

# National News

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## GOP neo-cons push sanctions vs. Russia

Congressional Republicans, aided by Rev. Sun Myung Moon's *Washington Times*, are on a war-footing to impose trade sanctions against Russia, for allegedly selling missile technology to Iran. A Feb. 24 *Times* article reports that the Senate is expected in early March to debate a companion bill to one passed in November in the House.

The issue is being given big play by the neo-conservatives just before the next bi-annual meeting in Washington of the U.S.-Russian Joint Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation, headed by Vice President Al Gore and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The Gore-Chernomyrdin commission's scope is very broad, including such areas of cooperation as space research. The *Washington Times* has previously retailed the lie that Russian Space Agency head Yuri Koptev was involved in the Iranian missile technology transfer—despite official Moscow denials—usually on the eve of Koptev's visits to the United States to work on space cooperation affairs.

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## Demjanjuk regains U.S. citizenship

John Demjanjuk, the naturalized Ukrainian immigrant who, in 1979, was targeted by the corrupt Justice Department's "Nazi-hunting" unit, stripped of his citizenship, and deported to Israel, where he was sentenced to death for war crimes, had his U.S. citizenship restored by Federal Judge Paul Matia on Feb. 22.

The dramatic 18-year-long case, meant to be a showcase for the Office of Special Investigations, instead exposed the depths of corruption in the Justice Department's permanent bureaucracy. The OSI accused the retired Cleveland auto worker, on the basis of forged documents from the Soviet KGB, of being "Ivan the Terrible," one of the most sadistic gas chamber operators at the Treblinka concentration camp. Within months, the OSI itself uncovered evidence

that Demjanjuk was, beyond a doubt, not "Ivan the Terrible." Nonetheless, it proceeded to have him stripped of his citizenship, and encouraged Israel to seek his extradition on war crimes charges, the only capital crime in Israel.

With the OSI providing the Israeli court with its doctored evidence, Demjanjuk was convicted and sentenced to hang. However, determined sleuth-work by Demjanjuk's family and his Israeli appeals attorney, Yoram Sheftel, proved to the Israel Supreme Court in 1993, that the U.S. Justice Department had evidence showing that one Ivan Marchenko was, in fact, the Treblinka butcher. An angry U.S. Sixth Circuit appeals court, which had upheld the deportation order, blasted the OSI for its "fraud upon the court," and ordered the deportation reversed. Judge Matia, in restoring Demjanjuk's citizenship, upbraided OSI lawyers for acting "with reckless disregard for their duty to the court."

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## LaRouche Democrats aim to revive Virginia party

A ruling Feb. 24 by Northern Virginia's 10th Congressional District Democratic Committee in favor of six LaRouche Democrats who had been barred from joining the Loudoun County Democratic Committee (LCDC), has reversed a longtime pattern of McCarthyite discrimination against LaRouche, a Loudoun County resident and Presidential pre-candidate, and his associates. The decision opens up the potential for the party to correct the fatal errors it made with the 1996 ruling of then-Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler to exclude LaRouche delegates from the national convention, a ruling that was integral to the "New Era" policies which led the party to defeat at the polls.

The current leadership of the LCDC had refused in December to accept the applications of six LaRouche Democrats to join the local party on the grounds that they allegedly supported Republicans. Nancy Spannaus, the LaRouche Democrat who is running against Republican Rep. Frank Wolf (his backing comes from the Hunt Country gentry and populist pseudo-Christians), re-

sponded by declaring that the exclusion was nothing less than McCarthyism. Of course, we opposed the corrupt Democrats who worked with the Republicans to jail LaRouche and other innocent people, she said. But it has now been revealed that the same people who put LaRouche in prison are the ones who are going after President Clinton.

Meantime, in Norfolk, LaRouche Democrat Lorene Marable-Safivinia declared her candidacy for state party chairman on Feb. 19, vowing to stop the "New Era" Democrats from destroying the party, and pledging to take on the phony Christians, such as Virginia-based evangelist Pat Robertson.

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## Union Pacific's losses are in the billions

The estimated losses from nine months of broken-down rail service from Union Pacific add up to over \$2 billion to the national economy of the United States; over \$1 billion in losses were in the state of Texas alone. UP's head office, based in Omaha, Nebraska, maintains that major improvements may be noticeable by April 1, but no one is holding their breath. Until March 15, UP is required, by order of the Federal Surface Transportation Board, to file weekly reports on its operations.

Union Pacific operates some 36,000 miles of track through 23 Western states; it became the largest U.S. rail company after acquiring Southern Pacific in September 1996. UP's rise to the top was achieved by downsizing track, staff, and equipment all along the way, to the point of serious delays, jam-ups, and high accident rates.

When the 1997 harvest came on, UP hauling delays meant back-ups in grain storage, to the point that millions of bushels ended up piled on the ground in Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, and elsewhere. Houston became a choke-point for UP shipping generally.

In Texas, a leading freight corridor for all of North America, UP operates about 6,350 miles of track, and employs about 7,900 people. But for months, thousands of rail cars were stalled, sitting in yards in the Houston area; and shipping delays and accidents are common.