

National News

Oregon will pay for you to die, but not be cured

Oregon's Medicaid rationing program, known as the Oregon Health Plan, has voted to pay for severely ill indigent patients to commit suicide, yet it won't fund treatment for patients who are also suffering from illness-related depression. The state agency is about to fund sex-change operations for the poor, yet disabled individuals in its underfunded Health Plan and state Medical Assistance Program are regularly denied specific prescriptions ordered by their doctors.

The plan's health maintenance organizations force patients to use HMO-approved cheaper drugs, despite protests from doctors that the substitutes can harm patients with complicated medical histories. In fact, the cheaper drugs have so aggravated some patients' conditions, that the originally prescribed medications no longer work. One disabled patient told *EIR*, "It's so frustrating, I think they *want* us to give up and 'choose' suicide."

Coretta Scott King calls Ray's death a 'tragedy'

James Earl Ray, who spent 30 years seeking a trial after recanting his coerced confession in the assassination of Martin Luther King, died on April 23, of liver failure at a hospital in Nashville; Ray had been seeking a liver transplant, which Tennessee prison officials had refused. "This is a tragedy, not only for Mr. Ray and his family, but also for the entire nation," Mrs. Coretta Scott King said in a statement. "America will never have the benefit of Mr. Ray's trial, which would have produced new revelations about the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as establish facts concerning Mr. Ray's innocence."

Mrs. King said that she will continue to press for the creation of a Truth Commission to reopen the case, with power to grant amnesty to witnesses. Ray's lawyer, William Pepper, accused Tennessee prison officials of "barbarism" in not letting Ray out of

prison so he could be with his family when he died.

The judge who presided over Ray's most recent efforts to obtain a trial, and who was then removed from the case, is quoted in wire reports as having told Cox Newspapers: "It was a flat, straight-out conspiracy, and it reaches pretty high up." Judge Joseph Brown of the Shelby County Criminal Court in Memphis said that "the record raises an inescapable inference that someone else was involved," and that the conspiracy "reaches the Federal government . . . [and] some Federal players."

U.S. may ban arms sales to British companies

The lead article in the Sunday *New York Times* on April 19 reported that the State Department is considering a ban on all weapons sales by U.S. arms manufacturers to British companies. The possible action stems from a European Union policy of imposing no restrictions on resales abroad of weapons purchased in the United States. U.S. law mandates that any foreign company purchasing American-made weapons must agree in writing that they will not be resold abroad without prior approval from the U.S. government. The EU declared that European companies are not bound by the U.S. requirement.

Britain is being singled out, according to the *Times*, because the U.K. government makes no data available on foreign resales, and a large number of U.S.-manufactured weapons purchased there have shown up in the hands of insurgents in the Balkans, in the Great Lakes region of Africa, in the Middle East, and with Kurdish rebels operating against Turkey.

Many American-made weapons also show up in the hands of organized crime around the world. The *Times* quoted Geraldine O'Callaghan, an analyst with British American Security Information Council, who complained, "There is a total lack of transparency, an inability to get to the bottom of anything. Even a Member of Parliament cannot find out who bought or sold what."

Workfare slaves replace New York hospital staff

Stanley Hill, executive director of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees District Council 37, representing 120,000 municipal workers in New York City, broke from his support for workfare and denounced it as "slavery" on April 23, when Mayor Rudolph Giuliani announced the layoff of 900 hospital workers, effective May 1, whom Hill said will be replaced by workfare workers.

Unlike many union leaders, Hill has been reticent to break from Giuliani, as long as union jobs were spared. Hill has now charged that Giuliani targeted the layoffs as a reprisal against AFSCME Local 420 President James Butler, an outspoken opponent of Giuliani, who has also denounced workfare as slavery in interviews *EIR*. Hill and Butler filed suit in State Supreme Court on April 16 to block the layoffs.

Virginia Dems bully LaRouche delegates

Virginia Democrats in the 10th Congressional District used strongarm tactics on April 20 to prevent delegates at a Rappahannock County caucus, who were pledged to LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus, from being elected to the district convention on May 30. Spannaus is the most prominent Democrat seeking to run against incumbent Frank Wolf (R), the kept Congressman of the Hunt Country bluebloods. In a statement blasting county chairman Franklin Schmit and his wife Esther, Spannaus compared their actions to those of the Mississippi Dixiecrats, who in 1964 used identical tactics to prevent African-American delegates from being recognized by the party, because they were "outsiders."

"If these tactics are not immediately repudiated by my opponents, Cornell Brooks and Tim Kapper, and the Democratic Party leadership," she said, "we are headed once again toward disgrace, and disastrous defeat."

MAXINE WATERS (D-Calif.) called on April 9 for the merger between Citicorp and Travelers to be halted, at least until allegations can be investigated that Citicorp helped launder drug money for Raúl Salinas, the imprisoned brother of former Mexican President Carlos Salinas.

REP. BUD SHUSTER (R-Pa.), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, who has proposed a \$217 million highway bill, became the target of a Federal investigation, after his close ally Ann Eppard was indicted on April 9. Although he is a Republican, his support for Federal infrastructure funding has the conservative wolf-pack behind the "Get Clinton" effort howling for Shuster's head, too.

GARY BAUER, president of the Family Research Council and a leading spokesman for the "non-religious right," promoted Rep. Frank Wolf's (R-Va.) Freedom from Religious Persecution Act, in the April 19 *Washington Times*. The basis for Wolf's bill is black propaganda lies—primarily aimed at wrecking U.S. policy toward Sudan and China—from the British intelligence front Christian Solidarity International.

THE PROMISEKEEPERS, after announcing that a precipitous drop in income was forcing it to lay off 315 staffers, is now claiming it has received a windfall of donations, and will re-hire the staff, according to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* of April 19.

PAT ROBERTSON'S Christian Broadcasting Network has been ordered by a Federal judge to turn over to the Federal Election Commission correspondence between CBN and Robertson's Christian Coalition. The 38 subpoenaed documents describe finance and business arrangements between the two, including the sharing of employees and assets. The FEC is probing the tax-exempt, "educational, non-partisan" Christian Coalition's efforts on behalf of GOP candidates from 1990 to 1994.

When Spannaus filed a full slate of three delegates, and two alternates, "Schmidt's apparatus proceeded to call them and pressure them into withdrawal," Spannaus said. Four of her five delegates were induced to withdraw, at which point Schmidt would have cancelled the caucus altogether, but for the "perseverance of one Spannaus delegate, who had also been contacted by Esther Schmidt and pressured by her with statements such as 'The Democratic Party has tried very hard to exclude LaRouche from the party.'"

Two of the Spannaus delegates who were pressured to withdraw were African-Americans who work in the local community. "I'm sorry. I have to work for these people," one of them told a Spannaus campaign worker.

Spannaus continued: "I am currently in the process of checking with attorneys about what action can be taken to reverse this blatant violation of the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution. Lyndon LaRouche already has a suit against former Democratic Party chair Don Fowler, which includes the Virginia State Democratic Party, because it illegally excluded LaRouche's duly elected delegates to the national convention in 1996. Now, we see a different form of the same discrimination being used in my election."

Wieczorek tells Dems how to win back Congress

South Dakota LaRouche Democrat Ron Wieczorek, who is seeking the party's nomination to run for Congress in the November election, issued a released on April 18 telling Democrats what it would take for the party to rekindle the minds of American voters and take Congress, which they had lost in 1996 through the treachery of former chairman Don Fowler and Clinton campaign adviser "Dirty Dick" Morris. First, he said, "let Democrats, from Clinton on down, have the courage to say that there is a global financial disaster, and we will do something about it. A couple of years ago, [South Dakota's Democratic U.S. Senators] Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson stood with

the ideas of JFK who said, 'a rising tide lifts all boats,' but under the pressure of the Republicans, backed off that idea, and claim that we have a 'prosperous economy.' Well, we don't have a prosperous economy, and that is why our party didn't win the Congress in 1996."

He continued, "In August 1962, John F. Kennedy was just a few miles from here dedicating the Oahe Dam, and he said, 'Let us do something worthy to be remembered.' He spoke of the great water projects, and power grids that brought electricity to rural America. In Congress, I want to continue JFK's dream with new development projects for South Dakota, including a maglev train that crosses our state; and finally opening the entire Missouri River to barge travel with a system of locks and canals."

Wieczorek charged that his opponent, incumbent Republican Congressman John Thune "stands . . . for a 'balanced budget,' no matter how many children must go hungry, no matter how many schools and hospitals must be closed. Let no Democrat put balancing a budget before human life."

Netanyahu mobilizes in Congress against Iran

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is continuing to rabble-rouse among Congressional Republicans, around Israeli reports that Iran possesses nuclear capabilities, even though both the Pentagon and State Department have tended to deny the reports. Reps. Jim Saxton (R-N.J.) and Bill McCollum (R-Fla.) told the April 16 *Jerusalem Post* that they believe the allegations.

Saxton, who chairs the House Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, fumed, "I believe that Iran already has nuclear weapons and that our policy should reflect that." McCollum, a former member of the task force, claimed that there had been mounting evidence that Iran bought parts used to make nuclear weapons from Russia and Central Asian republics. McCollum said, "U.S. policy toward Tehran must be based on the fact that Iran has already crossed the nuclear threshold."