

National News

Peripheral Canal defeated in California

California voters defeated by a wide margin a referendum on construction of the last remaining unfinished project of California's 1960 master water resources plan, the Peripheral Canal. The canal, which can still be constructed under the original law, would divert water from the Sacramento River near San Francisco and send it to parched Southern California.

The defeat augurs a new phase of water-resource-control battles in the 1980s, which the *Wall Street Journal* recently called similar to the oil wars of the 1970s. Northern California voters sought to "protect their water" by voting in 90 percent pluralities against the proposal, a measure which would have meant economic development for the entire state.

Republican Lt.-Governor Michael Curb urged his conservative constituencies to vote against the proposal because it was "too expensive," forging a curious alliance with the Aquarian California voter-base organized by Jerry Brown's supporter Tom Hayden.

President, Congress oppose infanticide

The Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Behavioral and Biomedical Research attacked President Reagan at its June 10 meeting for his directive to Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker to inform hospitals that they would have their funding cut if they refused to treat handicapped newborn infants.

In February, 10 members of Congress sent a letter to Reagan and Schweiker expressing their concern over the Commission's discussions of denying life-sustaining medical care to mentally and physically handicapped newborn children. Signed by Henry Hyde (R-Ill.),

Nicholas Mavroulos (D-Mass.), Charles Dougherty (R-Pa.), Daniel Lungren (R-Calif.), Mark Siljander (R-Mich.), Bob Walker (R-Pa.), Vin Weber (R-Minn.), John Rousselot (R-Calif.), Dan Marriott (R-Utah), and William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.), the letter states, "We find it morally reprehensible that such a statement should be prepared by a government agency mandated with advising you on ethical problems in medicine . . . such a bias in favor of the destruction of newborn children warrants a thorough review of the activity of the Commission with a view toward whether during the current budgetary crisis, such 'ethical' discussions should be supported by the taxpayers."

A "useless eaters" policy toward the handicapped is in fact grounds for criminal prosecution under the Nuremberg statutes. However, it was only after an Indiana Court ruled this spring that all food could be withheld from a newborn with Downs Syndrome that Reagan sent a directive to cut off funding, and Congress moved to prevent a repeat of the "Baby Doe" case (see *EIR*, June 22). It was that directive which the Commission attacked. Testifying at the June 10 meeting, Dr. Willard Gaylin of the New York Hastings Center, a key depopulation think tank, stated, "I think [the President's action] is outrageous. It's a pure power play."

Haigspeak requires translations in Bonn

In a press briefing following President Reagan's June 10 speech to the West German parliament, Secretary of State Haig found difficulty in communicating with the European press representatives, as the following dialogue demonstrates:

Haig: In the nuclear area, he [the President] reaffirmed unequivocally the two-track decision of December 1979, and emphasized its criticality. . . .

Press: Criticality?

Haig: Its criticality.

Press: Oh.

Haig: It's a new word.
Press: Can you tell us. . . ?
Haig: And I know that Eisenhower used that word.

Press: How many stars did he have?

Dante conference develops citizens

The conference on "Dante and the Coming Renaissance in American Education" held by the Lafayette Foundation for the Arts and Sciences in Philadelphia June 11 and 12 brought over 100 persons: educators, language specialists, and regional political leaders of the National Democratic Policy Committee, into a symposium on the essential role of classical education for the development of citizens of a republic.

The city of Philadelphia, which has a large Italian population, had declared June 9 Dante Alighieri Day, as part of its Tricentennial celebration. City Councilman James Tayoun greeted the conference, followed by NDPC-backed former gubernatorial candidate Steven Douglas, whose program for economic development and the elimination of the rock-drug counterculture destruction of American youth won him 35 percent of the Philadelphia vote in the Democratic primary. Douglas spoke on the republic-building traditions of the sister cities, Florence and Philadelphia, whose leaders knew that lasting institutions had to be created to transmit republican ideas over generations of citizens.

EIR and *War on Drugs* Editor Nora Hamerman gave a slide presentation on "Getting Past Purgatory: Developing a Republican Citizenry," in which she used works of art from the Italian Golden Renaissance to illustrate the mental and moral conditions of most "little citizens" too concerned with their personal lives to take responsibility for their countries in times of national danger. Michael Minicino also spoke on this panel, describing how elements of the American Constitution—especially a citizens' militia and a bicameral government—were first

formulated by the Florentine political thinker Niccolo Machiavelli.

The afternoon presentation was key-noted by Muriel Mirak, Director of the Accademia Umanistica of Italy, who noted that Florence's decision to ban the Rolling Stones rock band proved it to be "culturally healthier than the United States."

Dr. Mirak described how poetry make it possible for new words and phrases, and thus ideas, to enter a national language. For America to rebuild its culture, it must revive its identification with great poetry.

Educators Dr. Robert Melzi and Carol White, editor of the *Young Scientist* magazine, spoke on why science must be studied from the same standpoint of developing humanity.

LaRouche warns of Reagate escalation

Lyndon LaRouche, Advisory Board Chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee, called June 14 for the formation of a blue-ribbon panel to investigate the networks conspiring to set up a bogus Watergate-style scandal against the Reagan administration.

LaRouche stated that there is an attempt under way to create the appearance of an administration cover-up of alleged organized crime ties of Labor Secretary Donovan. Such a cover-up, as Washington, D.C. labor investigator Clark Mollenhoff told a reporter, would be seen as "far worse than organized crime, because it is a felony—obstruction of justice."

After two years of investigation, Senate Labor Committee investigator Walter Sheridan and FBI Director William Webster, a Carter appointee, have been unable to come up with any evidence against Donovan. Then, in a June 9 Washington, D.C. press conference Webster revealed that the FBI was in possession of an unconfirmed allegation that Donovan had connections to organ-

ized crime figure William Masselli, which he claimed White House Counsel Fred Fielding had directed the FBI not to investigate.

But sources close to the Donovan investigation report that it would have been impossible for Sheridan *not* to have known about this allegation previously, since he has complete access to all FBI files on Donovan.

The Jesuitical Sheridan has made a 30-year career of investigations, particularly under the patronage of Robert Kennedy's Justice Department, and more recently of Senate Labor Committee Minority Leader Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.). Sheridan played a key role in destroying New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison and the witnesses he had gathered in his investigation of the role of Permin-dex in the Kennedy assassination.

Sheridan intervened with Abscam Prosecutor Thomas Puccio to ensure that Leon Silverman was appointed special prosecutor in the Donovan case. It was Silverman who, with the aid of the staff of Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, discovered files in the Newark, New Jersey FBI office containing allegations against Donovan which had not been aired in front of the Labor Committee, an incident used by the press to charge cover-up.

On June 17 national media began to make an issue of White House counsel Ed Meese's acknowledging on a Mutual radio interview broadcast June 16, that he knew of an FBI investigation of Donovan in January 1981, but did not consider it consequential.

Sources in Hatch's office have confirmed that he will allow Kennedy and Sheridan to air all their informants' allegations against Donovan, regardless of whether Donovan is cleared.

It is more likely, however, sources report, that Silverman will only partially clear Donovan, and that a full "White House cover-up" investigation will ensue. Liberal Rep. Toby Moffett (D-Conn.) submitted a resolution to the House June 15 demanding that all White House files on Donovan be turned over to the appropriate committee.

Briefly

● **THE OTA** recently released a report showing that the United States is now in danger of falling behind the Europeans and Japanese in commercial space technology, including satellite communications, remote sensing of earth resources, and faces strong competition to the Space Shuttle from the European Space Agency's Ariane rocket booster. The Office of Technology Assessment reports that it is NASA's withdrawal from the satellite communications field, which has allowed the U.S. to "leapfrogged."

● **HENRY KISSINGER** is now being touted by some liberal Democratic Party circles as "the man who could solve the Mideast crisis." Kissinger's June 16 op-ed in the *Washington Post* was a bid to become Mideast negotiator. The op-ed fully supports Israel's current campaign to exterminate the Palestinian population of Lebanon.

● **RUPERT MURDOCH**, the British agent who controls an increasing segment of the U.S. press, was outraged that Mexican President López Portillo had met in May with National Democratic Policy Committee leader and *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche. The June 21 issue of Murdoch's *New York Magazine* reported the meeting and added "the fringe politician then surprised the Mexican press—which believed he was the 'leader' of the Democratic Party—by reportedly declaring Secretary of State Haig and Henry Kissinger *non grata* in Latin America."

● **PETER McPHERSON**, administrator of the Agency for International Development (AID), has been named "Disaster Assistance Head to Lebanon" by President Reagan. Sources report that when McPherson was asked what his qualifications were for the post, he quipped, "I'm always prepared to assist in a disaster—particularly if it involves massive loss of life."