

National News

Ohio judge sets back euthanasia lobby

On Sept. 17, in the first "lawsuit in this country against a doctor for saving a life," State Judge Reece handed down a directed verdict in favor of a doctor who was being sued for keeping one of his patients alive against her family's wishes.

Neurologist Dr. Howard Shapiro was sued by the family of one of his patients, Edna Marie Leach, for keeping the terminally-ill woman alive. The suit charges that Shapiro failed to obtain the family's consent before connecting the 70-year-old woman to a respirator, and that he later refused to disconnect it when they asked him to. The case marked the first time that a family has sued a doctor for preserving the life of a terminally-ill patient, and it immediately became a key case for the right-to-die lobby. In directing the verdict for Dr. Shapiro, Judge Reece said he questioned whether Ohio law allowed the doctor to perform a procedure that he found morally unacceptable.

David R. Wilson, the attorney for the family, said: "This was a pioneer case and the first attempt doesn't often succeed," adding that, as more right-to-die cases are filed in the future, "the position of the court will begin to erode."

Pine beetle plague worst in Texas history

A record \$51 million worth of timberland has been lost in the worst infestation of southern pine bark beetles ever to hit east Texas forests; the loss represents 55,000 acres of pine forests, including 25,000 acres of national forest land, and equals about 15% of the forest's new growth each year.

"The general public does not realize this beetle is destroying more wood than forest fires," said Gordon Steele of the U.S. Forest Service. The infestation is part of a regional problem that has reached "epidemic proportions" in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, according to Kirby Brock of the USFS in Atlanta. The USFS cuts buffer zones around infested areas to control the beetles, but that

doesn't work too well. According to the *Houston Post*, the Sierra Club says the problem is created by growing too many pine trees and by "destroying the natural diversity of the forest" rather than by environmentalist-caused restrictions on the use of insecticides.

McFarlane takes swipe at Kissinger

National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane made some nasty remarks about his former boss, Henry Kissinger, to a very receptive audience at the Air Force Association meeting in Washington on Sept. 16. The usually dour McFarlane broke up his listeners with a story about the time he worked for "a short fat little German fellow. . . ."

"Henry," McFarlane continued, "had a way to put people down, including the military. . . . He was trying to convince the joint chiefs of an idea and became increasingly frustrated by their failure to grasp his brilliance. One day he was in a rage, throwing things around. . . . He finally calmed down to near coherence and said to me, 'Bob. I like the Marines the best, because of all the services, they alone have no pretense at intelligence.' And to prove him right, at the time I thought it was a compliment."

Senate votes yes on immigration bill

The Senate passed an immigration reform bill, S. 1200, on Sept. 19, by a vote of 69 to 30.

Among the more controversial aspects of the bill was the fight over allowing guest workers into the United States to, especially, harvest perishable agricultural crops. An effort by Sen. Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) cure a broader program so that U.S. farmers could get the help they need during harvest, rather than go out of business, was tabled 50 to 48. Wilson was then forced to propose a 350,000 worker cap on the program, which was accepted.

Senator Paul Simon (D-Ill.), rather than leaving the program open-ended, later brought up and gained acceptance of a proposal to "sunset," or terminate, the program at the end of three years.

At the instigation of Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens will be subject to civil penalties. If they hire illegals a second time, employers will be subject to criminal penalties. If employers discriminate in hiring, they will be subject to current penalties under anti-discrimination laws.

Legal status for those illegals who were in the United States before Jan. 1, 1980, and before Oct. 15, 1981 for Cuban and Haitian refugees, will be granted. This will cover an estimated 1.4 million of 5.8 million illegals currently in the U.S. The rest will continue in their illegal status and be subject to deportation. If an illegal is currently working at a job in the United States, the employer would not be liable to penalties. But if that illegal changes jobs, then the employers would face penalties.

Various steps to increase border surveillance and policing were taken, including federal reimbursement to the states for incarceration costs of aliens detained while crossing the U.S. border.

Pentagon to improve medical readiness

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger ordered the armed services on Sept. 16 to make wartime medical readiness rather than peacetime health care their first priority.

"This policy is clear: Medical readiness will be the primary criterion for determining the size and composition of our medical corps, medical facilities, and training programs. . . ." The armed forces are "seriously short of surgeons, nurses, psychiatrists, and anesthesiologists who would be needed in wartime," while medical personnel and facilities were "weighted toward general medical care, including obstetrics and pediatrics. I do not believe that we can afford such luxuries as fully staffing a military obstetrics unit for 10 deliveries a month, or

maintaining expensive training programs for medical specialties that are little or no use in war."

Dr. William E. Mayer, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, and Secretary Weinberger attacked "service parochialism" and sought to eradicate duplication: "A Defense Health Agency has been proposed as a solution to the problems that occur in our system."

The three services have vigorously objected to the proposal.

Nixon given lavish welcome in Pakistan

Former President Richard M. Nixon was honored with a lavish state reception on his arrival on Sept. 16 in Islamabad for a two-day visit.

"A peaceful nuclear energy program is the one that the United States has supported. Not only in Pakistan but also in other countries," he said upon his arrival. He said he looked forward to talks on "international and regional matters with Pakistan president Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq, his ministers, and other officials.

Nixon was also to travel to Peshawar, the capital of Northwest Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan, and the site of refugee camps. He is scheduled to visit Afghan refugees in the tent village at Nasir Bagh.

President Zia invited Nixon during his visit to the United States in 1982.

Teddy Kennedy to run in '88

According to syndicated columnist and former Trilateral Commission member Carl Rowan, Ted Kennedy will run for President in 1988. Rowan just had a private luncheon with Kennedy, during which Kennedy "made it clear that he is 'concerned' about where the nation is heading in terms of arms control, foreign policy in general, civil rights, trade policy and more."

What's more, Kennedy is "troubled by the rot" in the Democratic Party. Rowan reports that Kennedy has been carefully cul-

tivating a "not so liberal image" by pushing issues like budget reduction and line-item veto, in order to boost his chances.

Urban League presses for Meese to resign

John Jacob, head of the National Urban League, an off-shoot of the Eastern liberal establishment, has called for the resignation of Attorney-General Edwin Meese, who has spearheaded the administration's war on drugs since assuming office. He denounced a recent speech by Meese in which he compared supporters of affirmative action to apologists for slavery.

Meese's remarks "demonstrate he lacks the sensitivity and the capacity to make the moral and legal distinctions required by his office," said Jacob. Meese's "departure from office would help restore the administration's shattered credibility in racial and law enforcement issues."

Willie helps farmers adapt to disaster

Fifty country-and-western and rock musicians held a 14-hour concert in Champaign, Illinois, on Sept. 22, seeking to raise money to "help farmers." Organized by Willie "The Boys Don't Play Where They Can't Smoke Dope" Nelson, the Farm Aid concert was assisted by Illinois Gov. James Thompson (R). An aide to the governor said that they are trying to raise "some money and a lot of consciousness about the problem." Groups ranging from the Farm Bureau to the American Agriculture Movement are involved.

Will the funds raised be used to help solve the farm crisis by, for example, opposing the Federal Reserve policies of Paul Volcker? No—rather they will be used to help the farmer *adapt* to his new condition—namely, bankruptcy.

AAM member Corky Jones from Nebraska suggested using the proceeds for a "crisis line" to help with counseling on alcoholism or child abuse; others are opting for suicide counseling for farmers who lost their farms.

Briefly

● **JUDAH P. RUBENSTEIN'S** New York mayoral campaign was covered prominently Sept. 17 in one of Caracas, Venezuela's leading dailies. The international page of *El Mundo* headlined "LaRouche Organization Backs Mayoral Candidate—Elections in New York," and quoted Rubinstein saying that Mayor Ed Koch's campaign was "like a Crazy Eddie commercial."

● **ORVILLE FREEMAN**, former agriculture secretary and Cargill grain company strategist, was confronted and accused of "Nuremberg crimes" by Minnesota gubernatorial candidate Andy Olsen in Moorhead, Minnesota. Olsen accused Freeman of introducing policies which have turned down U.S. food-producing capabilities, and starved the Third World. Freeman stated in 1976: "If a nation defaults on its debts, it will be turned into a black hole in the ground." Olsen, joined by Senatorial candidate Annabelle Bourgois of North Dakota and backed by 15 farmers, presented Freeman with "a pound of flesh." Television cameras recorded the incident."

● **SEN. STEVE SYMMS** (R-Idaho) proposed an amendment to the immigration bill recently passed by the Senate, which would have cut off loans to any country providing docking facilities to Soviet ships. His action came after reports that Mexico would grant docking facilities to the Russian navy. The amendment was defeated. The report on Mexico was untrue, in any case.

● **DRUG TREATMENT** programs in New Jersey are being overwhelmed with new clients seeking treatment because of the fear of AIDS. Programs are running 140-200% of capacity. There is growing concern that the 30-40,000 heroin users in New Jersey, in addition to cocaine and amphetamine users, could spread AIDS into the general population. Forty-five percent of New Jersey AIDS victims are intravenous drug users, compared to 17% of the national total.