

alternative at all.

Lieberman has been described by arch-conservative Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) as the Republicans “favorite Democrat,” whose voting record is to the right of many GOP members of Congress. Brownback wrote a tribute to Lieberman in the Aug. 9 *New York Times* headlined “Lieberman, My Ally,” in which he recounted his collaboration with the Connecticut Democrat and Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.) on a school vouchers bill for the District of Columbia, and their work to overthrow the Sudanese government. “On many issues, including Social Security reform, missile defense, and tort reform,” Brownback wrote, “Senator Lieberman has followed his conscience across party lines.”

Indeed, up and down the line, Senator Lieberman has lined up four-square with the policies of the Bush Republican gang, which in most instances, is also the policy of Gore. The differences between Bush-Cheney and Gore-Lieberman are all style and no content.

Since entering the U.S. Senate in 1988, Lieberman has been one of the architects of the wrecking of the “FDR Coalition” that was the hallmark of the Democratic Party from 1932. Not only does Lieberman chair the Democratic Leadership Council, since 1995, but also, in 1996, he and Sen. John Breaux (D-La.) launched the New Democrat movement, which aimed at transforming the Democratic Party into a party of big business, free trade, and a “tough-on-crime agenda,” including broad use of the death penalty, which has targeted African-Americans and other minorities.

*New York Times* political columnist David Broder captured the picture, when he described Lieberman as “an embodiment and an apostle of a Democratic philosophy that incorporates market-oriented thinking of the Reagan revolution and a muscular defense and foreign policy.” Indeed, Lieberman likes to boast that he broke the Jewish Sabbath restrictions against working on Saturday, to cast his vote for the Gulf War Resolution, which he personally co-authored, on behalf of President Bush and Cheney.

While the establishment media were singing Lieberman’s praise as a deeply religious man of impeccable morality, they had to admit, paradoxically, that he is the leading recipient of campaign funding from the insurance industry and health maintenance organizations, and is among the biggest cash recipients from the pharmaceutical industry. This is hardly a mark of “morality,” at a moment when poor people and senior citizens are being literally murdered by the takedown of quality, affordable health care, by Lieberman’s money-backers — with his complicity.

Most of all, the selection of Lieberman as Gore’s running mate, barring some disastrous blunder by George W. Bush, almost ensures that the Republicans will be occupying the White House in January 2001. This reality has not sailed over the head of Lieberman — who is still pursuing his re-election to a third U.S. Senate term, even as he campaigns for Vice President.

## Europe Waging War vs. U.S. Death Penalty

by Marianna Wertz

The European Union (EU) is waging an unprecedented, almost full-time political war against the death penalty in the United States, a war that has intensified with France’s assumption of the rotating EU presidency in June, and with the fact that both major-party U.S. Presidential candidates are avid supporters of capital punishment. In a recent statement, the EU called on all U.S. Presidential candidates to endorse a moratorium on the death penalty and support the universal abolition of capital punishment.

The EU, which maintains a fully staffed office in Washington, D.C., is the treaty-based institutional framework that defines and manages economic and political cooperation among its 15 European member-countries. In 1983, the EU abolished the death penalty for its member-countries, and required abolition as a precondition for new members to join the association.

France’s presidency of the EU coincides with an aggressive policy by leading French officials, in opposition to Anglo-American “human rights” policy abroad (see “French Foul Up Albright’s ‘Democratic’ Fascist Scheme,” *EIR*, July 7, 2000). With their offensive against the death penalty in America, the French and their EU allies are now extending that opposition into questions of “human rights” in the United States.

On the EU’s American website ([www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org)) is prominently listed “Action on U.S. Death Row Cases.” The associated statement explains: “The EU is deeply concerned about the increasing number of executions in the United States of America, all the more since the great majority of executions since reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976 have been carried out in the 1990s. Furthermore, in the U.S., young offenders who are under 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the crime may be sentenced to death and executed, in clear infringement of internationally recognized human rights norms.”

### Executing the Mentally Retarded

In addition to executing minors, the United States also stands out as the only “civilized” nation that executes the mentally retarded. The latest démarche from the EU, dated Aug. 8 and issued from the Embassy of France, called on Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the Republican Presidential candidate, to commute the sentence of Oliver David Cruz, 33, who was mentally retarded, with an IQ that has tested as low

as 64. Despite this and many other such pleas for clemency, Cruz was executed on Aug. 9 for the rape and murder of a Texas woman. While Cruz didn't deny his guilt, the EU urged Bush to commute his sentence to one compatible with international law, citing the United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution 19, on the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of the mentally retarded with respect to the death penalty.

Thirteen American states prohibit execution of the mentally retarded, but Texas is not among them. In fact, this is so, largely because Governor Bush did not support such legislation when it was introduced in the Texas legislature in last year's session; it failed to pass there.

A strongly worded *New York Times* editorial on Aug. 8 noted that to execute the mentally retarded "demeans the nation's judicial system," offending "the most basic standards of justice. This is partly because the mentally retarded, though perhaps capable of distinguishing between right and wrong sufficiently to stand trial, cannot be said to be among the most morally culpable criminals, deserving the ultimate penalty." It noted that Bush "should be embarrassed by the callous execution of the mentally impaired on his watch."

### **Calls for Federal Moratorium**

Less than two weeks earlier, on July 27, the French Embassy issued a *démarche* on behalf of Juan Raúl Garza, a Texas farmworker originally scheduled to die in September for three murders in connection with drug-trafficking. His would be the first Federal execution in 37 years. The EU urged President Clinton to commute Garza's sentence to life in prison, not to break the *de facto* moratorium on the Federal death penalty, and to consider imposing an immediate moratorium on Federal executions as a first step toward the general abolition of the death penalty in the United States.

"Your administration is well aware of the European Union's commitment to the abolition of the death penalty, which is regularly evoked in our relations with the State Department," says the *démarche* to Clinton. "The case of Juan Raúl Garza, already the subject of a European Parliament resolution passed on April 13, elicits great emotion and sustained interest in our countries because of its symbolic import."

The EU notes that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, on Jan. 27, 2000, urged that the Garza execution not proceed before the commission has a chance to examine and rule on the case.

The *démarche* also states that the EU countries "have been campaigning, and continue to campaign, for the governors of the other 37 states concerned to establish an immediate moratorium on executions," and expresses the EU's support for legislation pending in the U.S. Congress that would impose a Federal moratorium.

On Aug. 2, President Clinton delayed Garza's execution by at least four months, giving his attorneys more time to

argue for clemency under new Federal clemency guidelines. Garza is appealing the death sentence, claiming that the Federal system is rife with racial disparities; 17 of the 21 people on Federal death row are from minorities. The delay is also convenient for Al Gore's Presidential campaign, as Vice President Gore, who voted in favor of extending the Federal death penalty to drug kingpins, would be held co-responsible for the execution of an Hispanic, and for breaking the Federal moratorium.

### **Targeting America's Chief Executioner**

A major focus of the EU's attack is Governor Bush, who is leading in the polls for the U.S. Presidency today, and is the nation's chief executioner. In a July 6 resolution on the death penalty in the United States, the European Parliament expressed its "dismay" at the June 22 execution in Texas of Gary Graham (see "Mass Murderer G.W. Bush Executes Gary Graham," *EIR*, June 30, 2000), and noted "with dismay that there have been 131 executions in Texas during the past five years" while Bush has been Governor. With the Cruz execution on Aug. 9, and the execution of Brian Keith Roberston, 36, that same day in Texas, Bush's killings stand at 140 as of Aug. 10, with four more to go this month, far and away an all-time record for an American governor.

The resolution also reiterates "its serious concern about the sad record which the State of Texas has built up ever since the U.S.A. reinstated the death penalty in 1976, and since when Texas has executed seven more juvenile offenders, more than any other American state." With the two Aug. 9 executions, Texas has executed 227 men and women since 1976. By comparison, the next highest state, Virginia—whose Gov. James Gilmore is being eyed for the post of Attorney General in a Bush Administration—has executed 77 since 1976, while most states remain below 20 total executions.

### **Stopping the Barnabei Execution**

EU member Italy has been spearheading a European offensive on behalf of the life of Virginia inmate Derek Rocco Barnabei, 33, an Italian-American (see "Italians Look to Bretton Woods," *EIR*, Aug. 11). Italy's Parliament voted unanimously in July to support a plea by Pope John Paul II to spare the life of Barnabei, scheduled for execution on Sept. 14 for the rape and murder of his girlfriend. Barnabei contends he is innocent and has asked Governor Gilmore to order new DNA testing in order to prove it. To date, Gilmore has not acted on the request.

On July 6, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling for a halt to Barnabei's execution as well. It noted that investigations in Barnabei's case failed to furnish clear evidence of his guilt, while his defense was "flawed and insufficient." The resolution urges that judicial authorities responsible in the case grant Barnabei a retrial, "since the interests of justice will best be served by seeking out the truth and making sure that innocent men are not convicted."