

National News

Kissinger hypes Brits' 'arc of crisis' line

In his latest syndicated commentary on Dec. 7, Henry Kissinger thumps the tub for continued confrontation between the U.S. and Iraq—i.e., Britain's strategy to maintain as much conflict in the Middle East "arc of crisis" as possible. Under the headline "No Carrots for Saddam," Kissinger (who is notorious for boasting of his closeness to the British Foreign Office) bashes President Clinton for allowing France and Russia to mediate a resolution to the crisis with Iraq over Americans in the UN inspection team.

Fat Henry advises Clinton to steer clear of French policy on North Atlantic relations, which he says is focussed on "bringing about a European identity by distinguishing its policy from America's." Rather, the President should embrace Britain's policy, "which seeks to develop a common policy through cooperation and consensus—as it demonstrated by its support of the United States throughout the [Iraqi] crisis. It is in the American interest and in the interest of the future of the North Atlantic alliance that the cooperative approach prevail."

Rather than mediate the conflict with Iraq, rails the would-be Metternich, the United States should have been willing to impose "an unconditional return to the precise inspection system that had existed when the inspectors were expelled," and demonstrate by "action, word, and nuance, its determination to impose this solution, if necessary by unilateral American action."

High court may speed up California executions

According to the *Los Angeles Times* of Dec. 6, the U.S. Supreme Court has granted "an appeal from California prosecutors . . . that it will consider allowing the state to put death row inmates on a new fast track toward executions." Such a move would overturn a lower court ruling barring the state from

setting deadlines for death row appeals. The Federal fast-track system had been suspended in California by a ruling by U.S. District Judge Thomas E. Henderson, that "California officials were not providing 'competent counsel' for all death row inmates during their appeals. Therefore, the state was not entitled to the fast-track process in Federal court." In August, the U.S. Ninth Circuit of Appeals upheld that decision on a 2-1 vote.

Some 500 death row inmates now await execution in California. If the U.S. Supreme Court overturns the Ninth Circuit decision, then "fast track" executions could begin as early as July 1998.

Tavistock quacks smear LaRouche in new book

A new book by Jerrold M. Post and Robert S. Robins, *Political Paranoia: The Psychopolitics of Hatred* (Yale University Press), contains a number of attacks on Lyndon LaRouche, based on Dennis King's 1989 book-length smear-job. One of the authors has been associated with the Tavistock Institute, Great Britain's premier psychological warfare strategy center.

The book compares a LaRouche campaign exposé on "The Aquarian Conspiracy," to a "manifestly disturbed" lunatic passing out fliers in Washington about government mind control. The difference, say the authors, is that "the warnings of the man with the sandwich board were discounted (he was dismissed as mentally disturbed), while Lyndon LaRouche was able to gain and sustain a substantial following." Why? LaRouche, "rhetorically persuasive and not obviously mentally ill, has the interpersonal and political skills to build an organization and appeal to a particular constituency."

The book's cover identifies the authors: "Robert Robins was a visiting scientist at the Tavistock Clinic and an honorary research fellow at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Science, both in London, as well as a participant in the New Orleans Psychoanalytic Applied Analysis Seminar. These institutions provide a stimulating intellectual en-

vironment during an important phase of work on this book."

Post had a grant from the Carnegie Corp. of New York for research which went into the book, and is described as having founded the U.S. government's Center for the Analysis of Personality and Political Behavior. Published sources describe Post as the "the head of the Political Psychological Division at the CIA" (Bob Woodward's *Veil*), and as "the father of the CIA's program on political psychology" (Mark Perry's *Eclipse*).

In an interview with the "EIR Talks" radio program on Dec. 10, LaRouche said that Post's characterization of him was committing "outright fraud—and [he] admits it shamelessly," by offering up Dennis King's misrepresentations of LaRouche's autobiography as facts, and "uses that, to make his *quod erat demonstrandum*. This guy's a quack; he obviously is *politically motivated*; he has no professional morality whatsoever. But," added LaRouche, "that's typical of what I'm up against."

Rep. Burton tries to set up Freeh-Reno fight

Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.) succeeded in making a fool of himself in the first day of his Congressional hearings, on Dec. 9, in which he had hoped to use FBI Director Louis Freeh to discredit Attorney General Janet Reno's decision not to recommend appointment of an independent counsel to investigate President Clinton and Democratic Party fundraising. In fact, all that Burton succeeded in doing was proving that he and other Clinton-bashing Republicans are dependent upon news media, such as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, for their marching orders on how to attack President Clinton.

In the wake of a torrent of leaks to the news media from Freeh or other FBI officials about their disputes with Reno and Justice Department officials, Burton and the media were predicting that Freeh and Reno would carry on an open fight in front of the television cameras, at hearings by the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

IDAHO SOUP KITCHENS and food banks are getting double and even triple the number of requests in the wake of the state's "welfare reform." Idaho's new program cuts off aid to families after 24 months, and limits cash assistance to a flat \$276, regardless of the number of children at home. The old, inadequate program provided a single parent with three minor children only \$382 a month.

GAMBLING addictions have spread rapidly over the past 20 years, especially among teens, says a Harvard Medical School study which was financed by "the gambling industry," according to the *New York Times* on Dec. 7. The proliferation of legalized casinos and lotteries in the United States and Canada was said to be a key factor in the spread.

VIRGINIA Governor-elect James Gilmore (R) set up a "bipartisan" task force to advise him on his government, including former Gov. Doug Wilder (D); Pat Robertson; "homeschooling" icon Mike Farris; the head of the state NAACP; state Sen. Charles Colgan (D), who is sponsoring legislation to replace the "car tax" with a 1% increase in the sales tax; and lesbian novelist Patricia Cornwell.

MICHIGAN'S Senate has passed a bill banning "physician-assisted suicide," in Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian's home state. The bill must still pass the House. The bill's sponsor, William Van Regenmorter, is also proposing legislation to address the problems of chronic and intractable pain, whose sufferers, he said, "are more vulnerable to assisted suicide than terminal patients."

NEWT GINGRICH and Maggie Thatcher gushed over each other at an Atlantic Richfield-sponsored event in London on Dec. 5, where Gingrich was the featured speaker. Wrote the *Washington Times* on Dec. 7: Newt and Maggie plotted "the future of Anglo-American civilization." They "could barely stifle their shared joy, whispering asides and trading compliments as the faithful looked on."

In fact, no such thing happened, and Reno aggressively stood her ground, insisting on the correctness of her decision not to seek a special prosecutor.

The stage was set for the hearing, when Freeh's private memorandum to Reno was leaked to the *New York Times* on Dec. 1, in an effort to undercut Reno's anticipated announcement the next day that she would not seek appointment of an independent counsel. On Dec. 3, the *Times* praised Freeh for making his dispute with Reno public, editorializing that "it was a momentous act of duty." White House sources quickly accused Freeh of attempting to curry favor with Congressional Republicans.

But after Burton had demanded the Freeh memo, and had threatened to cite Reno for contempt of Congress for refusing to hand it over, Freeh himself joined Reno in a Dec. 8 letter to Burton telling him he could not have the memo. The effect of the joint letter was to severely undercut those Republicans, who are trying to make Freeh a hero, while portraying Reno as a lackey of President Clinton.

Millions of uninsured children in California

The fact that nearly 2 million children of working families have no health insurance, was denounced as "shameful," in the Sunday *Los Angeles Times* "Column One" commentary on Dec. 6. The article opens with an apocryphal scenario: "The fever climbs, the calculations begin. How bad is it? How bad will it get? Won't Tylenol do the trick? or a cool bath? . . . It has to work . . . there is just no money for a doctor right now.

"It's painful. So shameful. Your daughter is burning up and there you sit wondering: Pawn the TV set to pay the pediatrician. . . ? Such are the calculations of the uninsured."

Some 20% of California's children lack health insurance, the *Times* points out, adding that their families are not officially identified as poor. Over 60% of Californian families have at least one parent who works full time, year round. Of uninsured children nationwide, 55% have a parent who works full

time, and 63% live in two-parent families. In California, 43% of uninsured children come from families in agriculture; 34% in construction; 26% in retail; 25% are self-employed (categories overlap).

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, 11% of children between the ages of 0-5 years have not seen *any* health-care professional in over a year; 20% between the ages of 6-12, and fully 38% of children between 13-16 "have not seen a health-care provider for a year or more." As *EIR* has reported, the county has already begun to shut down the County/University of Southern California medical facility, the principal source of emergency care for area's poor.

'Transforming Defense' panel issues report

The National Defense Panel, an advisory panel created by the 1996 Defense Authorization Act, released its report on Dec. 1 entitled "Transforming Defense: National Security in the 21st Century." The panel was given a mandate to look ahead at defense needs 20 years hence. The report calls for a "transformation" of the U.S. military away from Cold-War-era infrastructure and organization, and especially away from the two-regional-war strategy that began under Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, and toward greater emphasis on defending against what panel chairman Philip Odeen termed "asymmetric assaults." Such assaults would be directed against U.S. weaknesses, rather than strengths, and also would include terrorist attacks with weapons of mass destruction against U.S. territory.

Odeen argued that the transformation should begin soon, and that we should accept greater near-term risk, which he said is relatively low, anyway, so that U.S. military forces are ready for the new kinds of threats that will arise by the year 2020. Odeen wouldn't discuss possible scenarios, but he did say that the current two-war strategy is a "low probability scenario" which diverts resources away from making the necessary transformation.