

National News

Lt. Gov. Beyer's loan repays not priority

Virginia Lt. Gov. Don Beyer is saying that repaying his campaign loans is not a priority over raising new campaign money. According to an AP wire in the March 5 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Lt. Gov. Don Beyer, who is considering a 1993 bid for the Democratic nomination for governor against Attorney General Mary Sue Terry, does not consider paying off his past campaign debt to be urgent, either on time or in any other fashion.

According to the wire, Beyer says that paying his debt—which includes a \$1 million loan “from a bank”—“isn’t really appropriate right now. As I raise money,” said Beyer, “I’m raising money for 1993, not to pay off the 1989 debt.”

Eight LaRouche movement fundraisers have been convicted and sentenced to between 10 and 77 years, and eight more await prosecution in Virginia for failure to repay political loans, which were alleged to be “securities” by Attorney General Terry’s office, who has trumpeted her role in the “Get LaRouche” task force. In the recent appeal hearing of one fundraiser, Rochelle Ascher, Terry’s assistant John Russell confirmed to the judge that he considers any campaign loans to be securities.

Nancy Spannaus, who led the LaRouche candidates’ slate in Virginia’s 1990 elections, held a press conference in Richmond, demanding to know why the other leading Virginia political figures with large campaign loans, have neither registered as securities dealers, nor been prosecuted for failure to do so.

Nicaragua protests U.S. deals with Moscow

Officials of the Nicaraguan government of Violeta Chamorro have charged that the Bush administration is using Nicaragua to test its global deal with the Soviet Union, but has refused to consult with the govern-

ment of Nicaragua about this, the *New York Times* reported March 2.

The complaint followed the report that Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America Bernard Aronson planned to demand that Moscow cut off shipments of spare parts to the Nicaraguan Army, when he met in Madrid with his Soviet counterpart Valery Nikolayenko, Feb. 28 and March 1. The Nicaraguan Army is almost entirely equipped with Soviet weaponry.

Antonio Ibarra, Nicaragua’s vice minister of the presidency, protested that the U.S. had not even consulted the Nicaraguan government on this action. “If the U.S. would like us to request that aide be cut off, Mr. Aronson should talk directly to us. Third parties should not be intervening in our relations with other countries,” he said. Ibarra compared the Aronson-Nicolayenko talks to “someone talking behind your back to one of your neighbors.”

Graham biographer sees fundamentalist threat

Bill Martin, a Rice University religion sociologist who is an author of an upcoming book on Rev. Billy Graham, *A Prophet With Honor: The Life and Ministry of Billy Graham*, warns that fundamentalism, which is influencing George Bush, threatens catastrophe.

In an interview in the Feb. 23 *Houston Post*, Martin indicated that Graham and Bush discuss prophecy. Martin spoke to Graham in early February, and they talked about Graham’s recent meeting with Bush. “Graham said the President had not asked him for his advice. He just asked him to lead the service. And he gave me an indication that he and the President had talked about prophecy.” Martin said that during the 1950s, Graham’s sermons stressed his belief that he expected Armageddon with five years, but Graham now says he doesn’t know whether it will occur “tonight, two months, or a thousand years from now.”

Martin indicated why he fears fundamentalism at present. “Islamic fundamentalists say they have the mandate to convert and govern the world, fundamentalist Jews in Israel say they have an absolute mandate

from God to take back the land of Israel that God promised to Abraham, and fundamentalist Christians say the Muslim shrines on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem must be razed and the Jewish temples rebuilt in order for the prophecies to be fulfilled. Obviously, the potential for catastrophe is enormous.”

Another cokehead in Thornburgh’s side

Ron Cobb, who worked as a stingman for the FBI in an operation against the entire South Carolina legislature and was responsible for netting indictments against 14 lawmakers in 1990, was indicted for cocaine possession on Feb. 21 in Columbia, South Carolina.

A former state legislator himself, Cobb had been caught in a drug deal in 1989, and was given immunity by the FBI to set up a phony company to frame up his former colleagues on bribery charges. In 1990, both houses of the state’s legislature were closed while the Justice Department agents seized campaign finance records.

The Justice Department had given Cobb immunity for his 1989 drug offense, but U.S. Attorney Bart Daniel said in late February that Cobb had violated the agreement by possessing cocaine while working for the government. The original FBI sting involved Cobb offering bribes in exchange for legislators’ support of a bill to legalize betting on horse and dog racing. The bill failed.

Couch potatoes for war, know least about it

A survey of 250 men and women in Denver in February found that the more people watched television for their war news, the more they supported the President, and the less they knew about the conflict itself.

“We had heard a lot about support for the war. But it seemed like people weren’t asking what the basis of that support was,” said Sut Jhally, a communications professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst

who helped create the survey. "We were interested in finding out exactly what people knew." Only 31% of those questioned were aware that Israel was occupying land outside its 1967 borders, and only 15% could identify the Intifada. Only 13% knew that the Bush administration said it would take no action last July when Iraq threatened to use force against Kuwait, but 65% were convinced that Bush had said he would support Kuwait with force.

Despite instant satellite news coverage of the Gulf War, "People who watched a lot of TV coverage knew the names of the Patriot and Scud missiles, but they don't know the background, the history of the area," said Jhally. The 18-32 age group, the heaviest TV watchers and the strongest supporters of the war, were also the most ignorant about it.

Justin Lewis, another professor who helped create the survey, said people aged 18-32 showed an "abysmally lower knowledge on every single question than other age groups," and this group was "almost unanimous in its support of the war and in its phenomenal ignorance."

Chicago voting: little debate, lower turnout

LaRouche supporter Sheila Jones was given less than 1% of the vote, in a Chicago municipal election which had the lowest voter turnout in 20 years on Feb. 26. Jones's running mate for City Treasurer, Mark Fairchild, was credited with 5% (30,165 votes), and Dr. Charles Knox for City Clerk was credited with 3% of the vote in a four-way race (11,580 votes).

The voter turnout is a 20-year low, which seems to have been orchestrated by the non-campaign. Mayor Richard Daley, who won his Democratic bid to run for reelection, ran on a "program" of "lowered voices." The city of Chicago, which is usually posterized with election materials of all kinds, was completely bare. There were no debates, and the *Chicago Tribune* editorialized in favor of no controversy in the campaign. Organizers for LaRouche associate Jones—a controversial figure, since Mark Fairchild won the 1986 primary for lieu-

tenant governor in 1986—reported that many people they met in the streets were vehement that they were not planning to vote, because of the lack of politics in the political campaigns.

Sheila Jones and her running mates were blacked out of the major press except for their initial statements, and the subsequent slanderous press release from the Democratic Party. However, Jones Fairchild, and Knox had a bigger impact on the local black Democratic press, with their widely circulated brochure "Against the Cultural Degradation of Man," their anti-war stance, and the LaRouche economic program. Even figures close to the Democratic Party black machine told Jones and her organizers that she was the only one who had anything to say.

Daley will face token opposition in the April 2 general election.

Americans 'smug' about disasters of war

"Don't be so damned smug," *New Republic* senior editor Michael Kinsley angrily wrote about those "reveling" over the victory in the Gulf. In an article in the Feb. 28 *London Guardian*, he wrote: "Like everything else about this war, the spread of callousness on the home front happened at lightning speed. . . . There is a blinding moral self-righteousness that keeps us from seeing what's right there." Throughout, Americans have been remarkably uncaring about the massive casualties against both Iraqi military men and civilians, Kinsley charged.

Americans persist in believing that Saddam Hussein staged the Amiriyah bomb shelter massacre in which 400 civilians died, but "many more than 400 civilians will have died before the effects of Operation Desert Storm are over. Baghdad is a city of 4 million people without water, electricity, sewers. Medicines are scant. Remember those Kuwaiti babies reportedly ripped from their incubators and left to die by Iraqi soldiers? There have probably been no operating incubators for several weeks in Baghdad."

Kinsley's article is a departure from his usually hard-core Anglophilia.

Briefly

● **HAM RADIO** operator Danny Shaver of Carrollton, Texas heard a plea sent by an old friend, Luke Smith, a Baptist missionary in Cajamarca, Peru for help to treat the cholera epidemic that is ravaging the country. Patients are crammed into the 120-bed hospital in Cajamarca, Smith told Shaver. "They have put up more cots in the halls, and some people are on the floor. And there are many, many others not in the hospitals." Shaver hopes to collect thousands of pounds of medical supplies and have them shipped to Peru.

● **PAT BUCHANAN** is maintaining his opposition to the new world order. In a postwar post mortem, the columnist wrote, "Yet, if candor requires us to concede the effectiveness of Bush's war leadership, it always requires us to tell the truth: We cannot share this imperial spirit or this globalist vision."

● **LYNDON LAROCHE** forecast the outbreak of war in West Asia, a radio listener informed syndicated talk show host Larry King, recently. While King downplayed this fact in his answer, a few days later another caller asked replacement host Jim Bohanan if indeed LaRouche knew the war was coming and Bohanan replied, "He sure did."

● **U.S. STATISTICS** on Iraqi war dead will intentionally be kept "as vague as possible, in part because the true picture is so horrifying," wrote *London Sunday Times* Washington correspondent James Adams. According to Adams, "allied intelligence is speculating that as many as 200,000 Iraqis may have died in the Gulf war."

● **THE IOWA** state senate passed a bill 49-0 to repeal the bill which mandates the eradication of marijuana crops in the state on public and private lands on March 4. The bill to repeal eradication was sponsored by the senate agriculture committee. The bill means that the state will no longer take responsibility for destroying marijuana production.