

National News

Arkansas uses black inmates as 'houseboys'

Black prisoners in Arkansas are required to serve as domestics and shoeshine boys for prison officials in Arkansas without pay, according to a recent exposé that appeared in *New York Newsday* and the *Roanoke, Va. Times and World News*. Although an internal investigation in 1987 found that black inmates are ten times as likely as whites to draw the "houseboy" assignments, the practice has been continued by the Board of Corrections which was appointed by Gov. Bill Clinton. One board member, Bobby Roberts, said the "image" created by the disparity smacks of "the plantation mentality that has been down here forever."

The only action Governor Clinton has taken to stop the practice by his appointed board was to write a letter two years ago asking the board to do away with the obvious racial disparity. When the board refused to act, he took no further action, according to former Corrections Board Chairman A.L. Lockhart. Only three other states—Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama—require inmates, informally known as "houseboys," to perform unpaid domestic and shoeshine duties for prison officials who live in state-owned homes next to the prisons. In 1987, Arkansas' own investigator found that 85% of "houseboy" positions were filled by blacks, who make up only 57% of the inmate population; 1% of Arkansas' 7,535 inmates are "houseboys."

'Spotlight' recommends LaRouche 'protest vote'

The Sept. 14 issue of the populist weekly newspaper *Spotlight* included a spread on the presidential elections, which recommended Lyndon LaRouche among what it called "protest candidates." After reviewing each candidate, *Spotlight* wrote about independent presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche: "Then there is Lyndon LaRouche whose beliefs are a mixture of

nonsense and good sense and whose followers have managed to place him on 10 state ballots. Campaigning from jail, where he sojourns as a claimed political prisoner, LaRouche's crimes, if any, are almost infinitely fewer and of less magnitude than those of the Republican candidate and may thus be overlooked. Although his economic 'solutions' are far-fetched to say the least, he and his organization are strongly anti-drug and anti-crime; in fact, they do not hesitate to brand the Anti-Defamation League as a criminal organization tied to the drug racket. Thus, LaRouche has the same enemies as this newspaper and its publisher. A protest vote for him would send a healthy signal to the Establishment of non-confidence."

The *Spotlight* feature also recommended, of the three "major candidates," i.e., those on the ballot in most states, they would favor H. Ross Perot because "Perot's election would completely upset the *status quo*. It would be a mortal blow against the present system," despite the fact that the article strongly criticized Perot's "reputed endorsement of the parliamentary system."

More 'October Surprise' tapes surface from FBI

At a hearing in New York on Sept. 8 in a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) action brought by *EIR* researcher Mary Jane Freeman, the government attorney told U.S. Judge Miriam Cedarbaum that the FBI had located 7,000 documents in its New York field office in response to Freeman's FOIA request for records about Iranian banker Cyrus Hashemi, his attorney J. Stanley Pottinger, and other events surrounding the "October Surprise." Before the hearing, the FBI's attorney also told Freeman's attorney, James Lesar, that the "missing tapes" of 1980 conversations between Hashemi and Pottinger have been found, but that they will have to be translated from Farsi and transcribed, before it can be determined if their contents can be released.

The tapes, from government wiretaps of the late Iranian banker Hashemi, would shed light on how the Reagan-Bush campaign in-

tervened to prevent the Iranian government from releasing U.S. hostages until after the November 1980 presidential election. Suspicion in what became known as the "October Surprise," centers around George Bush, Reagan-Bush campaign chief William Casey, and former Nixon Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger, as well as the networks that later became the Iran-Contra connection.

In 1980, *EIR* printed allegations that Hashemi was involved in illegally violating the U.S. arms embargo against Iran. Hashemi sued *EIR*, which subpoenaed government documents that would prove government awareness of Hashemi's illegal operations. The subpoenas to various agencies were quashed on "national security" grounds. In 1983, Hashemi's suit was dismissed. In 1984, it was disclosed that crucial tapes of FBI wiretaps on Hashemi's phone had been lost. FBI documents analyzed by *EIR* indicate that the "missing tapes" consist of eight conversations centering on the period around Dec. 12, 1980. The "disappearance" of these tapes in 1984 prevented the prosecution of Pottinger.

Striking Rhode Island teachers freed from jail

As Teamsters and other supporters paraded outside the courtroom, 18 Warwick, Rhode Island teachers were unmanacled and released from jail on Sept. 14. Superior Court Judge Paul Pederzani, Jr. had ordered union leaders and other striking teachers arrested and jailed on Sept. 11 for defying his order to go back to work.

The latest developments temporarily defused a political-labor crisis, in which collapsing state funding has led to severe attacks on local education budgets. Warwick teachers worked last year without a contract, making concessions to the city on class sizes and layoffs. The teachers voted a strike on Aug. 31, after the city demanded cuts in school services and unlimited authority to increase class sizes and to lay off teachers. Though Judge Pederzani had 18 strikers jailed, and threatened wider arrests, the city's board of education still refused to nego-

tiate, a spokesman for the teachers union told *EIR*. The judge then released the teachers, inserted his own mediator into the negotiations, imposed the 1989-90 contract provisions, and threatened to jail the superintendent and the School Committee. These pronouncements came amidst rumors of imminent strikes by Teamsters and teachers around the state.

University of Wisconsin drops 'speech code'

The University of Wisconsin has decided to abolish its "speech code," in response to the state Supreme Court's recent ruling overturning the state's "hate crimes" legislation. The model hate crimes legislation, which had been drawn up by the Anti-Defamation League, was one of the most advanced "sentencing enhancement" provisions, which increased sentences for criminal acts, if a thought crime of bias could be discerned, in some cases turning misdemeanors into felonies.

In 1989, the school became one of the first colleges to prohibit students and faculty from using politically incorrect language, such as "fag." However, after recent federal and state rulings against "hate crimes" laws, the university's board of regents voted 10-6 on Sept. 11 to abolish the speech code. "There was concern that it violated the First Amendment," said Patricia Hodulik, the university's senior counsel, who added that she believes other schools will follow Wisconsin.

Court allows parents to terminate their children

The Michigan Court of Appeals issued the barbaric ruling Sept. 9 that parents are "empowered" to order that life-sustaining measures for their minor children be terminated. The decision upheld a lower court ruling from 1988 which permitted the parents of 12-year-old Jacqueline Rosebush to turn off her respirator, after she suffered brain damage in a 1987 auto accident.

The original court ruling was made after a county prosecutor obtained an order

blocking the parents' decision, when staffers at the child's nursing home reported signs of apparent recovery to authorities. A circuit court judge's ruling in favor of the parents enabled them to end her life on Aug. 13, 1988.

The Court of Appeals argued that, since parents may decide their children's medical treatment, and since "medical treatment includes the decision to decline life-saving intervention, it follows that parents are empowered to make decisions regarding withdrawal or withholding of life-saving or life-prolonging measures on behalf of their children." The prosecutor's decision not to appeal the ruling makes it law in Michigan.

'Small' nukes to be used against Third World?

According to internal briefings and memos of Los Alamos National Laboratory, in New Mexico, scientists and strategists are at work on a new generation of very small nuclear weapons for use against Third World nations, wrote William Arkin, military research director for Greenpeace in a *New York Times* editorial section column on Sept. 9. The new weapons being promoted, according to Arkin, include: 1) a 10-ton warhead ("micronuke") to destroy underground bunkers (explosive yield 10 times larger than the 2,000-pound conventional bombs used in the Gulf war); 2) a 100-ton antimissile warhead ("mininuke") to counter nuclear, biological, or chemical missiles; 3) a 1,000-ton "counter-projection force" warhead ("tinynuke") for attacks against ground troops.

Arkin concluded that the U.S., by contemplating the possible use of nuclear weapons in the Third World, is giving those nations a compelling reason to develop their own arsenals. Whether his report is accurate or not, considering the reliability and vested interest of the malthusian devotees at Greenpeace, his argument is coherent with the Anglo-American policy known as "technological apartheid," of denying all advanced scientific and technological know-how to the Third World, on the grounds that it might have "dual use" as weapons.

Briefly

● **BILL CLINTON** addressed the national convention of the B'nai B'rith via satellite on Sept. 10, introduced by Anti-Defamation League Executive Director Abe Foxman. It is rumored that, while Clinton admits he spoke, he did not inhale.

● **H. ROSS PEROT** told Cable News Network on Sept. 11 that he may get back into the presidential race if Bush and Clinton "don't measure up," according to the *Chicago Tribune*. Perot is on the ballot in 45 states and may hit 50 states soon.

● **VIRGINIA'S** Supreme Court ruled on Sept. 8 against a motion brought by LaRouche associate Michael Billington to continue his state bond while he appeals his 77-year sentence to the U.S. Supreme Court. Billington was convicted of "securities fraud" in a blatantly political frameup.

● **FAT HENRY** Kissinger was reported in recent U.S. gossip columns to be boycotting a gala dinner celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Council on Foreign Affairs quarterly *Foreign Affairs*. Kissinger was said to be furious about a favorable one-paragraph review of a new biography of Kissinger which Kissinger regards as unflattering.

● **WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY** called for "American conservatives" to make "elementary concessions" to so-called "gay rights," in an editorial section commentary in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* recently. The member of Yale's Skull and Bones Society called for fellow conservatives to extend "professional security for gays in all public employment," and in private employment except children's schools.

● **THE USIA** has been funding overseas junkets on the "qt" by Supreme Court justices, according to the *Washington Post*. Both Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justice Scalia went separately to Ireland. Justice O'Connor traveled to Rwanda in July to see the famous mountain apes.