

National News

Vatican envoy says pope opposes 'war on poor'

Raymond Flynn, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, recently sent a letter to American bishops and lay Catholics, stating that Pope John Paul II's October visit here will back President Clinton's opposition to congressional cutbacks in anti-poverty programs, according to the May 12 *Washington Times*.

Flynn's letter recalled the visit of Pope Paul VI to the United States in 1965, when he found the country engaged in a War on Poverty, and "pressed" President Lyndon Johnson to aid the poor.

"Pope John Paul II will find a greatly different political climate," Flynn wrote. "In 1995, the U.S. Congress is tragically dismantling many of those anti-poverty programs that we have spent 30 years creating. Are we now fighting a war on the poor instead of a war on poverty?"

To counter Flynn, the *Times* trotted out Heritage Foundation board member Frank Shakespeare, President Reagan's ambassador to the Vatican from 1987 to 1989. "As a general proposition," Shakespeare intoned, "an ambassador has to be extremely careful not to use the position for partisan politics back in the United States. With the Vatican post, the normal caution should be heightened because of the religious and moral aspects attached to the Vatican as a state. The ambassador's job is state matters, not anything to do with the church as the church."

The Heritage Foundation has saturated Congress with blueprints for vicious austerity measures against the poor, the sick, and the elderly. Ambassador Flynn says he circulated his two-page, brief statement "in expectation of Pope John Paul II's trip."

Buchanan seeks immigration halt

Republican Presidential pre-candidate and neo-Confederate Patrick Buchanan called for a five-year moratorium on legal immi-

gration into the United States, at a Washington, D.C., press conference on May 8. Buchanan also proposed federal legislation, similar to California's infamous Proposition 187, to deny social services to families of illegal immigrants. He urged that children of illegal immigrants be stripped of their rights to automatically become citizens.

Coverage of the event in the May 9 *Washington Times* featured Buchanan being photographed with a copy of Peter Brimelow's anti-immigrant book, *Alien Nation*. Brimelow, an immigrant from Britain, is a senior editor of the British-controlled *Forbes* magazine. Buchanan is a member of the advisory board of the *Southern Partisan*, a pro-British, pro-Ku Klux Klan secessionist magazine. Accompanying Buchanan at the press conference were representatives of the Immigration Reform group, a branch of the British "race-science" eugenics movement, which sponsored California's Proposition 187.

Mich. prosecutor slams protection for 'Dr. Death'

In an interview with *EIR*, Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson denounced "the conspiracy of silence" protecting Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian, following the deaths by "assisted suicide" of two more people within the space of five days. The fact that "even the relatives [of the victims] involved have refused to talk with the police," Thompson declared, makes it almost impossible to prosecute Kevorkian.

Kevorkian, an out-of-work pathologist who has lost his medical license in both Michigan and California, is responsible for killing at least 23 people using his various "suicide" machines. "We know someone is dead of carbon monoxide poisoning, but we have no evidence about who was administering it," Thompson said.

In the case of the last two victims, who were gassed to death on May 8 and May 12, one relative told police that the homicide was a natural death; and both families hid evidence of Kevorkian's involvement from police. In all 23 cases, relatives have refused

to allow authorities to review the medical records of Kevorkian's victims.

"Once you privatize killing," Thompson said, "once you legalize private killing, there is no way any law enforcement or regulatory agency can investigate to ensure there is no abuse going on. . . . If society ever legalizes this, how is anyone going to regulate what the 30,000 doctors in the state of Michigan, are doing?"

The U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld a Michigan Supreme Court ruling that a person can be prosecuted under common law for "assisting in suicide." Kevorkian faces trial on two murder charges, and several violations of Michigan's now-defunct ban on "assisted-suicide."

Expert on Greenpeace briefs U.S. Congress

Icelandic filmmaker Magnus Gudmundsson, during a private briefing on Capitol Hill on May 11, drew considerable attention from members of Congress to evidence he has amassed, that the radical environmentalist organization Greenpeace is a treacherous, though well-protected, little beast. Gudmundsson has also incurred the wrath of Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which has long counted Greenpeace among its global assets.

During his hour-long presentation, Gudmundsson included film clips from three of his documentary exposés of the criminal fraud behind Greenpeace's public posturings about "defending the environment." His most controversial charge was that Greenpeace had bribed foreign government officials in its drive to obtain a "one-world" ban on whaling. The bribery scheme, as laid out in Gudmundsson's latest documentary, was organized by the WWF.

Several congressmen requested that Gudmundsson return to Washington soon to provide more information on the bribery charges—which would implicate Britain's Prince Philip directly. Philip reportedly oversaw the entire operation, and wrote the letters to officials targeted for bribes, telling them to collaborate with Greenpeace.

Over 80 people attended the briefing, including more than a dozen congressmen, one senator, and a number of congressional aides. Gudmundsson was introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), head of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Packwood says, reform Endangered Species Act

Sen. Robert Packwood (R-Ore.) took to the floor of the Senate on May 10 to challenge the absurd premises of the Endangered Species Act, recalling that when the bill was originally passed, no one was thinking about an entire section of the country being shut down for one species.

"Yet this act," he said, "is now being used as a tool by the environmental groups, to further their agenda of locking up not only all public land but much private land, as well. . . . If 100 years ago, 150 years ago, we had on the books, only two laws, the Endangered Species Act and the Wetlands legislation, we would not have developed the west," Packwood noted.

"Every railroad you see, once you get across the Great Plains, is built on rivers and fill. We never would have cleared the valleys, never would have cut the trees and pried out rocks and farmed the land. You would have been prohibited by just those two acts."

Arizona second state to revive chain gangs

Following the lead of Alabama, the state of Arizona became the second in the nation to reintroduce prison chain gangs on May 15, according to the May 16 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. An Arizona prison crew of 26 minimum- and medium-security prisoners wielded hoes, sickles, and rakes along U.S. Highway 191, shackled by two-foot-long, lightweight steel chains, padlocked to leather ankle restraints. The men were not chained together, as they are in Alabama,

which began to use chain gangs to clean state highways on May 3.

The use of prison slave-labor is also spreading. Virginia's Gov. George Allen signed a bill on May 5 approving the use of prisoners as laborers in the construction of their own prisons. Allen also vetoed a bill which would have prevented private companies from profiting off the use of prison labor.

The prison construction bill signed by Allen simply states that 30 days notice will be given to a locality before a prison is built there. It adds, "The [Bureau of Prisons] director may, if he finds it practical and economical, use persons sentenced to the department as laborers in the construction of such structures."

Morgan Library to hold Aesop exhibit

Aesop, the 6th-century B.C. Greek slave known as the father of the fable, will be honored by a summer exhibition at New York City's Morgan Library, to open on May 24. Sly foxes and proud peacocks will demonstrate the origin of the familiar phrases, such as "sour grapes," "the lion's share," and "borrowed plumage."

Manuscripts and books ranging from the 3rd to the 20th century—including the earliest texts of Phaedrus and Babrius and the Aesop printed at Ulm about 1476—the only copy in America—will be shown. Lazy frogs, powerful lions, plodding tortoises, and frightened rabbits revealing the foibles of daily life should provide a note of whimsy and humor for the hot days of summer.

Publications for the exhibitions include an illustrated checklist (\$4.95) and a coloring book (\$3.95) by Dr. Anna Lou Ashby.

On Father's Day, June 18, there will be "Aesop Family Day," an afternoon of stories, music, dance, and refreshments, all in the spirit of Aesop, available free with suggested admission, which is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for children, students, and seniors. The exhibit overlaps with a show entitled "Animals as Symbol in Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts," on view April 6-Sept. 6.

Briefly

● **NEW YORK CITY'S** programs for preserving families at risk are being scrapped, the *New York Times* reported on May 12. The city currently provides 27,000 troubled families with counseling, parent training, housing assistance, day care, and drug treatment. The services will be eliminated by budget cuts ordered by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, anticipating further loss of federal funds as well.

● **ECOLOGY** freaks, Conservative Revolutionists, and population-control lunatics jointly called for drastic reductions in U.S. immigration levels, in a two-thirds-page ad in the May 10 *Washington Times*. Groups ranging from the International Ecology Council, to Californians for Population Stabilization, demanded that the current federal quota of 1 million legal immigrants per year, be slashed by 90%.

● **GREENPEACE** handed out a five-page blurb on Capitol Hill on May 11, claiming that Lyndon LaRouche is behind Magnus Gudmundsson and a much broader international campaign to discredit the environmental movement. Almost one-third of the document recycled previous Greenpeace slanders against both Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, as well as *21st Century Science & Technology* magazine.

● **THE AMERICAN** Physical Society has taken a position on the supposed controversy surrounding electric power transmission lines, according to the May 14 *New York Times*. The society issued a statement, reporting that it can find no evidence that electromagnetic fields radiating from power lines cause cancer.

● **HENRY SIEGMAN**, former chairman of the American Jewish Congress, denounced Sen. Robert Dole's (R-Kan.) proposed legislation to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. "It seems that presidential candidates think that the closer they get to Israel, the more support they get from American Jews. But . . . Jewish voters are smarter than this."