

# National News

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## How Big a Hole in the Texas Budget?

An internal memo of the Texas Department of Health, written in May, surfaced in July and indicated that the state's shortfall in the Medicaid program could be as high as \$633 million by August 2001, a figure double the previously forecast deficit, according to the *Houston Chronicle* on July 18. The issue has become a political football between Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore.

The state comptroller, Republican Carol Keeton Rylander, released a statement saying that the state will finish this financial year with a \$1.1 billion surplus, which is more than enough to cover the cost overruns in Medicaid and other state programs. But some Democrats, with the urging of the Gore campaign, are calling for an audit of the state books. Sen. Mario Gallegos held a press conference by phone, arranged by the Gore campaign, on the issue.

The major cause of both the originally projected \$610 million overrun, and now the possibility that the figures are higher than that by 50% or more, comes from increasing medical costs, particularly pharmaceuticals, according to medical reports.

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## 'Little Rock Judge Endorses Stealing'

The theft by the Gore campaign of more than 53,000 votes cast for Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in the May 23 Arkansas Democratic Party primary, was prominently covered under the headline "Little Rock Judge Endorses Stealing," in the July 15 issue of *The Voice*, a monthly newspaper in Russellville, Arkansas.

Author Sara Summers reports:

"On Friday, June 23, Pulaski County Circuit Judge John Ward ruled in favor of the Democratic Party, awarding seven LaRouche-entitled delegates to Al Gore. This ruling ignores Arkansas Election Code

7-8-20, which states that delegates to the national nominating conventions of the political parties, 'shall be apportioned according to the votes for each candidate' on a percentage basis rather than winner take all. Judge Ward's order states, 'The Democratic Party's decision about who can be nominated as delegates and even who can be considered a Democrat are clothed in First Amendment protection.' There are 53,280 registered voters in Arkansas who want to know where in the First Amendment Judge Ward found that the Democratic Party's rights override those of the voters! . . .

"Votes for LaRouche were actually 17,000 more than those cast for Republican frontrunner, George W. Bush. The vote count reflected the undeniable voice of the people clearly supporting LaRouche. Yet, in an unbelievable turn of events, LaRouche was notified by Arkansas Democratic Party Chairman Vaughn McQuary, pursuant to orders from Democratic National Committee Chairman Joe Andrew, that the seven delegates voters had given LaRouche, would not be allowed to participate in the state Democratic Convention. In fact, in defiance of over 53,000 voters, those seven delegates were awarded to Al Gore! Shortly after this notification, the 'Gore 2000 Delegate Count' on Gore's website listed 45 Arkansas delegates as having been taken by Gore. . . .

"LaRouche's national spokesperson, Debra Hanania Freeman, said, 'DNC Chairman Joe Andrew, and a small group of Gore henchman, based at DNC headquarters in Washington, D.C., have, from the very beginning of this campaign, been determined to silence anything or anyone that posed a potential challenge to Al Gore's pre-anointed status as the Democratic Presidential nominee, despite a growing recognition that Gore is simply unelectable.' Freeman further stated that, 'to that end, Mr. Andrew has shown himself to be a liar and a racist. Now, in Arkansas, in a blatantly illegal action, he has robbed over 50,000 Democratic voters of their most sacred right as Americans. . . .'

"LaRouche has called for Joe Andrew to step down to prevent the Democratic Party from 'losing the Presidency' as well as 'receiving a crushing defeat in Congress.'

"There are a lot of 'claims' on both sides here, folks. But the bottom line is that over 53,000 Arkansans' votes have been stolen through the 'Democratic' legal system. An individual's right to vote, regardless of how uninformed that voter might be, is guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. No 'elite' group, no matter how infomed they might be, has the right to steal. Yet that is exactly what has occurred, an action endorsed by the decision of Judge John Ward, a Clinton appointee.

"One final thought: Why aren't the Republicans up in voice over this matter?"

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## U.S. Labs Are Losing Asian-American Experts

Over the past year, since charges of nuclear spying for China were leveled at Los Alamos computer scientist Wen Ho Lee, Asian-American scientists have left the nation's three weapons labs, and many fewer than usual are applying for jobs, according to July 16 press reports. Two Asian-American organizations have called for a boycott of the labs, due to accusations of racial profiling by lab management, the removal of foreign scientists' security clearances, harassment, and the lack of promotions.

Testifying before a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Calif.) stated that there is "the sense that Asian-Americans are targeted or scapegoated as potentially coming to work at the labs because they can spy." Dr. Jonathan Medalia, at the Congressional Research Service, who authored a recent study on the national labs, told the *New York Times* that the labs are "falling apart." He said that the loss of talent in computer science could threaten the country's ability to ensure the safety and reliability of its nuclear weapons.

The National Science Foundation has warned that "heightened security concerns" were hindering efforts to recruit and retain Asian and Asian-American scientists at the labs, and the effect is more far-reaching, because more than one-quarter of all Ph.D.s awarded in science and technology in U.S.

universities each year are to Asians and Asian-Americans.

*Space News* reported on an incident which demonstrates how far this “anti-foreigner” hysteria has reached, and the impact it is having on scientific research. At a meeting of the committee considering designs for the Next Generation Space Telescope, which will replace the Hubble Space Telescope in the future, scientists, including the chairman of the committee, who works for a science institute in Germany, were asked to leave the room. The NASA managers were afraid that sharing some of the information on the satellite design could violate the terms of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations rules.

## California Report Hits Moskowitz-Israel Scam

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee of the California legislature, chaired by Assemblyman Scot Wildman (D-Los Angeles), has issued a 149-page report alleging that casino owner Irving Moskowitz, who is based in Florida, received \$4 million in public funds to build a casino in Hawaiian Gardens. Moskowitz has used the proceeds from the casino to fund right-wing settlers in Israel—including those committed to blowing up the Al Aqsa Mosque—to sabotage the peace process.

Hawaiian Gardens is a small enclave of 15,000 residents located within the city of Los Angeles. It has been the center of controversy since Moskowitz took it over, as a base for a Bingo Club, which he has used to launder more than \$30 million to Israeli-based extremists since 1992. When he came under attack from city officials who allied themselves with supporters of Lyndon LaRouche to drive him out, he used thug tactics against the officials, as well as millions of dollars which he gave to the city, to take over the enclave. After his opponents were driven out, the city, now under the control of a clique of Moskowitz supporters, gave \$4 million of public “redevelopment” funds, to build the project, which housed a new card club.

Wildman’s report states that, in addition to the \$4 million which paid for sidewalks and sewer lines, another \$8 million is slated to go to the project to pay for legal fees and lawsuits which resulted from relocation of businesses which previously occupied the site.

The report was forwarded to California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, for consideration of legal action against Moskowitz. It was also sent to Harlan Goods, the Director of Gambling Controls.

Moskowitz funds the American Friends of Ateret Cohanim, the National Council of Young Israel, the Zionist Organization of America, Pro Israel, the Center for Security Policy, and Americans for a Safe Israel. For background, see “Terrorist Funder Moskowitz Threatens Middle East Peace,” *EIR*, Sept. 5, 1997.

## Students ‘Learn’ Civics by Pushing Marijuana

To graduate from high school in Maryland’s Montgomery County, in the Washington, D.C. suburbs, students are required to complete 60 hours of community service, in programs approved by the county public school system. According to the July 5 issue of the *Gazette Community News*, a local newspaper, two recent graduates from Walter Johnson High School in wealthy Bethesda filled their “Student Service Learning” requirements by working at the Washington-based Marijuana Policy Project, which advocates legalization of pot.

Scarlett Swerdlow, one of the students who worked at the pot project, told the paper, “The war on marijuana has caused so much harm.”

Montgomery County Public Schools spokeswoman Kate Harrison confirmed that the Marijuana Policy Project met “the guidelines,” and so it was placed on the approved list of civic programs. A source in the White House Drug Office confirmed that they are aware of the matter and are incensed at the idea of the school allowing seniors to participate in the pro-dope effort.

**THE EXPORT-IMPORT** Bank has announced a pilot project to finance \$1 billion a year in exports to countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, of anti-retroviral drugs to combat HIV/AIDS. Whereas the retail price for an anti-retroviral “cocktail” is \$10-15,000 per year per patient, the pharmaceutical cartels are offering them discounted to \$1-2,000 per patient per year.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON**, in visiting the Peace Memorial at Itoman, Okinawa, Japan on July 20, became the first American President ever to visit a war memorial in Japan. His speech noted the huge number of casualties on both sides of that World War II battle, and added that we should “honor what must have been their last wish—that no future generation would be forced to share their experience or repeat their sacrifice.” Okinawa Governor Inamine told Clinton that he was “deeply grateful from the bottom of my heart.”

**SISTER HELEN PREJEAN** is the frontrunner for the Nobel Peace Prize, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Sister Helen, author of *Dead Man Walking*, is spearheading Moratorium 2000, an international movement against the death penalty.

**RUSSIAN DUMA** members from President Putin’s Unity faction will attend the Republican Party convention in Philadelphia. The visit is being arranged by Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), who heads a joint U.S. Congress-Russian Duma commission. Democratic Party officials told AP that they were unaware of any plans for Russians to attend the Democratic convention in Los Angeles.

**HEPATITIS C** is rampant in U.S. prisons, former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop testified recently. About 40% of all prisoners in the United States are infected with the virus, he said, but in some prisons, “the rate of infection has reached 80%—virtually saturation level.”