

National News

Carville ridicules Post for Whitewater coverage

Irreverent Presidential adviser James Carville poked some fun at the *Washington Post*, in the daily's own pages on Jan. 10, noting its recent coverage in which "a headline screams that the Whitewater probe is nearing 'a crucial phase,'" and in which the first paragraph "boldly claims that the Whitewater investigation is coming to 'a critical juncture.'"

Carville recounted numerous instances over the past two years where the *Post* has claimed that the Whitewater investigation had reached an "important phase," a "critical juncture," or a "critical stage."

"And now," Carville writes, "over a year later, readers of your paper are trying to determine if we are now at a 'critical juncture' or a 'critical phase' in the Whitewater inquiry. Or, perhaps, it's only an 'important phase.' The truth of the matter is that the best way to use the word 'critical' in this case is to be critical of [Special Prosecutor Kenneth] Starr's goofy and protracted investigation and to be critical of the media for their uncritical reporting of Starr's political witch-hunt."

Welfare reform causing worse homelessness

A new survey entitled "Early Warning Report: Issues and Problems of Welfare Reform in Los Angeles," issued in early January by the Welfare Reform Monitoring Project (WRMP) of the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness, reveals the harsh realities of workfare "welfare reform." Says the WRMP report, "Overall, the group of families surveyed had young children, were dependent on aid to maintain their livelihood, and did not have anyone working full-time at a livable wage. . . . Families relied heavily on benefits such as cash aid, food stamps and Medi-Cal for survival." The targetted groups were those families or individuals who "are directly impacted by the new laws."

Of those families whose incomes were cut or reduced by welfare reform, all were forced to rely "on low-wage jobs and public benefits," which "placed families in precarious situations." The report indicates that, of those families surveyed, more than 60% were unable to pay a combination of rent, bills, childcare, or health care. Among families who lost all or part of their benefits, 55% became homeless, 45% were evicted, 17% of the families split up, and 5% of them doubled up. No matter what area of the city and county was surveyed, "welfare reform" resulted in the inability to pay rent (approximately 60%), coupled with incredibly high rates (over 40%) of homelessness.

Bob Erlenbusch, executive director of the Coalition, told *EIR*: "We began the Welfare Reform Monitoring Project (WRMP) because . . . except for Atlanta no [welfare rights] advocates have monitored the results of welfare reform anywhere else in the country. In Wisconsin, for example, only anecdotal information was available. You know, advocates would say, 'Well, people are being made homeless,' but there were no hard numbers. So [Wisconsin] Gov. Tommy Thompson could get up and say, 'All these people have found jobs.'"

Texas set to kill first woman since Civil War

Karla Faye Tucker, convicted in 1984 for murder, has been scheduled to be executed on Feb. 3. Her case has unleashed a national debate over whether justice should be based on vengeance, or whether it would benefit from the concepts of mercy and rehabilitation.

Although much of the debate revolves around the fact that Tucker is a woman, and would be the first woman executed in Texas since the Civil War, the deeper issue involves the fact that Tucker, 38, convicted of committing a vicious crime, has become completely rehabilitated and a born-again Christian. Tucker, convicted for committing a double murder with a pickax, while on drugs, was first prostituted by her mother at the age of 10, and readily consumed drugs throughout her childhood.

Her conversion confronts death penalty supporters, especially so-called Christians, with a dilemma: Their bloodlust in this case will snuff out the life of a fellow believer, who represents no further threat to society. Tucker's change also poses the question how many more killers could be changed if justice were premised on rehabilitation. The *Houston Chronicle* aptly editorialized on Jan. 16: "To say that Tucker's conversion to Christianity is reason to spare her is to say that we may as well do away with capital punishment."

Gov. George Bush, with the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, could act to commute her sentence to life. Bush, whose father has teamed up with Rev. Sun Myung Moon to bankroll his son's Presidential aspirations, so far has refused to act, demurring that he will not interfere with the decision of the jury.

Bush ambassador to U.K. says Clinton is pro-IRA

George Bush's ambassador to the Court of St. James, Raymond Seitz, who remained in London after his replacement in 1994, has charged in his memoirs that British intelligence information on Northern Ireland that was passed on to the Clinton White House, "often seemed to find its way back to the IRA." Seitz claimed that matters became so bad, that the John Major government stopped passing sensitive intelligence on Northern Ireland to the White House.

Seitz's memoirs were excerpted in the Hollinger *Sunday Telegraph*, the flagship publication for the "Get Clinton" attack force, on Jan. 19. Seitz was appointed by Bush as U.S. ambassador in 1991, and stayed on until 1994.

Seitz called U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith "an ardent IRA apologist," and attacked her brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy, for having unwarranted influence over the President on Northern Ireland issues, as well as former National Security Council staffer Nancy Soderberg (earlier an employee of Senator Kennedy), as a "dedicated advocate" of Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams. The Clinton White House

consistently accepted the advice of this Kennedy trio, above that of career professionals and the U.S. State Department, Seitz alleged.

Stephanopoulos blasts Rutherford Institute

Former White House adviser George Stephanopoulos blasted the "Christian Reconstructionist" Rutherford Institute, during an appearance on ABC's "This Week," on Jan. 11. A few months ago, it was announced that the costs of Paula Jones sexual harassment suit against President Clinton—the lawsuit originally orchestrated by the London *Sunday Telegraph's* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard—were being picked up by the Rutherford Institute, based in London and in Charlottesville, Virginia. The institute, among other things, also advocates the reinstitution of slavery.

During his appearance, Stephanopoulos said that he believes the Jones case will go to trial, and that the public, "as they find out that Paula Jones's lawyers are subsidized by taxpayers—they are going to be enraged. This Rutherford Institute, their other client in Arkansas, is a Nazi, a former Nazi who's a white supremacist. They are run by a protégé of Jerry Falwell, and I think the more people find out about this," the more disgusted they will become with the attacks on the U.S. Presidency.

Three LaRouche allies file Federal habeas writs

Three more Virginia political prisoners, associates of Lyndon LaRouche, filed *habeas corpus* petitions in Federal courts on Jan. 13. The three separate petitions, filed on behalf of Anita Gallagher (serving 39 years), Paul Gallagher (34), and Laurence Hecht (33), are each 225 pages long, backed up by two volumes of evidence each, documenting the gross injustices in their cases.

Among the issues raised in the petitions:

- It was unconstitutional to prosecute associates of Lyndon LaRouche for sollicita-

tion of political loans under Virginia's securities laws, when the state had never considered such loans to be securities before. At the time of the 1987 indictment, even the State Corporation Commission said this was a case of first impression. Furthermore, it violates the First Amendment to apply the Virginia securities law to political loans.

- The trial was conducted by a biased judge and jury.

- Prosecutors deliberately withheld exculpatory evidence from the defense, engaged in a campaign of defamation, financial interference, and suppressed evidence of their illegal actions.

- Prosecutor John Russell lied to the jury, saying the state of Virginia had nothing to do with the Federal government's illegal bankruptcy of the publishing firms for which loans were solicited; in fact, the Commonwealth was a full participant in the April 1987 bankruptcy from the beginning.

- The prosecution suborned perjury, and coaxed witnesses to present false testimony.

AFL-CIO praises Clinton Medicare proposals

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney on Jan. 6 released a statement in support of President Clinton's Medicare proposal, which would allow retirees between the ages of 62 and 65 to "buy in" to Medicare coverage, until they become eligible at age 65. Sweeney said the buy-in "could well be the most significant step we've taken yet toward reducing the number of American families without health insurance coverage. And it most certainly would be a lifeline to workers who have been forced into early retirement by layoffs, corporate downsizing, or illness."

Sweeney said that "private health insurance protection has collapsed for retirees who are not yet 65 and do not qualify for Medicare." In 1988, some 44% of retirees aged 55 and over were receiving health benefits from their prior employer. By 1994, that number had fallen to 34%, and it is probably lower today, Sweeney said.

The scrooges at the National Association of Manufacturers termed the proposal "premature and fiscally risky."

RAMZI YOUSEF, the Afghani who was convicted of the 1994 bombing of a Philippines airliner, and of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was sentenced to life in prison for the first crime, and 240 years in prison for the second. At his allocution, he declared, "Yes, I am a terrorist, and I am proud of it."

THE TWO LARGEST health care unions, New York 1199 National Health and Human Service Union, and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), agreed on Jan. 6 to merge. The merger, announced on Jan. 7, is the culmination of 20 years of talks.

VIRGINIA'S medical neglect of prison inmates, first exposed last fall in *New Federalist*, was further documented by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on Jan. 19. At Goochland Correctional Center for Women, one woman died in February 1997, after bleeding profusely for several days. Congressional candidate Nancy Spannaus (D) stated that, with Jim Gilmore (R) "now in as governor, he is going to be held responsible for what happens. He has been bending over backwards to show he is a humane person. If he is, he will stop this policy of medical murder *right now*."

PRESIDENT CLINTON and the three Presidents of the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, signed a charter in Washington on Jan. 16, which upgrades the cooperation of the United States with the three Baltic states. The charter expresses the "shared goal" that the three be integrated into "transatlantic institutions, such as the EU, the OSCE, the WTO, and NATO."

NEW AGE DEMOCRATS in Virginia handed the state Senate seat held by Democrats over to Republicans in a special election on Jan. 20, giving the Conservative Revolution an absolute majority in the Senate for the first time in history. Candidate Jean Brown refused to identify herself as a Democrat, demoralizing the base of outgoing Sen. Charles Waddell.