

# National News

## Steelworkers are losing SUB benefits

The White House would rather not talk about it, but thousands of steel workers have exhausted their supplemental unemployment benefits. United Steelworkers (USW) officials report that SUB funds are verging on bankruptcy; benefits ran out this month for most workers laid off at U.S. Steel, Bethlehem, and Allegheny Ludlum. According to a USW spokesman, most unemployed members have already, or are about to, run out of state and federal unemployment benefits as well.

The USW, whose top leadership has endorsed Carter, officially tells callers that it has no up-to-date figures on how many former steel workers are receiving SUB pay or even how many are unemployed. They say such figures could be used to hurt the President's electoral chances. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that about 300,000 workers in steel and related industries are unemployed.

## California declares war on pot growers

Employing the combined capabilities of local, state, and federal agencies, California authorities are conducting hundreds of raids, seizing thousands of pounds of marijuana, and making scores of arrests against an illicit activity that is expected to gross between \$500 million and \$1 billion a year.

Operation Sinsemillia, named after the strain of marijuana plant being grown, is a million-dollar program, led by state attorney general George Deukmejian. It employs the resources of the California State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, local police and sheriff's departments, and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and Customs Bureau.

The campaign was launched follow-

ing the defeat of a case by the growers before the state supreme court attempting to force law enforcement agencies to stop conducting aerial surveillance of pot farmers for "environmental" reasons.

Steve Helsley, chief of the state's Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, told the press that he hopes this year to treble last year's 522 raids against marijuana farms. "Along the North Coast," Helsley asserted, "we think we've nipped it in the bud."

Marijuana cultivation is so widespread in other areas, however, that Helsley says the only way to deal with it is to apply paraquat and deploy manpower, planes, and intelligence from the Army and Navy.

A confidential report by the Drug Enforcement Administration lists marijuana as California's tenth largest crop. Some list it as high as third or fourth. Criminal syndicates put up the capital and own the land, letting "sharecroppers" do the farming for a cut of the profits or an allotment of the crop.

## Antidrug coalition hits enforcement funding cuts

The National Anti-Drug Coalition has initiated a campaign to reinstate over \$3 million in cuts from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) budget. The coalition will lobby the special session of Congress that begins Nov. 12, where the first Senate agenda item will be an appropriations bill covering the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and the judiciary.

Also up for funding will be the FBI, whose Abscam/Brilab crusade against "white-collar" crime has drawn sharp criticism from the group. According to the NADC, under the Carter administration, prosecutions of white-collar crime have increased dramatically while drug and drug-related crimes have gone virtually unprosecuted. "If budget considerations demand that cuts be made," declared a spokesman, "money should come out of the witchhunts against Carter's enemies."

Washington lobbyists for the group have been told by Senate offices that there is a good chance the administration will restore up to \$2 million in funding for U.S. DEA task force cities, but that the Paris DEA office, which until Oct. 1 oversaw drug enforcement in Europe and the Middle East, will not be refunded unless DEA head Peter Bensinger demands it.

## Byrne to gain from Pinelands bill?

Two bills released from committee in the New Jersey state legislature last week would bar Gov. Brendan Byrne's Pinelands Commission from controlling the "outer ring" of the 1,500-square-mile New Jersey pine forest.

Critics of the Pinelands Commission appointed by liberal Democrat Byrne have charged the governor with harboring financial motives in supporting the preservation of the full 1 million acres of the New Jersey pine forest. The outer ring of the pine forest, which critics say should not be set aside as a preservation area, abuts directly on Atlantic City.

Further development of the Atlantic City area would require expansion into the already settled outer ring of the pine-lands. A law prohibiting development in the outer ring would mean that holders of existing Atlantic City real estate would reap huge benefits in rent increases as demand for land in the city increases.

## Bill Buckley defends Bohemian Grove customs

Columnist William Buckley hurried to San Francisco this week to testify in court on behalf of his favorite club, the all-male, 100-year-old Bohemian Grove Club, which is under attack for discriminatory practices. Speaking in favor of the exclusion of women even from servants' jobs, Mr. Buckley explained that having

## Briefly

● **A FUSION ENERGY** Foundation series of seminars on U.S. reindustrialization continued Oct. 28 in Chicago when 100 business, labor, and professional leaders heard fusion pioneer Dr. Robert Moon of the University of Chicago, Illinois cement masons union president Ron Thelin, farm expert David Diehl, FEF fusion specialist Charles Stevens, and *EIR* editor-in-chief Criton Zoakos.

● **ARTHUR BURNS** stated in a recent speech to the American Jewish Committee that "this has been a wasted recession." Since it has failed to stop inflation, the former Fed chairman said, it might have to be repeated.

● **FORMER ISRAELI** defense minister Ezer Weizman endorsed Jimmy Carter this week, prompting disclaimers from the Begin government. The endorsement came during a Cleveland tour on behalf of the Carter campaign by Weizman, Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek, Middle East envoy Sol Linowitz, and the national executive committee of the American Jewish Committee.

● **CRAVATH, SWAINE** and Moore are replacing notorious criminal attorney Roy Cohn as defense counsel for *Our Town* writer Dennis King in a multimillion-dollar libel suit brought against the New York "throwaway" newspaper by *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. "Less than admirable conduct" is the characterization applied to the Cohn firm, Saxe, Bacon and Bolan, by the straight-laced Cravath firm in an affidavit submitted in the case. Cravath, Swaine normally refuses all *pro bono* cases, but is defending *Our Town* for free. Cohn's firm's reputation is such that Martindale Hubell, the lawyers' "Who's Who", has absolutely refused to list the firm in its national roster.

women present in any capacity would "dilute the consistency and affect the nature of the whole experience . . . of sitting around in rough clothes, and listening to improvised music and drinking booze. . . . Men can decently love each other, and women cannot understand."

The *Baltimore Sun's* Oct. 24 account, which we paraphrase here, continues: Others testifying on behalf of the one-sex environment noted that activities at the club get "very, very boisterous," with members running around in the nude and portraying women in the club's shows (perhaps not both at the same time). The club's secretary testified that he had played the role of a wood nymph wearing a body stocking with wings attached. Mr. Buckley noted that without women, the club's 17-day annual retreat is "a unique regenerative experience."

### Kissinger talks about bipartisan policy

Attending an address by Henry Kissinger at a dinner at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington on Oct. 23, *EIR* was interested to hear the exceptional praise the former secretary of state heaped on the late Hubert Humphrey. "Hubert was an important influence in my life—a man from whom I received inspiration," Kissinger stated. According to Max Kampelman, a prominent Democrat who directs the center, the feelings were reciprocated by the late senator: "Kissinger is a man for whom Hubert Humphrey had the most profound regard and personal affection, who might have become a Democrat if Humphrey had won the 1968 election," Kampelman said.

Kissinger proceeded to call for "a bipartisan foreign policy. It cannot go on forever that the United States assumes responsibility for the defense of Europe while our allies pursue in effect neutral policies in the Middle East and in effect different policies in East-West relations."

Kissinger added that "economic development in developing countries tends

to produce political instability rather than stability. In a feudal society the movement into cities uproots peoples from their traditions and creates a sense of dependence. . . ."

### Test case for carcinogen ban

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is currently suing 154,000 pounds of beef. The suit could be decided next week in federal court in Wichita, Kansas, and the decision could call into question the methods used to classify hundreds of pesticides, herbicides, food and feed additives as cancer causing.

The USDA is attempting to destroy, as "adulterated and impure," beef that was treated with the growth hormone DES (diethylstilbestrol) and slaughtered in April. The beef was discovered during a dragnet by the USDA and Justice Department on feedlots throughout the nation.

The human defendant is Judd Lackey of Jarboe-Lackey Feedlot in Parson, Kansas, the owner of the beef. Lackey charges that the government cannot prove there is any DES in the flesh of animals, since previous tests have discovered trace amounts only in livers and kidneys. Most importantly, Lackey charges that the government cannot prove that DES is a carcinogen.

If the court finds that the government must prove that a substance positively causes cancer, rather than merely asserting that tests indicate that it may, a legal review of the entire realm of supposed carcinogens could start.

The Kansas federal attorney has been replaced on the case by a team of lawyers from the FDA, USDA and the Consumer Affairs section of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. Dr. Spaulding, head of the Residue Evaluation and Planning Staff in the Surveillance Division of the Food Safety and Quality Service of the USDA, said this week that the administration is "very concerned" about this case, and refused further comment.