
National News

Enron runs scare ads for electricity dereg

The Texas-based Enron Corp., run by friends and former employees of former President George Bush, has been spending millions to run media lies on behalf of deregulation of the electric utility industry. Electric USA — which represents over 150 rural electric cooperatives, over 6 million utility stockholders, and industry employees — has denounced the Enron ads. The ads claim that the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) testified that unless Congress deregulates the industry, there will be brownouts this summer. On the contrary, NERC, made up of the nation's electricity producers, has stated repeatedly that exactly such increased "competition" is the greatest threat to the reliability of the country's electricity supply and delivery system.

NERC has made recommendations to Congress on legislation to protect reliability. Enron's front, Americans for Affordable Electricity, is claiming, falsely, that NERC recommends that reliability legislation should be tied to deregulation. But, as Electric USA chair William Steinmeier told *EIR* on May 3, the NERC recommendations risk being buried, if Enron's advice is followed. Americans for Affordable Electricity say is Enron's "puppet coalition," and 75% of its bills are paid by Enron, according to Electric USA.

Even 'rocket docket' rejects Kenneth Starr

A Federal jury in the infamous "rocket docket" Eastern District of Virginia refused on May 7 to convict Julie Hiatt Steele, the latest victim of independent counsel Kenneth Starr. The jury was deadlocked, forcing the case into a mistrial, in the prosecution of Kathleen Willey, who would in turn, Starr hoped, be his key witness in a perjury case against President Clinton. The Steele case is so far the only criminal indictment to come out of Starr's Monica Lewinsky investigation and his takeover of the Paula Jones case

in January 1998.

One week earlier, Steele had testified in defense of Susan McDougal (her third trial under Starr), telling a Little Rock, Arkansas jury that she, too, had been targeted by Starr, because she refused to lie about Bill Clinton. McDougal was acquitted. Steele was prosecuted because she had refused to lie about Kathleen Willey's claims that she (Willey) had been the subject of an unwelcome advance by Clinton in 1993.

Starr's inability to win the Steele case is particularly stunning, because the Alexandria, Virginia "rocket docket" is considered the most pro-prosecution court in the country, and became even more notorious as the venue for the frameup of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates in 1988.

Willey was Starr's chief witness against Steele. And, despite the judge's admonitions that she was not the subject of the trial, her credibility deteriorated rapidly on cross-examination, and she was forced to acknowledge discrepancies in various of her sworn statements. It also came out that Starr had given Willey immunity from prosecution twice — the second time being after Willey had admitted lying to Starr's investigators about falsehoods she had told in a relationship she had once had with a younger man.

Steele's defense team considered Starr's case so weak that they rested their case without calling any witnesses.

S. Dakota Senator hosts China trade delegation

South Dakota's Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson hosted a 29-member trade delegation from China on May 12-15, on the eve of what he described as "the door opening on the People's Republic of China." The visit includes stops at a bio-stress lab in Brookings, a soybean processing plant near Volga, a farm in Sioux Falls, and a buffalo ranch in the Black Hills. Johnson's office held a public forum in Sioux Falls on May 13 "to foster a working relationship between China and South Dakota." Johnson noted late last year, after a private visit to China and Taiwan, that "China is doing economically better than Asia as a whole." On May 7, he told reporters: "Expanded trade with the Chinese would be good for South Dakota farmers and

ranchers, good for the economy, and for China. . . . Our farmers and ranchers are ideally situated to help satisfy the nutritional needs of China's 1.2 billion residents."

The delegation was also greeted by Ron Wieczorek, an activist with Lyndon LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods campaign committee. Wieczorek presented a sign in Chinese reading "We Welcome Your Visit," displaying LaRouche's picture. All 29 visitors received literature packages, including *EIR*'s Special Report on the Eurasian Land-Bridge and LaRouche's campaign book *The Road to Recovery*.

Former CIA chief Woolsey fronting for pot lobby

James Woolsey, who was the first CIA director in the Clinton administration, is a major lobbyist for legalized "hemp manufacturing," the newest cover for the marijuana lobby. In April, the *Washington Post* highlighted Woolsey's efforts on behalf of the North American Industrial Hemp Council (NAIHC), which scorns any suggestion that there is a connection to the drug legalization movement.

On May 8, the *Post* featured a letter from Jeanette McDougal, co-chair of Drug Watch/Minnesota, who reveals that the NAIHC includes two members of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), the oldest of the dope lobby. According to McDougal, David Morris, founding member and immediate past vice president of the NAIHC, has been pushing legalization of marijuana cigarettes for years in the Minnesota media. "Surfing the 'Net' would have further edified lobbyist Woolsey," she writes. "He could have observed for himself . . . that NAIHC appears in alphabetical order right after NORML, the Lindesmith Center [George Soros], Marijuana Policy Project, and other pro-marijuana organizations on the International Hemp Association Web site."

Drug legalization is not Woolsey's only departure from Clinton policy: Both in government and out, Woolsey, who was close to Vice President Al Gore and his national security adviser Leon Fuerth, is well known for his Cold War opposition to Clinton's opening to Russia and China.