

# National News

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## Washington Post: vote 'no' on death penalty

The Oct. 9 *Washington Post* editorially urged Washingtonians to defeat the death penalty initiative forced by Congress onto the District of Columbia's Nov. 3 ballot. "The real impetus behind any such new law is retribution, which is a powerful motive, but an unworthy one," the Post declared. "It puts the state in the position of sanctioning a killing as a penalty for a killing and authorizing the very conduct on the part of society that is judged reprehensible on the part of an individual.

"There are penalties short of execution for dealing with murderers, and a civilized community can protect itself and reinforce the rule of law without resort to killing offenders. The initiative should be defeated not only because of the process by which it was placed on the ballot, but because the penalty it authorizes is wrong."

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## Real democrats endorse LaRouche

While Bush, Clinton, and Perot roll in lukewarm endorsements in the U.S., leading members of democracy movements in former communist countries are calling for Americans to take a good, long look at Lyndon LaRouche.

On Oct. 7, the Polish rural trade union Samoobrona's president, Andrzej Lepper, issued a statement describing the crisis that Poland faces this winter as the worst in its history. The International Monetary Fund "is as bad as Russian Army tanks," he wrote, and the U.S. "is promoting exactly the IMF strategy of looting our economy in the same way it happened with Africa or Latin America. . . . I cannot speak for the American nation, but I also think that Mr. LaRouche is the right President for this great nation."

The Media Service Center of the Armenian Constitutional Party released a statement on Oct. 7, on the return of the party's vice president Hike Baboookhanian from an official visit to the U.S. "During his visit,

Mr. Baboookhanian had numerous meetings with organizations, newspapers, and communities of the diaspora.

"Mr. Baboookhanian had a meeting with U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. After discussing numerous questions with Mr. LaRouche, Mr. Baboookhanian concluded that among all the candidates's programs, Mr. LaRouche's program is the most favorable for the solution of problems of the Armenian people and Armenia."

A message from the Schiller Institute in Moscow urged American voters: "At a moment when we are painfully deciding questions of our own life . . . it seems to us that Mr. LaRouche, as a man who understands the problems of Russia and eastern Europe, and knows current world problems, would be able to enunciate new approaches and solve the most pressing problems if he were President."

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## Reverend Boone garners support in Alabama

Lyndon LaRouche associate the Rev. Richard C. Boone, who is running for Congress in Alabama's 2nd C.D., was officially endorsed by the Alabama New South Coalition at its Oct. 3 endorsement convention in Mobile. The ANSC is one of two black Democratic organizations in the state, with over 2,000 members. The endorsement came as a surprise to many, who expected George Wallace, Jr. to win the vote easily. The younger Wallace, like his father, has become a close collaborator of various black political machines, in a reversal of his previous flamboyant segregationism.

The other major upset was the endorsement of Gwen Patton for U.S. Senate, even though she was not on the ballot, over incumbent Richard Shelby, the senator who forced a death penalty referendum onto the Nov. 3 ballot in Washington, D.C. and who had attempted to buy ANSC's endorsement with a \$50,000 contribution. The issue of capital punishment played a decisive role at the convention. During the senatorial screening committee meeting, Boone told the Shelby representative, "If you're going to support the death penalty, you have to put on the uniform," at which point Boone demonstrated by putting on a makeshift Ku

Klux Klan hood. The group gasped, and then burst into laughter.

Independent presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche came in second behind Bill Clinton during the presidential endorsement screening. The presidential candidates were scored on a point system that included electability, record, position on the issues, candor, honesty, and willingness to work with the ANSC. LaRouche, a political prisoner, won in all categories except "electability."

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## Pottinger used 'graymail' CIA documents show

Newly released CIA documents show that George Bush's friend J. Stanley Pottinger successfully "graymailed" the CIA and State Department in 1982 to block his own appearance before a federal grand jury investigating New York-based Iranian banker Cyrus Hashemi. As *EIR*'s Special Report on the "October Surprise" detailed, Pottinger was both Hashemi's lawyer, and his partner and co-conspirator in illegal arms shipments to Iran, and in efforts to delay the release of the American hostages there.

*EIR*'s Special Report cites Department of Justice documents showing that a high DOJ official ordered a grand jury to be postponed "because of national security considerations" on Jan. 26, 1982. The newly released CIA documents now provide the background.

A CIA memorandum dated Feb. 3, 1982, says that on Jan. 26 the CIA Near East Division was told by the State Department that Hashemi was about to be indicted; a Near East Division official immediately briefed the CIA's Office of General Counsel on the "[deleted] sensitivities that surround this case." The CIA deputy General Counsel quickly called the State Department, who told him that Pottinger, a former assistant attorney general, had called State to inform them that he would be appearing before a federal grand jury the next day. The CIA memo continued: "The Department of State and, of course, NE Division immediately drew the correct inference that the purpose of Pottinger's call was to let the government know that he, Pottinger, had some useful gray mail material."

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## 'Suicides' stalk black Miss. inmates

Civil rights activists in Mississippi are charging that young black men are being systematically slaughtered in the state. The charges were made most recently in the case of Andre Lamond Jones who allegedly committed suicide in the Simpson County Jail on Aug 22. Jones, 18, the stepson of local Nation of Islam Minister Charles X Quinn and son of Jackson NAACP President Esther Jones-Quinn, was found hanging by frayed shoe laces in the bathroom of the jail. At a press conference announcing that an independent autopsy had indicated that Jones was murdered, the family's attorney also charged that investigators have uncovered some 20 mysterious deaths of young black men in the state since 1990. "The same people, the same pathologists, the same system has ruled it suicide every time. Obviously something is very wrong here," said attorney Chokwe Lumumba.

Family and supporters of Andre Jones have formed the Mississippi Coalition for Justice, which is planning a rally and march on Oct. 29 to demand that a special prosecutor be appointed to conduct an independent investigation.

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## U.S. cure rates for TB below Third World

The Oct. 11 *New York Times* carried the first in a series of five articles on its front page on the epidemic of drug-resistant tuberculosis: "The United States has stumbled into its first preventable epidemic, a wave of tuberculosis with strains so virulent they threaten to return pockets of American society to a time when antibiotics were unknown. The resurgence has been swift, forceful and for many of America's largest cities, it has come after two decades of searing budget cuts in public-health programs. Without those cuts, experts say, the disease could have been all but eradicated and new, deadly strains would never have been able to flourish."

The *Times* quoted the president of the American Lung Association, Dr. Lee B.

Reichman: "I'm scared. Here we are in 1992 with cure rates lower than countries like Malawi and Nicaragua. We can't keep track of our patients, and all evidence suggests more and more of them have TB that is resistant to our best drugs. We have turned a disease that was completely preventable and curable into one that is neither. We should be ashamed."

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## Hentoff blasts Calif. euthanasia referendum

Writing in the Oct. 3 *Washington Post*, syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff revealed that the official wording of California's "death with dignity" initiative, as written by the state's attorney general, flatly declares: "This measure would result in some unknown savings due to decreased utilization of the state Medi-Cal program and other programs, including country programs." This amounts to an "invitation" by the state to kill off the terminally ill, Hentoff charged. "Savings will also result, of course, for overburdened families of the chronically ill," since so many feel they are an overwhelming financial burden. "If California becomes the first place in the world to license its physicians to provide aid in dying and thereby relieve this guilt, the state will indeed have created a stunningly steep slope."

Hentoff pointed out that under Holland's legalized system of euthanasia, which is frequently cited by ethicists as a model for "voluntary euthanasia," over 1,000 victims have been involuntarily killed. "Their physicians were so consumed with compassion that they decided not to disturb the patients by asking their opinion on the matter," despite the law. "The slope has become more slippery in the Netherlands," he added, now that the Dutch Pediatric Association's panel on neonatal ethics has asked the government to permit euthanasia for infants whose "quality of life" is low."

"The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern and Northern California is supporting the euthanasia initiative," Hentoff wrote. "I wonder how members of that ACLU feel about also legalizing the dispatching of handicapped infants."

## Briefly

● **MIKE BILLINGTON'S** 77-year sentence for political organizing with Lyndon LaRouche was featured during rush hour on Sept. 25 on Venezuela's Radio Rumbos which reaches the entire nation. One Caracas parish dedicated the Oct. 3 mass to Billington and the U.S. fight against the death penalty.

● **THE STATE DEPT.** announced on Oct. 9 that Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney had held a previously unannounced meeting with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Kam. They discussed normalizing relations and the POW-MIA issue.

● **JONATHAN POLLARD** was denied an appeal to withdraw his guilty plea by the Supreme Court on Oct. 13. Pollard, a Navy intelligence analyst, had pleaded guilty to stealing secrets for Israel, and is serving a life sentence for espionage.

● **ALBERT PIKE'S** statue should not be maintained by taxpayer funds, a spokesman for Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton said in response to a question from the LaRouche-Bevel campaign, which is fighting to have the statue of the Ku Klux Klan founder removed in Washington. The spokesman at Clinton's Little Rock, Arkansas headquarters did not support removing the offensive memorial, however.

● **SINEAD O'CONNOR** the bald Irish rock singer who labeled Pope John Paul II "the enemy" and tore up his picture on NBC comedy program "Saturday Night Live," was characterized as "clearly a very troubled young woman," by a representative of the New York Archdiocese in comments to *EIR*.

● **ARKANSAS'** educational system was recently rated in its national standing by the University of Arkansas: 47th in per capita state and local spending; 49th in teacher pay; 43rd in spending for higher education; 5th in adult illiteracy.