

# National News

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## **GOP launches national anti-labor initiative**

Republican partisans of the Conservative Revolution are spearheading an anti-labor measure, via a ballot referendum in California, which would require workers to give written, annual authorization for use of their union dues in election campaigns. The initiative has the prominent backing of Gov. Pete Wilson (R). In the Nov. 13 issue of the *Washington Post*, columnist David Broder notes that the GOP nationally is aiming to use such measures to reverse such labor gains as the passage of last year's minimum wage bill and this month's defeat of "fast track."

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) attempted to introduce a similar measure in Congress in October, but failed to get sufficient votes to cut off debate and bring it to a vote. House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) has vowed to make such a provision part of any campaign finance legislation when the House takes up the issue next year. So far, such a statute has been approved in Washington State and in Michigan, where it applies only to teachers unions.

The anti-labor referendum's chief backers also include Orange County businessman Mark Bucher, Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform, and J. Patrick Rooney, an Indianapolis insurance executive who is a major financial backer of Gingrich nationally.

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## **Phony 'greenhouse' cuts hit defense readiness**

While skirting the environmentalist fiction about man-made "greenhouse gas emissions" causing a non-existent global warming, the U.S. military has expressed deep concern over the fact that energy reductions, which are being proposed at the Dec. 5, Kyoto global warming summit, will destroy U.S. defense readiness. Speaking at an American Bar Association conference in Washington, D.C. earlier this month, Capt. Michael F. Lohr, the legal counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said

that the efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions could have a significant operational effect on U.S. military forces.

Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Environmental Security Sherri Goodman wrote that the cuts would mean "unacceptable impacts to national security," in a Sept. 5 memorandum:

"For the Army, a 10% reduction in operations and training fuel use would cut 328,000 miles per year from tank training, impacting its ability to execute the National Military Strategy. . . . [It] would downgrade unit readiness and require up to six additional weeks to prepare to deploy. Strategic deployment schedules would be missed, placing operations at risk. . . .

"For the Navy, a 10% reduction in fuel use would cut 2,000 steaming days per year from training and operations for deployed ships. This would . . . result in some ships being deployed at a less acceptable readiness rate. Naval aviation (Navy and Marines) would also be adversely impacted. . . .

"For the Air Force, a 10% cut in fuel usage would result in the loss of over 210,000 flying hours per year. . . . Fighter and bomber crews would be unable to maintain full combat readiness. . . . In addition, airlift capacity would be reduced 10%, impacting all supported agencies. . . .

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## **Terrorists linked to Afghans convicted in U.S.**

Two terrorists, both linked to the drug- and gun-running "resistance fighters" in Afghanistan set up as a training ground for "Islamic terrorists" by London in the 1980s, were convicted of terrorist acts in the United States in two different trials. Ahmed Ramzi Yousef and a second man were found guilty by a jury in Federal court in Manhattan on Nov. 12 of plotting and carrying out the February 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, in which six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured.

Yousef received his training in the use of explosives in Afghanistan. For three years, Yousef lived in a house in Peshawar, Pakistan, paid for by Osama bin Laden, the expatriate Saudi financier of Afghansi terrorist networks, whose base of operations

is London. On May 11, 1997, Bin Laden threatened President Clinton with assassination, during an interview broadcast on CNN. The U.S. State Department issued an alert for U.S. citizens and facilities abroad, following the announcement of Yousef's conviction.

On Nov. 11, Mir Aimal Kasi was convicted by a Fairfax, Virginia court in the Jan. 25, 1993 shooting spree outside CIA headquarters in Langley, killing two during the morning rush hour. Following his conviction, unidentified gunmen killed four U.S. businessmen and their Pakistani driver in a Nov. 12 ambush in Karachi, Pakistan. Kasi, a Pakistani national who claimed to be operating alone, was captured in Pakistan and deported to the U.S., earlier this year. Kasi had earlier lived in Quetta, a center of Afghansi gun-running.

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## **Los Angeles Times points to Moon-GOP connection**

While some of the more rabid neo-conservatives in the Republican Party continue to bark about Chinese and Indonesian conspiracies to influence U.S. elections, former Associated Press correspondent Robert Parry pointed to "The GOP's Own Asian Connection: Rev. Moon," in the editorial section of the Nov. 16 Sunday *Los Angeles Times*. Parry, now the editor of *I.F. Magazine*, warned that "Republicans are also vulnerable. . . . [T]hey are especially lucky that one of their most questionable relationships has gone virtually unmentioned . . . that is, the GOP's long and lucrative relationship with the Rev. Sun Myung Moon."

Parry lists some of the contributions by Moon to Conservative Revolution operations, which he says are "estimated in hundreds of millions to billions of dollars." Parry points out that most of Moon's contributions are made quietly, such as the \$3.5 million to Jerry Falwell's Liberty University. Parry also mentions that Moon has contributed to "Texas Gov. George Bush and Iran-Contra figure Oliver North." Moreover, writes Parry, "In the 1980s, the American Freedom Council defended North against Iran-Contra charges and distributed 30 million pieces of literature to help elect George

Bush in 1988. It was later revealed that the AFC was backed by \$5 million to \$6 million from business interests associated with Moon."

But what does Moon think about America? In one sermon, according to Parry, Moon thundered, "You must realize that America has become the kingdom of Satan." In another, "Moon told his followers that '... the country that represents Satan's harvest is America.'"

## Pritchard boasts role in Jones suit vs. Clinton

Former Washington correspondent for the London *Sunday Telegraph*, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, expanded on his boast that he encouraged Paula Jones in her 1994 sexual harassment suit against President Clinton. In his book-length diatribe *The Secret Life of Bill Clinton*, the Hollinger Corp. scribbler discloses new details about his involvement prior to the lawsuit being filed. On May 8, 1994, two days after Jones's suit was filed, Pritchard admitted in the *Sunday Telegraph* that he had had "a dozen conversations with Mrs. Jones over the past two months," saying, "I happened to be present at a strategy meeting last month on a boat on the Arkansas River" at which Jones's attorney "was weighing the pros and cons of legal action."

In his new book, Pritchard elaborates that he was already in discussions with Jones's lawyer, Danny Traylor, before talking to her. Traylor told Pritchard that he was hopelessly out of his depth in filing a suit against the President of the United States, and he didn't know where to turn for a co-counsel of national stature. Pritchard suggested a lawyer. "For a few minutes, I suppose, it could be said I had become a consultant to the embryonic legal team of Paula Jones," Pritchard writes, but he then quickly denies the charge that he was "instigating" the case.

Shortly after her suit was filed, Lyndon LaRouche proposed that Jones should be required to show that her collaboration with Evans-Pritchard "did not produce a lawsuit which is clearly politically motivated to destabilize the Presidency."

Meantime, two groups financed by

wealthy spook Richard Mellon Scaife, are running radio and TV ads urging women to call a toll-free number "if you believe you have been a victim of sexual harassment by the President." The campaign, estimated to cost \$260,000, is being carried out by the Free Congress Foundation and the National Center for Public Policy Research. One can only imagine the salacious state of mind of the operators answering what the Free Congress Foundation acknowledged were "thousands" of calls.

## Los Angeles County medical crisis grows

The closure of the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center, the core facility of the largest municipal health care system in the country, has thrown the county health system into a crisis. The shutdown of the facility, allegedly because it suffered irreparable earthquake damage, is seen by the County Board of Supervisors as an opportunity to begin integrating so-called "managed care" (i.e., rationing) with county medical services. Well over a million uninsured poor depend on the county system for medical care.

The supervisors propose replacing the old facility, which has a licensed capacity for almost 2,000 beds (currently funded for 900 beds), with a facility that would be licensed for 600 beds. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky argued that construction of a smaller facility was a more "humane approach," because it would free funds for outpatient services. Neo-con Supervisor Mike Antonovich has even proposed cutting the new facility to 390 beds.

Seventy percent of the county facility's beds are currently used for emergency treatment. According to the County Health Department's Dr. Don Thomas, a smaller facility "would lead to ambulances being diverted to carry critically ill patients on dangerous 25-minute rides to other hospitals." The medical center is the keystone in a network of hospitals and trauma centers, caring for half of the region's hospitalized AIDS and sickle cell anemia patients and 25% of the county's trauma cases. Some 55,000 patients pass through USC-County each year.

**LAROCHE** political prisoners' petition for habeas corpus was denied by Virginia's Supreme Court. The prisoners, Paul and Anita Gallagher, and Laurence Hecht, are serving 33, 39, and 34 years respectively, solely because they are associated with Lyndon LaRouche. Their congressman, Frank Wolf, who styles himself a human rights crusader for Chinese political prisoners, maintains a stony silence on this travesty in his backyard.

**TIM WIRTH**, the State Department's chief negotiator on global climate issues, and a solid defender of hoaxes ecological, is leaving his post in December to head a \$1 billion fund for the UN contributions being set up by media magnate, and Jane Fonda spouse, Ted Turner. Wirth will be replaced as lead negotiator at the Kyoto "global warming" summit by Commerce Undersecretary Stuart Eizenstat.

**NEIL ADKINS**, whose mother Janet was Dr. Jack Kevorkian's first known victim, is speaking out loudly against Oregon's assisted suicide euthanasia law. At a press conference before the election, Adkins said, "I will probably die with this with me: Could I have prevented my mother from dying?" Adkins urged that people should never "play God" by deciding to take their lives.

**ORTHODOX** Patriarch Bartholomew of Istanbul has deployed for a month-long tour of the United States to drum up backing for the Kyoto "global warming" summit next month. Bartholomew pronounced that "for humans to contaminate the Earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life with poisonous substances, . . . these are sins."

**MARK RICHARD**, the number-two fixture in the Justice Department's Criminal Division permanent bureaucracy, was "feted last week for 30 years of bureaucratic service," *New York Times* columnist William Safire noted on Nov. 19.