

# National News

## Return power to judges, says LaRouche

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche condemned the so-called "sentencing guidelines" placed on the judiciary by Congress, in comments on Feb. 5.

"What happened during the 1980s, was a terrible sort of sociological experiment in judicial reform which went to the Congress, which was popularly known as 'The Guidelines.'

"I take the view, that if a judge is qualified to preside over a trial, the judge is qualified to shape a sentence according to law based on the facts at the time of sentencing. I do not believe we should continue to make judges simply rubber-stamps for overzealous prosecutors who will let the major perpetrators of crimes off with light sentences and often convict with very long sentences as participants in the same crime, the minor figures or people who perhaps were not even guilty at all.

"So let's put the thing back where it belongs. Let's take the administration of the courts and sentencing out of the hands of little boys who are trying to make brownie points in the prosecutor's office, and let's put it back in the hands of the judges who are selected to do the job."

## Welfare reform tied to population control

Legislative initiatives in at least two state legislatures tie so-called "welfare reform" to measures of population control.

In New Jersey, Assemblyman Wayne Bryant (D-Camden) sponsored a bill which was signed into law in January. The new law places limits on welfare payments to women with children, the Feb. 3 *Washington Times* reported. The expected outcome is that women on welfare will cease to have more children. In his district, 60% of the residents receive some form of public assistance and another 20% receive aid through the federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

According to Bryant's office, 15 other

states have expressed interest in similar legislation. Two key changes in the new law are that there would be no increases in benefits to families who have more children while on welfare, and almost all welfare recipients would be required to participate in job training and education programs. Before the law takes effect, New Jersey must win a federal waiver of conflicting regulations. In his State of the Union address, President Bush promised to encourage federal officials to issue waivers, so states could get going on welfare reform.

Several groups, including the National Organization of Women Legal Defense Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Catholic Church, have joined to oppose the law.

A similar bill was introduced by state Sen. Mark L. Earley (R-Chesapeake) in Virginia on Feb. 3, which proposes measures that would "discourage poor mothers from having more children and to encourage the women to go to work," AP reported.

## Kevorkian charged with two counts of murder

Dr. Jack Kevorkian, who advocates physician-assisted suicide, was charged with two counts of murder and one count of delivery of controlled substance in the "assisted suicide" deaths on Oct. 23, 1991 of Sherry Miller, 43, and Majorie Wantz, 58, by a grand jury in Pontiac, Michigan on Feb. 3. Both of the victims were clinically depressed.

Kevorkian's attorney Geoffry Fieger said the charges would be dismissed because Michigan has no law against assisted suicide. After Kevorkian used his "suicide machine" to kill Janet Adkins in 1990, state Sen. Fred Dillingham introduced a bill that would make assisted suicide a felony in Michigan. That bill has been stuck in the House Judiciary Committee since March 1991. A similar bill by Representative Ciaramitaro has also been stymied.

Kevorkian, a pathologist with no clinical experience in any of the diseases of his victims, wants to start a nationwide network of specialists to help people determine if suicide is appropriate for them, and, if so, to help them kill themselves. His plan was

published in the *American Journal of Forensic Psychiatry* in early February in an article entitled "A Fail-Safe Model for Justifiable Medically Assisted Suicide (Medicine)."

In the 85-page article, Kevorkian says he would appoint death specialists called "obitiatrists" in various zones throughout the country. These panels of obitiatrists would consider suicide requests made by individuals through their personal physicians. After documentation and consultation with the obitiatrists and a psychiatrist, the panel would decide if a medically assisted suicide were justifiable.

## Hentoff attacks ADL on First Amendment

Civil libertarian Nat Hentoff attacked the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) for "putting the First Amendment in the back of the bus" in its campaign on behalf of "hate crimes" legislation, in the Feb. 11 issue of the *Village Voice*.

Reviewing a string of cases in which the ADL and other purported "civil rights" groups sought to deprive "hate groups" of their First Amendment rights, Hentoff wrote that the ADL "opposed the ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union] all the way in Skokie. It urged prior restraint—that the Nazis be prevented from speaking at all because, among other reasons, the sight of them would cause grievous emotional harm to the Jews in the town, especially the Holocaust survivors. And it went into court against the First Amendment on other grounds.

"The ADL's predilection for putting the First Amendment in the back of the bus was manifested again the following year when the public television station in Detroit ran a news analysis program in which two Nazis who had opened a bookstore in the city were interviewed. On the same panel was a law professor who was opposed to having the bookstore in the city. . . . The Detroit area chapter of the ADL demanded that the station apologize for having allowed the program to be broadcast. The basis for the ADL's protest? Why, that sort of speech was unworthy of being disseminated.

"It is no surprise, therefore, that in the St. Paul [Minnesota] 'hate speech' case now

before the [U.S.] Supreme Court, the ADL is not only on the side of the prosecutor, but, as I noted, two of its attorneys helped the prosecutor, Tom Foley, prepare his oral argument before the Supreme Court."

## Lawyers take stand against euthanasia

The American Bar Association (ABA) overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to support laws that would allow doctors to help terminally ill patients kill themselves, at a meeting in Dallas on Feb. 3. The decision by the association, the largest legal group in the world, is not binding, but the stance could influence legislators and public opinion.

The rejection comes at a time when euthanasia supporters in California are trying to get the state to enact a law allowing "doctor-assisted suicide." The ABA, fearful that such laws could be abused, sided with sentiments expressed by Washington lawyer John Pickering, who heads the group's Commission on Legal Problems on the Elderly.

Pickering said such a proposal would allow "subtle pressures" to be placed on poor patients to end their lives too soon because of financial considerations. He said no such laws should be considered until there was a comprehensive system of health care for all Americans, regardless of their income. "Lawyers have to be concerned about protecting the rights of the vulnerable," he said. "The law has gone as far as it should."

## NPG group demands U.S. halve population

Negative Population Growth, Inc. has come out with a series of Nazi-modeled demands for eliminating people, on the unscientific premise that human beings threaten the planet. NPG demanded that the present U.S. population of 254 million be slashed to 125-150 million, about the size it was in the 1940s, in a quarter-page ad in the Feb. 7 *Washington Post*. "If present immigration and fertility rates continue," the ad read, "our population, now over 254 million, will

pass 400 million by the year 2050.

"We need a smaller population in order to halt the destruction of our environment, and to create an economy that will be *sustainable* over the very long term . . . so that our population can eventually be stabilized at a *sustainable* level—far lower than it is today."

NPG wants to slash immigration to 200,000 annually, and "lower our fertility rate from the present 2.1 [children per couple] to around 1.5 and maintain it at that level for several decades."

NPG advocates such "non-coercive financial incentives" as: "Eliminate the present federal income tax exemption for dependent children. . . . Give a federal income tax credit *only* to those parents who have no more than two children. Those with three or more would lose the credit entirely. Give a cash bonus for voluntary sterilization to both men and women under age 35, who have already had at least one child."

## Republican Party funding drops off

Financial backing for the Republican Party is falling and the GOP's famous direct mail fundraising effort has run up against a brick wall as the result of President Bush's flagging popularity, James Ridgeway wrote in the Feb. 11 *Village Voice*. According to the story:

- One of the main direct mail houses employed by the RNC has lost 50% of its membership base in the past year;

- In November, the Bush campaign mailed a fundraising letter to 1 million regular GOP donors. The mailing cost was \$515,000 and the campaign received only \$479,000—a loss of \$36,000.

- In December, the RNC's annual membership renewal letter, signed by George Bush and "traditionally the strongest mailing of the year," lost \$700,000.

- In 1988, the party and the Republican campaign committees for the House and Senate consolidated their donor list of 2.2 million names of people who were considered regular contributors to GOP activities. By Fall 1991, when the list was purged of people who had stopped contributing, it had shrunk by one-half.

## Briefly

- **PRESIDENT KENNEDY** was killed by the CIA, a majority of Americans believe, according to a poll conducted by the "Today" show in early February. Of those polled, 6% said Lee Harvey Oswald killed Kennedy, 13% said it was the mob, 13% said Castro, and 51% said it was the CIA.

- **FIDELIO**, the Schiller Institute's English-language journal of poetry, science, and statecraft, began publication in early February. It is the philosophical journal of the movement associated with Lyndon LaRouche. It replaces *The Campaigner*, which was eliminated in 1987 by an illegal government-enforced bankruptcy.

- **NORMAN MAILER**, a so-called "liberal," received a standing ovation from "a standing-room-only crowd" of CIA personnel at Langley, the Feb. 3 *New York Times* reported. Mailer warned that the danger of nuclear proliferation in the Third World is "staggering," and said that the assassination of foreign leaders is not a bad idea.

- **THE BUSH** administration granted AT&T permission to expand telephone service between Cuba and the U.S. in December. The Feb. 3 *New York Times* reported that Cuba views the move as akin to the "ping pong diplomacy" that inaugurated the process of U.S. relations with China, and is calling it "telephone diplomacy."

- **NEW JERSEY** has created an official "hate crimes" section within the attorney general's office, making the private, gangster-run Anti-Defamation League an integrated, unofficial part of the state prosecutorial apparatus.

- **WISCONSIN** dairy farmers announced delivery of a second shipment of powdered milk to Iraq, in Madison on Feb. 7. The farmers began the movement, coordinated by the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq, as an alternative to dumping milk and in response to reports that over 170,000 Iraqi children would die within a year, as a result of the U.N. embargo.