

# National News

## Rogers report hits NASA cost-cutting

Former Secretary of State William Rogers, chairman of the presidential commission investigating the Space Shuttle Challenger accident, on June 9 presented the committee's report.

The Rogers report is critical of the budget-gouging fiscal pressures which demanded that the Shuttle program be "cost effective," calling these a major factor in the accident. In congressional testimony on June 10, Rogers said, "Yes, budget cuts were responsible for the deterioration of safety in the Shuttle."

The report includes a series of photographs which clearly demonstrate the failure of Challenger's solid rocket booster joint from the point of takeoff in the sub-freezing weather of Jan. 28. It acknowledges "a serious flaw in the decision-making process leading up to the launch" that day—but the report also devotes a chapter to "pressures on the system"—cost-cutting pressures on NASA.

Apollo astronaut Neil Armstrong, vice chairman of the commission, said at the June 10 congressional hearing that the "imbalance between the goals and resources available to NASA" ultimately led to the accident. "NASA's excellence in inspiring goals was contrasted to the resources given to attain those goals, throughout the design stage of the Shuttle in the 1970s, and into the 1980s."

## SDI budget cuts could prove fatal

Strategic Defense Initiative Director Lt.-Gen. James A. Abrahamson told the *Defense Daily* in early June that he does not have the options this year that he had in the past when Congress made major reductions in President Reagan's Strategic Defense Ini-

tiative. The cuts that are now being demanded by Congress could cause fatal delays in implementation of the program, he warned.

After previous cuts, Abrahamson had been able to select lower-priority programs and marginal-progress programs to cut. Now, the situation "is profoundly different," and Abrahamson warned that work would have to be stopped in every one of the five major areas of SDI development, with "chunks" being taken out of priority areas.

Abrahamson emphasized that he was not talking about a delay measured in months, but in years. In order to make an early 1990s decision on whether to proceed to development, SDI must be funded at the requested level of \$4.8 billion. The last two years have seen cuts of 25% and 21%, respectively.

On June 13, the Senate Armed Services Committee's Strategic and Nuclear Forces Subcommittee approved a \$4.1 billion SDI budget—against the administration's request of \$4.8 billion.

## Supreme Court rules in favor of euthanasia

In a victory for advocates of euthanasia, the Supreme Court on June 9 struck down guidelines the Reagan administration had designed to require life-prolonging medical treatment for severely handicapped newborns. The decision ignored the fact that Nazi doctors were hung at Nuremberg for the practice of euthanasia, which was judged a "crime against humanity."

The administration regulations at issue in the Supreme Court case had been implemented in response to the 1982 case of "Baby Doe," a Bloomington, Indiana, child born with Down's syndrome. The child's parents, backed up by the Indiana courts, refused to give permission for surgery to connect the newborn's esophagus and stomach. As a result, "Baby Doe" starved, after six days of receiving neither food nor water.

Basing itself on 1973 federal prohibitions on discrimination against the handicapped, the administration developed the "Baby Doe" regulations to require that hospitals and state child-protective agencies seek

medical treatment for handicapped infants, and give federal investigators expedited access to hospital records and facilities.

But the Supreme Court ruled, 5-3, that the administration lacked the authority to adopt and enforce regulations to save the lives of handicapped newborns. "The administrative record does not contain the reasoning and evidence necessary to sustain federal intervention into a historically state-administered decisional process that appears to be functioning in full compliance with [the law]," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the majority.

A dissenting opinion, authored by Justice Byron White, and joined by Justice William Brennan, Jr., warned that hospitals and doctors might discriminate against handicapped infants in advising parents whether to consent to life-prolonging treatment, and in deciding whether to report parental refusals to authorize treatment to state child-protective agencies.

## Janice Hart campaigns in West Germany

Janice Hart, the "LaRouche Democrat" who won the party's nomination for secretary of state in Illinois in March, held a press conference in Bonn, West Germany, on June 11, to call attention to the threat facing Western civilization from the Soviet-backed Green Party there.

UPI quoted her warning of the consequence of a "Red-Green coalition" emerging in the aftermath of the June 15 state elections in Lower Saxony. She denounced the Greens as "Nazi-like" and the left-wing of the Social Democrats as "Soviet sponsored." Moscow, she said, is "ordering its shock troops within the Greens and the Social Democrats to unleash terrorism in the nation."

The day after her press conference, Mrs. Hart attended a rally of the Patriots for Germany party in Braunschweig, Lower Saxony. One hundred and fifty "green" hooligans, armed with slingshots and stones, stormed the meeting hall, and threatened the participants, causing the event to be shut

down. Only with police protection could the participants be led from the premises.

While driving away from the scene, Mrs. Hart and her companions were pursued by a carload of "punksters," who pulled up at a stoplight and held a gun to the head of Mrs. Hart, before the driver of her car managed to escape. The punksters were detained by police, and then released.

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## Studds takes lead in anti-Panama drive

Representative Gerry E. Studds (D-Mass.) announced June 11 that the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, of which he is a member, will call for investigations into the *New York Times'* charges that Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega is involved in drug-running activities. Interviewed by the *Times* on June 12, Studds commented that "clearly we are well beyond the rumor stage, and it's time to do something."

Studds, who is notorious for his homosexual involvement with young boys, said that he considered Noriega "bizarre."

Noriega is a nationalist leader, the head of Panama's defense forces, and an opponent of the International Monetary Fund's austerity policies.

In 1983, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a motion of censure against Studds, after he admitted on television, that he had been involved in a homosexual affair with a 17-year old aide who worked in his office. Studds responded to the censure by becoming a leading gay activist.

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## Weinberger: Congress ignores Soviet threat

"I am concerned at how frequently the threats to our freedom and world peace are ignored when considering the President's defense budget requests," Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger said, speaking to the Wash-

ington Conference of the American Stock Exchange on June 9.

"Unfortunately, political expediencies seem to blind Congress to the very real threats faced by this nation," he said. Noting that Congress has cut \$329 billion from Reagan's defense requests since 1984, Weinberger stated: "The threats to our nation and our allies are no less today than in 1981." The Chernobyl tragedy demonstrated that the Soviet Union is "so insecure and insensitive that it would refuse to acknowledge the danger facing its own population and fail to warn neighbor states of radioactive winds sweeping toward them."

Many congressmen, said Weinberger, find excuses to vote against defense budgets so they will not appear to be against defending the nation. But those who wish to be informed of the Soviet threat do not have to look far: Poland, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Cuba, Libya, and Syria, all show "the evil designs of governments that embrace terrorism as an instrument of national policy."

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## TRO issued against Illinois Democrats

Judge Anthony Scottillo ruled in Chicago on June 12 that Illinois Democratic Party officials cannot ban LaRouche Democrats from attending the state Democratic Party convention which opened in Springfield on June 13.

A suit filed on behalf of Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart, Democratic nominees for lieutenant governor and secretary of state, against State Sen. Vince Demuzio, chairman of the Democratic Central Committee, sought an injunction to prevent Demuzio from barring them from addressing the convention.

In his decision to grant the TRO, Judge Scottillo said: "I think it's unfortunate that the case had to be filed here. The public has made a decision as to who their candidates are. That happens to run contrary to what the Democratic Party leaders wanted."

Despite the court order, the party leaders refused to allow Fairchild to attend the convention.

# Briefly

● **'ALL LATINS** are volatile people," Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) said in an interview in early June. "Hence, I was not surprised at the volatile reaction" of Mexico, he said, to his campaign against the alleged corruption of Mexican officials, launched through Senate hearings.

● **IN A GESTURE** of solidarity with West Germany's effort to resist Soviet low-intensity warfare operations currently underway, the mayor of Gambell, Alaska, H. Vernon Slwoko, has announced that Gambell is adopting the West German town of Schnakenburg, near the East German border in Lower Saxony, as its sister city. Gambell is a tiny island only 20 miles from the U.S.S.R.

● **THE DEPARTMENT** of Health and Human Services released results in early June of the work of its special task force on AIDS. They expect 179,000 American deaths by 1991, out of a total of 270,000 cases. "The numbers speak for themselves," says the HHS, which estimated that \$8-16 billion would be expended in medical costs in 1991 on AIDS. About 74,000 new cases are expected to show up in 1991 alone.

● **GEORGE SHULTZ** departs for a 10-day trip to Asia on June 20, during which he will meet with Philippines President Cory Aquino and other regional leaders. From the Philippines, he will travel on June 28 to the tiny Pacific island of Palau, possible future site of U.S. military bases, should the bases on the Philippines be closed down.

● **THE U.S. GOVERNMENT** will give the World Health Organization \$2 million during the current fiscal year to combat AIDS worldwide. Half the money will help WHO set up a global monitoring system and provide consultants to member countries trying to ensure the safety of their blood supply. The other half will go to WHO's Brazzaville, Congo office to support surveillance and educational activities in Africa.