

National News

Congressman: Airlines are a national disgrace

Congressman Dan Burton (R-Ind.) called for reregulating the airline industry, in a statement before the House of Representatives on July 28.

"The airline system in the United States is a national disgrace, a tragedy, an abomination," he said. "It is goofy and in need of immediate change.

"If what we have now is a result of deregulation, then I am for reregulation. As a conservative Republican, I have long believed that government intervention should be held to an absolute minimum, that the best government governs least, but after sitting on runways for over four hours, having flight after flight delayed or canceled, after circling over Washington, D. C., Indianapolis, and countless other cities for hours on end, I can tell the Members it is time for a change.

"Congress must act. Even Congress cannot mess it up any worse than it is."

Fahrenkopf hit on fundraising technique

Sen. Warren Rudman (R-N.H.), blasted RNC chairman Frank Fahrenkopf for his endorsement of Lt. Col. Oliver North in a recent fundraising letter. "I deeply regret the message that your letter carried," Senator Rudman wrote to Fahrenkopf.

The Fahrenkopf letter appealed for funds for a lobbying effort to renew funding to the Nicaraguan Contras. "If you're like me you're very proud of Oliver North," Fahrenkopf wrote. "Through six days of grueling interrogation by some of Washington's most self-serving liberal politicians and lawyers, Col. North held his ground, brilliantly argued the case for freedom in our hemisphere, and eloquently defended President Reagan's Central American policy."

"I hope I am not one of these self-serving liberal politicians and lawyers that you refer to," Rudman wrote Fahrenkopf.

Burger, LaRouche oppose constitutional convention

Former Chief Justice Warren Burger said Aug. 21 that he fears a constitutional convention on a balanced budget amendment would start tinkering with the Constitution itself. A convention would be a "grand waste of time, not to say money," Burger said.

A day earlier, presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche also attacked a convention as a "plot to rip up the Constitution."

Said Burger: "If you have the best automobile in the world, you don't throw it away if the carburetor is not working. You fix it. The same is true of the Constitution. That's what the amendment process is all about."

LaRouche, in one of his weekly five-minute radio spots, reported:

"Some years back, Mrs. Pamela Churchill Harriman launched an organization for the purpose of organizing a constitutional convention. She said that her purpose was, to rip up the U.S. Constitution, and impose upon us a government modeled upon the British parliamentary system. . . .

"Behind this, there is a plan for replacing our present system with what some liberals have praised as 'democratic fascism,' or 'fascism with a democratic face.'

". . . The defenders of this proposal say their idea is not like Hitler's fascism; they say it is good fascism, because people are allowed to impose suffering upon themselves democratically, rather than having suffering forced upon them by a dictator. . . .

"I was not surprised that Pamela Harriman should be involved in trying to destroy our form of government. After all, she married into the Churchill family, before marrying the late Averell Harriman, and naturally prefers the British parliamentary system to our Constitution.

"If you prize our constitutional liberties as much as I do, you will probably agree with me, that the time has come for us to stand up for our Constitution—before it is too late. . . .

"We do not need a new Constitution. What we need, is to force our federal government to return to the original clear intent of the language of that Constitution, including the Bill of Rights."

Brainwashing behind 'blind terrorism'?

High-level sources tell *EIR* that Pentagon counter-terrorism specialists are now looking at the recent "blind terrorism" incidents involving Dwain Wallace and Ralph William Myers as signals that President Reagan and Defense Secretary Weinberger have been targeted for possible assassination.

Wallace was shot dead when he rushed past a Pentagon security checkpoint brandishing a pistol. Myers is the California pilot who buzzed President Reagan's helicopter.

In 1981, after John Hinckley attempted to assassinate President Reagan, *EIR* charged that he was in all likelihood a "Manchurian candidate," i.e., the product of the brainwashing capabilities of a psychiatric network. A similar evaluation may hold for the cases of Wallace and Myers.

Meanwhile, high-level law enforcement circles are looking at a pattern over the month of August that suggests Soviet spetsnaz pre-combat deployments in the United States, utilizing both long-term "sleepers" and recent emigrés, sources tell *EIR*. The deployment involves sabotage of industry and industrial infrastructure, as well as airports, trains, and the destruction of equipment and telephone systems.

Evidence was released in late August of widespread sabotage at the Rockwell Aircraft B1-B Bomber plant in Palmdale, California (see *Feature*). It has also been reported by Associated Press that seven emergency or unscheduled landings of civilian aircraft occurred on Aug. 20 and 21 alone.

Causes cited included evidence in flight of smoke in the cockpit, fuel leaks, and potentially dangerous conditions.

North must cooperate with Walsh, or face jail

Lt. Col. Oliver North has been given the choice of cooperating with Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh's investigation into the Iran-Contra affair, or going to jail for many months, by a ruling of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Aug. 22. The court upheld his contempt conviction for refusal to cooperate with the special prosecutor's investigation. The court also upheld Walsh's authority to investigate the entire Iran-Contra scandal, including North's role in it.

North was held in contempt by U.S. District Judge Aubrey Robinson for his resistance to a request for a handwriting sample. Under federal law, North could be held in jail up to 18 months. He now has recourse only to the Supreme Court.

The Circuit Court unanimously ruled that the March 5 "backup appointment" by Attorney General Meese had given Walsh full authority—and virtually complete independence—to run the probe. The court, while giving a clear-cut endorsement of Walsh's authority, said it was only allowing North to challenge one specific order—the one requiring him to produce a handwriting sample—and was not permitting a wholesale challenge to any other tactics Walsh or the grand jury might use in their investigation.

But Walsh, who has said that North's popularity will not save him from prosecution should the evidence warrant, has now pushed back plans to seek major indictments in the Iran-Contra scandal at least until October, because of delays in obtaining crucial bank records from Switzerland. The Aug. 22 *Wall Street Journal* said Walsh is concerned that administrative delays in Switzerland and last-minute legal maneuvers by attorneys for some potential defendants could keep him from getting the bank records for

at least several more weeks.

On Aug. 20, Switzerland's highest court ruled that Walsh will be able to examine confidential Swiss banking records. Their release had been challenged by Irangate figures Richard Secord, Albert Hakim, and Manucher Ghorbanifar.

Du Pont petitions Pa. Supreme Court

The attorney for Lewis du Pont Smith petitioned the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reverse the lower court decisions, rendered by the Court of Common Pleas and affirmed on appeal by the Superior Court, declaring Smith mentally incompetent to manage his estate.

Smith, a supporter of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, is the first U.S. citizen to be declared mentally incompetent solely on grounds of his political beliefs and activities. The Smith petition was filed Aug. 20.

For over two years, the family of Lewis du Pont Smith has tied up his financial estate, interfered with his right to marry, and impeded his right to vote and make political contributions. The sole basis for this is the family's opposition to the political outlook and policies of LaRouche and his associates.

The Smith petition contends that "[u]nder the guise of benevolent, paternalistic concern the family has, in essence, attempted to 'cure' Lewis of his political beliefs by attaching the label of 'mental illness' to his seriously held and well-reasoned political beliefs" and that "in this, the Bicentennial year of our Constitution, two courts of this Commonwealth have acquiesced in this attempt."

The application to Pennsylvania's highest court says the du Pont Smith case "sends a very real message to the public and particularly the electorate: be careful about generous political campaign contributions." Under the du Pont Smith precedent, any politically hostile relative can use the courts to deprive any American citizen of his or her most basic constitutional freedoms.

Briefly

● **THE FREE ELECTRON** laser, a highly promising Strategic Defense Initiative program, could be cancelled as a result of congressional budget cuts. The SDI office at the Pentagon recently completed a "preliminary assessment" of the effects of Congress's refusal to fully fund the \$5.2 billion requested for SDI in FY 1988. The Senate has approved only \$4.12 billion, and the House a billion less. Among programs that might be cancelled is the FEL.

● **SEVEN** 1988 presidential candidates—four Republicans and three Democrats—have now been certified for matching funds by the Federal Election Commission. The Democrats are Rep. Richard Gephardt, former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, and Sen. Albert Gore, Jr. On the GOP side: former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont, Vice President George Bush, Sen. Robert Dole, and Rep. Jack Kemp. Lyndon LaRouche is expected to file for matching funds during the month of September.

● **THREE HEMOPHILIAC** brothers infected with AIDS returned to their school in Arcadia, Florida under court order and police guard Aug. 24. A boycott of the school, which last year barred the three boys, saw only 337 of a projected 632 pupils in attendance.

● **THE MX** missile "is the finest missile system ever built by man, anywhere in the world," said Brig. Gen. Charles A. May, Jr., head of the MX program. He was responding to a House Armed Services Committee report critical of the program. May called the report erroneous, and said the missile's accuracy exceeds design specifications, even though in the last five test firings, the missiles landed outside the target range.

● **THE PENTAGON** is reportedly pushing for the President to appoint Edward Rowley the new head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Such conservative senators as James McClure and Steve Symms are also backing the nomination.