

National News

Clinton: Ethic of responsibility needed

In his weekly radio address to the nation on March 23, President Clinton declared that "the ethic of responsibility must guide all of us in our work lives . . . and I believe American business, the engine of our prosperity and the envy of the world, clearly has a role to play."

Speaking at Xavier University in Cincinnati the same day, the President outlined five ways in which corporations could help improve employees' lives, including expanding their access to health care, establishing better pension plans, offering improved education and training, guaranteeing a safe workplace, and allowing employees a larger voice through collective bargaining or profit-sharing plans. Clinton emphasized that "many of America's most successful businesses have shown that you can do well by doing right by employees and their families."

The President plans to invite U.S. business leaders to Washington for a conference in April on corporate citizenship. At that meeting, Clinton said, "we're going to talk about, not how we can complain about the disruptions the global economy is bringing to America, but how we can do something about it, to guarantee more economic security to the American families that are out there doing the best they can and working hard."

Sweeney urges labor to 'retake our country'

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, delivering a call to action March 25 to leaders of the organization's 78 affiliated labor unions, declared that "our charge today is an awesome one, a responsibility we are each compelled to take quite personally."

Commenting on the announced "counteroffensive" by Gingrichite Republicans, Sweeney said, "over the next few months, as our grassroots legislative and political program grows and begins to take hold, you are

going to witness the biggest smear campaign, the biggest disinformation campaign in the history of American politics. . . . We will respond with a strategy that has too rarely been used in American politics: We will tell the truth. . . .

"We're going to tell the truth about Newt Gingrich, and Dick Armey, Tom Delay. . . . The Wall Street investment bankers, the corporations, and the politicians who control the money in this country don't want to give up the money. They don't want to provide the jobs. . . . They want to get off on the cheap," Sweeney declared.

"Well, we're not going to let them do that, because this isn't a cheap country. We're going to restore our family budgets, while we restore respect for working people and the jobs we do. We're going to take back our jobs, we're going to take back the Congress, and we're going to take back our country."

The meeting of AFL-CIO union leaders in Washington, D.C., was the organization's first special convention since 1955, when the American Federation of Labor merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations to form the AFL-CIO. The assembled delegates voted to endorse the re-election of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, making the decision much earlier in the campaign season than is customary. The convention also approved a \$35 million for a political education campaign, aimed especially at ending the Conservative Revolutionaries' control of Congress.

Gingrich urges media to attack AFL election mobe

Speaking to the National Newspaper Association March 21, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) called on newspaper publishers and editors to condemn the AFL-CIO's efforts to defeat Republicans in 75 Congressional districts this fall.

Gingrich raved that organized labor was attempting "to buy the U.S. House of Representatives. . . . But I would just suggest to you, that it is well worth your looking at. . . . I do not know of any time in American history that a single group has announced the scale of effort that Sweeney is now an-

nouncing at the AFL-CIO. I mean, it is the most blatant, overt effort to intimidate and buy the Congress, I think, in American history."

The Newt, whose own fundraising practices have been under scrutiny by Congressional investigative committees, claimed that the average Congressional race costs \$405,000. He denounced the AFL-CIO's plans to spend \$500,000 on each of the campaigns against the 75 targeted Republican incumbents.

FBI crimes documented in LaRouche legal brief

A 67-page legal brief was filed March 21 in New York's U.S. District Court for the Southern District, chronicling the FBI's decades-long targeting of Lyndon LaRouche, and the political movement he initiated: the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC). Filed in the long-standing case known as *LaRouche, et al., v. William Webster, et al.*, the brief was accompanied by a three-volume appendix of documentation.

This is the first time, since 1978, that the LaRouche plaintiffs have been given the opportunity to present in one place their comprehensive evidence of the FBI's dirty tricks and bogus investigations against LaRouche and his associates during the 1970s and thereafter. The FBI's use of such illegal and unconstitutional police-state methods is at the heart of the 21-year-old civil rights case.

The LaRouche plaintiffs show that the measures resorted to by the FBI, were designed to eliminate LaRouche, and to destroy the political movement then forming around his ideas. Under the heading, "Cointelpro-Type Disruptions," the brief states that "the FBI knew that the Communist Party was discussing 'eliminating LaRouche and his influence'—i.e., the assassination of LaRouche. The FBI's NCLC case officer discussed the consequences of eliminating LaRouche . . . looked favorably upon the Communist Party's proposal . . . and took no steps to stop it."

Other sections of the brief document: hundreds of "nuisance" arrests to prevent organizers from distributing political litera-

Briefly

A REVOLT is under way in the United States against the "highly destructive economic program based on . . . ideas formulated by David Ricardo and Adam Smith," *International Herald Tribune* columnist William Pfaff wrote March 16. "Hundreds of thousands of ordinary people have had their lives disrupted or destroyed, as a result" of those doctrines. "Now the fashions are changing. Historians will no doubt look back on all this with amazement."

WHINNYING heard from Virginia's horse set: The *Blue Ridge Leader* wrote March 15, "As if to prove Lyndon LaRouche right in his waxes about the sway of the British monarchy in hunt country, His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, will visit Middleburg this month. . . . It is not known whether Chief Simpson of the town's Scotland Yard has been alerted to the possible attendance of *EIR* agents."

CALIFORNIA'S trade unions are seeking 750,000 signatures to put a "liveable wage" proposition on the November ballot, which would raise the state's hourly minimum wage to \$5 next March, and later to \$5.75. The Gingrich-led Congress opposes raising the current \$4.25 federal minimum wage—which leaves 4.1 million workers below the poverty line, including 1.5 million Californians.

SEN. BOB DOLE says that, were he elected President, he would work to limit death-row appeals for convicted murderers and speed up executions. "Dole judges will be tough on crime, but even tougher on criminals," the Republican candidate declared March 23, during a tour of California's San Quentin prison.

PRIVATIZED PRISONS have become big business. Twenty-one companies, with more than \$250 million in annual revenues, currently manage 88 prisons under public contracts, with approximately 50,000 inmates under lock and key—a 20-fold increase in the privatized prison population since 1984.

ture; dozens of FBI visits to employers, landlords, or family members, to spread lies about NCLC members being "violence-prone" and worse; surveillance and harassment of anyone who ran for public office as a U.S. Labor Party candidate; the use of FBI informants deployed into the NCLC to, among other things, gather personal information about members; and the FBI's planting of defamatory stories in the media "to discredit the activities" of LaRouche and the NCLC.

In the wake of Senate hearings in 1975-76, the FBI "officially" terminated its investigations of the NCLC. But the legal brief documents that, in the post-1977 period the FBI used "surrogates" to do its dirty work, including the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith. For example, the brief states, "On or about March, 1979, Justin Finger of the ADL met with [FBI Director] William Webster and exchanged files on the NCLC."

The judicial relief, that the LaRouche plaintiffs are seeking in this case, includes a permanent injunction, preventing the FBI from releasing to the public the poisoned fruit of its illegal probes. The FBI retains tens of thousands of documents filled with lies, defamations, and disinformation about the NCLC and its members.

Appeals Court expands Whitewater mandate

A three-judge U.S. Appeals Court panel has expanded the investigative scope of Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr. The broader mandate was requested by Attorney General Janet Reno, and promptly approved by the panel March 22.

Starr, former Justice Department Solicitor General for President George Bush, is now authorized to investigate whether former White House aide David Watkins lied about Hillary Clinton's role in firing the staff of the White House travel office. The new mandate also permits Starr to investigate her sworn statements about the so-called "Travelgate" affair.

Reno, in her application to the panel, said Starr had told her that he is already investigating the travel office firings, as part of his

investigation into the suicide of White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster. Reno argued that it would therefore be appropriate to expand Starr's inquiry to include Watkins's statements.

The panel is the same one, headed by Judge David Sentelle, which in August 1994 fired Robert Fiske, the first Whitewater independent counsel, who was then replaced by Starr.

Starr's outside legal work has also raised the issue of conflict of interest. According to the March 27 *Washington Times*, clients Starr has represented, since becoming the Whitewater independent counsel, include the Republican National Committee and the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. The Bradley Foundation is one of the main financial agencies for British political dirty-tricks operations in the United States, and is heavily involved in the Whitewater crusade against President Clinton.

Cardinal O'Connor decries death penalty

Cardinal John O'Connor, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, delivered a strong sermon against the death penalty March 24, at the annual mass for the Holy Name Society at St. Patrick's Cathedral. His words reportedly even moved the hundreds of attending police officers.

According to the *New York Times*, Cardinal O'Connor said, "We have developed in the United States a culture of death," quoting Pope John Paul II. "Death becomes the quick fix. Death becomes the easy answer."

Cardinal O'Connor's sermon comes at a time when the newly instituted death penalty is facing its first severe test in New York State, in the case of the slaying of a New York City police officer. A heated political controversy has developed over the case.

Cardinal O'Connor particularly denounced resorting to capital punishment as an instrument of vengeance. "The use of capital punishment leads us and lulls us into believing that we are solving the crucial problems of our society. What have we really solved?"