

## National News

### Robertson won't take any position on AIDS

After warning that AIDS could infect 46 million Americans, presidential hopeful Pat Robertson refused to commit himself to any specific steps to curb the disease's spread—except for endorsing Surgeon-General C. Everett Koop's recent report, and making vague noises about protecting the U.S. blood supply.

Robertson indicated that, basically, he didn't want to be caught taking a position that might cause some to vote against him.

Questioned by *EIR* about his position on AIDS, Robertson delivered a a tough-sounding speech in which he declared that the AIDS virus "doesn't have civil rights." But then, he lamented that "the public" isn't yet ready to take the steps needed to stop AIDS.

When *EIR* pressed him on what precise steps he proposes, Robertson answered: "Well, I'd rather not say, because then I'd be labeled as someone who was advocating them."

### 'Experts' say AIDS cases will 'explode'

An "explosion" in the number of AIDS cases is expected by 1991, says the Dec. 8 *Los Angeles Times* in a front-page lead article entitled "AIDS Shock Wave on U.S. Horizon." The article quotes experts saying that "within five years, as the number of AIDS cases explodes, many Americans who have been insulated from the burgeoning epidemic somehow will be touched by the disease."

It predicts that by 1991, AIDS could become the seventh leading cause of death. It quotes numerous opponents of Proposition 64 public health measures, who now admit—after the defeat of the referendum in the November election—that this means the death rate will soar.

Rep. Henry Waxman, a Proposition 64 opponent, said that AIDS will "deeply

change America in the next few years, creating dislocation unlike any event other than war." It also quotes Dr. Mervyn Silverman, who engaged in diatribes against Proposition 64 and its most celebrated backer, Lyndon LaRouche. He said that heterosexual transmission is now "a fact of life," contrary to his position prior to the Prop. 64 vote.

Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, another outspoken opponent of containment of AIDS through testing and quarantine of AIDS victims, was forced to withdraw its support for an AIDS education program, after it was disclosed that the program espoused the use of condoms. The archdiocese—which is headed by Archbishop Mahony, one of the ringleaders of the anti-Prop. 64 crusade—issued a statement asserting that, "Contrary to recent reports . . . the Roman Catholic church does not approve the use of condoms."

### U.S. v. LaRouche trial date set

A trial date of April 6 has been set in the case of *U.S. v. The LaRouche Campaign et al.* At a hearing in Boston on Dec. 9, Federal Judge Robert Keeton also set a Jan. 15 date for defense motions to be filed, which will include motions to suppress evidence, and dismiss the indictments on behalf of various of 10 indicted individuals and 5 organizations.

The case stems from a giant Oct. 6-7 raid by 400 armed federal, state, and local police on the offices of associates of LaRouche in Leesburg. It was the largest police raid in American history.

Judge Keeton set June 1 as a "back-up" date for the trial to begin, in the event that both sides cannot be ready by April 6.

Defense attorney Odin Anderson said that he believed that a June trial date was more realistic, considering that the government seized well over 400 cartons of material in the raid, and considering the fact that the government has indicated that additional indictments are expected to be handed down on Monday, Dec. 15. Anderson also said

that the court should reconsider the detention of three of the accused who are still in custody.

Defense attorney William Moffitt also brought to the court's attention the issue of ongoing leaks to the press from the government, contending that this was effecting the ability of his clients to get a fair trial. Judge Keeton responded that it was not his practice to "jawbone," but rather to enter orders and enforce them, and that he would not say more on this issue without a formal motion and a hearing.

Speaking for the government, Assistant U.S. Attorney John Markham said that the prosecution's case would take between six weeks and two months to put in. "We've got witnesses coming from overseas," Markham added. Observers expect the entire trial to last at least three or four months.

### Mayors demand drug, AIDS policy changes

A 28-point proposal was drafted by the U.S. mayors attending the League of Cities conference in San Antonio, Texas.

The proposals calls for a new national urban policy, use of the military to halt illegal drug-smuggling, and more federal money for research into the cause, treatment, and prevention of AIDS.

The mayors urged Congress to renew funding for highways, public transportation, clean water, and housing. It also asked federal help for cities in dealing with drug-abuse, homelessness, joblessness, and hunger.

### Reagan welfare cuts increase poverty

The decline of government programs is apparently responsible for a significant increase in poverty among families with children and does little to ease poverty, says a report released by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in early December.

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The report found that in 1979, nearly one of every five families with children who would otherwise have been poor was able to escape poverty with benefits from Social Security, unemployment insurance, or public assistance. However, in 1985, only one of every nine families with children was lifted out of poverty by those programs.

"Based on hard data from recent Census reports, the analysis demonstrates that the failure of most states to keep benefits up with inflation and the budget reductions made during the Reagan administration have been a major factor in the increase in poverty since 1979," Center Director Robert Greenstein said on Dec. 7.

According to Greenstein, approximately 458,000 fewer families would have been poor in 1985, had support continued. In 1979, the poverty rate was 11.7% and 26.1 million people were poor. In 1985, the poverty rate was 14% and 33.1 million people were in poverty.

The report stated: "The decline in the anti-poverty impact of government benefits programs is even sharper when non-cash programs are included, primarily because the non-cash programs were among the programs that were cut significantly."

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## National Academy report angers the President

The National Academy of Sciences, in a report published Dec. 10, called for increased access to contraception as the "surest strategy" for reducing the country's high level of teen pregnancies. After a two-year study by a blue ribbon panel organized by the Academy's National Research Council, headed by Harvard Medical School's Prof. Daniel Federman, the panel recommended the contraceptive pill for women as the "safest and most effective means of birth control for sexually active teens." It also proposed widespread distribution of condoms "in places where teenagers congregate" (e.g., youth centers, gyms, and video arcades).

The report called school-based clinics that provide contraceptive services "a promising intervention" against unwanted and

early pregnancies. It also said that teens should not require parental consent before receiving an abortion. Sex information programs should "include information on methods of contraception, how to use them, and how to obtain them."

The entire set of recommendations made the White House angry. President Reagan "strongly disapproves of giving contraceptives to teenagers," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said.

Secretary of Education William Bennett severely criticized the panel's encouragement of school-based birth control clinics, saying: "This is not the first time a prestigious-sounding group has advocated a dumb policy—school-based birth control clinics that will damage our schools and our children."

The director of the National Forum Foundation in Washington, D.C., James Denton, said he was troubled by "the whole valueless treatment of teenage promiscuity and abortion."

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## Nunn readies remake of Armed Services

Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), the Trilateral Commission's pick to be next President of the United States, is preparing to overhaul the Senate Armed Services Committee when he becomes chairman in January.

Chief among the changes Nunn is planning is the creation of a tactical warfare subcommittee, to deal with conventional warfare issues. Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), who consistently toes the KGB line on defense issues, especially the SDI, is in line to become the new subcommittee's chairman.

Nunn is also expected to give the sea-power subcommittee to Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), in apparent tribute to Kennedy's navigational talents.

The orientation of the powerful Armed Services Committee is expected to be further influenced in Moscow's direction by new member Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), whose father sits on the board of Armand Hammer's Occidental Petroleum.

## Briefly

● **REP. STEPHEN SOLARZ** has been caught lying. Four Manhattan properties that Solarz insisted belong to former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos—indicating that Marcos had "looted" the Philippines—appear instead to be the property of Saudi munitions dealer Adnan Khashoggi, according to documents introduced in court proceedings begun by the Aquino government.

● **JESSE JACKSON**, lashing out at Japan for "insensitivity toward minorities," threatened Dec. 9 to call for boycotts against Japanese companies in the United States, unless they move to withdraw from South Africa. He warned Japan to end its "de facto involvement" with the South African government. Jackson spoke in Tokyo, at the invitation of a Japanese minority group, the Burakumin, an "untouchable" caste in the feudal era.

● **DR. MATHILDE KRIM**, who opposed California's Proposition 64 public health initiative on AIDS, has called for distributing clean needles to drug addicts.

● **CORRECTION:** Author Anton Chaitkin believes that *Washington Post* publisher Philip Graham was murdered, and that his widow Katharine benefited from the murder, but has not charged Mrs. Graham with the murder, as erroneously reported in this column last week.

● **PAUL GALLAGHER**, executive director of the Fusion Energy Foundation (FEF), announced Dec. 4 that New York Attorney-General Robert Abrams has dropped all claims that the tax-exempt status of the Fusion Energy Foundation is now or had been revoked. Abrams thereby "amended" his complaint against the FEF, a complaint that is part of his legal witchhunt against organizations associated with Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. The allegation first surfaced in a Sept. 12 Associated Press wire story by Abrams's co-conspirator William Welch.