

National News

East coast dailies boost sagging Masons

The *New York Times* of June 6 and the *Washington Post* of June 7 each ran articles promoting Freemasonry, while noting the decline of the masonic order. The *Sunday Times* article, "Freemasons Begin to Lift the Veil of Arcana," explains why the Masons are in a rather frantic publicity drive (with friendly press appearing through masonic media outlets): "They have developed some important enemies and they are running out of members." The *Times* neglects to mention the most damaging exposés of the Masons led by the campaign of Lyndon LaRouche and Rev. James Bevel in Washington to have the statue of Mason and Ku Klux Klan founder Gen. Albert Pike removed from Judiciary Square. It does chronicle attacks on the Masons from the Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist Convention. Masonic membership is reported to have plummeted from 4.1 million in 1959, to the current 2.4 million men averaging over 60 years old.

The *Washington Post* article, with an illustration of George Washington in masonic garb, takes off from the fact that researchers are having difficulty in finding the cornerstone to the Capitol that Washington laid. It appears that the White House cornerstone is also missing. Were the cornerstones stolen? "So far, only one evil-minded person," says the *Post*, "has suggested someone may have stolen the stones. It is true, however, that during the remodeling of the White House, Harry Truman shipped out to masonic lodges across the country a number of White House foundation stones, with masonic symbols carved on them."

ADL opposed Guinier to head Justice post

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and related groups played a critical role in sabotaging the nomination of Lani Guinier to head the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. The ADL has traditionally regarded the Civil Rights Division as their branch

office at DOJ headquarters. The campaign against Guinier was launched in late March by former officials from the Reagan-Bush Justice Department. Clint Bolick of the Cato Institute opened the propaganda campaign with an April 30 *Wall Street Journal* commentary labeling Guinier as the "Quota Queen," which was quickly picked up by right-wing circles. (Bolick had been in the Civil Rights Division in the mid-1980s under Bradford Reynolds, during which time Guinier was the top litigator for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.) Another former DOJ official, Bruce Fein of the Heritage Foundation, also penned numerous attacks on Guinier.

Then during the last week of May, four groups which are Jewish representatives to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights refused to endorse Guinier. The masonic ADL's national chairman Melvin Salberg issued a statement opposing the nominee, as did the American Jewish Congress and Cheryl Halpern of the National Jewish Coalition. On May 28, the *Washington Times* reported that their opposition sparked the White House to begin lobbying for Guinier in the Senate.

Into this environment, the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) and its Progressive Policy Institute think-tank then moved aggressively. According to various accounts, it was the "moderate" DLC which finally succeeded in quashing the Guinier nomination.

New NAACP head Chavis maps out activist policy

Rev. Ben Chavis, newly elected chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told a National Press Club audience on June 3 that his organization will begin an aggressive campaign on behalf of economic justice, not only domestically, but throughout the world.

Among his strongest statements was his attack on the death penalty. The crime bill being debated on Capitol Hill, Chavis said, has "57 new ways to put somebody to death. . . . We are going to oppose it and we are going to try to get the senators to not support expanding the way people can be put to death in our society, but find ways to totally abolish

ultimately the capital punishment. . . .

"We're one of the few western nations that still puts people to death. It is wrong. It is morally wrong. It does not serve as a deterrent to crime. And, in fact, based on our review, in those states that have capital punishment laws in force and putting people to death, the crime has gone up. When you lower the value of life by judicial and legislative and court action, you lower the value of life in the community. And so it has had just the opposite effect from our perspective. Rather than serving as a deterrent of crime, it has helped, in our judgment, increase capital offenses."

LaRouche supporters to sue Maryland

Supporters of jailed statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche filed suit against the state of Maryland in federal court on June 4, charging that the state acted with gross disregard of their constitutional rights when it enacted a law whose sole purpose was to put a stop to the LaRouche movement's ability to organize and raise financial support in Maryland. The law, which originated as HB 838, was introduced by Delegate Marsha Perry at the urging of the Cult Awareness Network (CAN). When Perry introduced the bill, she stated that her purpose was to "curtail 'questionable' fundraising activities of LaRouche and his followers, who have obtained many thousands of dollars from Maryland residents. . . ."

"The fact that the state legislature, the governor, and the attorney general were so willing to throw the Constitution out the window, and enact a police-state measure to shut down a legitimate political movement, based solely on the credibility of CAN, was nothing less than scandalous. The criminal nature of this group was obvious then," a spokesman for the plaintiffs said. Maryland's collusion with CAN and the Anti-Defamation League exploded when Galen Kelly, CAN's leading deprogrammer who served as the principal expert witness for HB 838's sponsors at hearings in Annapolis in February, was convicted in May on federal kidnapping charges in Alexandria, Virginia. Kelly is being held in jail pending sentencing.

Kelly only narrowly avoided conviction in the Lewis du Pont Smith "Kidnappers, Inc." case late last year in the same federal court.

"Although we fully expect the court to overturn this dangerous law and protect our citizens' fundamental constitutional rights," the spokesman concluded, "that will do little to restore the credibility and integrity of the state officials who allowed themselves to be so cheaply used by the CAN/ADL criminal apparatus."

N.Y. teachers oppose Staten Island secession

Officials of the United Federation of Teachers in New York City are urging the union to oppose moves to have the Borough of Staten Island secede from the city. The union's officials said on June 3 that they would urge its policymaking body, which meets June 8, to fight the proposed secession. The reasons given were that the number of Staten Island schoolchildren is increasing and the tax base of the borough is not large enough to pay for new schools and other educational needs.

According to UPI, Carol Keefe, the UFT's borough representative, stated: "Education here would be put in jeopardy if Staten Island became a separate city. Thirty-six percent of public school students on the island are poor—they qualify for federally subsidized school lunches—and impoverished students often are more likely to need extra services, which cost money." Last February, a New York State Commission issued a report which stated that Staten Island could function on its own as a city, and issued a proposed charter, which must be approved in a November public referendum and then by the state legislature and governor.

High court to hear UMW appeal of exorbitant fine

The United Mine Workers, 6,000 of whose members are on strike for a new contract, won a reprieve from paying \$52 million in

finances when the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear its appeal of the fines upheld by the Virginia Supreme Court. The fines were imposed by a state judge during the bitter 1989-90 UMW strike against Pittston Coal in Virginia. Pittston agreed the fines would be dismissed as part of the strike settlement with the UMW in 1990, but the judge refused to remove them. When then-Attorney General Mary Sue Terry bowed out of the collection effort to make up for her support of Pittston throughout the strike, the judge appointed a receiver to collect them. On appeal, the Virginia Court of Appeals threw out the fines, but the Virginia Supreme Court reimposed them as proper to maintain "the dignity of the law."

The UMW has argued that the fines were grossly excessive, and that it was denied its constitutional protections because the fines, which were imposed during civil proceedings, were actually criminal in nature.

Did Babbitt protect the mob's Emprise Corp.?

The June 8 *Washington Times* carries allegations that Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, who is being eyed as a Supreme Court nominee, protected the organized crime-linked Emprise Corp., while he was attorney general and governor of Arizona. Republican lawmakers are already assembling the dossier of court records, grand jury transcripts, police and FBI reports in preparation for Babbitt's nomination hearings to the Supreme Court.

Emprise Corp. of Buffalo, New York, was exposed by the *EIR*'s book *Dope, Inc.* to have been behind the murder of reporter Don Bolles, who was investigating the firm's ties to organized crime through dog racing tracks it operated in Arizona. Emprise was found guilty in 1972 in Detroit of a felony for conspiring to hide mob interests in a Las Vegas casino in which it held a part interest. As a result, Arizona legislators pressured then-Attorney General Babbitt to force Emprise to divest itself of the tracks. But, when Babbitt became governor in 1978, he worked with the state Racing Commission to rule that a corporate reorganization of Emprise made divestiture unnecessary.

Briefly

● **LOS ANGELES** elected its first new mayor in 20 years, and the first Republican to be mayor in 30 years on June 8. Richard Riordan, who sunk \$8 million of his own into his campaign, won heavily over ultra-liberal City Councilman Michael Woo.

● **BUZZWORM**, a leading environmental magazine, dedicates its May-June cover story to the rising opposition to environmentalism, but hysterically claims that Rush Limbaugh and columnist George Will are its intellectual leaders, and that the grass roots is dominated by racist groups, such as the Aryan Nation and Posse Comitatus.

● **MISSOURI** Gov. Mel Carnahan, declaring that there was "little doubt that Mr. Shaw is mentally retarded and suffers from varying degrees of mental illness," commuted the death sentence of Bobby Lewis Shaw to life imprisonment without parole on June 2. Shaw had been sentenced to die June 9.

● **'ROLL CALL,'** a Capitol Hill weekly, may be in the process of being wholly taken over by the London *Economist*, according to the *Washington Post*. Arthur Levitt, the publisher and 60% owner, has been nominated to head the Securities and Exchange Commission, and would have to sell his share if confirmed, to avoid a conflict of interest. The *Economist* already owns 40%.

● **VIRGINIA** Republicans chose former Rep. George Allen to run against Democrat "Bloody Mary" Sue Terry and independent Nancy Spannaus in Virginia's gubernatorial race this year.

● **OLIVER NORTH** made his appearance at the Virginia Republican Convention on June 5 to test the waters for a run for Democrat Chuck Robb's Senate seat next year. While Robb has recently been tainted with scandal over alleged attendance at cocaine parties, Ollie hopes the GOP finds his escapades with the drug-running Contras unobjectionable.