

National News

LaRouche files to set aside NBC judgment

Attorneys for Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., filed papers on Nov. 13 in Federal Court to set aside the \$3 million judgment awarded to the National Broadcasting Company by a jury in Arlington, Virginia, recently. The motion to set aside the judgment shows that the jury's verdict is not supportable as a matter of law and evidence, and further that the verdict was a result of "passion, prejudice, or other improper influence."

The jury in LaRouche's libel case against NBC and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) deliberated for 13 hours before returning the \$3 million verdict against LaRouche for "interference" in NBC's business relations. Even pro-media libel experts were astonished by the size of the award: \$2,000 in actual damages and \$3 million in "punitive" damages.

The contamination of the jury by inflammatory press coverage and the "hearsay" evidence presented at the trial was evident in the size of the punitive damages, and the motions filed by LaRouche's attorneys argue that courts have traditionally set aside such excessive judgments rendered by juries where prejudice or improper influences have operated.

A hearing on LaRouche's motion to set aside the verdict is expected to be held Nov. 30. Following that, an appeal will be filed on the libel judgment itself, a judgment which LaRouche's attorneys are certain should be overturned on the basis of numerous errors made by Judge Cacheris during the nine-day trial.

New York Times says optimism spurs suicide

The *New York Times*, the paper that found so much to admire in Adolf Hitler during the 1930s, featured an op-ed on Nov. 16 by a leading theologian from the Presbyterian-run Princeton Theological Seminary blam-

ing "cultural optimism" for the wave of teenage suicides in the United States. He demanding that the same ideologies of pessimism that produced Nazism be inculcated in American youth.

Seminary Emeritus Professor George S. Hendry writes: "The philosophical form of the question [of teenage suicides] is to be found in the age-old debate between optimism and pessimism. But this debate is virtually closed in America, because here we are constitutionally committed to optimism. The inclusion of 'the pursuit of happiness' among the rights bestowed on us by the Creator is an affirmation of optimism, and even though the Declaration of Independence mentions the pursuit of happiness, it is nevertheless implied that happiness is an attainable goal.

"We Americans have clung to this belief throughout our history, and nothing apparently has been able to shake it. . . . Moreover, the philosophical case for pessimism—presented brilliantly in Europe by Schopenhauer, and reflected in the thought of several later writers, notably Freud—made little impression in America. . . .

"We have been led to believe that there is no problem we cannot overcome if only we apply to it sufficient energy, skill, and money. . . . If we assume that optimism has been declared the winner in the debate with pessimism, we leave our young people, who are on the threshold of maturity, unprepared for the negative elements in life."

LaRouche campaign seeks probe of bank's theft

Gerald Rose, treasurer of Independent Democrats for LaRouche, announced that the campaign organization was filing a complaint in district court in Newark on Nov. 13 against First Fidelity Bank NA of New Jersey and requesting an FBI investigation of the bank's theft of campaign funds.

Lawyers for the campaign will seek a temporary restraining order against the bank's seizure of the campaign account as well as damages of \$5 million actual and \$5 million punitive for losses suffered by con-

tributors and the campaign as a result of cancellation of a prime-time broadcast on national television which had been planned for election eve.

"We have caught the First Fidelity Bank NA of New Jersey red-handed stealing money from the campaign funds on deposit from the bank for Independent Democrats for LaRouche and its predecessor for the primary period, The LaRouche Campaign," Rose said. "Basically, we were informed *ex post facto* that this bank had appropriated the campaign funds of hundreds of contributors, hours before they were to certify a check to pay for an election-eve broadcast Nov. 5 on CBS."

"When I was told the funds were missing from the account with no explanation given on the morning of Nov. 2," Rose said, "I could only conclude that something illegal was occurring. My suspicions were confirmed when I was advised at 5 p.m. that the bank was terminating the account and holding on to the funds. The bank has since admitted confiscating \$170,000 worth of campaign contributions. Our lawyers will file a complaint against this bank today that calls for 1) a temporary restraining order against seizure of the account, and 2) damages of \$5,000,000 actual and \$5,000,000 punitive for losses suffered by contributors and damages to the campaign as a result of losing an election eve prime-time broadcast," Rose said.

Aquarians push U.S. green movement

The same "Aquarian Conspiracy" network that spawned the counterculture and its offshoots is now avidly pushing the formation of an American Green movement.

The "Leading Edge Bulletin," one of the Aquarian Conspiracy's major organs, has published an article on "The Greening of America: Germany's Green Party in the USA," reporting that Green and Green-style groups are popping up all over the United States, and hailing this trend as one which "may signal the emergence of a post-liberal, post-industrial political party."

Briefly

One such group, the Greens of Los Angeles, formed in September by a former Rand Corporation economist named John Stein, runs an organic farm that teaches "self-sufficient farming techniques" to Central American refugees and organizes demonstrations in southern California against the use of pesticides to destroy crop-wrecking fruit flies.

"Redesigning the environment based on a vision of appropriate size and scale is pivotal to the Green movement," says Paul Glover, a member of the Los Angeles Green movement. "The first step is decentralizing the industrial base so people can produce the essentials of life closer to their own neighborhoods. By creating self-sufficient bio-regions, we might reduce competition over natural resources and encourage world peace."

The LA Greens also have a friend in *Los Angeles Times* theater critic Robert Koehler: "Because of the pioneering work of the ecology and peace movements, we feel the ground is fertile for an American movement."

The article also quotes Hazel Henderson, a well-known "futurist," saying that the Greens could become the country's first viable third party.

To boost this operation, Petra Kelly will return to the U.S.A. in January. Her schedule includes a major teach-in at New York University on Jan. 18. Sponsored by "Disarm America," the teach-in will also feature Paul Wamke, Ramsey Clark, and Daniel Ellsberg.

U.S. ASAT test works; Moscow unhappy

According to the Nov. 15 *Defense Daily*, the U.S. Air Force successfully tested the most crucial elements of an anti-satellite (ASAT) missile launched from a McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle. This test had been delayed because of President Reagan's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in October.

While the ASAT missile was not tested against an actual satellite, the missile's

launch from the F-15, booster, booster guidance system, and miniature-vehicle flight sensor were demonstrated. The infrared ASAT sensor successfully acquired and tracked a predetermined star.

On the same day, Radio Moscow denounced the United States for conducting the ASAT launch, saying that the launch was part of Reagan's program "to militarize outer space."

The Pentagon said that the two-stage rocket carrying the weapon was fired on Tuesday night, Nov. 13 from a modified F-15 fighter flying over Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The self-guiding warhead, only a few inches long, was propelled about 500 miles into space before crashing into the Pacific.

New moves on 'umbrella' arms-control proposal

On Nov. 15, White House press spokesman Larry Speakes said: "We believe this is a time in the U.S.-Soviet dialogue at which a broad exchange of the type proposed by the President in his speech before the United Nations on Sept. 24 would be useful."

Speakes was responding to a lead article in that day's *Washington Post* entitled, "Soviet Terms U.S. Arms Plan Unprecedented," reporting on statements made by a senior Soviet embassy official in Washington that a Reagan administration proposal for broad "umbrella talks" on arms control "must be studied."

One week earlier, a senior White House official listed six areas for such "umbrella talks": intercontinental ballistic missiles, medium-range missiles in Europe, weapons in space, chemical weapons, confidence-building measures, and conventional forces in Europe.

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger came out opposed to the idea of naming a "czar" to oversee weapons-reduction programs. "What we need is essentially what we have," he told the *Los Angeles Times* in an interview. He also reaffirmed his opposition to any moratorium on testing of anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons.

● **REAGAN** did not win a mandate for anything but a defense-budget cutting spree, according to the *Washington Post* editorial published on Nov. 15, which further claims that U.S. voters picked the President only "not to raise taxes."

● **WASHINGTON** decided, in a surprise move on Nov. 14, to upset the Franco-Libyan deal for the destruction of Chad and of central Africa. While both Paris and Tripoli were claiming that they had withdrawn their troops, the United States supplied the Chad government with satellite photos which show that not only had the Libyans not withdrawn but were actually reinforcing their military potential by building a new runway in the northern Chadian desert.

● **ASTRONAUT** Buzz Aldrin says that the United States will build a permanent, manned space station on the moon by the end of the 1980s, it was reported on Nov. 15. Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, said during a visit to NASA's Marshall Space Center in Alabama: "I believe that is what President Reagan meant when he said 'You ain't seen nothing yet' . . . And I believe he wants to see that lunar base set up in his own lifetime, if not during his final term of office."

● **MICHAEL STEED**, the Democratic National Committee's national director, was picked by DNC head Charles "Banker" Manatt to go to Moscow on Nov. 16 to confer with Soviet Party and government officials as an official representative of the Democratic Party. In a statement to the press, Steed said he was not aware of any Democratic Party officer ever officially visiting the Soviet Union before. He said the visit is "very exciting, given Mr. Manatt's feeling that the party should become involved in international affairs."