

National News

Dems refuse to challenge Bush presidency

"There is no Democratic Party effort underway to take the presidency away from George Bush," a senior U.S. Democrat told reporter Richard Reeves.

In a column appearing in the March 20 *International Herald Tribune*, Reeves contends that the big paradox of U.S. politics is that it seems more than likely that the next U.S. President in 1992 will be a Democrat, but that the nominal leading candidates—Mario Cuomo, Bill Bradley, and Chuck Robb—all seem to have no interest in taking on Bush.

The senior Democrat calls the lack of effort in this regard "stunning. This is the slowest start we've ever had in the modern era."

Bush tyranny target of attacks

An advertisement by "LaRouche for Justice," Lyndon LaRouche's congressional campaign committee, which appeared in the *Washington Times* on March 14, attacked the tyranny of the U.S. elites. Entitled "LaRouche Says U.S. Elites Adopt Administration Fascism," a statement he released on Feb. 21 (see *EIR*, March 2), the ad underlined the growing fears of many in Washington of the tyrannical impulses of the Bush White House.

Daniel Schorr criticized the strong-arm tactics of the Bush administration in a National Public Radio talk show in mid-March. The Capitol Steps, a humorist review group, has made a record entitled "Georgie On My Mind" which features subtitles such as "I'm so indicted," and "We'll put you in jail, for the rest of your life" if you protest.

On March 16 columnist Christopher Mathews, Washington bureau chief for the *San Francisco Examiner*, compared Bush to the lion tamer Gunther Gebel in the Ringling Bros. Circus. "He runs the country with a

whip. When a cat lifts his paw, or even growls too loud, you can hear the heart-stopping *crack!* from high in the grandstands."

Nobody challenges "Gunther-Gebel Bush," said Mathews, for violating the principle of non-intervention in Panama, or backing the murderers in Beijing. "The result is an entire country tamed into silence. Scary? Look at it this way. Ronald Reagan wanted to eradicate government. But Mr. Bush has bolder ambitions. He wants to eradicate politics."

Greyhound workers face 'Lorenzo' of busing

The strike against the Greyhound Bus Lines by the Amalgamated Transit Union which began on March 2, is assuming more the character of the grim labor confrontations of the 1930s. Charges of union-busting by union negotiators against Greyhound management and chairman Fred G. Curry have proliferated through the talks, as the new "Frank Lorenzo" of the transportation industry intensifies company efforts to replace striking workers permanently.

In an effort to counter this scab strategy, union officials are warning that unless the strike is settled soon, the company will be forced into bankruptcy.

But prospects for an agreement remain bleak as a wave of violent incidents has marred the strike, including three separate sniper shootings of company buses, the most serious of which occurred near Jacksonville, Florida and injured seven people. Another incident involved the accidental death of a worker crushed by a scab-driven bus in the early days of the strike.

The strike, involving fewer than 10,000 workers, mostly drivers, is the second strike in a decade against Greyhound for higher wages and increased benefits. The first, in 1983, lasted 47 days and ended with the union forced to accept a humiliating cut in pay and benefits.

Greyhound has already hired several hundred replacements, warning that these new hires are permanent. Even if the strike

ends soon, company officials say, returning unionized workers may have to wait a long time to be placed back on the active payroll. At the company's Dallas terminal, replacements have filled all of 118 jobs of striking drivers, most of whom were recruited from a lower-paying and depression-wracked commercial trucking industry, and from the rapidly growing pool of bankrupted owner-operator truck drivers.

The union, in search of a tactic to counter the company's attacks on membership morale and solidarity, has called on the National Labor Relations Board (NRLB) to force Greyhound to take striking workers back when the strike ends. In today's hostile environment, no one seriously believes the NRLB will comply with the union demand. The company has already brought operations up to 36% of potential capacity, reaching about 1,800 of the company's 9,500 locations nationwide.

Minnesota braces for grasshopper swarms

Minnesota can expect twice as many grasshoppers to invade this year as last, according to David Noetzel, an entomologist with the state extension service. Last year's infestation was considered to be the worst since the 1930's.

Some spots have 10 times the number of eggs as last year when 3 million acres of cropland were infested. This year Noetzel estimates 6 million acres are vulnerable. Record numbers are expected in the Dakotas as well.

Last year the federal government refused to aid Minnesota financially in spraying, which costs more than \$25 million. Last year's hastily enacted law required owners of land deemed infested to spray insecticides; the government sprayed the land of those who refused and then billed the landowner.

Last year, greenie Agriculture Commissioner Jim Nichols was able to prevent spraying on 150,000 acres of prairie land controlled by the Nature Conservancy. State Senator Charles Berg has introduced legis-

lation to make owners who refuse to have their property sprayed liable for grasshopper damage on neighboring fields.

INF treaty verification process in tatters

The verification regime of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, a key selling point used to secure its Senate ratification, is full of holes after the loss of a monitoring satellite and blatant Russian interference.

U.S. intelligence officials have reported that a \$1 billion monitoring satellite lofted into orbit by the Space Shuttle Atlantis in February, suffered a disabling malfunction and is expected to fall to Earth—probably over the Soviet Union—by mid-April. No reason was cited for the unusual malfunction. Soviet officials predicted the reentry trajectory, something which usually is not done until just before reentry.

The satellite had been placed into a high northern orbit designed to give it a long loiter time over the northern Soviet naval ports, ballistic missile silos, and test ranges. The satellite was the first deployment by the U.S. of a sophisticated radar technology which is able to pierce cloud cover and conduct 24-hour surveillance. The Soviet nuclear powered RORSAT and EORSAT use a similar and until now unique technology to conduct anti-submarine surveillance.

The satellite was also equipped to scoop up ground-based signals, such as missile telemetry and military and civilian communications, according to intelligence specialists.

A showdown between U.S. "verification teams" and the Soviet military at the Votinsk missile production facility in the Soviet Union was also reported by columnists Evans and Novak on March 16. The plant produces the supposedly banned SS-20, and also the truck-mobile SS-25. Under the provisions of the INF treaty, the U.S. built a large x-ray machine to examine sealed missile canisters leaving the factory.

But for over a year, the Soviets have refused to allow the machine to be turned on, while missiles of unknown capability

and type have been rolling out of the factory. When the U.S. team recently attempted to use the machine to examine a canister suspected to contain a new, three-warhead version of the SS-25, Soviet military guards drew their weapons, held the U.S. inspection team at bay, and passed the missile through the deactivated inspection device. Evans and Novak said administration officials "are coming to suspect something dangerous. Exactly what they do not know."

Marcos attorney attacks 'Thornburgh Doctrine'

The trial of Imelda Marcos and her co-defendant, Adnan Khashoggi, began in New York City on March 20. Her attorney, Gerald Spence, defended national sovereignty against the "Thornburgh Doctrine" which holds that the United States may seize foreign nationals at its whim.

"Where do we come off as being guardians of the morality of the world? Suppose, for instance, George Bush moved to the Philippines, and say, for argument's sake, they said that his invasion of Panama was illegal. Could they try him? And would we ever consider trying the former head of state of a country from Western Europe?" Spence told reporters on March 19.

Spence said he will call former President Reagan to testify about U.S. relations with the Marcoses. "Ronald Reagan knows many matters first hand in this case. He was close to President Marcos and to Mrs. Marcos," Spence said, adding that he will subpoena Reagan if necessary.

Imelda Marcos said before entering the courtroom, "I am a Filipino citizen, I should be tried in my own country and not in a foreign country."

Legal observers note that the 90-page indictment never mentions Mrs. Marcos without also mentioning her husband, a bizarre new version of the Department of Justice theory of guilt by association—in this case, the principal is dead, and has no possibility of defending himself. The prosecution "is on completely new ground," according to a specialist quoted by the *New York Times*.

Briefly

● **GEORGE BUSH** admitted that the economy "at this moment isn't as robust as I'd like to see it. . . . There are . . . some who worry about a slowdown. And true, our economy is not perfect," in comments to newspaper executives and the National Association of Manufacturers March 15.

● **GOV. JIM THOMPSON** of Illinois was named by President Bush March 19 as the new head of the President's Intelligence Oversight Board, which is mandated to oversee implementation of Executive Orders 12333 and 12334—the measures under which the "Get LaRouche" task force operated.

● **MARGARET TUTWILER**, U.S. State Department spokeswoman, said it "came as no surprise" that Red China has placed the U.S. on an "enemies list." The U.S. "cannot confirm the existence of such a list," but if it exists, "We can understand the reason, given the harsh reaction by the U.S. to the human rights abuses by the P.R.C. government," she said.

● **WARREN BROOKES** commented on Bush's compromise with Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell on the Clean Air bill. "Instead of sending direct aid to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, we'll simply send them what's left of our industrial base," the columnist said.

● **DR. MARTIN WELT**, a pioneer in food irradiation, was released from Allenwood federal prison March 13 when U.S. District Judge Marianne Trump Barry commuted the remainder of his two-year sentence resulting from a railroad conviction on minor nuclear safety regulations by New Jersey's first environmental crime prosecutor.

● **RICHARD PERLE**, a former assistant secretary of defense, has been commissioned to write an article for the Soviet magazine *Ogonyok*, according to *Newsweek* magazine.