

National News

Electricity Industry Violations Probed

On July 26, California Attorney General Bill Lockyer announced that he would be investigating the recent power price spikes in the state, which have led to doubling of electricity prices for consumers in San Diego. "Obviously, if any individual or company has acted illegally, I intend to identify and punish those behaviors," Lockyer stated. "San Diegans urgently need short-term relief from skyrocketing electricity bills. Everyone in California needs a better long-term deal on electricity rates. The Department of Justice is going to do everything we can to assist in those goals."

An investigation mandated by California Gov. Gray Davis was due to complete its report by Aug. 1. A subpoena was issued, ordering the California Independent System Operator to supply details on why certain power plants were out of service during the recent heatwave. There have been charges that companies took plants off line in order to drive the spot market price skyward.

San Diego Mayor Susan Golding charged that there might have been "collusion, price fixing," and other "inappropriate behavior" in the electricity market.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announced that it will undertake a "fact-finding" investigation of conditions in the electric bulk power markets, including volatile price fluctuations.

The Whitewashing of Racist Woodrow Wilson

Under the title "Woodrow Wilson White-wash," the *Washington Post* on July 29 ran a letter from reader John G. Henry, denouncing an article on President Wilson published in the newspaper on July 10. "The piece on Wilson devoted a lot of space to Wilson's speeches about human rights and democracy," Henry wrote. "It didn't mention a few inconvenient facts, such as that Wilson was the man who segregated the Federal civil service. He also fired every black postmaster in the South, for the stated reason that no

white man should have to take orders from a black man. Neither action was surprising, coming from an individual who openly defended slavery as a social and labor system.

"The article also failed to recount Wilson's numerous ill-advised military adventures in the Caribbean, and his blunders that nearly brought us to full-scale war with Mexico. . . .

"Despite his rhetoric about democracy, Wilson did nothing to support attempts to grant women the vote, and he allowed Americans to be imprisoned for their political beliefs.

"As debate rages over the size and cost of a replacement for the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge [across the Potomac], no one has discussed the need to ensure the new bridge has a new name. Numerous candidates are more worthy of the honor."

EIR concurs. We have highlighted Wilson's promotion of the Ku Klux Klan, and the pro-Klan film "Birth of a Nation"—among other of Wilson's crimes.

Gore Skewered by New Yorker Magazine

A devastating psycho-political portrait of Al Gore as a cybernetic automaton ("cyborg") is presented by columnist Nicholas Lemann in *The New Yorker* of July 31. Titled "Gore Without a Script: What Would Happen If We Saw the Man He Really Is?," the article is illustrated by a caricature of Gore in a circus outfit, standing astride two horses, one leg on each horse; the horses are going in opposite directions. The caption says: "Gore's political life has been about trying to reconcile the populist tradition that he was born into with the world of the new Democrats."

Describing Gore's campaign style, Lemann observes: "Every move seems calculated and practiced. I kept thinking of that early scene in 'Terminator 2,' when Arnold Schwarzenegger, as a cyborg, walks into a biker bar, and a digital readout flashes across the inside of his eyelids, giving height, weight, and build of each person he sees. . . . He [Gore] has an odd quality of taking in what he's seeing with an almost digitalized exactitude . . . while appearing to be oblivious."

Gore's split personality is aptly charac-

terized: "Gore has two modes when he gives speeches. One is meant to play as 'high energy' and the other as statesmanlike. In high-energy mode, he speaks in a Southern accent and takes the stage at a trot. He pivots his body from side to side, bouncing a little on the balls of his feet, and gestures with both hands; all this makes it look as if his hands were controlled by one puppeteer and his body by another. In statesmanlike mode, he has no accent, he walks, and he stands behind a lectern making rolling gestures with one hand. . . . The speech he had delivered was to the word identical with the text his staff had handed out."

Even his friends are baffled: "Every time you see him, it's almost like you're meeting him for the first time," says one.

Clinton Will Defer Decision on NMD

U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen told reporters on July 27 that President Clinton will not make a final decision on deployment of a National Missile Defense system, but will leave that decision to the next President. Instead, Cohen reported, the President will simply decide "in August or early September" whether to put out contract bids on the construction of a radar site on the Syemya Island in Alaska.

"All the President would do on this occasion is to decide whether he would want to keep that option open to hit the initial operating capability of 2005," Cohen explained. He added that he had not yet decided on what he would recommend to the President about the NMD deployment decision. "The decision that the President will make during the course of either August or early September would be a recommendation as to whether to continue the process so that his successor would be in a position to have the option to go forward with the actual deployment of the system, beginning with a radar construction in Alaska." No actual construction would begin until the spring of 2001.

The same day that Cohen was making the announcement about Clinton's intentions, 31 Democratic senators issued a letter to the President urging him to postpone the decision, explaining, "We fear that a decision to deploy would imperil, not improve, our na-

tional security." A day earlier, 61 House members had sent a similar letter to Clinton.

Professional Groups Denounce Media Violence

According to a joint statement issued by the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the American Psychological Association, "The conclusion of the public health community, based on over 30 years of research, is that viewing violent entertainment can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values, and behavior, particularly in children."

The statement was based on a review of more than 1,000 studies, conducted over the past three decades, into the correlation between exposure to media violence and incidence of real-world violent behavior. The statement was issued in the form of an appeal to the media to take action to deal with the "pathological effects of entertainment violence" on children.

Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) hailed the statement, declaring, "The verdict on violent entertainment is now in. . . . Violent entertainment is a public health hazard." Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.) added, "Common sense, as well as the Bible, tells us that we should not be surprised. We reap what we sow, and we have been sowing some very dangerous seeds."

Black Newspaper in Mississippi Vandalized

The offices of the *Jackson Advocate*, in Jackson, Mississippi, the oldest continuously published member of the national black press, were broken into and vandalized the week of July 24. This is the latest in a series of violent acts against the newspaper, over the last several years.

Associate publisher Alice Tisdale was alerted by the Jackson Police Department, that the front window of the *Advocate* offices had been smashed in, apparently in a failed burglary attempt.

This is the second time in two months that Tisdale has had to replace windows at the *Advocate*. During the Memorial Day weekend, the front windows were smashed, the offices were ransacked, and bank statements, tax records, and other important documents were stolen.

Tisdale said, "I want people to know that no matter how many times someone tries to stop the newspaper from speaking the truth, we will continue to produce a product that the community will be proud of, even if we have to print the news on an 8½×11 piece of paper."

In January 1998, the *Advocate* was firebombed, and had to relocate its offices. Despite heavy national pressure from civil rights groups, to date, no one has been prosecuted for the crime. Six months after the firebombing, the house tightly adjacent to the Tisdales' residence was set on fire, causing an explosion that could be heard a mile away.

The *Advocate* has collaborated closely with the LaRouche movement, and has made extensive use of material from *EIR* and *New Federalist*. The July 28 issue carried an interview with Mississippi State Rep. Erik Fleming, chairman of the Ad Hoc Democratic Party Platform Hearings.

Water Erodes D.C. Subway System

Ground water is seeping into and contributing to the destruction of major sections of the Washington, D.C. Metro underground rail system, the *Washington Post* reported on July 30. The problem is worst in the nine-mile stretch that runs from Maryland to the Farragut North station. This section was built without a waterproof polyvinyl chloride lining around the underground concrete tunnel, through which the train passes. Water is eating away the track bed, the power system, electrical components, and the steel girders that support fire pipes, communications cables, and power lines. It has gotten so bad, that throughout this stretch, stalactites have formed on ceilings of the tunnel.

Between June 30, 1999 and June 30, 2000, the Metro system had to plug 4,000 leaks, and replace 20,000 feet of track, 800 insulators, and 5,000 track fasteners.

CONDOLEEZA RICE, George W. Bush's foreign policy adviser, said in an interview with the London *Daily Telegraph* published on July 29, that the British would be welcomed into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), should they seek to join. "Britain is probably our closest ally in the world," she gushed, "and would be welcome from my point of view into any association in which the United States finds itself."

NATIONAL URBAN League President Hugh B. Price on July 31 called for a repeal of the death penalty, or at least a nationwide moratorium on executions. If executions aren't stopped, Price said, then government must institute a tougher "beyond any doubt" standard of guilt in death penalty cases.

THE AMERICAN Hospital Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and other groups kicked off a campaign on July 24, aimed at building support for more Medicare money to be provided from the Federal budget surplus, to prevent cuts in services. They expect to spend about \$30 million over the next 18 months, in a lobbying effort.

JAY LENO, the late-night television comedian, responded to the news of the Bush-Cheney GOP ticket by saying it reminded him of a Wizard of Oz ticket: One candidate doesn't have a heart, and the other one doesn't have a brain.

STATES cannot account for people eliminated from the welfare rolls, according to a General Accounting Office report released on July 28. More than 2 million families have left the state welfare rolls, because of the 1996 welfare reform act. Few states are tracking what these people are doing. Of the families still on the rolls, most of the parents are still working at the same time. Seventy percent of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) were holding jobs in 1998, says the GAO.