

National News

The age of abundance is over, say contractors

Marvin Black, the new president of the Associated General Contractors, declared that the "age of abundance" is over, in a news release issued April 15 after he and 100 other construction industry executives met with George Bush.

"Let's not waste time on the politics of how we got to this point," Black stated. "Banks are in the grip of fear that stops them from making loans for construction projects. . . . The message from the nation's lenders is clear. The age of abundance is over."

"Tax laws that helped induce construction are gone. . . . A fallacy and irony is the mindset that assumes the business community has deeper pockets than the Treasury. These pockets are either empty or porous. The reality is that the age of abundance is gone and is being succeeded by an age of scarcity. . . . America has to get it through its collective head that the age of abundance is over."

LaRouche was right on KAL 007 downing

Lyndon LaRouche's charge that the Soviet Union deliberately shot down Korean Air Line flight 007 in 1983, was corroborated by new Soviet admissions reported by space engineer James Oberg in a commentary in the April 23 *Wall Street Journal*.

Izvestia, as part of a 17-part series from December 1990 through February 1991, interviewed the pilot who shot the plane down, Lt. Col. Gennadi Osipovich, who admitted he had recognized that KAL 007 was not the RC-135 reconnaissance plane that the Soviets then maintained they believed it to be. He said his superior officers had ordered him to lie, to claim that he had radioed it on an emergency channel although he had not, that the target plane's lights were off although he had seen them on, and that he had fired tracers although his cannon had no such shells. He briefly

flashed his lights, but the crew had not been able to see him; that was all he had time for before the airliner threatened to "escape" into international airspace.

Izvestia reported on the Soviet recovery operation that found the wreckage of the plane and obtained its data recorders intact. To mislead the Americans, the Soviets dropped a false "pinger"—the battery-powered locator that emits underwater sonic pulses to guide searchers. Amid the wreckage, the Soviets evidently could find no spy gear.

Democrats could become minority, says Eizenstat

"I believe that one more landslide defeat in a presidential election can very well make us at any level a minority party," Stuart Eizenstat, a strategist for the Democratic Party, declared April 28 on the ABC News talk show "This Week with David Brinkley."

"This is why this election is so important, we cannot just take a pass at it. We have to re-focus on our basic constituency that we have lost. That is the middle class, working class constituency," Eizenstat said. The reason for the several consecutive defeats "was that we did not have a candidate who had articulated enough the middle class message. Our message has been purely a message for poor people. . . . We didn't articulate what happened to the middle class in the last 15 years, namely that their income has been flattened for 15 years, that it now takes two earners in a family to make what one made 15 years ago."

Say Bush plans new wars against Third World

George Bush is planning new wars against Third World nations, contends former high-ranking CIA official John Stockwell in a new book, *The Praetorian Guard—The U.S. Role in the New World Order*, according to a review of the book in the April 16 *Glasgow Herald*.

Bush's motivation is, in part, "a diversion from domestic political problems," such as his being "heavily implicated in the drug-related Iran-Contra aid deal," the paper reports.

The review stresses Stockwell's view that Cuba is a likely next target of Bush. Cuba would probably have been attacked already, except for the fact that "Iraqi President Saddam Hussein gave President Bush an early Christmas present and let Cuba off the hook, at least temporarily."

If Stockwell's views are correct, the paper notes, the future role of the United States and Britain will be that of "hired mercenaries keeping poor countries in their place, waging a Third World War in the sense of a war against the Third World." Americans will thereby become the new "Hessians," named after the German mercenaries who fought against the American Revolution in the 18th century. Stockwell expresses concern that this foreign policy trend is linked to "increasingly draconian encroachments on civil liberties in the U.S."

Du Pont heir addresses board meeting on CFCs

Lewis du Pont Smith, an heir of the Du Pont family fortune, addressed 1,000 shareholders in attendance at the Du Pont Corp.'s annual meeting of shareholders in late-April, motivating his proposal to reverse the company's planned phaseout of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Smith's memorandum, which had been rejected by the company, included the April 16 *EIR* cover story on CFCs. The company had been ordered to include it in its proxy report by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Smith demanded equal time with the environmentalists on the board and in the room. "What is Du Pont desperately trying to hide from the shareholders and the public at large? The facts documented in this memorandum demonstrate that there is no conclusive evidence that the ozone layer is thinning. . . . Phasing out CFCs, according to refrigeration analysts, will result in 20-40 million dying annually in the developing sector from hunger, starvation, and food-

borne diseases due to the collapse of the refrigeration infrastructure and cold chain precipitated by the ban on CFCs. From a financial standpoint I understand why you're phasing out CFCs: Du Pont stands to gain billions of dollars of profits in the next 10 years with their replacement. But at what cost? Millions of human lives and \$5 trillion for the world economy to replace CFCs. It should be noted that the entire push for this change of policy on CFCs was brought about by the Bronfmans who control the board of directors."

Bronfman-appointed corporate chairman Edgar Woolard said, "We have consulted a new scientific committee and determined that there is a real threat to the ozone layer. And I want to make it clear that the Bronfmans had nothing to do with this change of policy."

Smith said this was a fraud, that there were never critics of the ozone depletion theory on the ozone trends panel or any other panel that Du Pont consulted. "It was a stacked deck," he charged.

Exxon Valdez settlement rejected by Alaska judge

Federal District Judge H. Russell Holland rejected April 24 the deal worked out by Exxon and the Bush administration over the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The deal, which took 57 days of complex negotiations, called for Exxon to pay \$1 billion in civil fines and \$100 million in criminal penalties.

Holland told the press, "the fines that were proposed to me were simply not adequate. They do not adequately achieve deterrence. I'm afraid these fines send the wrong message, suggesting that spills are a cost of business that can be absorbed."

According to the press, Holland may be considering levying a criminal fine against Exxon amounting to \$700 million, which, added to the civil penalties, would mean a total fine of \$1.7 billion. It is likely that Exxon will now renege on the plea bargain and go to court.

The decision will have a monumental effect on all environmental laws and prosecutions. Exxon's decision to plead guilty to "eco-crimes" was unprecedented, since no

crime was actually committed. Now that the judge has rejected that plea bargain, the environmental groups are out for blood.

Groups like the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the National Audubon Society stand to gain billions of dollars in lawsuits they have started against Exxon. The judge's decision, and Exxon's previous capitulation, also opens a Pandora's box for environmental litigation that would cost hundreds of billions of dollars for any kind of industrial accident. Further, criminal charges carry stiff jail sentences, so the number of company executives who might go to jail for "environmental crimes" every year could total in the thousands by next year.

FBI stalls in LaRouche versus Webster case

The FBI is stonewalling on the March 19 order from Federal Magistrate Sharon Grubin to answer questions in the case of *LaRouche v. Webster*.

Grubin had ordered the FBI to answer interrogatories about ongoing FBI operations against LaRouche and his associates, including those under so-called "active measures" and Executive Order 12333. The FBI was also ordered to answer questions about its relationship with the Anti-Defamation League.

On the day the answers were due, the FBI sent a letter to the magistrate saying it needed an additional 60 days to determine whether it can comply with the judge's order.

In the letter, the FBI claims it does not have adequate personnel to conduct a search for "any variation" of the name "Lyndon LaRouche Group." The FBI has created many variations of this name for the purposes of hiding various documents. It also claims they cannot search their files for "information on financial supporters" of LaRouche-related entities, despite the fact that when the FBI wants to harass financial supporters, they have no trouble finding them.

The government has admitted to the existence of more than 55,000 pages of documents.

Briefly

● **THE INTERIOR** Department announced April 26 that 12 million acres of the Pacific Northwest are "critical" to the survival of the northern spotted owl. The area is roughly twice that recommended for protection by a panel of government scientists last spring. The action will cost 100,000 jobs.

● **VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS**, the President of Lithuania, will visit the United States, traveling to Washington, D.C. May 7-8 where he is to meet with Secretary of State James Baker. He will address the Los Angeles World Affairs Council during a May 9-10 visit to California, and will visit Chicago May 11-15.

● **AN AMERICAN** woman, 22 years old, who got AIDS from her dentist was interviewed on Swedish national television April 21. She said that she neither has had sexual intercourse nor taken drugs, and that therefore the "risk group" theory must be wrong. She called for an obligatory AIDS testing program.

● **THE HERITAGE** Foundation, exposed by *EIR* for its ties to the Fabian Society, called for the end of the civilian space program, in a study released April 25. Coming at a time when the defense industry has slashed its R&D spending by more than 30%, the report advises that exploration and scientific research "should be left to the private sector."

● **PAUL EHRLICH**, the author from Stanford University of the *Population Bomb* who delivered the annual world conservation lecture to Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature April 22, called on conservation groups to become more involved in efforts to control population in the industrial nations, the April 24 London *Daily Telegraph* reported.

● **'MY THEORY** is that George Bush has had to tell so many lies—and has such a hard time remembering them—that he sounds dyslexic," novelist Gore Vidal said in an interview in the *May Esquire*.