

## National News

### Richardson asks world eco-fascist treaty

Eastern Establishment spokesman Elliot Richardson called for "an international treaty, perhaps modeled on the Law of the Sea treaty, to coordinate and enforce international action on the environment," in the Feb. 7 *New York Times*.

"Whether the international institution is given power to enforce rather than merely recommend regulations" will depend on political battles leading up to the 1992 Brazilian conference on the environment, Richardson said. He claimed that criticism of Bush's speech before the recent intergovernmental panel on climate change is ill-founded, since Bush can not really act until a "global Environmental Protection Agency" is in place.

### N. Y. judge sentences Robert Primack

The first of three associates of Lyndon LaRouche who were convicted last Aug. 31 in the courtroom of New York Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Crane, was sentenced on Feb. 8. Robert Primack, convicted on one count of conspiracy and one of scheme to defraud in the New York Attorney General's "Get LaRouche" case, was sentenced to a state prison term of one to three years. Crane ordered him to pay \$36,000 restitution to lenders whom LaRouche-associated companies had been unable to repay. Primack is free on bond.

Before pronouncing sentence, Crane called Primack an idealist dedicated to many good ideas—"some of them ahead of their time"—and said he found having to sentence him "very painful." Crane blasted what he called "revolting" behavior on the part of "some federal agents," and commented that he had been disturbed by FBI Agent Richard Egan's actions in destroying documents which the defense asserted would have been material to their case.

Primack's sentence is stayed pending the conclusion of co-defendant Marielle Kronberg's Kastigar hearing, which Judge

Crane projected would take "months." Kronberg had been given immunity and compelled to testify at the Alexandria grand jury and trial which railroaded LaRouche into prison. The hearing is meant to ascertain whether Kronberg's immunity was violated in the New York trial.

### DoJ sues General Dynamics over M-1 tank

The Justice Department filed suit against General Dynamics on Feb. 8 in its latest attack on defense industry, claiming the company defrauded the Army on contracts for its M-1 Abrams tank.

The case charges that the firm deliberately overestimated the costs for parts on the tank in 1983, increasing the price from \$289,000 to \$299,000. The M-1 is the second-largest weapons system slated for outright termination by the Bush FY91 budget released 10 days ago.

The most heralded criminal case against the company, alleging fraud on the Sgt. York anti-aircraft gun and targeting then-NASA Administrator James Beggs, blew up in the DoJ's face in 1987, when the government was forced to admit that company officers had acted in good faith and the case should never have been brought.

"The Justice Department has chased General Dynamics down so many dead ends that they have no credibility," one stockbroker told the *Washington Times*.

### Hospital crises critical in N.Y.

Five years ago, waiting in an emergency room of a crowded New York City hospital for a hospital bed would have been unimaginable; now it is common, physicians acknowledged in a *Washington Post* article Feb. 11.

Reeling under the weight of overlapping epidemics of AIDS, drug abuse violence, homelessness, and mental illness, New York City's massive hospital system, by far

the nation's largest, is on the verge of collapse.

Dennis Andrulis, vice president of the National Association of Public Hospitals, notes other cities are following rapidly. "Nearly every place you look, the system has blown a fuse," he said. "They are almost not hospitals anymore. New York is clearly the most dramatic example of this social disaster. But the poverty, the lack of basic health care and the financial neglect that have caused this crisis can be found in any city in the nation."

### DoE plans shutdown of plutonium reactor

The Department of Energy plans to shut down the nation's most modern reactor, the Fast Flux Test Facility at the Hanford, Washington nuclear complex. The FFTF is the only military reactor able to meet federal standards for commercial nuclear reactors, and has been more reliable than commercial plants.

Though only eight years old, the DoE claims it would be cheaper to shift production of plutonium needed for the military and the space program, to 30-year-old plants at Savannah River, Georgia—which are now scheduled to be shut down for extensive repairs. The DoE asserts that modifying the FFTF to produce plutonium would cost \$1 billion through Fiscal Year 1995, while repairing Savannah River will cost only \$172 million. Even though they are the only reactors left able to produce plutonium, it is doubtful whether the Savannah River plants would ever be restarted because of age and safety concerns.

Shutting down the FFTF will eliminate about 1,000 jobs at Hanford, which has already lost 2,000 jobs as plutonium production for nuclear weapons is discontinued.

### USDA admits political tampering with study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture admitted that it rewrote and downplayed a study

proving the success of the Women and Infant Care program (WIC) to try to cut the program's funding, according to testimony before the House Select Committee on Hunger and the Senate Agriculture Committee, the Feb. 2 issue of *Science* magazine reported.

The principal investigator of the study, Dr. David Rush, Professor of Nutrition and Community Health and Head of the Epidemiology Program at Tufts University, charged that the USDA deleted conclusions, eliminated facts, and refocused results. "Any reader would be misled as to the actual findings of the study," he said.

Keith O. Fultz of the Government Accounting Office charged that the USDA changed the conclusions of a GAO study demonstrating program's effectiveness, substituted its own conclusions, and delayed the release of the report.

The 1986 study found that the \$2 billion a year program, which helps state agencies provide food to 3.4 million indigent pregnant women and their children with the aim of improving mental development with good diet early in life, had reduced fetal mortality between 1972 and 1980.

A USDA official conceded that the former USDA Food and Nutrition chief and his special assistant had made this "mistake." At the time, the Reagan administration had impounded WIC funds and "was trying to persuade Congress not to restore them," *Science* reports.

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## Democratic Party guru preaches austerity

Lester Thurow, considered by many to be the economist most influential in the Democratic Party, called for a consensus among political leaders to promote lower living standards as the basis for U.S. economic renewal and long-term growth, in a commentary in the Feb. 11 *Washington Post*.

Thurow—whom critics have dubbed "Less-Than-Thorough" for his slipshod research—is best known for his book, *The Zero-Sum Society*. It held that the U.S. is hopelessly caught in economic stagnation, that the gains of one group inevitably come at the expense of all others, and that the

essence of economic policy boils down to dividing the fixed pool of wealth by social compact—a framework susceptible to corporatist social organization.

Thurow insists that economic growth can only be financed through "savings"—i.e., lowered living standards. Emanating an air of "non-partisanship," or a Dukakis-like appeal of being "beyond ideology," Thurow says, "Technically, there are many solutions to our three deficits [investment, trade, education]—some liberal, some conservative. The problem is getting serious about implementing some of them."

Austerity is couched in a proposal for "a real system of tax-free savings accounts [which] might be designed where individuals would get tax breaks only if they could demonstrate that their consumption was less than their income."

"The politicians now talk about more saving but we will know that they are serious when they are willing to talk about less consumption," he argues, and added that we will "have to organize our society so that consumption [grows] more slowly than income for a substantial period of time."

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## Thornburgh assaults longshoremen's union

The Department of Justice filed suit against six longshoremen's union locals and a group of alleged Mafia leaders on the New York and New Jersey waterfront on Feb. 14, and asked the court to remove from office all International Longshoremen's Association officers found to have violated the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

The suit also asks the court to appoint trustees whose primary responsibilities will be to ensure "fair elections" of ILA local officers and to "discipline current officers found guilty of wrongdoing."

In what appears to be an attempt to permanently take over trade unions using "legal" means, Thornburgh said the civil remedies being sought would allow the court to intervene on a continuous basis to try and rid the union of mob activities, instead of criminal charges where only a one-time sentence could be imposed.

## Briefly

● **WILLIAM REILLY**, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, "is seen by colleagues as the enemy within," columnists Evans and Novak said Feb. 14. "Reilly favors either a radical, unilateral shutdown of the U.S. economy or a global regulatory regime. He does not accept economic reality and does not accept scientific reality," they quoted a colleague as saying.

● **VICE PRESIDENT Dan Quayle** met with NASA managers on Feb. 12 to reiterate that space is a priority for the administration. He stressed the importance of the space program for education, and said it "inspires students to study science and math."

● **VOYAGER 1** was scheduled to take a "family portrait" of the Solar System Feb. 13, when it was 3.7 billion miles from Earth and above and beyond the orbits of all of the planets. The pictures will be downlinked in March.

● **LEWIS DU PONT Smith's** attempt to overturn a 1986 decision of mental incompetency, and his charge that he was ruled incompetent based solely on his political beliefs in support of ideas championed by Lyndon LaRouche, was reported on by *USA Today* Feb. 12. It said LaRouche will be allowed to provide videotaped testimony on Smith's behalf.

● **PROJECT DEMOCRACY** launched a new journal, the *Journal of Democracy*, as part of its attempt to misdirect the revolutionary upsurges around the globe. Samuel Huntington, author of the Trilateral Commission's *The Crisis of Democracy* attack on republican institutions, and former Young Communist Joshua Muravchik, are on the board.

● **MANUEL NORIEGA'S** lawyers are seeking papers and diaries from former Presidents Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon in an effort to defend Noriega against drug charges, in a court motion unsealed Feb. 9.