

National News

Indictment of Texas House Speaker a frame?

Gib Lewis, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, was indicted by a Texas grand jury Dec. 27 on two misdemeanor charges of illegally accepting a gift and failing to report it. Lewis blasted the charge as politically motivated.

Lewis has denied any wrongdoing and chastised Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle for "literally campaigning—and running a dirty campaign in my estimation—to influence the Speaker's election." Earle notified Lewis he was under investigation only after Lewis filed a lawsuit against Earle charging that he was "spoonfeeding" evidence to a grand jury without notifying Lewis that he was the target.

Austin political sources say that Lewis is the victim of a political vendetta run by Gov.-elect Ann Richards. Earle, a close political ally of Richards, has been promised a judicial appointment, according to these sources, if he can get rid of Lewis.

Hayden backs racist education bill in Calif.

California Assemblyman Tom Hayden introduced a bill (AB 462), that would establish a two-track education system, the newsletter of the National Association of Scholars has reported. One track would be based on academic ability and the other on race, which is designed to increase the presence of "historically under-represented minorities." Those in the second track would be ensured graduation through a retention policy, and would mandate that race be a primary factor in hiring of staff.

The same bill attacks the present "Eurocentric" education in the name of advancing "multiculturalism." Under this sort of call for "diversity," the study of classics has been greatly reduced in numerous courses to study feminist, "gay," Afro, and other works.

This orientation, supported by advo-

cates of "political correctness," says that no qualitative judgment may be made about any work lest it injure "gender and race" sensitivities.

"Political correctness" grew out of Deconstructionist French comparative literature studies, according to *Newsweek* magazine. The studies are ultimately based upon Aristotelian method. The Deconstructionists are also seeking to revive Friedrich Nietzsche, a nihilist and forerunner of Nazism.

IAM union head backs colonization of Mars

George Kourpias, who heads the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers union, points out that "a strong civilian space program—including the human exploration and settlement of the Moon and Mars—offers one of the brightest chances for economic regeneration," writing in a recent issue of *Ad Astra* magazine.

Kourpias states that a \$15 billion National Aeronautic and Space Administration budget generates about \$31 billion in increased business in the economy, and directly and indirectly supports more than 390,000 jobs. The economic impact varies among industries, but he quotes a figure of \$42 in new business in iron and steel generated for \$1 invested in the space program.

Space exploration will also revitalize education, which is as shaky as our industrial base, Kourpias writes. "What better way to fill young people with a passion for math and science than to promise that, someday soon, they'll have a chance to fly into space, or help settle the Moon or Mars?" An even more compelling reason for a strong space program, he concludes, is that we are a species that explores and pioneers.

Also backing a strong space program, NASA official James McCulla writes that NASA remains committed to manned space operations because nothing replaces human "insight, leaps of inference and flexible response," in a commentary in the Jan. 4 *Washington Post*.

He writes that the scientific data from the recent Galileo spacecraft fly-by of Earth

showed that there might be life on Earth, but only a human being could "confirm it and guess whether it might be hospitable and determine whether we might harm it and understand the conditions that let it get a foothold and speculate about its future."

Pizzazz to replace news in tomorrow's papers

The *Boca Raton News*, a Florida newspaper owned by the Knight-Ridder chain, is restructuring news to fit into "bite size" statements, according to the Jan. 6 *Washington Post*. Knight-Ridder launched the project after a \$2 million research study looking at demographic trends, and is heralding the change as the newspaper type of the future.

The newspaper dices the news into even smaller portions than *USA Today*. Editor Wayne Ezell explained the approach, citing an article that blared "Champagne Prices to Explode." Ezell stated that "For baby boomers who go to a lot of champagne parties, that's more important than what Jack Kemp said today." The paper contains a lot of graphics and colored pictures, and Ezell has banned stories that "jump" from one page to another, because readers don't have the patience for long stories.

The Knight-Ridder research states that only half of the nation's adults read a newspaper every day, down from three-fourths in 1967. Many respondents said they prefer to get their news on the run, from television or the radio. Teenagers and young adults say they are not interested in what the older generation defines as "news." This approach, referred to as "bottom line" journalism, was pioneered by the success of *USA Today*, which was launched by the Gannett chain. The operative phrase has become "respect for the reader's time."

A not-so-extreme example of this trend is the *Orange County Register* in California, which has abandoned traditional beats in favor of covering shopping malls with a full-time reporter. Other "relevant" topics that it covers for its readers are "relationships, making money, houses, learning, hobbies, pets, aging and getting around." Teenagers write movie reviews elaborating on what

were the "coolest" or "dumbest" moments in a film. The paper conducts daily reader polls, for which its editor claims they receive 700-1,500 calls or faxes a day.

LaRouche candidate seeks debt moratorium

Sheila Anne Jones, a LaRouche Democrat running for mayor of Chicago, issued a call Dec. 31 for an emergency debt moratorium to save lives.

If elected, Jones said she would "begin organizing for legislation to establish the freezing of all debt contracted prior" to her being sworn into office, until she can determine how insolvent the city is. "I will not kill the citizens to keep up usurious debt payments to [Mayor] Richard Daley's banking friends on Wall Street."

Jones said such an action "is in no way a repudiation of the debt," but would "benefit bond-holders, because we will convert city bonds of today to long-term, low-interest security bonds.

"This is an emergency debt moratorium, which means a temporary halt in payments on the bonded debt of the city, in order to assess and effect an orderly and just system of delivering goods and services to our citizens. This is most important to me, because the present system of enslavement to Wall Street speculators is costing tens of thousands of lives in our city. . . .

"If I'm forced to choose between paying debt service to Wall Street or feeding and housing Chicago citizens, I assure Wall Street, I will choose cutting debt service payments!"

FEC steps up attack on LaRouche movement

On Dec. 27, Federal Election Commission (FEC) General Counsel Lawrence Noble, acting on behalf of a nationwide "Get LaRouche" strike force, reactivated a six-year-old action charging several campaign committees and other entities affiliated with

Lyndon LaRouche, with violations of FEC regulations.

The FEC's actions against The LaRouche Campaign, Independent Democrats for LaRouche, Citizens for Freeman, the Fusion Energy Foundation, Campaigner Publications, Caucus Distributors, Los Angeles Labor Committee, and Publication and General Management, come on the heels of LaRouche's announcement of his candidacy for 1992.

The initial action, called a Matter Under Review (MUR), was initiated on Christmas Eve 1984 by then FEC general counsel Charles Steele, shortly after the commencement of criminal investigations of LaRouche by Steele's buddy and U.S. Attorney for Boston, William Weld.

The brief, consolidating previous MURs from as far back as October 1983, is a combination of Anti-Defamation League and Department of Justice initiated allegations against LaRouche and associates.

Noble recommends the FEC find "probable cause" that the individuals violated FEC rules. If the FEC makes such a finding, they will file a suit against the individuals in federal court.

Eco-terrorists advocate new sabotage technique

Eco-terrorist tree spikers are advocating that a new sabotage technique, termed "foam-coring," be used against the paper industry. The technique involves stuffing a styrofoam cup into a two-centimeter hole drilled into a logger tree. Supposedly, one styrofoam cup in 6,000 gallons of pulp will upset the chemical reaction that allows the pulp to turn into paper. Most felled trees are used for lumber, while only wood waste is used to make paper, according to a lumber company spokesman.

The new technique is advocated by a Tofino, British Columbia-based Quaker activist, J.C. Hinke, a fundraiser for the Society to Protect Intact Kinetic Ecosystems (SPIKE). Although the B.C. government has passed a law against spiking, Hinke says he doubts anyone will ever be convicted of the crime, since "the woods are deep and dark."

Briefly

● **GEORGE BUSH** personally turned down a request by a black leader to work out a plea bargain deal for Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry after the latter's arrest, according to a new book by Jonathan Agronsky. He writes that Bush replied: "No, I'm not going to intervene. I want him to go to jail," the Jan. 3 *Washington Post* reported.

● **CLAYTON YEUTTER** will leave his post as Secretary of Agriculture to chair the national Republican Party. Four GOPers, William Bennett; Craig Fuller, then Vice President Bush's chief of staff; Sen. James McClure (R-Id.); and Cliff Daniels, former White House political director, had all refused White House offers for the post, the Jan. 3 *Washington Post* reported.

● **HOLLINGER CORP.**, on whose board of directors sits Henry Kissinger, bought up three newspapers in Harlan and Middlesboro, Kentucky, and Tazewell, Tennessee, through a subsidiary, the Dec. 19 *New York Times* reported.

● **LOUIS SULLIVAN**, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, wants to cut the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to \$468 million in FY 1992, down from \$2.1 billion in 1985, and restrict it to nine states, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported.

● **WOMAN'S DAY** magazine slandered Lyndon LaRouche associate Rochelle Ascher in its Jan. 15, 1991 issue. *Woman's Day* is owned by Hachette Magazines, Inc., whose Chairman is Daniel Filipacchi, publisher *Lui* magazine, the French equivalent of *Playboy*.

● **A TULARE COUNTY**, California, Superior Court judge has sentenced a convicted child abuser to be implanted with the Norplant birth control device for three years. Although the 27-year-old woman agreed to it, her lawyer was shocked by the sentence.