

National News

Call to investigate Bush printed in Phila. daily

The Nov. 7 issue of the Philadelphia *Daily News*, the newspaper with the largest circulation in the city, ran a guest opinion column by State Rep. Harold James, calling for an investigation of George Bush's role in drug trafficking. "We need an investigation that goes right to the top, that exposes the people responsible. A special prosecutor must be appointed to investigate these reports," James declared.

"I introduced a resolution in the Legislature (HR465) calling for a vigorous congressional investigation and urging the U.S. Justice Department to look into the federal government's involvement in creating this violent epidemic," James reported.

"Previous investigations of the Iran-Contra scandal, particularly the U.S. House and Senate joint hearings in 1987, revealed the central role played by then Vice-President George Bush in covert intelligence operations.

"President Ronald Reagan signed a series of executive orders and 'national security decision directives' putting the CIA, Pentagon, State Department, and other agencies under the Special Situations Group headed by Bush." James noted that "Bush was also appointed by Reagan to run the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System, which supposedly coordinated efforts of all federal, state, and local anti-drug agencies, especially along the south Florida coast."

London rates its picks for secretary of state

The London *Times* Nov. 7 declared what it purports to be the British government's preferences concerning President Clinton's choice of a new U.S. secretary of state—and stressed that Her Majesty's government "will be taking an intense interest" in the matter.

Gen. ("Sir") Colin Powell "would be welcomed by Whitehall," says the *Times* piece, "although there are concerns that he is too cautious about the deployment of mili-

tary force. If the President were determined to pick a Republican, [Richard] Lugar, a respected Anglophile and former Rhodes scholar, could be approached. . . .

"A more complicated choice would be [George] Mitchell. The former Senate majority leader has little direct foreign relations experience beyond his involvement with Northern Ireland. John Major might have concerns that a Mitchell appointment would imply a greater American involvement in the province. . . . On the other hand, he is a known quantity to British officials," the *Times* notes.

"[Sam] Nunn, a relatively conservative Democrat who leaves his Senate seat in January after 24 years, would be palatable to Republicans but has had an awkward relationship with Mr. Clinton." No problem, says the *Times*. "Assuming that the White House does not appoint either General Powell or Mr. Lugar, Mr. Nunn may be the man that Whitehall would welcome."

Irish activist urges justice for 'LaRouche 5'

Baltimore-based Irish activist William Hughes has urged President Clinton to correct the "gross injustice" committed against five Virginia associates of Lyndon LaRouche. Hughes made his appeal in a column in the November issue of the *Baltimore Sentinel*, a monthly with a circulation of 35,000, in which he lists a number of things he wishes Clinton to do in his second term.

"Over in Virginia," Hughes writes, "there are five activists, associated with the controversial Lyndon LaRouche organization, languishing behind bars. They are serving sentences ranging from 50 to 77 years. The five, Michael Billington, Anita Gallagher, Paul Gallagher, Laurence Hecht, and Donald Phau, were convicted on 'security fraud' charges. How in the name of equal justice can Ivan Boesky and Michael Milken violate our federal security fraud laws and get a slap on the wrists, while these people are treated as mass murderers?"

"On its face, the Virginia cases raise serious questions about disparate sentencing based on the political beliefs of the defendants. I request the President to direct the

Justice Department to investigate this matter and to see that this gross injustice is corrected."

Hughes concludes by calling on Clinton to "get the truth out" about "the Crime of the Century." It is not the O.J. Simpson case, Hughes says. "I'm talking about the Reagan-Bush regime's alleged role in flooding Los Angeles with crack cocaine in order to finance the Contra thugs in Nicaragua. Evidence indicates that this covert mission was run by CIA operatives working for Ollie North, with, at least, the tacit approval of the CIA. All during this period, according to published reports, then-Vice President George Bush was the focal point man for all covert 'intelligence operations' run out of the White House.

"A massive cover-up is also suspected," Hughes adds. "In 1986, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), then-chair of a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee, delivered all the information related to Contra-drug running to William Weld, head of the Criminal Division at Justice. The Justice Department did absolutely 'zippo.' Weld, now governor of Massachusetts, has close family, social, and business ties to Bush, that go back generations."

Catholic bishops state economic principles

The annual meeting of U.S. Catholic bishops adopted a ten-point "Framework on Economic Life" on Nov. 12, which "challenges our nation to put the needs of the poor at the center of our economic decisions," according to a news release issued by the Catholic Conference. The framework reflects Pope John Paul II's call to Americans, during his visit to the United States in 1995, to build "a society in which none are so poor that they have nothing to give, and none so rich that they have nothing to receive."

The framework includes among its principles, that the "economy exists for the person, not the person for the economy"; that "all economic life should be shaped by moral principles"; that "a fundamental moral measure of any economy is how the poor and vulnerable are faring"; and that all people "have a right to life and to secure the basic necessities of life" and "the right to eco-

conomic initiative, to productive work, to just wages and benefits, to decent working conditions as well as to organize and join unions or other associations." The framework also declares, "Society has a moral obligation, including governmental action where necessary, to assure opportunity, meet basic human needs, and pursue justice in economic life."

Bishop William Skylstad, chairman of the bishops' Domestic Policy Committee, said on releasing the new framework, "The signs of our [economic] failures are all around us. A fourth of our preschoolers grow up poor in the richest nation on earth. 35,000 children die every day from hunger and its consequences. The gaps between rich and poor are growing in our nation and across the globe."

CFR boosts privatizing Social Security funds

The New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is planning a major conference on Social Security "reform," intended to boost the drive for privatization, and to pave the way for direct looting by the bankrupt titans of finance. The current issue of the CFR rag *Foreign Affairs* carries an article on "The Coming Global Pension Crisis," which lies that the only way to save the Social Security system from certain disaster, is by diverting Social Security tax payments into the "private markets, especially equity markets."

The piece is co-authored by Marshall Carter, chairman and CEO of Boston's elite State Street Bank, and William Shipman, also of State Street. "Debate and discussion about how best to engage private investment options in reforming public pensions," they declare, "is now gathering momentum in Europe, Asia, and in the United States—where the debate has been opened by a forthcoming report from the Clinton administration's Advisory Council on Social Security."

The good news, they claim, is that "several elements vital to making reform possible are emerging. A change in public opinion about pensions and investments, the example of some successful pension system reforms in Chile, Australia, and other nations, and the emergence of truly global invest-

ment and securities markets all suggest ways out from under the seemingly inexorable forces of demography." They assume that birth rates will continue to decline, especially in (formerly) industrialized countries—thus chipping away at the tax base required to support a growing elderly population.

The Carter-Shipman piece appears in the form of a "sponsored section"—a 16-page ad paid for by Morgan Bank, State Street Bank, Fidelity Investments, and other financial predators. The ad notes, however, that Marshall Carter will chair the upcoming, CFR-organized conference on the global pension crisis.

Apollo veteran calls for fusion-driven space plan

Dr. Harrison Schmitt, former U.S. senator and the only scientist to explore the Moon during the Apollo program, set forth a plan for a Moon-Mars program based on the development of fusion power, during a Nov. 13 presentation to the National Space Society in Washington. Schmitt outlined his Interlune/InterMars Initiative at a forum on "Mars and the Future of the U.S. Space Program," held in preparation for a White House space summit to be held in January.

Central to Schmitt's proposal is the idea that the rare isotope, helium-3, will be mined on the Moon and used to fuel fusion power plants on the Earth and in space, an idea first proposed by the fusion scientists at the University of Wisconsin. He predicted that just 15 years after the start of such a project, fusion power plants fueled by helium-3 could be operating from lunar resources.

Emphasizing the necessity of developing fusion energy, Schmitt said that the "wedge for new energy technology is widening," because of the increasing gap in energy consumption between the industrialized and developing countries. Only new technologies will be able to close the gap, Schmitt declared.

His plan depends upon the sale of radioisotopes and other material for medical and associated uses, and of fusion-related industrial technology, to help provide the capital needed to keep space exploration moving forward.

Briefly

'DIRTY DICK' MORRIS, President Clinton's ousted campaign-wrecker, wrote in the election-week issue of *Time* that Clinton should name "a few Republicans to his cabinet." Morris says that Republicans "tend to be white men"; but, even if Clinton were to have fewer women and minorities in his cabinet, "the gain is worth it."

SOME HOUSE Republicans are shying away from re-electing Newt Gingrich as Speaker, because of Newt's unresolved investigation by the Ethics panel. The November issue of William Buckley's *National Review* suggests that Rep. Henry Hyde (Ill.) be named interim Speaker, until the Ethics report is released.

LEGALIZED DOPE advocates, gathered at the recent Drug Policy Foundation bash in Washington, found plenty of "freebies" to add to their stash—including picture postcards of Friedrich von Hayek, along with copies of monographs by the free-trade lunatic, who is admired by Newt Gingrich for his Nazi-like economic policies.

MARIA ELENA MILTON asked Rep. John Shadegg (R-Ariz.) Nov. 12 to initiate an emergency resolution for an immediate airlift of vital supplies, to save the lives of 1 million Hutu refugees in Zaire. Milton, who ran Shadegg ragged in their Congressional race, declared, "It is his moral responsibility, as it is that of the U.S. government, to act to prevent this horrible tragedy."

'SECONDS,' a New York monthly for "Generation X" readers, runs a nine-page, unedited interview with Lyndon LaRouche in its November issue. "What I did learn first-hand about this malignant man," the interviewer says, "was the depth and breadth of his intelligence and interests. He never failed to fire back, in an instant, a perceptive answer to anything I asked. . . . He had his act together—and what's more (wonders never cease), I found him to be a totally affable and charming individual."