

National News

NBC accepts reduction in damage award

The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) has accepted the reduction in its damage award against Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. from \$3 million to \$200,000, rather than face the prospect of holding a new trial on the issue of damages in the network's counterclaim against the former presidential candidate, who sued the network for libel. NBC's decision, delayed until the last possible moment, was filed in federal court in Virginia March 15, exactly 21 days after the court ordered NBC to accept the reduction or face a new trial.

NBC's "acceptance of remittitur," as it is technically called, now removes the last roadblock blocking LaRouche's right to appeal the jury verdict and award on grounds of insufficient evidence and tainting of the jury by erroneous court rulings.

Lamm crony to run for President?

Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, the up and coming spokesman for the euthanasia faction of the Democratic Party, may make a bid for U.S. President in 1988. Babbitt announced on Feb. 21 that he would not seek political office next year—but made no secret of his national ambitions.

Babbitt is one of the closest associates of Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm, the man asked America's elderly "to die and get out of the way." Babbitt spent the entire National Governors' Association Conference in late February hobnobbing with Lamm. When the national budget was discussed, Babbitt jumped up to demand drastic cutbacks in social spending—including taxes on Social Security benefits, medical benefits, and increased co-payments for Medicaid.

Babbitt is being built up by the national media as leader of the so-called neo-liberal wing of the Democratic Party. This crowd is supporting the traditional "liberal" social policies of the Democratic Party, but is demanding severe austerity at the same time. He was the subject of a Sunday *New York*

Times story on March 17, which quoted him saying he was considering "the darkest of dark horse" bids for the presidency.

Babbitt said he will not seek re-election as governor. He also will not run for the U.S. Senate seat to be vacated by retiring Barry Goldwater.

But when asked about presidential ambitions, Babbitt said: "I've made no secret of my desire to have a voice in the future of the Democratic Party."

Reagan: Germans forced to 'unnecessary guilt'

President Reagan announced on March 21 that he would not visit a concentration camp site during his May visit to Europe to celebrate the 40th anniversary of V-E Day, because Germans living today have "a guilt feeling that has been imposed upon them, and I just think it's unnecessary." The German population should be recognized for its achievements in creating a democracy in the postwar period, he stated.

"Maybe we should observe this as the day when, 40 years ago, peace began and friendship," Reagan said, rather than reopening old wounds. The celebration should recognize "the end of an era and the coming into what has now been some 40 years of peace for us." Reagan said he had conferred on the question with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and others, "who all felt the same way."

The President will be in Europe for the annual economic summit of the leading industrial nations. He was originally scheduled to be in Germany on May 8, V-E Day, but plans were changed to have him address the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France that day.

Weld's links to drug interests exposed

Despite an attempted "white-wash" of Boston U.S. Federal Attorney William Weld, during a recent, March 12, session of the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, strong circumstantial evidence of

Weld's links to the international laundering of drug-traffic funds continues to pile up at an accelerating rate.

In addition to covering up the \$1.2 billion funds-laundering of the Bank of Boston with a \$500,000 slap on the wrist, Weld's family connections to the merger of *Crédit Suisse* with both Merrill Lynch and White, Weld interests, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Weld's friends to ignore the fact that the same *Crédit Suisse* is at the center of drug-traffic money-laundering, as well as the key accomplice of the Bank of Boston.

Weld's image is not improved by uncovering of *Crédit Suisse* drug-money-laundering leads in the case of the collapse of 71 Ohio banks. The key figure in the collapse of those banks was President Jimmy Carter's ambassador to Switzerland, Marvin L. Warner. Up to now, it appears that "someone very high up" in the U.S. government has been intervening to shield Warner.

Georgetowners downplay Mideast peace attempt

Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski, told a conference at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies on March 21 that the Middle East peace initiative of Egyptian President Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein is not a "golden opportunity," but a "bronze one at best."

The only solution for coming closer to peace is to "create an option that will involve the Soviet Union . . . and establish a parallel dialogue, a parallel channel with Syria," Brzezinski told the Georgetowners. "A serious peace initiative would take the total personal involvement of the President or Secretary of State," he said, "as had occurred under Carter and Kissinger. Reagan is not that interested in the Middle East."

The two-day conference, attended by most of Washington, D.C.'s Middle East watchers, was chaired by former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia George Neumann.

Professor Muhammad Aziz Shukuri, Dean of the Law Faculty at Damascus University, told the group, "We Syrians . . . are often portrayed as the radicals, the belligerents, the trouble-makers. . . ."

"A learned American policy maker [once said], in the Middle East, there could be no war without Egypt, but there could be no peace without Syria."

Ambassador Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, claimed that the United States had neither accepted or rejected any of Egyptian President Mubarak's peace proposals, but merely wanted to "guard against any premature activities and unrealistic hopes of what might occur."

Murphy told the conference: "Some look at the situation with despair. We look up with hope and ask the parties in the region, when do we get on with it?"

Meese and García meet on war on drugs

U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and his Mexican counterpart, García Ramírez, met in Washington, D.C. for five hours on March 22 to discuss ways to improve cooperation against drug trafficking. The talks were seen as "positive and fruitful" by both officials.

Meese and García issued a joint statement after the meeting, which read in part: "Our meeting today recognized the many positive enforcement steps we have taken together and underscored our steadfast commitment to working together to combat this common enemy. . . ."

"In an open and cooperative spirit . . . we have agreed to develop channels of communication for sharing information."

It was announced that by the summer of this year a Joint Law Enforcement Summit will be held between Mexico and the United States.

Schiller Institute to take census of the poor

The Schiller Institute will conduct a nationwide census to determine the true extent and impact of poverty and unemployment in the United States. The census will work in conjunction with the Institute's worldwide or-

ganizing drive to rally 3 million people into the streets in opposition to the International Monetary Fund's austerity policies on April 13.

"We do not believe that Reagan is as stupid as Herbert Hoover or as immoral as the Jimmy Carter of the 1920s, Calvin Coolidge," a spokesman for the Institute declared today. "The Swiss-organized collapse of the dollar, however, will make the 1930s look like roses in comparison with today, unless Reagan changes his economic policy now."

The census was designed by Schiller Institute chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche to better enable the Institute to shape its economic policy proposals to the Reagan administration. Among the questions asked are: Are you unemployed? Can you afford a healthy, substantial diet? Can you afford to buy food during the whole month? Is your family able to eat meat every day? Do you have sufficient medical care? Do you want President Reagan to change his economic policy?

Bush to Germans: SDI will defend Europe

Vice-President George Bush assured West German Christian Democratic parliamentarian Theo Waigel in discussions in Washington, D.C. at the end of March that the American Strategic Defense Initiative would include missile defense for Europe, and that the United States would offer West Germany full participation in the SDI and an equal share in the technologies developed. He denied that the SDI was meant to "decouple" Western Europe from the United States.

Horst Teltschik, an aide to Chancellor Helmut Kohl stated March 22 that the Bonn government wanted "to participate in the U.S. plans for a space-based defense from the earliest point possible."

Lt.-Gen. James Abrahamson, the director of the SDI, was scheduled to arrive in Bonn on March 27 to brief the West German government on the latest developments with the SDI. German sources believed that he would also bring to Europe more concrete offers for participation in the SDI research and development program.

Briefly

● **THE IRS** has opened an investigation into Cleveland pornography mobster Rudolf Sturman, the Los Angeles Times reported March 19. Sources have called Sturman an associate of Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) and other ADL-linked persons active in recent attempts to stop the appointment of Ed Meese as U.S. Attorney-General. The Times said that Sturman's banker is Crédit Suisse, exposed recently as one of the world's biggest launderers of drug-money.

● **'MIND BENDERS'** Influence Farm Activists, Group Says," is a headline in the March 15 *Daily Globe* of Worthington, Minnesota. The article covers charges by *EIR* and the Schiller Institute that the Benedictine Order is behind "radical" farm ferment.

● **THE DEA'S** Organized Crime Task Force busted a major cocaine smuggling ring in San Diego, California, responsible for the import of between 20-25% of the cocaine that comes into the U.S. annually March 19. The international cartel operated out of Peru and Colombia.

● **DEREK HUMPHRY'S** Hemlock Society was depicted by the March 22 *Baltimore Sun* as a very fast-growing national right-to-die movement. But, says the Sun, "controversy still flares over . . . the Hemlock Society When [it] held its annual gathering recently, it was picketed by members of the Club of Life, and Mr. Humphry was confronted by a woman who announced that she was his dead wife come back to haunt him."

● **THE HOUSE BANKING** Committee announced March 20 that it had rescheduled hearings on the Bank of Boston's failure to comply with federal cash reporting laws for April 3-4 in Washington. Committee officials have indicated that they wish to probe into Swiss banks' involvement in international dirty-money flows.