

National News

Bush fundraisers face mismanagement suits

Four individuals who are fundraisers either for the national Republican Party or President Bush's reelection campaign are the object of federal suits to recover funds from their alleged mismanagement of financial institutions, the May 13 *New York Times* revealed.

Lawrence E. Bathgate II, who is national finance chairman of the Republican National Committee, is the subject of a \$21 million suit, which the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. took over and expanded. The suit is an attempt to recover money that Bathgate borrowed from the First National Bank of Toms River, New Jersey.

Also, Ray L. Hunt, who is national finance vice chairman for President Bush's reelection campaign, was one of the directors of the First Republic Bank of Dallas, whom the government sued last summer for negligence in connection with the 1988 failure of the bank.

DDT ban led to deaths of millions

The 20th anniversary of the banning of DDT was marked by a press conference in Washington, D.C. on May 21, which documented that millions of people have died as a result of the political decision to ban the insecticide. The press conference, sponsored by the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (C-FACT), featured a panel of scientific experts who fought for DDT in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including J. Gordon Edwards, William Hazeltine, Bud Houston, Ed Remmers, and, by phone, Tom Jukes.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to ban DDT brought to life the environmentalist movement, but was a death sentence for millions of people throughout the world. An estimated 100 million people die every year as the direct and indirect result of the banning of DDT and other pesticides. These include deaths resulting from malaria and other insect-borne diseases, and from the results of

reduced food production.

EPA administrator William Ruckelshaus later admitted that the decision to ban DDT was made for political, not scientific, reasons. In fact, after the EPA's seven-month hearing on DDT, the EPA hearing examiner ruled that DDT should *not* be banned, on the basis of the scientific evidence. In countermending this ruling, Ruckelshaus began the pattern of environmental decisions made on the basis of "public perception," not scientific evidence.

The speakers emphasized that government officials and environmentalist groups at the Earth Summit intend to continue the line of anti-scientific policymaking begun with the banning of DDT.

Lack of politics hurt Noriega case

Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega might have been acquitted had political issues been allowed in the trial, the foreman of the jury in the Noriega trial, Lester Spencer, told the May 13 *Boston Globe*.

"If there would have been political issues brought into the case, it might have been a different verdict. There would have been more evidence for us to consider," Spencer stated. The *Boston Globe* headlined the story, "Noriega Juror Cites Acquittal Possibility."

Judge William Hoeveler, who presided over the trial, ruled from the outset that the case was to be treated only as a criminal one, with politics excluded.

Rap 'musicians' inciting murder

The incendiary nature of the rap "music" which pervades U.S. ghettos is indicated by "rapper" Sister Souljah, who has been featured on various national talk shows, including public television's Bill Moyers program, in the wake of the Los Angeles riots, according to the May 13 *Washington Post*.

Sister Souljah, who attended Rutgers University and is a self-described community activist, says that the riots were "revenge"

against a system of white oppression. "If black people kill black people every day, why not have a week's vacation and kill white people?" she said in an interview. "If you're a gang member and you would normally be killing somebody, why not kill a white person? It's rebellion, it's revenge." Sister Souljah has a recording contract with Epic records, which is owned by Sony.

Other rap groups which call for violence include "Niggers With Attitude," who issued a song in 1988 called "F—the Police," which is based on a "bloodbath of cops dying in L.A." Another leading rapper, Ice Cube, who was featured in Spike Lee's movie "Boys 'N the Hood," which is about black gangs, did a song warning Korean merchants: "Pay respect to the black fist, or we'll burn your store right down to a crisp," which is featured on his million-selling album, "Death Certificate."

Lawyers seek judge's recusal in LaRouche case

An *amicus curiae* brief has been presented to the Virginia Court of Appeals by 54 attorneys from around the country, seeking the recusal of Judge Clifford Weckstein in the case of Anita Gallagher, Paul Gallagher, and Laurence Hecht, three associates of Lyndon LaRouche convicted on Jan. 7, 1991 on concocted "securities fraud" charges. The defendants filed their appeal with the Court of Appeals on May 10.

The attorneys argued that the recusal "was mandated under the facts presented in this case and the Constitution of the United States."

The attorneys included three former judges of state courts or state supreme courts, four professors of law, and a past president of the Harris County (Houston) Criminal Lawyers' Association, as well as two former congressmen. Three of the 54 are Virginia attorneys; many of the others are from Georgia, the Carolinas, Alabama, Florida, and Texas.

During trial, Weckstein engaged in correspondence about the LaRouche movement with officials and activists of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which was active in the multi-jurisdictional "Get LaRouche" task force. Some attorneys found that behav-

Briefly

ior "shocking." ADL activists in Virginia acknowledged that this affair had thrown off their campaign to place a judge of their choosing on the Virginia Supreme Court.

The *amicus* brief concentrates entirely on the recusal issue, one of three issues on which defendants have been granted an appeal. The office of Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry is trying to get the court to declare a summary denial of the recusal motion.

Goldin defends space program from media

NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin struck back at the "conventional wisdom" that the space program costs too much, on the ABC News program "This Week With David Brinkley" on May 17. In response to arguments that the United States can't afford to go to Mars and—from Sam Donaldson—that the Moon and Mars aren't really a challenge because they aren't so far away, anyhow, Goldin stressed that "we have to provide our young people the vision, the opportunity to say they to have to reach out, they have to be bold."

To Brinkley's suggestion that things need to be done on Earth, Goldin took a swipe at the congressional budget process, where NASA competes for funding against veterans benefits and housing funds. "We can't always make our investments looking back for veterans, looking in the present for education and housing. We also have the future." Goldin put the NASA budget in perspective, stating that the space funding is one-quarter of 1% of the Gross National Product.

'Weed and Seed' means police-state measures

The intent of George Bush's "Weed and Seed" policy in the wake of the Los Angeles riot is to accelerate the use of police-state measures. This was made clear by former Justice Department spokesman Terry Eastland in the May 14 *Wall Street Journal*.

Weed and Seed contains a requirement for "community-oriented policing," said

Eastland, along with federal help. The federal role is needed because federal laws "operate more stringently than state laws do against violent predators in the inner city."

Eastland pointed to Philadelphia, where federal prosecutors have muscled in on state criminal cases. The advantage of this is the "tougher" federal system—stronger pre-trial detention laws, stronger forfeiture laws, mandatory sentences, longer sentences, and no parole. Philadelphia police chief Willie Williams praises this approach of federalizing local crimes.

Eastland noted that Bush and Clinton agree on "the relevance of strong law enforcement to the poorest parts of our cities." His conclusion is that federal urban policy must be based on the recognition that there are "two Americas"—one law-abiding, one not.

Florida Secretary of Agriculture hits NAFTA

Florida Secretary of Agriculture Robert Crawford charged that U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan's testimony before Congress supporting the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) ignores the welfare of Florida farmers, UPI reported on May 12. The accusation comes as the establishment, typified by a recent commentary piece by Henry Kissinger, has stepped up efforts to force through NAFTA this year.

Crawford wrote in a letter to Madigan that Florida stands to lose up to one-third of its \$6 billion agriculture industry if this agreement is adopted without an exclusion for winter-produced fresh fruits and vegetables.

"Mexican growers have free or subsidized land, cheap adult and child labor, the ability to use pesticides that are banned in the United States, and freedom from a host of environmental, food safety, and labor regulations," Crawford said. He pointed out in the letter that Florida produces half the nation's supply of fresh fruits and vegetables. Crawford told Madigan that it is risky to trade control of American's food supply to another nation, and he warned that the quality and quantity of the nation's food supply could suffer as a result.

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** will attend the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June, Bush announced May 12.

● **WILLIAM WEBSTER**, the former head of the FBI and the CIA, will chair the commission which has been formed to investigate the response of the Los Angeles Police Department to the riots. Webster has appointed Richard J. Stone, an aide from his law firm, Millbank Tweed, to the commission. Another member is former Newark Police Chief Hubert H. Williams, an official of the Ford Foundation-funded Police Foundation.

● **RICHARD DENNIS**, editor of *New Perspectives Quarterly* and a funder of the pro-drug Drug Policy Foundation, told a journalist on May 16 that "it would be the rational thing" if the Los Angeles riots led to legalization of drugs. "People talk about empowering inner-city residents. But you first have to remove the criminal element, and the way you do that is by removing their financial base, the drug trade, through legalization."

● **DONALD GREGG**, the U.S. ambassador to South Korea and former aide to Vice President Bush, is seeking a court order to prevent disclosure of a 1990 lie detector test in which he failed a question about his role in the October Surprise scandal, the May 16 *Washington Post* reported.

● **FOOD AID** to Lebanon has been cut off by the United States, at a time when Lebanon is suffering from the worst economic situation in 50 years, sources at U.S. Agency for International Development said, the May 13 *International Herald Tribune* reported.

● **THE MARCH** to "Save Our Cities" on May 16 in Washington, D.C. drew 35,000, according to Park Police estimates. Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said it was a "disappointing turnout." The *New York Times* commented that "speakers at the rally were long on rhetoric but short on specific proposals."