

# National News

## Deukmejian endorses anti-AIDS Prop. 102

California Gov. George Deukmejian endorsed Proposition 102, the anti-AIDS initiative, on Oct. 28. In a statement released by his office, Deukmejian said that he planned to vote for the initiative after hearing the evidence on both sides and deciding that "the added tools provided by this measure will enhance rather than impede efforts to combat AIDS." He added that until a cure is found, the only way to stop its spread is by treating it as a "communicable disease."

Homosexual activists denounced the move while 1,500 of them marched to the state building in Sacramento in protest. Bruce Decker, the gay advocate who heads the governor's Task Force on AIDS, along with Drs. Richard Hamilton and Michael Gottlieb, two task force members, immediately resigned in protest.

Paul Gann, a cosponsor of Prop. 102, who himself contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion, said that he is "tickled pink" to get the governor's endorsement.

## LaRouche Virginia trial on fast track

In a short hearing Oct. 28 in the "LaRouche case," Alexandria federal Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr. conceded, "We are pushing the defendants a bit hard in this case in terms of time." Observers considered this to be quite an admission from the judge who is the architect of the famed "rocket docket" in the Eastern District of Virginia federal court.

The hearing concerned a motion brought by Lyndon LaRouche and the other defendants, who are charged with conspiracy to commit tax and mail fraud counts (see page 68), to compel the prosecutors to designate which documents they are going to use for the fraud case and which for the tax case. Defense attorney Fred Sinclair, local counsel for Mr. LaRouche, told Judge Bryan that although prosecutor Kent Robinson had

provided to the defense an index of over 500 documents which may be used by the government at trial, he has refused to say which documents pertain to which case. Sinclair pointed out that the defendants were given only 34 days from their arraignment to prepare for trial.

Judge Bryan told Robinson—who opposed the defense motion—that he couldn't see how the government would be harmed by this procedure, and said that "it might help the defendants put their case together." Bryan then conceded that he is "pushing the defendants a bit hard" with respect to time to prepare for trial, and he ordered Robinson to provide defense counsel with a breakdown of the documents being provided to them in discovery.

Judge Bryan said that a motion for severance of the tax count from the mail fraud counts is the only motion that he will allow to be filed early, before the general deadline of Nov. 10 for pre-trial motions. Trial of the case is still scheduled for Nov. 21.

## Cincinnati Bell probed for phone taps

A grand jury has been impaneled to hear charges that Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company has been tapping phones throughout the city, including the Board of Elections computer to commit election vote fraud.

Two former employees of the company, Lonnie Gates and Robert Draise, revealed that they performed more than 1,000 wire taps of every major political and business figure in Cincinnati. They testified that one of their taps completed a hookup from a mini-computer capable of reprogramming, to the Board of Elections computer. They said that they were ordered by the head of security for Cincinnati Bell to stop the computer during the 1979 election, and they did so.

Gates and Draise also alleged that everyone involved in the wiretap operation within the company had sworn a Masonic oath not to reveal the operation. They claim that they were advised on phone tap methods by the FBI.

Gates is reportedly now in hiding and has called local newspapers to report that he and his family have received death threats.

An article in *New Yorker* magazine, which hit the newsstands Nov. 1, became the latest story on how the outcome of presidential elections can be determined by computer tampering.

## National Economic Commission to gear up?

The National Economic Commission plans to launch a major mobilization on behalf of its austerity package as soon as the presidential election is over, a spokesman for the commission has disclosed. "We've been treading water for months, but as soon as Nov. 8 rolls around, just watch us go into action," he said.

Bob Strauss and Drew Lewis, co-chairmen of the NEC, are already on record saying it will call for cuts in Social Security and other entitlement programs, in defense spending, and will call for tax hikes as well. The NEC is planning public hearings in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 15-16 featuring big names such as Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, will then "start meeting privately nearly every day," and has set a target date of Dec. 21 for delivering its final recommendations to the President-elect. The NEC is supposed to conclude its existence by the end of March 1989, "but don't be too surprised to see the commission's charter extended way beyond that," the spokesman said.

Among other witnesses expected to appear before the commission is Libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul, who is advocating an incredible \$150 billion cut in the first year of deficit reduction. Roughly half of such cuts would come from eliminating cost of living increases in entitlement programs, ending farm subsidies, and freezing medical benefits. The other half would be cut from defense spending.

NEC staffers suggest that their major ally in a Bush administration would be Bush campaign director James Baker III.