

# National News

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## Dam to be demolished to protect the fish

For the first time in U.S. history, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has ruled that a dam, the Edwards Dam in Augusta, Maine, will not be relicensed, and shall be demolished, according to press reports on Nov. 26. The reason? Because the dam allegedly hinders the migratory passage of sturgeon, salmon, and other fish. The Edwards Dam, 160 years old, is a small facility that produces only 3.5 MW of electricity, most going to its owners, the Edwards Manufacturing Company. But the precedent that this sets, as warned by the utility industry's Edison Electric Institute, could put hundreds of other hydroelectric dams, whose licenses are coming up for review, at risk. Within the next 15 years, there are 550 such dams, nearly all much larger than Edwards.

FERC based its ruling on a 1986 law requiring that FERC decisions must balance conservation, recreation, and other environmental "values" with social and economic considerations. It would have taken more money to put fish passages through the dam than to tear it down, FERC rationalized, so on a cost-benefit analysis basis, the fish win. The owners of the dam, and one of the FERC commissioners, are challenging the decision on legal grounds, arguing that FERC can issue licenses, but cannot order that dams be torn down.

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## Tennessee will not fund liver transplant for Ray

James Earl Ray, who recanted his coerced confession to the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. and has been seeking a new trial for the last 29 years, is dying of a chronic hepatitis C infection that he contracted in prison. A liver transplant could save his life, but, the Tennessee Department of Corrections will not pay for such medical treatments, even though he contracted the disease in prison. Martin Luther King's family has publicly supported Ray's right to a new trial, based on the evidence that Ray and his attor-

neys have presented that he was a patsy—not the assassin—in a far larger conspiracy. Because only a jury trial would bring the evidence to light, the King family supports Ray's right to an operation.

The Rev. James Lawson, who was with Dr. King when he was assassinated, has initiated a drive to raise the funds for Ray's transplant. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center has stated that, because Ray is not insured, it requires that the \$250,000 be posted as a bond toward payment, before the hospital would list him as a candidate for a transplant. Should Reverend Lawson succeed in raising the funds, Ray will still have to secure a medical furlough from the Memphis district attorney, the prison doctors, and the Tennessee prisons commissioner. One prison spokeswoman told reporters that such furloughs are rarely approved. "A candidate has to be near death," she said. Doctors, a few months ago, diagnosed Ray's life expectancy to be about six months.

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## Mine workers slam Gore, global warming treaty

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) President Cecil Roberts denounced the global warming treaty and Vice President Gore's promotion of it, at a forum sponsored by the Media Research Center on Nov. 25, titled "Global Crisis or Chicken Little Paranoia?" Joining Roberts was Prof. Fred Singer, of the University of Virginia, and Fred Smith, president of the Competitive Enterprise Institute. Gore was to participate in the Dec. 1-10 UN conference on the "climate change" treaty, in Kyoto, Japan, but because of the growing opposition to the scientific fraud behind the treaty, he made plans to leave for the summit only on Dec. 8.

In his remarks to the forum, Roberts took direct aim at Gore, the chief administration advocate of the treaty's Malthusian environmentalist foundations. Roberts, a sixth-generation coal miner and an executive board member of the AFL-CIO, said, "This issue is becoming more and more detrimental to Gore's candidacy" for the 2000 Democratic Presidential nomination. "The environmentalists feel the U.S. is doing too little, but

many of us in the labor community feel the U.S. is doing too much" on the treaty. While defending Gore as a "friend of labor" on many issues, Roberts said that Gore and President Clinton are "dead wrong on this," because the treaty is not in America's interest.

Roberts estimates that the global warming treaty would cost the United States a total of 1.7 million jobs lost in coal-mining services and other energy-intensive industries, alone.

The UMWA is working in an unusual alliance with the coal industry to fight the global warming issue, which threatens to decimate the nation's coal-mining industry. The October/November 1997 coal industry publication, the *National Coal Leader*, reports on a study commissioned by the Labor Management Positive Change Process Fund (a cooperative program between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association) to determine the effect on energy markets, the national economy, industry, and regional economies, of the emission mitigation strategies which are being promoted at Kyoto. The study, conducted by Data Resources, Inc., found that, if emissions are stabilized at 1990 levels by the year 2010—which is President Clinton's position—the nation's "energy industries would be devastated, with coal mining by far the hardest hit of all; nearly one out of every two coal miners will lose their job."

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## FBI's Moscow office chief quits in scandal

The head of the FBI's office in Moscow resigned in late November, in what is being reported as continued fall-out from the FBI's blundering arrest of a former KGB spy last year. In the 1996 case, Vladimir Galkin was arrested on Oct. 29, 1996, upon his arrival in the United States, after he had been granted a visa by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. In his visa application, Galkin had honestly stated that he formerly worked for the Soviet KGB. Once arrested, he was charged with illegally obtaining information about the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative in 1991 for the Soviet Union.

The FBI's arrest of Galkin was seen as violating the unwritten rules of espionage

**MICHAEL SHAHEEN**, who headed the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility since its creation by Attorney General Edward Levi in 1975, announced his resignation on Nov. 24. The OPR, which is responsible for investigating misconduct by DOJ officials, was known for covering up and whitewashing almost all allegations of prosecutorial misconduct that came before it, including the LaRouche, Demjanjuk, and anti-black "Lost Trust" cases.

**SCHOOL GUIDANCE** counselors are increasingly seeing pre-teen and adolescent children showing all the signs of autism, from becoming addicted to the Internet, reported one New York educator. These children are withdrawing socially, even to the point of no longer speaking, he reported.

**THE BOSTON** Tea Party was reenacted on Dec. 1 by the Ad Hoc Committee to Defend Health Care, a group representing 3,000 doctors and nurses, who tossed the annual reports of for-profit hospitals and managed health-care firms into Boston Harbor. The committee has published a call to action in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

**PAULA JONES'S** legal fund is being misused to pay for clothing, hair-styling, and other personal expenses, charged President Clinton's lawyers in court papers made public on Nov. 26. The President's lawyers were seeking names of contributors to the fund to show that the case is being bankrolled by Clinton's enemies. The Federal judge hearing the case ruled that contributors' names can be kept secret, but other information should be given to the President's lawyers.

**GOV. GEORGE BUSH** of Texas was the subject of lavish praise in a Nov. 29 Scripps-Howard wire on his gubernatorial reelection bid, which was announced on Dec. 3. The puff-piece claims that the younger Bush, as Presidential material, will "create a dynasty akin to the Kennedys."

between the United States and Russia, where each others' spies are generally deported, but not arrested. The Galkin arrest sparked threats of retaliation that CIA agents in Russia would be arrested, as well as also setting off a fight between the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency. On Nov. 13, 1996, the Justice Department announced that it was dismissing the charges against Galkin, upon the recommendation of the CIA and the State Department.

Apparently, as a result of the Galkin affair, the FBI office in Moscow was getting no cooperation from intelligence officials in Russia, which a week earlier, had led to the resignation of Stanton Felton, the FBI's "legal attaché" in Moscow.

He said they also look toward U.S. purchases for the Three Gorges project as a way to alleviate the trade deficit. The dam, he said, "is a reality. There is absolutely no question about it. But the most significant thing is the magnitude of it. It's going to generate about 18,000 megawatts, which is equal to about thirty-six 500-megawatt coal-fired plants." He scored the Export-Import Bank for refusing to grant loan guarantees to American corporations on environmental grounds, even though Ex-Im does grant guarantees for coal-fired plants in China, which are the major source of pollution.

## Grand Rapids exhibits art by Raphael's teacher

The Grand Rapids, Michigan Art Museum opened the first U.S. exhibit of works by the Renaissance master Perugino, in late November, who was, among other things, the teacher of Raphael Sanzio. Although Perugino (which means the "man from Perugia"—his real name was Pietro Vannucci) never became as great an artist as some of his contemporaries, the exhibit represents a crucial opportunity for Americans in the area—the exhibit will not travel—to see, first-hand, the paintings of a significant Renaissance painter.

Perugino was an apprentice in the Florentine workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio, along with Leonardo da Vinci and Sandro Botticelli. He worked on perspective with Piero della Francesca; he is believed to have met Albrecht Dürer and Titian. He later became a celebrated teacher, his leading student being Raphael Sanzio, the painter of the famous *stanze* in the Vatican apartments of Pope Julius II.

The Grand Rapids exhibit is small, only 30 pictures, some of which are drawings, while some are productions of his studio, and therefore, only partially by his hand, or were executed under his instruction. Included are a well-known "Madonna and Child," and a "Saint Sebastian." Supplementing the exhibit, is an impressive catalogue of 258 of the master's pictures, with a listing of every Perugino in America. The exhibit runs through Feb. 1.

## China's President Jiang briefs U.S. senators

U.S. Senators Frank Murkowski (R-Ak.) and Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) gave an enthusiastic press conference in Washington on Nov. 24, on their return from China, where they had met with President Jiang Zemin. A meeting scheduled for a half-hour was extended for over an hour, to cover such topics as China's ambitious Three Gorges Dam project, the U.S.-China trade deficit, and technology transfers. Murkowski reported, "I think the highlight was his euphoria over his recent meeting with President Clinton. . . . He has in the Politburo now a group of very well-educated members. There's no military member in the Politburo, and most of them are masters, Ph.D.s, and so forth, which, when you talk to them and you recognize that you're in a socialist-communist country and you're talking about capitalism, it's rather interesting and rewarding, in the sense that here's somewhat of an inconsistency."

Murkowski also said he was surprised that both Jiang Zemin and the vice premier brought up the American trade deficit. "And that's why they were so euphoric about the prospects of bringing in American technology for nuclear power plants, because those are big-ticket items, and other technologies, particularly freshwater conversion devices, where you, through a bacterial process, can convert dirty water to clean water."