

National News

Houston Dems fail to replace Claude Jones

"Attempts to elect a new chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party were stopped Tuesday by supporters of ousted Chairman Claude Jones, who said the move to replace him was a 'public lynching,' " the *Houston Post* reported on March 15.

Jones, who ran as a LaRouche Democrat, was elected by 54,394 Harris County Democratic voters to represent them as party chairman in the March 8, 1988 election. Since then, the party hacks have conspired to remove him from office, which Texas Democratic chairman Bob Slagle finally succeeded in doing in February. Party Secretary Jack Carter, according to Slagle's scheme, was to be "elected," in a closed meeting of the party Executive Committee March 14, to replace Jones.

But the Jones forces struck back. Elizabeth O'Reilly, herself an elected member of the Executive Committee, stood to demand that Carter take a roll call, to determine whether a quorum was present. Carter hesitated, then declared, "After looking over the number of people here, I declare no quorum is present. This party will have to attend its own meetings. The meeting is hereby recessed until a later date."

As the meeting broke up, Carter was asked why he didn't just declare a quorum. "We were too far off from a quorum," he said, "and besides the media was here. We couldn't have gotten away with it."

Beggs rallies support for space programs

Former NASA Administrator James Beggs is rallying supporters of the space program to let Congress know of their backing for NASA, because "congressional pressure on this year's NASA budget is particularly severe." A letter written by Beggs is being circulated by Spacecause, a lobbying group for space programs.

Beggs urges people to write letters to the heads of the key congressional committees that will be deciding the space program budget, because "the three members who are likely to be the most influential on space issues are new to their positions." These are Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.), Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), and Rep. Robert Traxler (D-Mich.).

Beggs warns that the Bush administration has indicated that if its first NASA budget is torn to shreds by the Congress this year, it will reduce its future requests. The NASA budget has been increased over 20% for fiscal year 1990 by the administration, which includes the crucial \$2.15 billion for the Space Station *Freedom*.

Beggs reminds supporters that "the Russians will soon totally dominate us in space, unless we move our space program forward aggressively."

Navy laser performs in missile test

An experimental high-energy laser successfully shot down a supersonic missile in flight on Feb. 23, during a test at the White Sands, New Mexico missile test range, the Navy disclosed on March 5.

The success of the laser, which is being tested by both the Navy and the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, marks a milestone toward the day that warships can rely on such a defensive system.

While this laser has consistently performed well in previous tests, this is the first time that it has destroyed a supersonic target.

DoJ, Teamsters settle civil RICO suit

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the Department of Justice have reached a tentative settlement of the racketeering suit against the union.

The trial of the RICO civil suit, slated to

begin on March 13, appears to have been averted as a result of a tentative agreement reached just hours before 11 members of the Teamster executive board were to go on trial in federal court in New York.

Teamster attorney James Grady told reporters that the pact calls for no resignations by the current members of the executive board, and that no government trustee would be appointed to run the union—one of the key demands of the DoJ.

However, Grady disclosed that the two sides had agreed to appoint three people to oversee various aspects of the union's operation: one to probe corruption in the union; another to hear cases brought by investigators into allegations of union malfeasance; and a third to review Teamster election procedures.

The pact also called for several amendments to the union's regulations to be voted up at the 1991 Teamster convention, providing for direct election of union leaders by rank and file members in a secret ballot. Previously, the rank and file picked convention delegates, who in turn chose union leaders.

Jackson seen leading for 1992 Dem nomination

A squabble is brewing within the Democratic Party, fueled by dissatisfaction by many of the party's big money contributors with the substantial lead that Jesse Jackson already has on the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination.

The changes in the Democratic Party presidential delegate selection rules approved "without serious discussion after the Democratic National Convention in July," providing for selection of delegates on the basis of proportional representation, according to the March 13 *Washington Post*, give Jackson a leg up on the nomination.

"The rules virtually give Jesse Jackson 40-45% of the delegates. It's asinine to impose that on the party," one Democrat said. "At some point you have to start discouraging presidential candidacies that are no longer viable," said Sen. Charles Robb (D-Va.). Former Rep. Jim Jones (D-Okla.) is also

critical of the Jackson lead.

The new Democratic National Committee chairman, Ron Brown, is resisting changing the rules. He is also not sure whether he will visit Chicago, where the party has endorsed Richard Daley for mayor, while Jackson has endorsed third-party candidate Timothy Evans.

"The longer this goes on, the big fundraisers are going to sit it out rather than give Jesse Jackson the nomination or have the rules give it away," one fundraiser is quoted.

Bundy hypes myth of 'industrial deterrence'

McGeorge Bundy, the dean of the Eastern Establishment, says that the United States can disarm without fear, because of its great industrial strength.

Bundy, who has promoted those "post-industrial society" policies which have turned U.S. industry into a scrapheap, said in a review of John Mueller's new book, *Retreat From Doomsday, the Obsolescence of Major War*, in the March 12 *Washington Post*, that deterrence was maintained because of "Soviet distaste for renewed large-scale conflict," the "Soviet lack of any compelling need for conquest in the West," the "probable absence of the crushing Soviet conventional superiority" that is usually assumed, "and finally, the effective deterrent power of American industrial potential."

Soviet 'sister city' plan bites the dust

Activists of the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action group of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party, led a successful fight against a proposal to make Plano, Texas a sister city with the city of Ordzhonikidze in the Soviet Union. The proposal was being pushed by a group calling themselves Plano Sister City, Inc.

On March 15, the Plano city council held

a public meeting to discuss the proposal. Over 200 citizens attended. NDPC representative Trai Forester was the first to speak out against the plan, denouncing the fraud of Moscow's *glasnost* campaign, and saying that if Plano wants a sister city, it should adopt Florence, Italy. Florence is the symbol of what is greatest in Western civilization, he said, and the Council of Florence (1439) was the dividing point between the Christian West and the pagan East.

A second NDPC spokesman warned the council that if it approved the plan, the Soviets would send delegations to Plano loaded with *spetsnaz* spies. A Russian emigré in the back of the room seconded the speaker: "He's right!"

The organizers of the plan withdrew their proposal.

SDI could be deployed 'within five years'

Phase one of the Strategic Defense Initiative could be deployed within five years for only \$25 billion, Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson said in his "End of Tour" report to Acting Defense Secretary William Taft III, delivered upon leaving his post as head of the SDI Organization on Feb. 1. Abrahamson's assessment was in a copy of the report which was leaked to the Center for Peace and Freedom.

Abrahamson's estimates are in sharp contrast to the official DoD estimates, given last fall by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, that the first phase may not be ready before the end of the century, and at an estimated cost of over \$60 billion.

Abrahamson advised that the Bush administration should drop its predecessor's arms control offer of a time period of non-deployment, in exchange for an agreed ability to deploy at the end of the time period.

However, instead of unequivocally recommending deployment, Abrahamson also suggested that the U.S. capability for early deployment of the SDI "could be used as a lever to gain quicker agreement with the Warsaw Pact on reducing troop levels in Europe to equal ceilings," implying it would be used as a "bargaining chip."

Briefly

● **SEN. SAM NUNN** (D-Ga.) is reported to be the subject of a forthcoming *Playboy* exposé.

● **MICHAEL DUKAKIS** has earned himself a 51% disapproval rating among the citizens of Massachusetts, according to a poll published March 12, taken by the *Boston Globe* and NBC affiliate WBZ-TV. Only 19% of those responding think Dukakis is doing a good job; only 38% had a positive opinion of him overall; and a pitiful 16% said Dukakis should try again for the presidency. What most angered 79% of the 600 respondents was the governor's lack of honesty in touting the "Massachusetts miracle" during his campaign, while the state's finances were being wrecked.

● **MORE THAN 40** congressmen have sheltered tens of thousands of dollars in honorarium income from federal and state taxes by putting the money into special tax-exempt retirement investment accounts, restricted by law to the self-employed, the *Washington Times* reported March 13. Rumored to be a George Bush "hit list," a hefty portion of the 40 were either key in the Tower defeat or Republicans who were less than enthusiastic in their support.

● **JOHN SUNUNU**, White House Chief of Staff, was attacked by the March 12 *Washington Post*, for his alleged imperial style while governor of New Hampshire; his support for nuclear energy and pre-marital AIDS screening; his relation to the National Association of Arab-Americans; and the appearance of conflict of interest on insurance issues.

● **OVER 5,000 COPIES** of *EIR*'s "extra" on Henry Kissinger, purchased for this purpose by supporters, were distributed in Washington, D.C. March 10-14. Targets included the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.