

National News

George H.W. Bush Gives Award to Kennedy

President George “41” Bush sent an interesting message from Texas to President George “43” Bush on Nov. 7, by granting The George Bush Award for Excellence in Public Service, to Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.). Said George 41: “The good Senator’s prescription for what ails America may be different than mine, but it is born of patriotism and compassion.” Kennedy said: “Three generations of Bushes and Kennedys have devoted their lives to public service. The friendship between our families and our respect for each other go back for more than half a century.”

Bush Sr. also quipped: “It is a well known political fact of life, particularly here in Texas, that when you want to fire up a Republican crowd and give them a little red meat, nothing works quite like jumping on Ted Kennedy.” But despite the obvious political humor, Washington took note that it was not Bush “41’s” former Cabinet Secretaries, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, who were granted the Bush Award in Texas, but rather the Senator who publicly called Bush, Jr.’s war in Iraq “a fraud made in Texas.”

More Americans Lack Health Insurance

Some 43 million Americans—15.2% of the population—were forced to go without health insurance in 2002, according to the Census Bureau of the U.S. Commerce Department. State budget cuts are making matters worse: In Texas, Gov. Rick Perry cut state subsidies for health insurance as part of a larger set of cuts, to close a \$10 billion budget gap, which will cost Texas \$500 million in Federal matching money, and is expected to further spur the rise in the number of uninsured.

A growing share of those without health coverage are middle class families whose

annual wages are insufficient to cover the cost of health insurance premiums. Of the five-member Arellano family of Dallas, Texas, only Irma, the mother, has health coverage, which is provided through her job, the *New York Times* reported on Nov. 16. Two years ago, the Arellanos paid \$269 per month for private health insurance, to cover Irma Arellano’s husband and three sons. Last year, the monthly insurance premiums rose to \$339 per month, and this year, they jumped to \$780 per month, a three-fold increase from two years ago, and which comes out to a whopping \$9,360 per year. Unable to afford this, the Arellanos dropped their private insurance, and are uncovered.

Morgan, the asthmatic nine-year-old daughter of Theresa Pardo of Houston, Texas, was dropped from the Texas state-subsidized insurance program last month. As a result, the cost of each inhaler that Morgan needs for her asthma treatment is \$80, as opposed to \$5 when she was on the state insurance program. Her mother’s job has offered health coverage at a \$275 premium per month, but she can’t squeeze out enough money to purchase the insurance.

According to the Commerce Department, one-third of all foreign-born are without health insurance coverage.

Fight in House Over Iraq ‘Intelligence’

A debate over pre-Iraq war “intelligence” broke out in the House Intelligence Committee session on Nov. 18. While the spotlight has been on the fight in the Senate Intelligence Committee over misinformation, lying, and leaks regarding Iraq intelligence, the House Intelligence Committee held a closed-door classified session to investigate Bush Administration pre-war claims about such intelligence. At a conference on fusion energy the afternoon of Nov. 18, Rep. Rush Holt, (D-N.J.), a former fusion scientist, arrived directly from the Committee meeting. He said he had queried “a senior intelligence analyst” who had helped develop the National Intelligence

Estimate a year ago.

Representative Holt said that since Chief U.S. Inspector Dr. David Kay “had searched and searched,” and not found any Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD), he asked the intelligence analyst about it. The analyst said he was “absolutely certain” Iraq has WMD. “What evidence do you have?” Holt asked. The analyst said he had 27 years of experience in the intelligence community, and offered other obfuscations. Holt asked again for any evidence, but got none. Holt asked if the country were “well served by a senior intelligence analyst who speaks in absolutes, in the absence of evidence.” The intelligence community, Holt said, is supposed to “watch for self-deception” on the part of the Administration, and “be a safeguard against that.”

Holt also remarked that the House was passing an energy bill that was a “grab-bag of special interests that doesn’t do what the country needs.” To the fusion scientists at the meeting, Holt advised that they maintain their integrity, and continue to refuse to talk in “absolutes.”

Cheney Slips New Lie Into Bush London Speech

In his Whitehall speech on Nov. 19, President George W. Bush read the following, in talking about the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001: “The attacks that followed—on Bali, Jakarta, Casablanca, Bombay, Mombasa, Najaf, Jerusalem, Riyadh, Baghdad, and Istanbul—were not dreams. They’re part of a global campaign by terrorist networks to intimidate and demoralize all who oppose them.”

On Nov. 12, *EIR* had reported on a *New York Times* article in which unnamed Bush Administration officials complained about Vice President Dick Cheney’s continuing efforts to link the recent bombings in Iraq, with the bombings in Bali, Casablanca, and Riyadh, which authorities believe were carried out by Al-Qaeda-linked groups. These Administration officials said that Cheney, by implying that Al-Qaeda is operating inside Iraq today, is attempting to reinforce his

HOWARD DEAN on Nov. 18 called for “re-regulation” of utilities, large media companies, and any business that offers stock options. As governor of Vermont, the Presidential candidate says he promoted *deregulation*, but now says, “California is proving it does not work. I think the reason the grid failed is because of utility deregulation.” Re-regulation is the policy of Dean’s opponent, Lyndon LaRouche.

THE FRENCH Caucus in the United States Congress now has 35 members. Rep. Amory Houghton, Jr. (R-N.Y.) announced the formation of a Congressional French Caucus on Oct. 22, in an effort to improve Franco-American relations in the aftermath of the Iraq war. At the time of formation, the caucus consisted of about 25 Congressmen and Senators; there are now reportedly 35 members—quite a shift from the French-bashing mood in Congress last Winter and Spring.

TWO JUDGES of the three hearing a *habeas corpus* petition for Jose Padilla on Nov. 17, questioned the constitutionality of holding a U.S. citizen as an “enemy combatant” without any legal rights, according to the *New York Law Journal*. Padilla has been held incommunicado since June 2002. One judge said that to give the Executive such power would be a “sea change in the constitutional life of this country and . . . unprecedented in civilized society.” Said another, “As terrible as 9-11 was, it didn’t repeal the Constitution.”

BRITISH AMBASSADOR to the United States Sir Christopher Meyer told *The Observer* on Nov. 16 that there was a series of meetings just before the Iraq war began, in which the British insistence on a plan for the post-Saddam era was rejected. “We were saying that’s fine, but we must be clear in our own mind what is happening afterwards. That was absolutely indispensable. The message was well taken in the State Department, but not . . . with the Defense Department and the Vice President.”

discredited claim that Saddam Hussein was linked to Al-Qaeda before the war.

“At this point, it isn’t clear who’s responsible for those bombings,” one unnamed Administration official was quoted as saying. The official said that it is “premature” for Cheney to even suggest that Al-Qaeda terrorists are responsible for the bombings within Iraq. “We just don’t know,” he said.

By inserting this point into Bush’s speech, Cheney seems to have tried to get his revenge against his factional opponents within the Administration.

Arnie Promises Gov’t by Referendum

California’s “former” Hitler admirer and new governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, on his first day in office Nov. 17, promised government by referendum, budget cuts, and layoffs, while conducting a charm offensive with the press.

In his first press conference, Governor Schwarzenegger presented a picture of the fascist state he hopes to create, complete with direct “democracy” instead of representative government. The reaction of the star-struck media to this horror show was typified by this headline in the *Sacramento Bee*: “He meets—and charms—the press.” Veteran reporters, obviously under the sway of their brush with glamor and celebrity, overlooked the preposterous proposals put forward, which threaten the survival of the nation’s wealthiest and most populous state.

Schwarzenegger made the following proposals:

- Place a \$15 billion bond issue on the March ballot as a referendum—Yes or No to huge borrowing, to cover the expected budget deficit. He had made no mention of such borrowing while campaigning;

- A second ballot initiative, tied to the first, to place a spending cap on the state. Schwarzenegger said he would not allow the first, without the second. The effect of the two ballot initiatives would be to take the state budget out of the hands of elected legislative representatives, and put it into the

hands of the *vox populi*.

- Cut \$11 billion from the state’s \$29 billion workman’s compensation system, to give “relief to businesses” (at the expense of injured employees);

- More lay-offs of state workers, though the passionate Austrian emigré promised, “I could guarantee you that I will not lay anyone off in December, or before Christmas.”

The end-run around the legislature has Democrats unhappy, though the charmed reporters describe Dem leaders as being “grumpy” or “disgruntled,” and Republicans as triumphant, especially over the proposed mandatory spending cap. However, LaRouche Youth Movement organizers, during a lobbying day on Nov. 18 in Sacramento, found unease among Republicans. Some privately acknowledged concern with the size of the bond offering, which will lock in interest payments for 30 years, as they do not believe the rosy revenue projections, which are touted by deluded Bush-Cheney supporters as the solution to the deficit.

Recall Drive Against D.C. Mayor Williams

A recall drive against D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, who shut down D.C. General Hospital in 2001 on behalf of Wall Street’s Financial Control Board, is being organized by Barbara Lett Simmons, one of Washington D.C.’s representatives on the Democratic National Committee, and the senior member of the State Democratic Committee for the District of Columbia. Simmons has spoken at a number of Lyndon LaRouche’s webcasts in Washington.

The Mayor’s attacks on health care, as well as on education, will be a central feature of the recall drive. Since a Mayor cannot be recalled during either his first or last year in office, the petition campaign will begin in January, Simmons said on Nov. 18. According to the time-table, the actual recall election will take probably take place sometime during the September-to-November period.