

# National News

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## Welfare 'reform' will bring back slavery

A special task force assigned by President Clinton to examine methods of implementing his campaign pledge to "end welfare as we know it," has produced a draft discussion document which puts heavy emphasis on shunting welfare recipients into low-wage "workfare" programs, and also makes it a priority to reduce the number of children born to people on welfare.

According to published reports, the administration's reform proposal calls for limiting to two years the length of time an individual can receive welfare benefits; after two years, he or she would be forced to take a minimum-wage "community service" job, if one were unable to find employment in the private sector.

The plan contains an explicit anti-family bias in its emphasis on reducing the pregnancy rate among welfare recipients. Administration spokesmen are stressing the problem of teen pregnancy, in an obvious attempt to build public support for the proposal. However, reportedly, the draft proposal suggests that individual states be allowed to limit payments for any additional children born to women on welfare, a vicious policy already adopted by several states, led by New Jersey—despite criticism that it will lead to more abortions and even greater impoverishment for children whose mothers receive welfare.

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## LaRouche comments on George Bush knighthood

Former President George Bush was received into the Order of the Bath by Queen Elizabeth II on Nov. 30, finally joining Ronald Reagan, Caspar Weinberger, and Norman Schwarzkopf in the league of knighted Americans.

Lyndon LaRouche, who ran for President against Bush in 1988 and 1992, remarked in his weekly radio interview "EIR Talks" the next day that he "thought that was

rather funny: While Margaret Thatcher is traveling around the world as a baroness, Lady Thatcher, presumably reaping in great amounts for autographing broomsticks, George Bush, whose presidency was the most benighted perhaps in the 20th century in its own way, has been viewed by the British monarchy, perhaps as barren as Margaret Thatcher's policy. *This is a very bad joke.*

"In a sense," he concluded, "it reveals the fact that the crowd in Britain around the monarchy, including the people who owned Margaret Thatcher, are still running U.S. policy; and that people go to London to be knighted as a part of the British Empire for the greatest blunders in U.S. history. It's really quite an ugly, disgusting spectacle."

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## Minnesota to have outcome-based diplomas

Minnesota expects to be the first state to completely change its graduation requirements to reflect "outcome-based education" including with state-approved testing leading to an "outcome-based" diploma, by the year 2000. OBE stresses "affective learning" and narrow job-related skills, rather than traditional academic excellence. It has been widely denounced as New Age brainwashing.

The legislature approved \$4.4 million last spring for 13 school districts to develop outcome-based tests and to train teachers. The state has identified 25 "content" or "academic" outcomes, which have been divided up among the 13 pilot site districts. They must also, according to the Nov. 29 *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, work on assessments for six "comprehensive" outcomes, which include "broader goals," such as "makes life-work decisions." Teams including teachers, parents, and community and business representatives are developing the testing models. The Rosemont district team will work on three content outcomes, such as: "understands relationships among living things and their environments; understands the physical world, earth, and space; and understands the interaction of people and economic, political and governmental systems."

Additionally, team members "will listen to people in business and higher education to see what kinds of skills and knowledge graduates will need to be successful in life. Then, working backward from what students should know, they'll develop ways to test whether they've mastered those skills and knowledge."

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## Students rally to back fired algebra teacher

Georgetown, Virginia high school students rallied to support their algebra teacher who had been fired last spring for giving out too many failing grades. In a recent interview that appeared in the Dec. 2 *Daily Press*, Adele Jones, a 10-year tenured teacher, defended her teaching practices against officials who demanded that she "ease up on her grading and change her teaching style." Jones's efforts on behalf of her students included arriving early to help them, offering tutoring until 5, 6, or 7 at night, making herself available to students at home, and devoting her free planning period to help them. "I tell the students: 'You're going to have to work hard. I don't believe in excuses. Math is math. Either you know a mathematical concept or you don't,'" she said.

Three hundred students at Sussex Central, where Jones taught, staged a walkout after her firing. Her defenders included both those who passed her classes and those who had been flunked. Some wore signs reading, "I failed Ms. Jones' class and it was my fault."

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## Buffalo proclaims 'Marian Anderson Day'

The Common Council of Buffalo, New York passed a resolution on Nov. 30 declaring Dec. 4, 1994 "Marian Anderson Day" in honor of the great singer Marian Anderson, who died at the age of 96 on April 8. The resolution acknowledged a concert in Buffalo on Dec. 4, the Schiller Institute's "A Trib-

ute to the Voice of the Century," as part of a series of concerts featuring "artists performing Ms. Anderson's traditional repertoire of lieder, opera arias, spirituals, and choral works."

In motivating the resolution, which was sponsored by Councilman David A. Collins and unanimously passed, the Common Council noted:

"Whereas: Marian Anderson, one of the greatest artists of classical music performance in the past 200 years, passed away in April 1993; and

"Whereas: As one of the first African American artists to break the color barrier in the performance of the classics, she was a true pioneer in her chosen field and an inspiration, both as a performer and a standard bearer, to countless people; and

"Whereas: Described as the embodiment of integrity and of the beautiful soul of classical culture, Marian Anderson could have made a career in Europe, where she was appreciated as an artist, but instead chose to display her talent in the United States, where her perseverance and dignity served as an example and inspiration to people of all races and backgrounds; . . .

"Now, therefore be it resolved: That the Common Council of the City of Buffalo join with the sponsors of 'A Tribute to the Voice of the Century' in honoring both the memory and living spirit of Marian Anderson; and . . . that this honorable body proclaim Saturday, December 4, 1993 'Marian Anderson Day' in the City of Buffalo."

## Iran-Contra report blasts Reagan and Bush

Iran-Contra special prosecutor Judge Lawrence Walsh released the final conclusions of his investigation early this month, which holds President Ronald Reagan responsible for "setting the stage" for the illegal activities that were conducted on his watch, and which accuses his vice president, George Bush, of lying outright about his familiarity with the guns-for-hostages swap.

The full report, which is soon to be released, has already been read and denounced by Reagan and Bush's lawyers.

According to the report, while there is "no credible evidence that President Reagan violated any criminal statute, he nevertheless set the stage for the illegal activities which ensued." The report notes that Reagan made comments which left National Security Council staffer Lt. Col. Oliver North feeling as though he had "an invitation to break the law."

The report also said that Bush's claims that he was "out of the loop" were a lie, and that "contrary to public pronouncements, Bush was fully aware of the Iran initiative." Sources say that there remain seven unanswered questions about Bush's knowledge, which Walsh intended to raise at the trial of Reagan Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The trial was scuttled when Bush, as President, pardoned Weinberger.

## Schlesinger denounces flawed foreign policy

Former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger charged the Clinton administration with falling prey to that American ideological flaw known as "exceptionalism," while "turning a blind eye to the incongruity of our own actions," in an opinion column in the Dec. 5 *Washington Post*.

He cited several examples:

In Haiti, the United States has not hesitated to use the food weapon for political ends, even while denouncing the Serbians and Saddam Hussein for doing the same to achieve their political ends. Schlesinger cited the Harvard study on starvation in Haiti, and described Haiti's ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide as "badly flawed."

In former Yugoslavia, the Clinton administration blamed Germany, France, and Britain for its own policy failures, and then compounded the problem by announcing plans to abandon a "Euro-centric" policy for an Asia-oriented one.

In Asia, the United States continues to bash Japan, and then expects the Asians to greet its claims of a new priority toward their part of the world without skepticism, and otherwise "presumes to instruct them on how they should conduct themselves," he wrote.

● **CLARK CLIFFORD** was excused from trial by the New York State Supreme Court in the case involving the Bank of Commerce and Credit International's secret ownership of Clifford's First American Bankshares. Clifford, 75, was excused because of his age. His associate, Robert Altman, was acquitted earlier this year.

● **MINNESOTA** grain farmer Andy Olson addressed 15 members of Poland's new Parliament on Nov. 24, and called for an international farmers' movement against free trade policies, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Olson was in Europe on behalf of the Schiller Institute, founded by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche.

● **PRESIDENT CLINTON** has appointed former Iowa legislator Paul Johnson to head the Soil Conservation Service. While in the legislature, Johnson sponsored laws taxing fertilizers at the rate of a nickel an acre, and raised registration fees on pesticides. The revenue went to found the anti-farmer Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University.

● **STUDENTS** at the University of Pennsylvania have founded a "First Amendment Coalition" at the university to challenge political correctness. Founder Dave Gentry told the Dec. 3 *Washington Times*, "The Ivy League schools are the trendsetters for the rest of the nation. . . . If we can put a stay on PC at the Ivy League schools, that will speak to the nation."

● **HARVARD BOY**, Vice President Al Gore told an audience of business leaders in Mexico on Dec. 1 that he never had a doubt that Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari could do a good job. "I always knew that a 40-year-old Harvard graduate could be a good President here," said Gore.