

National News

Virginia Dems back off from attack on Clinton

The efforts by the Virginia wing of the New Democrats State Steering Committee to pass a resolution condemning President Clinton failed on Sept. 18. After an hour-long debate, the 26 Steering Committee members decided against issuing any statement, and simply authorized party chair Ken Plum to speak on their behalf. The resolution, rewritten to state “disapproval” rather than “condemnation,” was presented by vice-chairman for organization Susan McCleary, a close ally of anti-LaRouche activist, party state treasurer Abbi Easter. The resolution had been considerably toned down from initial versions, and even included a paragraph attacking Starr.

Democratic National Committee member Mame Reilly slammed the idea of a resolution as “unnecessary and inappropriate.” “This is a time to stand by the President, she said. “I’ve seen people on Capitol Hill run like cockroaches when you turn on the light, scurrying to get away from Clinton.” (Ironically, Reilly is the campaign manager for Northern Virginia’s U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, who was among the first “deviant Democrats” to attack the President.)

On Sept. 19, the Steering Committee also postponed considering a motion to reverse the Loudoun County party’s expulsion of LaRouche Democrats.

Sweeney: We face severe economic global crisis

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney warned the heads of state and government, at the Sept. 21 “Third Way” conference at New York University, that the economic crisis is global and severe, and called for “immediate action” and “new institutions” to deal with it. Sweeney’s remarks echoed President Clinton’s address to the New York Council on Foreign the previous week (see *EIR*, Sept. 25).

In order to address this “severe global crisis” for which “working people all across the world are paying the cost,” he said, “we

need a fundamental rethinking, new ideas and new institutions to create a global economy that works for working people. . . .

“I. We gather in the midst of a global crisis. . . . President Clinton called this the ‘greatest financial challenge facing the world in a half-century.’ But make no mistake. The real economy is taking the hit. Entire economies have been leveled. . . .

“We will either have a new internationalism—or we will see a raging reaction. A new internationalism would limit speculation and stimulate real investment; lift standards up across the world, rather than compete by bringing them down. . . ; find ways to write down the bad debts of the past to open the way to growth in the future.

“We need new international institutions that promote growth and equity among rich and poor nations, not simply serve as collection agencies for creditors and life rafts for drowning bankers,” he said. His remarks echoed Clinton’s comparison to the challenge of rebuilding the world economy after World War II.

LaRouche Dem Eret holds Nebraska meeting

Don Eret, a farmer, former State Senator, now the Democratic candidate for Congress in Nebraska’s 1st C.D., held an emergency town meeting in Lincoln on Sept. 19. The meeting was one of at least 100 that the LaRouche movement has planned, to mobilize Americans around the urgency for President Clinton to convoke a New Bretton Woods monetary conference. This clearly requires Clinton to be defended against the effort to overthrow him, and for him to exonerate Lyndon LaRouche.

The meeting was called on short notice as a follow-up to an ad Eret had placed in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on Sept. 11. The ad responded to the effort of several state legislators on Sept. 6 to adopt the resolution, “Americans to Save the Presidency.” Each person at the meeting received copies of that resolution, along with two pamphlets—“What We Must Do To Stop Financial Disaster” and “The Assault on the President”—to circulate.

Eret said, “We are all called upon to make a crucial decision: A vote for me—

a vote for a Democrat who is not a ‘New Democrat,’ is a vote against the impeachment of our President.”

Ann Boyle, chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party (who volunteered to speak to the meeting after seeing Eret’s ad), remarked that as a delegate at the 1996 Democratic Convention, she had voted, not for favorite son Sen. Bob Kerrey, but for President Clinton.

Boyle said, “All the time we [Democrats] worked for education, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We all remember the Republicans fight against these programs. . . . A Republican Congress that wanted to cut the National Endowment for the Arts because of pornography, now wants to shove pornography in every American’s face.”

Former Gov. Frank Morrison closed the meeting. “I’m here for one reason,” he declared. “I’m here because I love my country. I shudder to see our Congressmen convert our nation into the world’s biggest peddler of pornography. They say they want to punish our President—well, they’re punishing our great nation. . . . This is a great tragedy for all of us—but there should be thousands of people here to organize a moral crusade to rescue America. It is our great opportunity in history to mobilize all that is best in this great country.”

Kennedy, Daschle push patients’ bill of rights

On Sept. 16, Democratic Senators Edward Kennedy (Mass.) and Minority Leader Tom Daschle (S.D.) called on Americans to press Congress to pass S. 1890, which protects children enrolled in so-called health maintenance organizations (HMOs). The legislation is based on Clinton’s Patients’ Bill of Rights. This bill gives families, for the first time, the right to sue HMOs for wrongful denial of care.

According to Kennedy, S. 1890 guarantees that children with chronic conditions or disabilities can see the pediatric specialists they need as their primary doctor, without referrals. Also, under this law, managed-care plans would have to allow families to go outside the HMO without extra cost, if the insurer cannot provide the appropriate

specialist care. Kennedy gave the example of his son Teddy, who contracted bone cancer at the age of 12, and is alive today because he received experimental treatment, after his leg was amputated. S. 1890 requires HMOs to allow sick children to enroll in medical trials, and requires the HMOs to pay for the basic costs of treatment.

Majority Leader Trent Lott (Miss.) used a parliamentary maneuver on Sept. 16 to cut off floor debate and prevent a vote. President Clinton commented on the Republican stonewalling, before a meeting of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. "The Senate—they don't want to be recorded on this. They want death by stealth," he said.

White House given false evidence on Sudan

An exposé in the *New York Times* on Sept. 21 implicates Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Susan Rice as heading the drive to isolate Sudan, leading to intelligence failures culminating in the Aug. 20 U.S. bombing of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum.

The article says that the decision to bomb both the Sudan and Afghanistan targets on Aug. 20 was made by a very close-knit group of the President's top advisers. However, because the United States had shut down its Khartoum embassy, its on-the-ground intelligence capability was significantly reduced. The targeting of the Al-Shifa plant was based on "insinuos" regarding Sudan's alleged relationship with Osama Bin Laden. "In January 1996," wrote the *Times*, "the CIA formally withdrew more than 100 of its intelligence reports on the Sudan after concluding that their source was a fabricator. The reports, many of which dealt with terrorist threats against Americans in the Sudan, were withdrawn within weeks of [that is, after] decisions to pull American diplomats and spies out of the Sudan because of the dangerous political conditions there."

However, even though the CIA reports were withdrawn as false, the U.S. Embassy remained closed, apparently thanks to Albright and Rice. Those who want to "isolate Sudan," says the *Times*, have the upper hand

in the Clinton administration. It reports that Rice said in an interview that "she had become convinced that talking to the Sudanese was increasingly fruitless."

In fact, until September 1998, Rice had never deigned to speak with the Sudanese ambassador to Washington, in her current post or during her earlier tenure as National Security Council adviser on Africa.

The *Times* ends its article by noting that Sudan had this year offered full cooperation with the FBI to fight terrorism, but the offer was declined; Sudan had also written Clinton a personal letter offering full access for U.S. law enforcement agents etc., but the letter was never answered.

California has dubious case vs. Susan McDougal

Salon Magazine on Sept. 18, raises serious questions about the California embezzlement case against Susan McDougal, a friend and former partner of the Clintons in Arkansas. McDougal, who was convicted in the Whitewater case, also suffered 18 months "contempt" imprisonment for refusing to say what Kenneth Starr demanded of her against President Clinton.

In California, McDougal worked as personal assistant and bookkeeper for Nancy Mehta, wife of orchestra conductor Zubin Mehta. McDougal is accused of stealing \$150,000 from Mrs. Mehta. *Salon* asks, "Did California prosecutors trump up the embezzlement charges to squeeze McDougal, just as many people believe Starr concocted the Whitewater case, based on possibly perjured evidence from a corrupt judge [David Hale], to get at the President?"

McDougal was Mrs. Mehta's confidante. Her defense lawyers claim she helped Mrs. Mehta in a scheme to spend all the Mehta family money so Zubin Mehta couldn't spend it on his illegitimate children, but that Mrs. Mehta became angry with her and filed false charges against her because McDougal left her employ and friendship, in order to extricate herself from the Mehta family mess.

Susan McDougal says Kenneth Starr offered her "global immunity" from the California charges if she would help Starr get Clinton.

A MINIMUM WAGE increase, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), was defeated by Senate Republicans on Sept. 22. The increase was offered as amendment to the bankruptcy reform bill, to bring the minimum wage to \$6.15 by the year 2000. The GOP's Don Nickles (Okla.) ridiculed the idea of making it illegal to work for lower pay.

A FEDERAL JURY ordered the owners of a former nuclear fuel processing company near Pittsburgh, to pay \$36.5 million in damages to local residents who claim that radiation releases caused high numbers of cancers, on Sept. 17. In fact, there is no indication that the types of cancers are those related to radiation exposure, or even that the area's cancer rates are out of the ordinary.

ANTI-NUCLEAR mobs, led by "Standing for Truth About Radiation," have planned a Sept. 26-27 symposium at the New York Academy of Medicine, with the aim to scare people away from everything nuclear—from mammograms to irradiated food—and to counter the clear and growing evidence that low-level radiation has beneficial health effects.

GEOFFREY FIEGER, Jack Kevoorkian's attorney, and Democratic candidate for Michigan governor, received the endorsement of the General Board of the UAW Michigan Community Action Program, despite the fact that during the Flint UAW strike, workers tried to oust this "devil's advocate" from their picket lines.

KENNETH STARR told a 1987 broadcast of "60 Minutes," according to an Internet report, that "public media should not contain explicit or implied descriptions of sex acts. Our society should be purged of the perverts who provide the media with pornographic material while pretending it has some redeeming social value under the public's right to know." At the time, Starr was a Federal judge. Follow-up calls to "60 Minutes" resulted in a vigorous denial that Starr appeared on the show in 1987.