

National News

Florida hospitals serving irradiated poultry

Several Florida hospitals have started to serve irradiated poultry to patients because, as one hospital dietician told the *Food Service Director* newspaper on Feb. 15, "We must take every safety step available to us to avoid foodborne illnesses." Low-level irradiation at standards set by the USDA and the Food and Drug Administration kills 99.5% or more of harmful bacteria, and does not affect the taste or texture of the poultry. For the seriously ill, such as cancer patients, the guarantee of bacteria-free food is a life-or-death issue.

Food poisoning now kills about 10,000 Americans each year, and an estimated 20 million persons suffer from foodborne illnesses yearly. In terms of the economy, the United States now loses \$13 billion a year because of foodborne illness, as measured in health care costs and lost productivity. Much of this illness would be eliminated if irradiated poultry, meats, and seafood were widely available. One estimate is that if only 10% of U.S. poultry were irradiated, that would save \$50 million a year in illness-related costs.

In the United States, irradiation is now approved for pork, poultry, fruits, vegetables, spices, and grains, and approvals are being considered for meat, seafood, and eggs.

Population Institute: Use Army to stop immigrants

The Population Institute held a news conference on March 3 to warn about the imminent dangers of migration, terming it one of the "powderkeg issues" of the industrialized world. The news conference was given by institute President Werner Fornos, who introduced a report, "Moving On: The Global Migration Phenomenon," which warned that one in five people in the world are migrants.

President Clinton, he continued, has ordered 62 border patrol agents to Arizona to

prevent illegal border crossings and 100 new patrol agents are being trained for that state. But, Fornos said, "assigning 162 new agents is tantamount to treating cancer with band-aids. Maybe we'd do better to recall a U.S. Army division from overseas for border patrol duty." Naturally one would expect a malthusian group such as the Population Institute to promote the line that "the most effective contribution toward reducing immigration in the long term would be a meaningful reduction of population growth."

While giving lip service to development, saying it can be "marginally helpful in reducing migration pressures," and "only if it can be adapted to various settings," the Population Institute promotes insane ideas such as "eco-tourism" for creating jobs and conserving the environment in the Caribbean and promoting argicultural projects aimed at reducing emigration from southern Asia.

'Citizen Newt' compared to French Jacobins

"Newt Gingrich was absolutely right in comparing what he's doing to what happened in the French Revolution," a top ideologue at the Adam Smith Institute in London told *EIR* on March 6. "Gingrich, like the Jacobins, is going through everything. Remember what they did then: They changed the calendar, they changed the metric—they changed everything!" When he was reminded that they also changed a lot of peoples' anatomy, by cutting off their heads, he shot back, "Oh, but that came later."

He also put a positive "spin" on the ideas of Alvin Toffler: "It's understandable that Gingrich would like him. Toffler stresses the need to be flexible, for there to be free markets and adaptability. Nothing is fixed. It's an understandable way of thinking for a time like this."

Americans will respond to the economic crisis in one of two ways, he said: "The first is that in times of instability, people turn to a safer pair of hands, more or less the paradigm of Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal. But there is a second school, that people turn to a radical solution. That depends on the national psychology. In this

second option, Phil Gramm would be the *revolutionary*." Gramm's chances for the presidency as "good, better than those of Dole. Gramm will be strange for Europeans to understand, but in an American context, he's plausible." He said the Adam Smith Institute maintained regular contact with Gramm's circle of advisers.

N.Y. cardinal: Contract with America is immoral

In his weekly column in *Catholic New York*, New York's Cardinal John O'Connor condemned the Contract with America as "immoral in its virtually inevitable consequences," according to a front-page article in the *New York Times* on March 5. O'Connor singled out the targeting of teenage welfare mothers, saying that the terms of the Contract would lead to a major increase in abortions.

The blast made neo-conservative educator and former Bush education secretary William Bennett uneasy when asked about it by NBC "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert on March 5. Bennett, who appeared opposite former governor and fellow Catholic Mario Cuomo (D), responded: "I disagree with the cardinal. . . . I don't argue that if we took this policy approaching welfare that we might not see some more abortions in the short run. I think in the long run, we would see fewer abortions."

On Feb. 28, New York's bishops had met with Gov. George Pataki (R) for three hours to tell him that his proposed deep budget cuts would be devastating to the state's poor. Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany told the press before the meeting that Pataki's is "a much meaner budget than we've seen probably ever in the history of the state."

Supreme Court stay of execution cuts two ways

The U.S. Supreme Court on March 3 stayed the execution of a Texas man, whose motion was supported in a brief filed by two British

lawyers on behalf of the Bar of England and the Wales Human Rights Committee. Clarence Lackey claimed that his 18-year stay on death row constitutes cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment.

In his motion, Lackey's attorney Brent Newton, cited a ruling in a Jamaican case by the Privy Council, Britain's highest court, that keeping someone on death row for an inordinate amount of time was cruel and unusual punishment. "We are not taking the position that just because you've been on death row a long time that it's cruel and unusual punishment to execute you," Newton said. "We are arguing that when a guy is on death row for a long time as a result of delays solely attributable to the state, that is when the Eighth Amendment kicks in and it becomes cruel."

The irony of the case is that it will undoubtedly be used as an argument for limiting appeals and for swift executions.

Cisneros defends HUD contracts with Muslims

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Henry Cisneros told a congressional hearing on March 2 that he found no evidence that Nation of Islam security guards recruit for their faith while patrolling housing projects. With one exception, he said, the firms with federally funded security contracts were entirely separate entities from the Nation of Islam. He acknowledged that HUD's six-week review of the contracts was somewhat limited, but said, "Going any further than this" would "persecute an organization" that has been effective in stamping out crime in low-income housing.

The demand for congressional investigation of the contracts was organized as part of a hate campaign by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith directed at Louis Farrakhan. Cisneros rejected the ADL's tactics, saying, "I abhor the tendency toward division in our society. When I hear some of the expressions by Minister Farrakhan, they obviously grate. But we've followed the law."

Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.), who has introduced legislation prohibiting federal contracts with "extremist groups," had complained that the HUD review skirted the employment discrimination issue. "These reports seem to be going into the quality of the work. They never looked into the employment discrimination." But Cisneros responded that HUD had not received any discrimination complaints from tenants against the contractors. Moreover, he noted, the Nation of Islam is not on the FBI's list of hate groups.

Red-faced liberals push EIR's Bush biography

A new left-liberal publication whose advisory board includes some very old leftists, grudgingly concedes that *EIR's George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography*, is "must" reading. The publication, *Prevailing Winds Research*, (PWR) markets books and pamphlets exposing establishment skulduggery; its advisory board includes Carl Oglesby, Peter Dale Scott, Oliver Stone, and Dr. Cyril Wecht.

The promotional reads:

"Using exhaustive official documentation, [co-authors] Webster Tarpley and Anton Chaitkin have broken through the astonishing wall of silence around George Bush. Here are the details on: How the Bush family promoted the Nazi war machine; Jupiter Island; Skull and Bones; the 'war hero' story; Zapata oil; the Watergate burglars; Iran-Contra; Third World genocide; and Bush's Leveraged Buyout Mob. Very strong research. Since the authors are connected to (egads!) the LaRouche group, you have to read between the lines now and then, and recognize the ideology for what it is. But the plentiful footnotes *do* check out, and that's what counts. . . ."

"(Okay, let's get one thing straight: PWR is *not* involved with LaRouche—honest Chip [Berlet], we really aren't. If someone on the politically correct left would write a book on this subject, we'd love to distribute it. But the left dropped the ball, and you can't blame Tarpley and Chaitkin for picking it up, now can you?)"

Briefly

● **A CALIFORNIA MAN** was sentenced to 25 years in prison under the new "three strikes" law, for stealing a slice of pizza from some teenagers. Jerry Williams, 27, who has two prior felony convictions, is planning to appeal the sentence. French TV compared the case to Victor Hugo's novel *Les Misérables*.

● **FEDERAL SCHOOL** lunch money is already going to friends of Newt Gingrich. Marvin Schwan, of Schwan Sales Enterprises, built up his \$1 billion frozen food business in 1984 by offering to run public school lunch programs at a discount in exchange for government cheese allocations, which he used for his pizza company. Schwan Sales has given \$297,000 to Gingrich organizations, including his soft-money outfit GOPAC.

● **QUBILAH SHABAZZ**, the daughter of the late Malcolm X, is seeking dismissal of the federal charges against her that she hired one Michael Fitzpatrick, a longtime FBI "informant," to assassinate Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan. She is charging "outrageous governmental misconduct."

● **PRIVATIZATION** of the Pinckney, Michigan school system by Education Alternatives, Inc. was defeated in late January, *EIR* has just learned. Associates of Lyndon LaRouche made the Pinckney case a *cause célèbre*, long before EAI's record of covering up lower test scores and heavy involvement with derivatives trading brokerages became widely known.

● **NEWT** Gingrich was an early proponent of legalizing marijuana for "medical" reasons, according to the *Nation* magazine. Liberal attorney William Kunstler told the magazine that, "on Sept. 16, 1981" Gingrich introduced "a bill 'to provide for the therapeutic use of marijuana involving life-threatening or sense-threatening illnesses and to provide adequate supplies of marijuana for such users.'"