

National News

Judge throws out anti-nuke referendum

A Staten Island Supreme Court judge on Oct. 23 ruled that a referendum barring a nuclear-capable navy base on New York City's Staten Island is unconstitutional and ordered it off the ballot.

The referendum would have amended the City Charter to bar New York from selling or leasing its land for storing nuclear weapons.

Judge Charles Kuufner wrote in a 19-page decision: "The City of New York alone should not be permitted to compel the Navy to change its decisions as they relate to military strategy."

Councilman Frank Fossella who instigated the challenge to the referendum said, "We are doing the right thing for the city; we share in the nation's benefits, we should share in its defense."

The authors of the referendum are appealing the decision, and claim that they are prepared to carry their appeal to the Supreme Court.

Prince Charlie in controversy

A Nov. 12, \$10,000-per-couple dinner in honor of Prince Charles and Princess Di's visit to Palm Beach, Florida has set off a major controversy in the Florida city because the beneficiary of the dinner will be Armand Hammer's United World College of the West in Montezuma, New Mexico.

The Liberty Lobby has sent a letter to thousands of Palm Beach residences calling "Comrade Armand Hammer" a "Soviet agent." The *Palm Beach Post* ran an editorial in Hammer's defense, claiming, "Common sense suggests that if Dr. Hammer were the traitorous villain the letter writer made him out to be, he would have been discredited long ago."

Other Palm Beach citizens, including former Mayor E.T. Smith, are angry because none of the money from the dinner

will benefit Palm Beach.

The prince has long been involved with Hammer in the United World Colleges movement, which was originated by Lord Mountbatten, who was the prince's chief mentor. Charles attended the opening ceremonies of the New Mexico college, the first branch in the United States, in October 1982. The school features a "back to nature" approach characteristic of the Nazi movement and the Royal Family's interests in general.

McNamara jargon is now 'de-implemented'

Lieutenant-Gen. Robert M. Elton has sent a memo to all Army installations forbidding the use of McNamara-esque jargon when referring to military rank.

For example, the term "service members," used to refer to members of the armed forces, General Elton said, is "a vapid construct which evokes sensings of computer jargon ciphers; or worse, an eight-hour per-day 'employee' of the U.S. government.

"We want soldiers to perceive themselves as soldiers, with all the values that term implies. The term 'soldier' has connotations of valor, duty, honor, sacrifice: noble values of a noble profession."

Hospital let disabled babies die

Four medical-rights groups filed a \$30 million lawsuit on Oct. 3 against Oklahoma Children's Memorial Hospital, charging "life-threatening discrimination" and claiming that doctors there "deliberately" allowed 24 disabled newborns to die, while providing 36 others with superior treatment.

The allegations are based on an October 1983 *Pediatrics* article written by four doctors and a social worker who were then members of the Children's Memorial team treating infants with spinal bifida.

The authors said that, from 1977 to 1982, they used a "selective process" to recommend "vigorous treatment" for 36 spina bi-

fida newborns, and "supportive care" for 33 others. Of the 36, all survived the disease (one died in a car crash). But of the 33 others, 24 died within six months.

The authors used the phrase "quality of life" in the article, saying that such factors as the financial contributions that the newborn could expect in the future from the family and society were taken into consideration in deciding on treatment.

Budget cuts to harm African relief

Representative Tony Hall (D-Ohio), a member of the House Select Committee on Hunger, said on Oct. 23 that Congress's budget-cutting may leave little money for famine relief efforts to Africa.

He predicted that money will be sharply reduced. "I'm very concerned because of the large deficits and some of the kinds of packages that are going through Congress now, like the Gramm-Rudman amendment. The kind of supplemental aid we were able to produce this year, which was large quantities of money to meet this great famine, just might not be there."

Judge denies request for euthanasia

A Massachusetts probate judge on Oct. 22 denied a family's requests to withdraw food and water from a comatose patient.

Judge David H. Kopelman issued an injunction blocking either the removal or the clamping of a feeding tube which is providing nourishment to Paul Brophy, a firefighter who suffered severe brain damage from a broken blood vessel during surgery in 1983.

The judge said it would be "ethically inappropriate to cause the preventable death of Brophy by the deliberate denial of food and water," Brophy's wife has asked the court's permission to have the feeding tube removed.

Judge Kopelman reinstated orders that no special measures should be taken to keep

him alive. However, he enjoined Mrs. Brophy from removing her husband to another nursing home as a patient so that the feeding tube could be removed. He said that the legislature and not the courts should decide the issue.

Democratic committee proposes changes

The Democratic Party's bizarrely misnamed "Fairness Committee" on Oct. 17 moved to expand the role of elected officials and party leaders in the presidential nominating process.

The Commission proposed the creation of 200 new national delegate slots for Democratic governors, members of Congress, and Democratic National Committee members. The Commission also proposed lowering to 15%, from 20%, the threshold of votes a candidate must obtain in presidential caucuses and primaries to qualify for a proportional share of the state's delegates.

The proposals still have to be approved by the Democratic National Committee, which meets in January.

Ads support President's SDI

Lieutenant-Gen. Danny Graham's latest operation, the Coalition for the Strategic Defense Initiative, has launched a multimillion-dollar TV campaign to generate support for the President's SDI program. An ad featuring a little girl in a child-like drawing being defended by an SDI shield aired on Oct. 21 on the CBS and ABC Washington affiliates.

Graham told a press conference that the coalition has raised \$175,000 to pay for the SDI ads in D.C., and plans to raise \$1.7 million to show a dozen 30-second ads in the nation's top 20 media markets between now and the Nov. 19 summit.

The purpose of the ads is to counteract pressure on Reagan to give up the SDI or adhere to a restrictive interpretation of the ABM treaty. The coalition wants 50% of

Americans to view the commercial at least four times.

In the ad, incoming missiles "plink" harmlessly off a peace shield protecting a house, trees, car, and stick figure people. The shield then turns into a rainbow.

Asian crime syndicates invade United States

On Oct. 14, at a Washington, D.C. seminar for members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Charles W. Gianetti, supervisory agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) organized-crime section in Washington, D.C., told American law-enforcement officers that Asian organized-crime networks are becoming a national problem.

Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese, and Korean crime syndicates are now engaged in such lucrative illicit activities as narcotics, gambling, and prostitution. Gianetti identified New York, San Francisco, and Toronto as hubs of Chinese activity, while Chinese "Tongs" operate in major cities along the West Coast and in San Antonio, Denver, and New York.

The Japanese criminal syndicates, commonly referred to as the Yakuza, have gained a toehold on the West Coast and in Honolulu, Hawaii. Gianetti said that Houston, Texas is a "main operating point" for the ethnic Vietnamese gang called the Thunder Tigers, and the Taiwanese gang known as the Bamboo Union, adding that both had a reputation for violence.

"Our sources tell us the Vietnamese are the most violence-prone of all the Oriental gangs," said Gianetti, adding that, "The Chinese and Japanese gang members are usually hesitant to pull a gun on a cop, but the Vietnamese gangs aren't and, for that reason, are very dangerous," he said.

In the case of the Vietnamese criminal syndicates, Gianetti reported that they extort money by using the excuse of collecting funds to arm anti-Communist guerrillas to liberate Vietnam. "They will say they are going to send the money to camps in Thailand, but it's just a way to prey on the Vietnamese communities in various cities," Gianetti said.

Briefly

● **DON REGAN** will become the new chairman of the Federal Reserve when Paul Volcker steps down, White House sources say. "Everybody will deny it when you ask about it, but the deal is set in cement and it's going to happen," the *Washington Times* quotes a "source" as saying. But other sources say that Drew Lewis will succeed Volcker.

● **SAN FRANCISCO** attempted to close 14 bathhouses frequented by homosexuals, but lost the court case. The court decided that the closure would constitute a violation of the constitutional rights of the owners and patrons, and presumably, of the AIDS virus.

● **DAVID ROCKEFELLER** and Arnaud de Borchgrave, editor-in-chief of the *Washington Times*, were invested with the Order of Hilal-i-Quad-i-azam, "the founder's crescent," at Pakistan House in New York City on Oct. 21. Prayers were said and passages from the Koran were read. Each received a sash and parchment from Pakistani President Zia ul-Haq.

● **HUSTLER** magazine went on trial on Oct. 21 in Houston federal court, accused of provoking a 14-year-old boy into killing himself while attempting masturbation with a noose around his neck. The boy was found with a copy of *Hustler* at his feet, open to the article titled "Orgasm of Death," part of a series called "Sex-play." *Hustler* called these "informative articles."

● **GOP MAYORAL** candidate in New York City Diane McGrath called for an end to bi-lingual education and for re-centralization of New York public schools on Oct. 22. McGrath asserted, "Fluent English is absolutely essential for students who wish to progress in society. Bilingual education is disastrous for the very children it is intended to serve" in that it encourages foreign-born students not to learn English.