

# National News

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## Frank Lorenzo cries for Uncle Sam's help

Former Texas Air head Frank Lorenzo, whose name has become synonymous with rabid advocacy of a policy of deregulation of American industry and commerce, has called for "immediate intervention in aviation jet fuel markets," in an address to the Commonwealth Club of California in San Francisco. He also called for use of the government's Strategic Petroleum Reserve to bring down gasoline prices.

"I'm not usually an advocate of government aid or government assistance, but the damage done to this industry and to American competitiveness makes it imperative," Lorenzo said. "Unless fuel prices come down or the government acts, competition will not survive. The only people who are able to get through this are the big three because they have deep pockets, but I see so many others being deeply maimed," he warned.

The "big three" which are in the best position to weather the current crisis are American, United, and Delta airlines.

The industry expects to lose \$1 billion in the fourth quarter alone, the largest loss since the \$700 million shortfall in 1972, the Nov. 20 *Washington Times* reported. Jet fuel prices have increased 34% since the first week of August, crude oil is up 20%, and wholesale gas is up 13%. Airlines have raised fares 15%.

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## EPA set to kill Colorado water project

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), William Reilly, is expected to veto construction of Two Forks Dam in Colorado, the largest non-federal water project in the water-starved West. The axing of the dam, ironically, comes at a time when scientists are projecting more drought conditions for the United States.

Two Forks would have dammed the South Platte River to provide drinking water

for Denver and dozens of suburbs. Reilly, who has power over the matter under the Clean Water Act, is accepting arguments by environmentalists that the flooding of the Cheesman Canyon will destroy significant fishing and other recreational opportunities that cannot be compensated adequately by means proposed by dam advocates.

At the same time, Dr. Michael E. Hudlow, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Hydrology, has predicted a severe water shortage for the United States in the 1990s, which he expects to result primarily from cyclical trends in precipitation.

"We're going to have real extreme drought conditions going into next spring unless Mother Nature cooperates and gives us a bumper crop of snowfall in the mountains of the West. As we move toward the 21st century, short supplies of clean water could rival expensive oil as one of the nation's most serious concerns unless we start now to implement strategies to better manage our water supplies," Hudlow warned.

Hudlow said he based his estimate in part on the normal weather pattern, which suggests that the relatively wet 1970s and early 1980s may now well be followed by a period of below-normal precipitation.

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## Some want U.S. military to be mercenary force

Michael Hale, the chief economist with Kemper Financial Services in Chicago, argues the case that the Persian Gulf may be the transition for the U.S. becoming global mercenaries like the Hessians Britain hired to combat the American Revolution, in a commentary in the Nov. 21 London *Financial Times*.

Hale argues that the U.S. has three times more troops in the Persian Gulf than all its allies combined. But, while the U.S. still has military power, it does not have the financial resources of Germany and Japan. Rather than have Congress cut military funds and thereby remove even that residual power, Hale argues for global financing to use U.S. military might.

Hale suggests a system of national bur-

den-sharing indices to measure each nation's contributions to the international good. Britain and the U.S. would get their points through foreign military expenditures. Other nations might earn points for enacting environmental controls, and so forth.

"As a result, the coming showdown in the Gulf between the eagle and the scorpion should mark the evolution of the U.S. military from a national defense agency providing free Western security into an internationally financed police force."

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## Former Dukakis official facing drug charges

Grady Hedgespeth, a former high-ranking official in the administration of Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, was arrested for driving under the influence of cocaine and marijuana, court officials said Nov. 20.

Hedgespeth, who quit as Dukakis's economic affairs secretary in 1989 to become a top official at the Bank of Boston, was arrested Nov. 17 after driving erratically in the Southeast Expressway breakdown lane in Boston.

Officers stopped his vehicle, and found a marijuana cigarette and "roaches" in the ashtray. Further investigation revealed cocaine in a glassine bag.

Hedgespeth now works as the Bank of Boston's director of government and community affairs, a post which is equivalent to vice president or higher, according to bank spokesman Wayne Taylor.

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## Rokos group attacked for religious terrorism

Friends of Freedom, the group that exposed the head of the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), Rev. Michael Rokos, as a sex pervert, has denounced the Cult Awareness Network and called on it to end its support for the deprogramming of young Christians,

## Briefly

● **A TAX REVOLT** which successfully rolled property taxes back from 75¢ to 23¢ per \$100 valuation in Ranger, Texas, resulted in the closing of Ranger General Hospital on Thanksgiving Day, four days after the vote, the Nov. 24 *Houston Post* reported.

● **WILLIAM WELD**, the governor-elect of Massachusetts, has chosen Mark E. Robinson as his chief of staff, the Nov. 26 *Boston Globe* reported. Robinson was part of Weld's elite political corruption squad, "the top gun of the staff," who sent several officials of the administration of former Boston Mayor Kevin H. White to prison when he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney under Weld.

● **SISTER MIRIAM MacGillis**, director of Genesis Farm in Blairstown, New Jersey, attacked the "myths" of God which have fueled the Western notion that endless development is good, in a speech at the Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Houston on Nov. 18, the *Houston Post* reported. "We need to give up our obsession with lawns. Lawns are a violation of differentiation in nature," the pagan sister claimed.

● **SEN. DENNIS DECONCINI** (D-Ariz.), in his opening statement to the Senate Ethics Committee hearing on his role as one of the Keating Five, singled out Senate ethics committee special counsel Robert Bennett, accusing him of "bias" and of using "lies" and "hearsay" and acting like an overzealous prosecutor in trying to "nail somebody" to hang "another trophy on the wall."

● **NIGHTLINE** blasted President Bush for meeting Syrian butcher Hafez al-Assad. The ABC news program Nov. 23 showed a film proving Assad sponsors Ahmed Jibril, and aired critical remarks by former CIA counter-terror chief Vince Cannisaro and Lebanese ex-President Amin Gemayel. Cannisaro blamed Jibril for the PanAm 103 bombing, and the massacre of Christians in Lebanon.

according to a news release carried in the Nov. 24 *Houston Defender*, a newspaper which predominantly serves the black community.

Friends of Freedom spokesman Dr. Leo Champion, a black Baptist minister, said, "It is not enough for CAN to keep itself at arms length from the actual kidnaping. CAN must cease its participation in the setting up of deprogramming and its exploitation of the victims of deprogramming. . . . These deprogrammings CAN supports are nothing more than religious terrorism akin to the Ku Klux Klan violence of the past." According to Champion, more than half of all deprogrammings in 1989 were against the members of Christian groups.

The article describes Friends of Freedom as an organization of Christian ministers formed to fight the increasing deprogrammer attacks on what CAN calls "Bible-based cults." The article also mentions that numerous criminal convictions have been returned against the "father of deprogramming," Ted Patrick, other deprogrammers, and CAN members involved in deprogramming activities.

### 'Black Legend' attacked by black bishops

Three black Catholic bishops objected to a section of the 41-page proposed pastoral letter on the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Americas—Columbus's discovery of America—which praised Dominican friar Bartolomé de las Casas as a "tireless defender of Indian rights." The objection puts a dent in the "Black Legend," which paints Spain and the Church as responsible for genocide resulting in the deaths of millions of Indians in the Americas.

Auxiliary Bishop Carl A. Fisher of the San Pedro region of the Los Angeles Archdiocese stated at the bishop's general meeting in Washington in mid-November that there is documentation that shows las Casas was also "father of the African slave trade," and that it would not be "historically helpful" to ignore this negative aspect.

Two other African-American bishops, Auxiliary Bishop Moses B. Anderson of

Detroit and Auxiliary Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Chicago, echoed Bishop Fisher's concern and noted that 60 million Africans perished as a result of the "real holocaust" within the slave trade.

This is the first time that a U.S. Catholic bishop has exposed this aspect of the British-inspired "Black Legend." It is a setback for the gnostic grouping led by the President of Cuba, Spain's prime minister, and the National Council of Churches, who rely on las Casas' distortion about "Indian genocide" to denounce the anniversary of Columbus's discovery as "not a time of celebration . . . [but for] reflection and repentance" for Christians.

### Group seeks jury right to nullify bad laws

The Fully Informed Jury Association, set up by the Libertarian Party, hopes to persuade each state to amend its constitution to make clear that it is a judge's duty to "inform jurors of their 'natural right' under the Seventh Amendment not only to determine facts, but to judge the fairness of law," according to the Nov. 23 *Washington Times*.

The Fully Informed Jury Amendment "would require judges to advise jurors to vote their consciences if they find that a law is unfair or misapplied—even if that means acquitting a criminal defendant," the *Washington Times* reported. The case of Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry is cited as one example where the jury felt that Barry had been entrapped, and only convicted him of one misdemeanor as a result.

The amendment has cleared the House Judiciary Committee in Oklahoma, and legislators in Alaska, Arizona, and Wyoming plan to introduce it. The Black Caucus in Louisiana has endorsed it along with various disparate groups including "the V. Twin Trader, a 'biker' newsletter; Peace Work, a 'peace and social justice' newsletter; Gun Owners of America; the Twin Cities chapter of the National Organization for Women; Operation Rescue; and Wisconsin Eagle Forum," the *Washington Times* reported.