

National News

Arizona approves tax windfall for Murdoch

The Arizona legislature met in special session in late June to approve about \$7 million in tax breaks for a media conglomerate which will be known as American Sky Broadcasting. The Satellite TV Center to be built in Gilbert, Arizona is the venture of two of the world's major communications companies—MCI and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Media mogul Murdoch, a conduit for British intelligence, has added numerous American newspapers to his empire in recent years, as well as buying up the Fox Television network and 20th Century Fox film studio.

The Republican-controlled legislature held a special one-day session completely devoted to the satellite issue. Democrats contested the large tax breaks, especially in light of the fact that only 100 new jobs are being created. Foes of the measure also argued that the tax break will cost the state three to four times more than \$7 million.

LaRouche book reviewed by U.S. defense journal

The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and the Nations of Ibero-America, the 1994 study published in Spanish and English by EIR, which inspired patriotic forces throughout Ibero-America, has been reviewed in the U.S. National Defense University's *Joint Forces Quarterly*. The book was prefaced by Argentine Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, and by Lyndon LaRouche—who inspired the overall project.

The EIR study was reviewed by James Zackrison, an analyst for the Office of Naval Intelligence and an adviser to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He acknowledges the growing influence of the book in Ibero-America, noting that "it is reportedly on the required reading list at several regional military academies and staff colleges," and that "students of Latin American affairs will ignore this book to their detriment."

Breaking with the longstanding media policy to omit any discussion of LaRouche's ideas, Zackrison admits that the factual material presented by *The Plot* is right on the mark, and cannot be dismissed as "yet another odd conspiracy theory." Zackrison hysterically denies, however, that there could possibly be any *policy intent* behind all the recent efforts to destroy the military forces of various sovereign countries in Ibero-America, and claims that "their logic . . . involves the assumption of a causal relationship between the intent of events and people involved. That assumption is unquestionably false."

The reviewer also quibbles with the book's assertion "that there is no moral difference between the oligarchy of Britain and the United States . . . and Bolshevism." The basic theses of the book, however, are left unchallenged.

Virginia private prison gulag breaks ground

Virginia Governor George Allen has started construction of his privatized prison gulag. Work was scheduled to begin on the state's first private prison on July 12, after the state signed a contract with the Correctional Corporation of America, Inc. for the \$44.5 million, 1,500-bed facility in Lawrenceville.

According to the July 12 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, CCA operates 45 facilities, with 31,000 inmates in 11 states and Puerto Rico. They claim that they will be able to run the prison at a cost of \$12,500 per inmate, as opposed to state costs of nearly \$17,000. The savings comes from hiring below-scale and non-union labor.

Sources in Richmond report that, if Allen has his way, at least 10,000 of the new prison beds demanded under the Project X "no parole" scheme will be built as privatized concentration camps, run by private agencies; Allen would like that figure to rise to 15,000. The state projections are for a doubling of inmate population by the year 2005, from about 25,000 to more than 51,000. Since the state doesn't have the capital resources to build the new prisons, operations like the CCA's are made to appear more at-

tractive. Governor Allen and the George Bush-related networks who crafted the Project X scheme knew all along that this would be the outcome and planned it this way, the sources say.

The goal, said one of the sources, was to make Virginia a model for the nation—a fascist justice system, a fascist parole system, and a privatized gulag.

Radon scare exposed as a highly expensive hoax

Finnish researchers at the Center for Radiation and Nuclear Safety have recently published a study which concludes that "radon exposure does not appear to be an important cause of lung cancer." Environmentalists have been claiming, without any scientific evidence, that as many as 10% of lung cancer deaths (150,000 a year) are due to radon exposure.

The radon scam has proved expensive for Americans, who have spent about \$400 million testing for radon and renovating homes with high levels of the supposedly deadly gas. Studies in Canada, Missouri, and China have also all found no connection between residential radon and lung cancer. John Boice, Jr., former chief of radiation epidemiology at the National Cancer Institute, told reporters that the Finnish research "is an exceptional study in an area of high radon and they found no link." Some of the radon levels found in homes studied in Finland were at 10 picocuries per liter, which is two-and-a-half times greater than the maximum level allowed in homes by the Environmental Protection Agency. Even so, the EPA has no plans to change its current radon policies.

Greenspan links wage control to insecurity

In his semi-annual appearance before the Senate Banking Committee on July 18, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan gloated that the growing anxiety among

working Americans over job security, is the main reason why there is no real growth in wages, despite the "high rate of employment." Greenspan stressed that technological changes and globalization have created job insecurity, which is useful in holding down wages.

"With such fast and changeable currents," Greenspan said, "it is not surprising that workers may be less willing to test the waters of job change. Indeed, voluntary job leaving to seek other employment appears to be quite subdued despite evidence of a tight labor market. Because workers are more worried about their own job security and their marketability, if forced to change jobs they are apparently accepting smaller increases in their compensation at any given level of labor market tightness." In plain language, the accelerating collapse of the economy has terrified people into accepting lower wages.

Globalization, with broader markets and price competition, Greenspan went on to say, tends to keep "both wages and prices lower than historical relationships would predict. But at some point, greater job security will no longer be worth the further sacrifice of gains in real incomes." Greenspan expressed concern over recent indications of "the possibility that workers' willingness to surrender wage gains for job security may be lessening."

U.S. farms hit by decay of rural infrastructure

According to a national study conducted by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, nearly 50% of U.S. rural roads are deteriorating, even with normal maintenance. Another 30% of rural roads have a "barely adequate surface" and badly need repair or replacement.

Similarly, nearly one-quarter of rural bridges maintained by local governments were built before 1940, and are now beyond their designed lifetimes. Nearly half of the 203,490 bridges that are 20 feet or longer, are in poor condition. One-third of bridges that are less than 20 feet are also in poor condition.

The use of these rural roads and bridges is expected to increase greatly as the U.S. rail industry "consolidates." The collapse of the U.S. rail grid has increasingly forced farmers to truck their produce to more distant rail freight facilities. Yet less money is available for maintenance and construction of rural roads and bridges.

Changes in federal funding have allocated a larger share of what funding is available to urban areas, reflecting the insane post-industrial policy shift toward reducing the number of family farms and relying heavily on food imports. Dan Raterman, a road engineer for McDonough County, Illinois, told the *Farm Journal* that "We're losing the old attitude that we need to take care of rural America because it's the breadbasket of the world."

'Primary Colors' author is an old LaRouche enemy

Joe Klein, the writer for *Newsweek* magazine who has finally confessed to being the author of *Primary Colors* (the fictionalized smear against the Clinton White House) has wallowed in the muck for more than 20 years. Klein was part of the FBI/MI-5 apparatus deployed in late 1973 and early 1974, to orchestrate an assassination attempt against Lyndon LaRouche—and then to cover up for the FBI after the operation was exposed.

At the time, Klein was a writer for the Boston *Real Paper*, a counterculture weekly which enjoyed the financial support of both the Rockefeller family, and "Grateful Dead" lover William Weld (now Massachusetts governor). Early in January 1974, Klein ran a personal harassment campaign against the elderly parents of Lyndon LaRouche. Klein then showed up at a public meeting at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York, where LaRouche exposed the filthy British assets behind the attempt to destroy him and his organization. During the meeting, LaRouche confronted Klein with Klein's obscene harassment tactics.

Shortly thereafter, the *New York Times* churned out the first major slander against LaRouche and his political organization.

Briefly

HOUSE SPEAKER Newt Gingrich, asked to comment on D. C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton's proposal to lower federal tax rates in the District of Columbia, declared, "We're committed to having a very, very strong enterprise zone bill designed to make this city a lot more like Hongkong."

PRIVATIZING Social Security is the goal of a forthcoming report of by a Congressional advisory panel, which may recommend that 50% of the money held in the Social Security trust fund be invested in the stock market. Attacks on this hare-brained scheme cite the fact that the Social Security system is already underfunded, and could not survive even a stock market drop which wiped out just 10% of its value.

AGING PRISON INMATES are considered a "ticking time bomb" for state budgets, because maintaining them costs two to three times the average \$21,000 a year needed to incarcerate a younger inmate. According to the American Correctional Association, the number of inmates 55 or older, who cannot by law qualify for Medicare, increased 40% from 1990 to 1994, largely because of the growth of "three strikes" legislation.

FUSION RESEARCH is again in jeopardy as the House Appropriations Committee recommended a cut of \$31 million from the administration's request. The shortfall includes only \$55 million of an \$80 million commitment to the International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor.

ROBERT BURNS and the American Revolution is the subject of a new book just published in Glasgow, Scotland. Written by American Mark Calney, the book was entirely financed by its Scots subscribers, who include members of the legal community who helped to free Lyndon LaRouche. The book also contains an interview with LaRouche, conducted while he was imprisoned, which deals with the potential for a second industrial revolution in Scotland.