Nuremberg declared to be a "crime against humanity," and for which it tried and hanged Nazi doctors. Only the LaRouche movement, in fact, has stressed how Americans are departing from this moral principle.

Stink-tankers: 'U.S. should starve N. Koreans'

In an editorial page commentary for the Nov. 2 *Washington Post*, William Taylor, senior vice president for international security affairs at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Glen Baek, a CSIS researcher, propose that the United States refuse to ship food to North Korea—which is suffering a devastating famine after two years of flooding, and now drought—although they acknowledge that this will cause starvation. Taylor and Baek state, "The media have inundated the public . . . citing estimates that 5 million of North Korea's 24 million citizens are in danger of starvation."

What has been overlooked, the think-tankers say, is that in North Korea, there are "appalling human rights violations," and that "conventional 'negative' measures such as opposing loans from international financial institutions . . . are inapplicable." However, they say, "there is leverage in 'doing nothing' either to help or harm North Korea. For example, without further food aid, an unknown number of North Koreans would probably starve. But, with food aid, the dictatorship in Pyongyang survives longer."

Cutting off food, the authors say, is necessary "to promote human rights."