

National News

Pentagon reactivates large nuclear bombs

A decision has been made to redeploy 1960s-vintage nuclear bombs that are more than six times as powerful as the largest warhead or bomb now in the U.S. arsenal, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Aug. 6.

The Defense Department acknowledged reactivation of the B-53 bombs on Aug. 5, but refused to explain or discuss the decision, saying only, "The B-53 reactivation provides more flexibility in the planning process."

The B-53 has an explosive yield of 9 million tons of TNT—9 megatons. While it is not the largest warhead ever built by the United States, and is not as large as some bombs and warheads still thought to be in the Soviet Union's arsenal, it dwarfs every nuclear warhead currently fielded by the United States.

The next most destructive nuclear weapon in the stockpile is the B-28 bomb, with a yield of 1.45 megatons.

Bush campaign official accused of dirty tricks

George Bush campaign official Lee Atwater, who has been identified as responsible for Bush's attack on Lyndon LaRouche in Iowa at the end of July ("LaRouche deserves to be in a lot of trouble") has now been accused of running dirty tricks operations against the campaigns of Pat Robertson, Robert Dole, and Jack Kemp, according to the Aug. 4 *Washington Times*.

Robertson told the *Times*, "Lee Atwater has used every dirty trick known to mankind. We suspect he is the author of some dirty tricks used against our campaign, but we have no proof." David Keene, an adviser to Dole, said they also suspect Atwater was involved in operations such as cancelling hotel reservations, and misrepresenting himself as a candidate.

Ed Rollins, chairman of the Kemp cam-

paign, alleged that Atwater sabotaged a convention of the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) this year by circulating attacks on Kemp. Bush sources denied the charges.

Thompson makes Adlai stay 'independent'

Gov. James Thompson of Illinois Aug. 4 vetoed a bill passed by the Illinois State Legislature that would have merged Adlai Stevenson's independent "Solidarity Party" with the Democratic Party of the state.

Thompson, a Republican, said he felt the merger was "unconstitutional."

Stevenson created the "Solidarity Party" in a move to separate his 1986 gubernatorial campaign from Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart, "LaRouche Democrats" who had won the statewide Democratic primary race for lieutenant governor and secretary of state, respectively, in March of that year.

Stevenson had been a close second to Thompson in the 1982 election. But his self-destructive bolt from the Democratic Party made 1986's race no contest.

AIDS called 'greatest plague'

"What we're dealing with is probably the greatest plague ever to hit the world, let alone the United States," said Dr. William O'Connor, an M.D., microbiologist, and head of the Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus Eradication Foundation. He told the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment Aug. 6 that failure to quarantine AIDS virus carriers eventually would be more costly to taxpayers than quarantining them.

"This disease could possibly push us right off the face of the earth," O'Connor said, arguing for mandatory AIDS testing and total quarantine of all whose tests show they carry the virus. Calling AIDS "a draconian

disease," O'Connor added, "You don't treat it as a civil rights issue."

Even those who only a short time ago were defending the civil rights of the virus are beginning to turn around on the AIDS issue. For example, orders to involuntarily detain AIDS patients perceived to pose a public health threat were issued by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Aug. 4. "It is the legal right and moral duty of health officials to detain patients who pose a threat to society," said Supervisor Mike Antonovich, who introduced the motion calling for expanded use of health detention.

The supervisors unanimously ordered county Health Director Robert Gates to review with doctors at county hospitals the laws governing detention for public health reasons of people with communicable diseases. Dr. Martin Finn, medical director of the county's AIDS program, said the board's action would not result in more involuntary detentions, but would lead to new policies for dealing with uncooperative AIDS patients.

Justice targeting black officials?

"Black leaders paint Justice Department as new KKK" is the title of a wire story in the Aug. 2 *Houston Chronicle*, which reports a "growing feeling among blacks that black elected officials are the target of a conspiracy by the white political establishment and the white-dominated media."

U.S. Justice Department criminal division head William Weld is quoted defending the activities of Department. He admitted that since 1981, there has been an "aggressive cadre of U.S. Attorneys" and "more high-profile cases with a major impact on their communities since 1981 than ever before."

But Weld, who has personally directed a political witchhunt against Lyndon LaRouche, U.S. defense contractors, and other Soviet-designated targets, insisted that although this "has the effect of impacting on a broad basis on local politicians, so be it, but that's not race-connected. . . . As long