

National News

Audubon Society: more population control

The National Audubon Society has urged its members to mobilize to overturn Congressional budget cuts in the population control programs of the U.S. State Department, arguing that wildlife habitat is more important than preserving human life.

In its Feb. 22 "Action Alert," the Society howls that opponents of population control in Congress were able to include restrictions on the U.S. international family planning program, as part of the omnibus continuing resolution passed in January. Funding for population control programs "was reduced from last year's level of \$547 million to \$72 million in this fiscal year."

These cuts "will have a profound impact on efforts to stabilize population growth, which is critical to long-term global protection of wildlife habitat," according to the genocidal ideologues of the Audubon Society. The "alert" directs its activists to "contact their representative and senators and urge them to restore funding for international family planning programs by whatever means possible."

LaRouche vote 'jolts' Colorado Democrats

Lyndon LaRouche's 11% vote in Colorado's March 5 Democratic Presidential primary sent shockwaves through the state's party leadership—and beyond. The *Denver Post*, under the headline "LaRouche Vote of 11% Jolting," began its March 7 analysis by stating, "Nearly 6,000 Colorado Democrats rejected Bill Clinton in Tuesday's Presidential primary and decided it was time for another Lyndon in the White House." The accompanying subhead claimed, "Democratic leaders don't know anyone who cast a ballot for maverick economist."

Grasping for any slanderous straws at hand, the article declared, "Ultraconservative economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., an ex-convict and perennial candidate, cap-

tured 11.1% of the Democratic vote statewide and more than 20% in eight Colorado counties." The paper adds a telling variation, on the typical claim that LaRouche says the Queen of England pushes drugs—declaring instead that LaRouche says that Queen Elizabeth is "behind plots to destroy the world's economy."

Carolyn Boller, executive director of the Colorado Democratic Party, is described as being surprised by LaRouche's "double digit performance." Perhaps reflecting some dim recognition of the "rumbling" in the country, Boller said, "I think that there's a fringe element that's growing, and these people are getting out and voting. I think people are upset with government and they're looking for some other way to voice their options. . . . We're going to have something to talk about," she said, at the next meeting of the State Democratic Central Committee.

Prosperity is a thing of the past, says Times

The *New York Times*, the paper which has rejected the idea of progress for a century and a half, has now declared that prosperity and economic security are gone forever. Launching a seven-part feature on March 3 on "The Downsizing of America," the *Times* urges Americans to adjust to the new "reality" that life will be worse for their children.

It reports that 43 million U.S. workers have been laid off since 1979; and claims that though newly created jobs have more than matched the layoffs, the majority of rehired workers have lower wages than before. The median wage, adjusted for inflation, is 3% lower than it was in 1979, says the *Times*; and life for the average working person is harder and meaner than it used to be.

With the "unprecedented" economic growth of the 1940s, American psychology was unnaturally convinced that progress and job security were a birthright, the *Times* rants. "The postwar years led many people to the succoring belief that they had an almost divine right to a very particular American

dream entailing a home, a secure job, and a raise every year." This was an "unwritten social contract, codified in part by strong labor unions," in which "managers and workers pledged their loyalty to one another."

The rise of computer technology, however, has supposedly made more and more workers unnecessary: "Computer programs rather than lawyers prepare divorce papers. If 1,000 movie extras are needed, the studio hires 100 and a computer spits out clones for the rest." The *Times* offers as a model of realism the case of a man attending a "Dad's Group" at his church, "rooting for the emotional sustenance he used to get at work. He said he was seeking 'a peace within myself instead of the rush of the job.' "

The *Times* warns, "There remain, however, other downsized workers who resist reining in their lives, as if denying what has happened. . . . Today many who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s are refusing to accept that a period they see as enduringly golden is over."

Wal-Mart becoming king of 'downsized' jungle

Wal-Mart, the largest employer left in the United States, is now forcing its own suppliers to shut down some of their production facilities—and send more workers into the ranks of the unemployed. The March 11 issue of *Forbes* magazine, a leading promoter of the "flea-market" theory of economics, reports that the giant discount chain (\$90 billion in annual sales) is passing on the costs of declining income, to the very suppliers forced to depend on contracts with Wal-Mart.

The collapse of Americans' real incomes has accelerated a wave of bankruptcies hitting major discount retailers in the last few months, including Caldor, Bradlees, Jamesway, and Hills Stores, and the near bankruptcy of the K-Mart chain.

Wal-Mart built its dominant position by locating its stores in shopping malls, and then undercutting and driving out of business the traditional retail clothing stores, hardware stores, etc., which once contrib-

AFL-CIO PRESIDENT John Sweeney called upon the Catholic Church to back labor's drive to "reclaim America," in a speech to the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C., Feb. 27. "We need the public support of the church. We need to restore the ability to strike," Sweeney said. "My idea of America is a country where honest labor raises the standard for all."

BRUTAL RECYCLING of tens of millions of American workers has been accompanied by further innovations in corporate "doublespeak." The March 4 *New York Times* offers a list of alternatives to the word "fired" currently in vogue among corporate managers. Among the most notable examples: decruited, de-hired, deselected, excessed, nonretained, nonrenewed, surplussed, vocationally relocated, and involuntarily separated.

THE 50TH anniversary of Winston Churchill's infamous speech in Fulton, Missouri, was commemorated by the March 1 *London Times*: "Time has obscured still more deeply the logic of Churchill's . . . grand theme . . . his plea for a 'special relationship between the British Commonwealth and Empire and the United States,' a relationship which he wished to see expressed not just in political but military terms and even, eventually, in 'common citizenship.'"

NEWT GINGRICH has tossed Virginia Gov. George Allen overboard. Newt told a recent "mock convention" at Virginia's Washington and Lee University that Allen is "a terrific person," but he should forget about any hopes of getting the Republican vice presidential nomination.

FLORIDA has approved a \$4.8 billion, high-speed passenger rail system. A private consortium will build and operate the 320-mile railroad, using French TGV technology capable of speeds up to 200 miles per hour. The first leg, covering the 224 miles from Orlando to Miami, is due to open by 2004; a leg from Orlando to Tampa will open two years later.

uted so much to the nation's cities and towns. Wal-Mart pays workers \$5-8 per hour, with few benefits, and makes its store managers work long hours for little pay. Over the last few years, 3-4% of all jobs "created" in America were at Wal-Mart.

Large numbers of American manufacturers sell 10-35% of their product just through Wal-Mart. One company, Rubbermaid, which makes rubber and plastic housewares and other products, sells 15% of all its goods through Wal-Mart, generating 20% of Rubbermaid's operating income. In 1995, when Rubbermaid's raw materials costs increased, Wal-Mart refused to allow the company to pass the costs on, in order to keep its own profit margins up.

Instead, Wal-Mart began offering more shelf-space to Rubbermaid's competitors. As a result, Rubbermaid's earnings plunged 30%; the company closed nine facilities and laid off 9% of its 14,000 workers.

Hillary Clinton's law firm cleared by FDIC

In a report to Congress Feb. 28, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) said it had found no evidence of fraud or intentional misconduct which could sustain a legal claim against Hillary Clinton's former law firm. The report, prepared by the law firm of Pillsbury, Madison, and Sutro for the FDIC, states that "the evidence taken as a whole does not amount to convincing proof that the Rose Law Firm knowingly aided and abetted a fraud."

The Resolution Trust Corp. (RTC) also reported late last year that there was no basis for legal action against the Clintons personally. The RTC went out of existence on Jan. 1, and its functions were taken over by the FDIC.

The FDIC also reviewed records of the Rose Law Firm found at the White House in late December. Its report states that it found no evidence to suggest that Mrs. Clinton, or other members of the firm, were aware of fraud involving Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, or with regard to the Castle Grande project—a major topic for speculation by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and

other GOPers on the Senate Whitewater committee.

Mark Fabiani, special associate counsel to President Clinton, said of the FDIC's findings, "All of the innuendo that's been thrown around in the last months on the Senate committee, I think, is dealt with fairly extensively in this report. . . . It calls the Whitewater conspiracy theories implausible. It deals with the major allegations that have been made about destruction of records. And on and on. It deals with every one of the major allegations and disposes of them in a way that supports what the President and First Lady have said all along."

Clinton speaks on drug use and violence

President William Clinton, Vice President Albert Gore, and newly confirmed White House drug adviser Gen. Barry McCaffery keynoted a national conference on youth, drug use, and violence in Greenbelt, Maryland on March 7. Speaking before 3,000 high school students, cabinet members, and anti-drug activists from all across the United States, the President declared that no nation can be truly free if its most precious resource, its youth, are terrified by drugs and violence.

The conference, convened one day after General McCaffery's swearing-in as the nation's leading anti-drug fighter, represented a major public initiative by the White House to escalate the war against the domestic side of the drug epidemic—growing drug use by Americans between the ages of 12-17, and the increase in youth violence. Seven members of the Clinton cabinet chaired workshops on various facets of the drug and youth violence crisis.

President Clinton chaired a round table discussion, involving several high school students, anti-drug experts, and nationally prominent activists. Among the speakers at the round table were former cabinet secretary Joseph Califano, Jesse Jackson, James Burke (chairman, Partnership for a Drug-Free America), and Dr. Lonise Bias (mother of former college basketball star Len Bias, who died of a cocaine overdose).