

National News

Second Harvest reports on hunger in America

A report released in Washington on March 10 by Second Harvest, the nation's largest charitable hunger-relief organization, finds that the majority of those seeking help to feed themselves every month are females, who come increasingly from rural areas, and are either very old or very young; increasingly, they also are employed, but don't make enough money to make ends meet.

Second Harvest commissioned a study, involving one-on-one interviews with nearly 28,000 recipients of food assistance and mail surveys filled out by more than 11,000 charities. The research was conducted in the first three months of 1997 — well before the new Federal welfare law's time limits take effect, but after several states began moving welfare recipients into jobs.

The survey found that Second Harvest's network of food banks provided food to 21 million people in 1997. Two-thirds of those seeking help were women, 54% were either seniors or children, and nearly half were white. In addition, 39% of all households who received emergency food had at least one adult with a job — almost half of them full-time.

Book exposes bigotry beneath Court's robes

Edward P. Lazarus, who served as a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun during the 1988-89 Supreme Court term, has written a book exposing a cabal of right-wing justices and clerks who "resort to transparently deceitful and hypocritical arguments and factual distortions as they discard judicial philosophy . . . in favor of bottom line results."

Lazarus's book, *Closed Chambers*, due out in April, charges, according to the *Washington Post*, that a network of right-wing law clerks "worked in the late 1980s to steer justices to right-wing results, created a separate

e-mail system to communicate with each other, and became so interested in denying Death Row appeals that when Florida mass murderer Ted Bundy was executed, they celebrated with a champagne party."

Lazarus singled out Andrew McBride, who was a clerk to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, as an individual obsessed with avenging the defeat of Robert Bork's Supreme Court nomination. McBride told him, "Every time I draw blood, I'll think of what they did to Robert H. Bork." McBride is now a Federal prosecutor in Richmond, Virginia. Lazarus is now a Federal prosecutor in Los Angeles.

Two latest Kevorkian deaths ruled homicide

Early on the evening of March 4, Jack Kevorkian and his accomplice, psychiatrist George Reding, left the body of 42-year-old William Connaughton, at the emergency room of Michigan's Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital. Later that night, the body of 61-year-old Doreen Saputo was left at Providence Hospital. The Oakland County Medical Examiner's office said the two were poisoned by intravenously injected substances, and ruled the deaths homicides.

In the Feb. 26 death of 21-year-old Roosevelt Dawson, it is beginning to come out that Kevorkian and his attorney Geoffrey Fieger strong-armed Michigan's Metropolitan Hospital, to force Dawson's release. According to the hospital, Dawson, a pre-med student who had been paralyzed by a spinal cord inflammation, never made a formal request to have his ventilator disconnected. On Feb. 23, Fieger called Metropolitan, saying that he and Kevorkian were taking Dawson home, although Dawson had never asked to be discharged.

The hospital told *EIR*, "We did what we are legally *required* to do when we know a patient is considering bodily harm to himself — we sought his involuntary commitment." Dawson underwent the legally mandated 48 hours for psychiatric assessment; two hours before the 48 hours ended, a reporter told Metropolitan Hospital that Fieger

had sued it, because it was "holding Roosevelt against his will" and had "chemically handcuffed him" to make millions of dollars by keeping him. The hospital was never served with the suit. Nonetheless, because Dawson was found not to be a threat to himself, he was released, and killed later that day.

Metropolitan Hospital houses a specialized unit for treating very disabled, ventilator-dependent individuals, who are intellectually alert but have intensive medical needs. The unit provides adaptive or assistive devices; it has been able to wean some patients from their ventilators, and return others to school or home. The unit was working toward this goal with Dawson.

Dick Morris joins assault against the Presidency

Proving once again that he is neither a friend of President Clinton nor of the truth, former Clinton campaign adviser "Dirty Dick" Morris launched a vicious attack on the White House's use of private investigators, including Terry Lenzner and Jack Palladino, in his weekly column in *The Hill* newspaper on March 4. Based on nothing but rumor and innuendo, Morris, a cousin and protégé of the late political dirty trickster Roy Cohn, spouts his conclusion that Clinton is running a secret police made up of private investigators in the same way earlier Presidents used the FBI, the IRS, and the CIA. He also suggests that Federal campaign funds have been used to pay for these investigations. Morris alleges that these operations date back to Clinton's days as governor of Arkansas, and that he bumped off a couple of rivals through investigations of their private lives.

Morris's diatribe is peppered with phrases like "presumably," "some reports have indicated," "there have been claims," and "many speculated." Nonetheless, this doesn't prevent him from concluding, "If ever a subject cried out for a Congressional investigation, this one does. We need hearings to establish the roots, funding, depth, and purpose of this extensive use of private investigators."

Morris was responsible for key mistakes

in the 1996 election campaign, such as pushing President Clinton to sign the disastrous welfare "reform" bill, which led to the Democrats' failure to re-take control of Congress.

Greenhouse protocols threaten agriculture

Testifying before the Senate Committee on Agriculture on March 5, American Farm Bureau Federation President Dean Kleckner said implementation of the Kyoto Protocol to combat so-called "global warming," could seriously "disrupt family farm and ranch operations." Kleckner began: "I'm a farmer, not a scientist, but I've reviewed the science behind the administration's climate change policy, and I don't find it particularly compelling." He said that it is "unclear that we even have a problem," but, farmers are "being portrayed as villains when it comes to greenhouse gases," because farm animals' excreta produces methane, and other farm activities produce carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. He said that Farm Bureau economists project net losses in farm income of 13% to 85%. Kleckner reported that 18 national farm organizations expressed their strong concerns to President Clinton last November, and that "these concerns have not been refuted by the administration."

High school seniors rank near bottom in science

American high school seniors scored third from the bottom in a 21-nation study of math and science education, according to the results of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), released on Feb. 24. Education Secretary Richard Riley called the results "unacceptable," and President Clinton also expressed concern. Cyprus and South Africa were the only nations with scores lower than the U.S. students on "general science knowledge." U.S. students were among the lowest of the 16 countries participating in the physics assessment.

In previous TIMSS studies, American fourth-graders did quite well in math and science, but by the eighth grade, their scores had slipped to mediocre.

The National Science Teachers Association issued a press release expressing "great disappointment," and said that it was looking forward to "further studies that will determine why student achievement drops between these grade levels." The NSTA did not mention that the decline of science education occurred on their "watch"; they encouraged the New Age takeover of science education, including the proliferation of unscientific radical environmentalism.

NAACP leaders respond to LaRouche exoneration

Organizers from the LaRouche movement brought the spirit of an uncompromising political fight against injustice to the Region 6 meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in Little Rock, Arkansas over March 7-8. Twenty NAACP officers, including branch presidents from some of the largest cities in the Southwest, as well as many members among the some 500 attendees, signed the call to President Clinton for the exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche.

The LaRouche movement's intervention was led by former political prisoner Rochelle Ascher, who circulated evidence proving that the corrupt judicial apparatus which put LaRouche in prison, is the very same apparatus targeting President Clinton and many black elected officials. The officials present were already very aware of the political targeting of black legislators in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Recent indictments against African-American Arkansas State Rep. Ben McGee and his son, combined with the widely publicized news of a new sitting grand jury and of former Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker's decision to cooperate with Grand Inquisitor Ken Starr, have created an pall of fear. The sitting grand jury is rumored to be preparing indictments against 20 state legislators, including key Clinton allies.

RICHARD MELLON SCAIFE'S vendetta against President Clinton was exposed in the March 8 issue of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Investigative Reporter Frank Greve detailed Scaife's funding for every major "Get Clinton" operation, including \$1.7 million to the *American Spectator* beginning in 1993

DONALD PHAU, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, was released from Virginia state prison on parole on March 9, after having served four years and four months of his 25-year sentence for "securities fraud." Phau was a victim of the "Get LaRouche" task force, and is challenging his conviction in Federal court.

JAMES SCHLESINGER, former U.S. Defense Secretary and Energy Secretary, told Italy's *Corriere della Sera* that President Clinton is "not against" Iran's opening to the West. Remarking on the visit of Italian Foreign Secretary Lamberto Dini to Teheran, Schlesinger said, "In this case, Italian and U.S. interests coincide. This is the way to stabilize the Persian Gulf."

RUSH LIMBAUGH, the Conservative Revolution radio talk-jockey, delivered a vicious tirade against Attorney General Janet Reno on March 10, that could land him in hot water with the FCC. Limbaugh was set off by the Attorney General's decision to continue her review of the allegations against Labor Secretary Alexis Herman for another 60 days, before deciding whether to refer the case to an independent counsel.

A FEDERAL JUDGE in San Francisco has thrown out the conviction of a black lobbyist who gave gifts to former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, saying that the case should have never been brought in California. Defense lawyers had previously charged that independent counsel Donald Smaltz had moved the case out of Washington, D.C. to avoid seating a black jury in the District of Columbia.