

# National News

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## Rural electric power under attack

The Bush administration is trying to "pull the plug" on federal support for the programs of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which have enabled 25 million Americans to obtain electric power through rural cooperatives, the Dec. 25 *Washington Post* reported.

The REA was set up in 1935, when less than 10% of the farms in America had electricity, because private utilities refused to build power lines in sparsely populated areas. The Office of Management and Budget is arguing that since farms now have electric power, the REA has "outlived its usefulness."

The administration is also arguing that a handful of cooperatives are in default of REA-guaranteed low-interest loans, and if they go under, the public will have to bail them out, just like the S&Ls. These are co-ops that own electric generating and distribution capacity. All electric utilities have been under financial attack as regulatory agencies have made it impossible for them to recoup investments in new capacity.

Rep. Glenn English (D-Okla.) has pointed out that this is an ideological issue. The Eisenhower, Nixon, and Reagan administrations all also tried to "pull the plug" on rural power.

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## FBI runs 'thought police' apparatus

The U.S. Department of Justice has begun "phase 2" of its destruction of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) union, with a witchhunt directed at the man appointed to fill the position of former IBT head Roy Williams. Fredrick B. Lacey, the federal judge selected to function as "commissar" of the union, has determined that Jack B. Yager, a long-time Williams associate, is not a politically correct union leader.

Yager's problem, according to Lacey, is his "silence and incomprehensible passivity" toward corruption during Williams's

reign. "Instead of forthrightly denouncing Mr. Williams when faced with the knowledge that Mr. Williams had 'sold out' to organized crime, Mr. Yager simply chose to put blinders on and ignored the allegations." But Lacey admits that he has no evidence that Yager was controlled by organized crime or knew of the "corruption" Williams was involved in prior to the indictments and conviction of the Teamster leader.

Lacey is administering the second stage of an "Enterprise Investigation" in which the DoJ uses the authority of previous Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) convictions to brand any member of the targeted association as criminal accomplices of the indicted leaders.

Teamster lawyers point out that Lacey's veto of Yager's appointment is an indictment of any non-FBI-owned Teamster, who belonged to the union during the time of the alleged RICO conspiracy.

FBI officials interviewed by *EIR* have pointed out that the most powerful feature of RICO and Enterprise Investigations, is that they allow the government to "punish" the membership of an organization for such thought-crimes once the leaders have been convicted.

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## Calif. Supreme Court backs 'rocket docket'

The California Supreme Court voted in December to uphold parts of a voter "anti-crime, speedy trial" referendum passed in June, which contains startling provisions to abrogate defendants' rights. The measures are a further step toward administrative fascism.

Ostensibly aimed at shortening trial and pre-trial proceedings, the measures include: Requiring that judges rather than lawyers question prospective jurors; requiring that defense lawyers be prepared for trial in 60 days; reducing the length of preliminary hearings; eliminating preliminary hearings after a grand jury indictment; expanding the death penalty; and allowing 16-year-olds convicted of murder to be sentenced to life without parole.

The court rejected parts of the initiative that would have stripped California defen-

dants of any rights not provided in the U.S. Constitution, but specified in the state constitution, on the basis that this provision amounted to a "revision" of the state constitution, which cannot be done by initiative.

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## Hospitals forced to push living wills

All hospitals in the United States are now required to inform patients of their right to make "living wills."

The requirement is the result of a little-noticed provision stipulated in the federal budget compromise bill last fall. This grew out of the case of Nancy Cruzan, a disabled woman who was murdered when her feeding tube was removed.

Ironically, under this new law, Cruzan was not, and could not have been, informed of her right to die, since she had been unconscious from the beginning of her hospital stay.

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## Du Pont panics at CFC shareholder proposal

In a Dec. 20 letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. requested permission from the SEC to omit Lewis du Pont Smith's stockholder proposal of Nov. 16, 1990, from its 1991 proxy statement.

Smith, a du Pont heir and supporter of policies advocated by Lyndon LaRouche, demanded that the company establish a blue ribbon scientific commission, which would include leading critics of the current policy on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), to conduct an emergency six-month factual study into the CFC ban, and that the company conduct a thorough reevaluation of its 1986 decision to abandon CFCs, "whose use Du Pont scientists had vigorously and cogently defended until that very moment."

The company argues that it does not have to include the proposal because it "relates to ordinary business operations." Smith rejected this contention, saying, "if the 'ordinary business operations' of E.I. du

Pont de Nemours and Co. is genocide, then, perhaps, they have a point. But otherwise, assuredly not! Tens of millions of lives are at stake" in the CFCs ban.

The company also hides behind the recently adopted Clean Air Act of 1990, which now mandates the cessation of CFCs production in the United States by 2000. "As a result, there is no longer any leeway for the company to reevaluate its business decision to phase out production of CFCs without violating the Clean Air Act," the company claims.

The hysteria which pervades the legal opinion, is evident in the two-page history entitled "A brief background with regard to chlorofluorocarbons," which attempts to convince the SEC that company policy in support of the CFCs ban constitutes scientific fact, in opposition to the scientific data presented in the Smith shareholder proposal.

## DoJ fears backlash on environmentalism

Assistant Attorney General Richard Stewart, the architect of recent environmental enforcement policies, is seeking to change the way the criminal prosecutions against companies are carried out. With hundreds of corporate executives going to jail because of alleged "environmental crimes," the eco-fascists now fear a backlash.

One major issue under review is the use by prosecutors of in-house environmental reviews by companies. Under current procedures, if a company does an environmental audit and discovers it is in violation of some obscure environmental law, then, at that moment, prosecutors can charge company executives with criminal, instead of civil, violations, because they are then "knowing" of the violation.

The president of MacDonald and Watson Waste Oil Co. in Johnston, Rhode Island was sentenced to over two years in prison for environmental crimes based largely on evidence from internal audit documents. The company took steps to stop and clean up those violations based on those internal audits, but the president still landed in jail.

The result, according to John Quarles,

a former Environmental Protection Agency official, has been that companies are opting to do no internal environmental auditing, to prevent its possible use in criminal prosecutions against them.

## Neil Bush cited for conflicts of interest

Administrative law Judge Daniel J. Davidson ruled Dec. 18 that Neil Bush had engaged in "significant" conflict of interest while a director of the Silverado savings and loan, putting the thrift at "abnormal risk."

The judge recommended that federal regulators issue a "cease and desist" order against the President's son, requiring him to avoid any conflict of interest were he to ever again become the director of a bank or thrift. Davidson's recommendation goes to Timothy Ryan, the director of the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), the agency which brought the charges. Ryan has four months to decide the matter, the Dec. 19 *Washington Post* reported.

James E. Nesland, Neil Bush's attorney, called the ruling "ridiculous." "The judge is wrong and so is the OTS. I'm confident that real judges in a real court will decide it on the merits," he said.

## Cavazos quits as Bush pushes 'new paradigm'

Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos, an Hispanic-American, tendered his resignation from the Bush administration following a meeting with White House Chief of Staff John Sununu on Dec. 11.

Cavazos issued a terse resignation letter, in which he did not express the usual platitudes about how nice it had been to serve the President.

Cavazos had not been a booster of the tuition-voucher system, one of the hallmarks of Bush's "New Paradigm," and was reportedly upset about administration policy, also announced on Dec. 11, to cut off federal aid to colleges that offer scholarships designated for minorities.

## Briefly

● **WILLIAM BENNETT**, the former so-called drug czar, unexpectedly announced that he decided he will not become the national chairman of the Republican Party, replacing the ailing Lee Atwater. The position had already been publicly promised to him.

● **DEMOCRATS** for the '90s, the political action committee set up Pamela Harriman, announced in December that it is going out of existence. The Committee for the Free World, a propaganda arm of the "neo-conservatives," will also close. According to director Midge Decter, the Soviet threat has ceased to exist.

● **THE HOUSE** Intelligence Committee has decided not to investigate ties between CIA operatives and failed S&Ls despite its finding that at least five former CIA operatives were involved with failed S&Ls and at least four S&Ls were used by the CIA.

● **THE AMERICAN** Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has won a suit against the state of Connecticut charging the state failed to protect abused and neglected children. An outside panel will now direct the child welfare system. "We've got the agreement for a model system and a blank check to operate it," said Marcia Robinson Lowry, director of the ACLU's Children's Rights Projects.

● **NANCY CRUZAN** died Dec. 26, killed by lack of water and food. "Most have failed to observe an unpleasant truth: Miss Cruzan's feeding tube was removed not because she was dying, but because she wasn't dying," the Dec. 26 *Washington Times* reported.

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** is schizophrenic, *Time* magazine hinted, in making Bush its "Men [sic] Of The Year." The magazine cover depicts two superimposed portraits of Bush, and praises Bush for his "firm grasp of foreign policy" and criticizes his "weak and vacillating domestic policy."