

National News

Congress out to militarize border

In the name of fighting drugs and halting immigration, U.S. congressmen are proposing to deploy U.S. troops to the Mexican border.

Rep. Eldon Rudd (R-Ariz.), a former FBI special agent, introduced a bill in mid-June which would allow the President to deploy military personnel and equipment to both the southern and northern borders, to stop the flow of illegal aliens, if Congress fails to enact the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration "reform" bill by year's end. The Rudd measure, which an aide admitted was directed chiefly at Mexico, has 16 co-sponsors.

In a related move, Rep. Helen Bentley (R-Md.) introduced a bill June 19 that would cut off all aid to countries which fail to substantially cut their illegal drug exports to the United States. Bentley has also sent letters to President Reagan and Vice-President Bush urging them to deploy all National Guard and Army Reserve units scheduled for summer maneuvers, to the Mexican border for purposes of drug interdiction.

U.S. general doubts Noriega is corrupt

"Hard facts" have yet to be produced which support allegations that Panama's commander of the Defense Forces, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, runs "the Panamanian connection" to international drug- and gun-running, U.S. Army Gen. Robert Schweitzer wrote, in a letter to the *Washington Times* published on June 30.

General Noriega had been accused by the *New York Times'* Seymour Hersh and in Senate hearings orchestrated by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

Until his retirement on July 1, General Schweitzer headed the Inter-American Defense Board, with many years of duty related to the United States' southern flank.

"I have seen no evidence either within the government, or in the public sector that would support the charges," General Schweitzer wrote. "Whoever has the supposed evidence ought to bring it forward, rather than repeat a series of old allegations."

"You will note the original *New York Times* story is long on 'reports,' but devoid of any evidence. Subsequent to publication of the *New York Times* story, I have sought again—thus far in vain—at the classified and unclassified levels, to locate any of the hard facts that would support the story," Schweitzer wrote. "Maybe there is such evidence, but I have yet to see it."

Schweitzer's letter responded to an article appearing in the *Washington Times* on June 19, by Georgie Anne Geyer. Entitled "Five Minutes to Midnight in Panama," Geyer's article repeated the *New York Times* allegations against Noriega, claiming that a "tragedy" was unfolding in Panama, "with stakes . . . even higher than they were in Cuba" in 1958. What is the danger? Says Geyer, it is the signs of an alliance between U.S. politician Lyndon LaRouche and General Noriega—which now threatens "the Panama Canal and all the American military and intelligence-gathering units in Panama."

Senate candidate: 'All of Gramm-Rudman must go'

"The U.S. Supreme Court has now declared the Gramm-Rudman budget-cutting law to be unconstitutional. But although the Supreme Court was right to find Gramm-Rudman unconstitutional, they have done so on a very narrow basis, knocking out the automatic-cuts mechanism, but leaving the rest of Gramm Rudman intact. In reality *all* of Gramm-Rudman is unconstitutional," said a statement issued by New York senatorial candidate Webster Tarpley on July 6.

Tarpley, an *EIR* contributing editor, is running for the seat now held by Alfonse D'Amato (R), whom he attacked for voting for Gramm-Rudman.

Tarpley took the bill's sponsors and sup-

porters to task. "The bill's authors now claim that cuts will go on, killing our citizens with cuts of one-third in domestic and social programs, and leaving us defenseless in the face of the Soviet threat with a 25% cut in defense. No budget cuts or tax increases will ever give us what we need, which is a real economic recovery from the present depression. We need a national defense emergency mobilization, modeled on Franklin D. Roosevelt's policies of 1939.

Hoffman charges fraud move to halt recount

Attorneys for Art Hoffman, the "LaRouche Democrat" for Congress in California's 40th C.D., has filed suit in Orange County, California to halt the ongoing recount challenge mounted by his write-in opponent, Bruce Sumner. Hoffman won his party's congressional primary June 3, beating Sumner, who is the head of the Orange County Democratic Party. A disgruntled Sumner is contesting the victory.

Sumner, a former judge, prematurely claimed victory Election Night. The next day, it became clear that Sumner had lost the election to Hoffman by 262 votes. The Democratic chairman, having vowed to prevent "another LaRouche victory," called for a recount.

Hoffman campaign workers have gathered evidence that shows that ballots which were nowhere to be found Election Night have mysteriously begun to appear for Sumner. Al Olsen, Orange County's Registrar of Voters, not wanting to admit that an election under his supervision could be tainted, has told reporters that the reason is that poll workers did not count various spellings of Sumner's name election night.

Hoffman workers have gathered over 50 affidavits from poll workers, many of them Sumner supporters, declaring that they did count all possible votes for the former judge within the legal guidelines provided them. The poll-worker affidavits aver that, therefore, they do not know where the additional votes now "turning up" in the recount could be coming from.

In one precinct, the recount picked up four votes for Sumner. In another precinct which was not counted election night, poll workers were called into the registrar's office the day after the election to count the ballots in plain view of officials. This precinct, the Hoffman suit reveals, had 20 new votes for Sumner when it was counted during the recount.

The mysterious appearance of new ballots, combined with evidence of forgeries and violations of the secret ballot guidelines, gave Hoffman's attorneys no other choice but to seek an injunction to halt the recount and to call for a criminal investigation.

Helms has business dealings in Panama?

The President of Panama has suggested that Sen. Jesse Helms, who has issued vitriolic attacks on the head of the Panamanian army, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, may be doing so to protect his own personal corruption.

Senator Helms should show "a little more judgment and sensibility" in his dealings with Ibero-American countries, President Eric Delvalle warned in an interview with the Mexican daily *Excelsior* on June 30. "The only thing that he has succeeded in achieving is anti-American sentiment in Mexico and Panama."

Senator Helms's campaign against "corruption" in other countries has gone so far this year, that he has charged that Mexico's current government is "illegitimate," and that Panama's General Noriega, is "the biggest drug-trafficker in the Western Hemisphere."

This is "viewed as one more attempt" to derail full implementation of the 1978 Carter-Torrijos Treaties returning the Canal Zone to Panama in 1999. "Our brother Latin American countries, while not being involved yet, are surely thinking, when will we be hit, and why? Suddenly, for example, will something be unleashed in Peru, because President Alan García suggested a meeting of Presidents so that we could discuss the foreign debt?"

Perhaps it is Senator Helms who should be investigated for "corruption," he stated. "There are those that say" that Helms opposes any revision of the Treaties controlling the Panama Canal, Delvalle reported, "because he has some type of contract here in the Canal Zone, that he would lose if the Torrijos-Carter Canal Treaties were faithfully implemented."

Lugar: U.S. will leave South Africa

Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Richard Lugar said July 7 that South Africa is moving so slowly in dismantling apartheid that political and economic pressure is moving "toward our getting out."

"The net political and economic situation is leading toward our getting out whether we have decided to do that formally or not," said Mr. Lugar, a key player in the review of U.S. policy toward South Africa.

"I think there is a basic decision to be made here, and that is whether the United States will continue to be involved in affairs in South Africa or whether, in fact, we are going to get out now," Mr. Lugar said.

Colleges should stop drug use

College presidents should show "a little courage" and make America's campuses drug-free starting in September, urged Education Secretary William J. Bennett on July 9. He suggested that America's universities learn a lesson from military academies that have kept out illicit drugs.

"If necessary, you use the campus police, and finally, if absolutely necessary, you use the city police and the state police" to keep drugs off campuses, Bennett said in a speech to the Heritage Foundation. A total drug ban on all campuses "could in fact be enforced," Bennett stated. "There is not a parent or taxpayer in the country who would object if such a policy were announced and carried out. . . ."

Briefly

● **20 ARMED MEN**, members of a group known as Civilian Material Assistance, seized 15 illegal aliens in Arizona near the Mexican border on July 5, and held them at gunpoint for 90 minutes until Border Patrol agents arrived, an immigration official said July 6. Harold Ezell, regional commissioner of INS, criticized the action, calling it dangerous and "bizarre." The U.S. Attorney's office is not filing charges because none of the aliens were hurt, but the FBI is investigating the incident. All 20 men carried AK-47 rifles.

● **HENRY KISSINGER** was one of 12 recipients of the "Liberty Medal" awarded by the Statue of Liberty Foundation during ceremonies on July 4. President Reagan presented the award to the Soviet agent-of-influence who was once secretary of state. The award goes to 12 "distinguished American naturalized citizens" who have "made the American dream a reality," according to the foundation.

● **DON REGAN**, White House chief of staff, may visit Moscow according to sources. His office denies it.

● **A POLL** commissioned by Illinois Democratic Party regulars but kept secret, has found that the "LaRouche factor" is strengthening the Democratic ticket in the state. The poll found a solid 15-20% core vote for LaRouche-affiliated candidates. Of voters whose intention is to vote a straight Democratic line, most would not split the ticket against LaRouche Democrats Mark Fairchild (lieutenant-governor) and Janice Hart (secretary of state). State Attorney-General Neal Hardigan and Sen. Allan Dixon commissioned the poll.

● **THE SUPREME COURT'S** decision to uphold state laws outlawing sodomy makes it highly unlikely that it will rule against stronger public-health measures designed to halt the spread of AIDS, the current issue of *Newsweek* complains.