

National News

LaRouche denounces 'Aaron Burrs of the press'

Prominent Democrat Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. described as "Aaron Burrs of the press" those journalists "who continue to babble the absurd charge that President Reagan has not proven that the Soviet murder of 269 civilian airliner passengers was not an accident," in a statement Sept. 5.

"After the Soviets have filled the international news circuits with obscene arguments in defense of their decision to shoot the plane down," LaRouche observed, "and after the President played back a tape-recording of the Soviet pilot describing in detail the blinking lights of the civilian airliner he was in the act of shooting down, some idiot of a CBS commentator said immediately after the broadcast that the President had not proven that the massacre was not accidental."

LaRouche asked that citizens be urged to telephone or telegraph the White House, to tell the President's staff what they think of such reporters.

"Give the President the ammunition to tell these editors and journalists where the patriotic citizens of this country stand."

Turnout for Kirkland hits record lows

Despite AFL-CIO chief Lane Kirkland's instructions to local unions to use the Labor Day events on Sept. 5 to "get Reagan," and his own personal appearances in New York City, Chicago, and Omaha, turnout at the events was dismal everywhere. In New York, only 50,000 turned out for the march down Fifth Avenue, traditionally the nation's largest. The New York parade drew over 400,000 last year.

In the depressed steel city of Baltimore,

a mere 500 watched while the president of the local AFL-CIO chapter, dressed up as Ronald Reagan, was chased by a man carrying an axe and wearing a sign reading "Axe Reagan."

American organized labor, suffering the worst unemployment rates since the depths of the Great Depression and a disastrous plunge in real income, is demoralized. Reports from the Midwest put attendance at some monthly union meetings at one or two members.

DC press corps on anti-Reagan rampage

Leaders of the Washington, D.C. press corps spent over 30 minutes haranguing White House spokesman Larry Speakes on alleged "contradictions" in the evidence which President Reagan and U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick had presented to the public proving Soviet command involvement in the shooting down of a Korean Air Lines commercial jet Sept. 1. At the Sept. 6 briefing, Lou Cannon of the *Washington Post*, stated that Andropov had "outflanked" Reagan's "propaganda offensive" by confessing to downing the KAL 007. "Reagan said they should acknowledge the attack," Cannon said, "and now they have." Cannon was referring to the Sept. 6 TASS release, which attempted to attribute the attack to the alleged presence of a U.S. reconnaissance plane in the area.

Steve Weissman of the *New York Times*, Leslie Stahl of CBS, and Sam Donaldson of ABC continued to harass Speakes, standing up to insist, "Where is your irrefutable evidence? This isn't it," shaking the transcripts of the radio transmissions in which the Soviet pilot announced: "I am closing on the target. . . . Am in lock-on. . . . I have executed the launch. The target is destroyed."

But the only evidence of contradictions in U.S. evidence the reporters had was an alleged discrepancy of 8 to 12 minutes be-

tween the time the Soviet transmissions indicate Flight 007 was shot down and the time at which the flight's trail disappeared from the Japanese radar tracking it.

Speakes stopped the flow of accusations by stating emphatically that "This action, the shooting down of an unarmed civilian airliner, is inexcusable. . . . There is no way that the enormity of this crime can be mitigated. There is no excuse for anyone who would seek to mitigate the severity of this action." At that point, Weissman piped up, "I protest, Larry. Nobody in the news media is trying to mitigate the severity of this crime." Speakes replied, "No one has accused you, Steve. Look at this statement. I haven't said a word about press or media."

Several minutes later, after Speakes had asked her to stop shouting while other reporters were trying to ask questions, CBS's Leslie Stahl charged out of the briefing room shouting, "I don't like being told how to behave."

Beam-weapons study for Reagan is completed

The first draft of the study of directed-energy antiballistic weapons (beam weapons) which President Reagan commissioned after his March 23 speech calling for developing the weapons, has been completed by the Defense Technologies Study Team (DTST) headed by former NASA director James C. Fletcher, according to the Sept. 5 issue of *Aviation Week*. This initial study was based on a 15-year, long-range perspective, but, *Aviation Week* reports, "The Pentagon plans to initiate in the next few weeks a study of the application of directed-energy weapons technology—high-energy lasers and particle beams—to near-term ballistic missile defense."

The study "provided a report far more positive and enthusiastic on directed-energy weapons development than any of us expected. . . . A number of high-level U.S. officials who opposed it in the past are likely

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to find it embarrassing." A high-level Pentagon official told *Aviation Week*.

The study "emphasizes development of short wave length lasers and particle beam weapons over the next 15 years, including a space-based, free-electron laser concept by Los Alamos and nuclear warhead-pumped x-ray lasers by Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos," the article continues. "The Fletcher group will reconvene to map a near-term program, which officials expect will reorient the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency."

Ramsey Clark 'exploring' for Jesse Jackson

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, one of the leaders of State Department operations in Iran that brought the Khomeini regime to power, announced in New York Sept. 7 that a "Rainbow Coalition" had been formed to test the waters in New York State for a Jesse Jackson presidential bid.

Clark was joined by former Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, environmentalist Citizens Party leader Barry Commoner, and Democratic Rep. Edolphus Townes in forming a New York Jesse Jackson for President Exploratory Committee.

The committee is important, Clark said, because it "is comprised of blacks, whites, Hispanics, peace activists, nuclear freeze activists, women, politicians, labor, clergy, and business leaders."

New right demands knee-jerk response

The "new right," led by *Conservative Digest* Richard Viguerie and Conservative Caucus head Howard Phillips, have condemned the Sept. 5 response that President Reagan announced to the Soviet attack on the KAL airliner as "flunking the test." Viguerie de-

nounced Reagan the next day for having "just walked away from the town bully without drawing his gun."

At a demonstration outside the White House Sept. 7, Howard Phillips demanded that the United States take a far harsher stance, and National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) director Terry Dolan said Jimmy Carter's sanctions against the Soviet Union after the invasion of Afghanistan were stronger than Reagan's.

The *Washington Times*, owned by Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, reported that Phillips and Viguerie are now canvassing for a Republican presidential candidate to oppose Reagan following his showing his "true colors" in response to the KAL 7 incident.

Globe returns 'Scotch verdict' on ABM defense

An article in the Sept. 7 *Boston Globe* titled "Thinking the Unthinkable" called the strategy of developing effective defense against nuclear missiles, as presented at the Aug. 20-23 conference on "Technological Bases for Peace" at Erice, Italy, "not proven."

"No alternative to the threat of 'mutual assured destruction' exists to deter the superpowers from war. Within that menacing and uncertain framework, the diplomatic effort must go forward to control offensive weapons and diminish the prospect of their use."

Dr. Edward Teller, the scientist leading the U.S. delegation at the conference, and "whose thinking was influential in formulating President Reagan's so-called 'Star Wars' speech last spring, argued vigorously that defense could make a difference. Notwithstanding Teller's strong bass voice and commanding personal presence, he was hobbled in putting across his argument since the futuristic technology which allegedly substantiates his position is either classified as a military secret or has not yet been developed," the *Globe* claimed.

● **FRANCIS MULLEN**, acting director of the Drug Enforcement Administration, wrote a letter to the editor of the *New York Times* Sept. 7 denouncing the *Times*'s recent editorial opposing the use of paraquat to control marijuana production in the United States. The *Times* had called using the herbicide paraquat to kill growing marijuana plants "poisoning" drug consumers. Mullen established that while not a single case of paraquat poisoning had been reported in the United States since the herbicide was first brought into use, growing marijuana consumption is a serious public health hazard.

● **NAWAPAC**, the North American Water and Power Action Committee, was formed Aug. 24 in Houston, Texas to support legislation and educational activities on programs to meet North America's growing water shortage by utilizing surplus water from Alaska and Canada. Nicholas F. Benton, the PAC's founding chairman, is a candidate for mayor of Houston.

● **JESSE JACKSON'S** announcement at a Chicago political function that he was canceling his trip to Moscow after the Soviets shot down the KAL airliner Sept. 1 was greeted with a cry of "Why not go? Their money is green!" from the audience.

● **THE GREEN PARTY U.S.A.** announced Sept. 8 that it was endorsing Walter Mondale for President. The party, affiliated with the West German Greens whose national executive member, Rudolf Bahro, is touring the United States and Canada through Oct. 1, had originally endorsed John Anderson.