

# National News

---

## Diplomat Galbraith lobbies against INF

Former U.S. Ambassador to France Evan Galbraith is conducting a lobbying effort in the U.S. Senate to prevent ratification of the INF treaty. It is Galbraith's opinion that the treaty will lead to the decoupling of Western Europe from the U.S., and is even more dangerous than a possible START treaty.

Galbraith has spoken with a dozen senators and intends to speak with more when Congress reconvenes. Galbraith is confident that the ratification can be stopped, and that the key issue will be verification. He is also seeking press coverage so that he can get the word out to the public, who, Galbraith says, don't understand how really damaging the INF treaty will be for U.S. security interests. Galbraith is also being scheduled to testify in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

---

## Ex-prosecutor scores 'police-state tactics'

A deputy attorney general of Peru charged in a press conference in Springfield, Illinois on Jan. 13, that "police-state gestapo tactics" are being used against Democratic presidential contender Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Attorney Ricardo Martín Mora spoke as a representative of the international Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations.

The press conference, attended by some 25 representatives of the Illinois press corps, coincided with the filing of delegate petitions for LaRouche's campaign in the Illinois state capital. The leadership of the state Democratic Party is trying to keep LaRouche off the ballot, charging that his supporters filed "too many" valid petition signatures.

"I am here," said Martín, "because I am very concerned about what happens with justice in the United States. The Human Rights Commission has already reached a decision on what is really behind this per-

secution of Mr. Lyndon LaRouche. The conclusion are police-state tactics. . . .

"The question I, as a citizen of the Third World, am asking and must concern myself with is, if this is going on in the United States, what can we of the Third World expect from American justice? I see nothing but military dictatorships in the Third World. We will lose what strides forward we may have made in South America. I must say, it is a shame that, here I stand in the Land of Lincoln, the home of the free, and this is going on!"

---

## Dems name six to economic commission

House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Tex.) named Robert Strauss, Rep. William Gray III (D-Pa.), and Felix Rohatyn (of New York's "Big MAC" fame) to the newly formed National Economic Commission, while Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) named Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.), Chrysler Corp. chairman Lee Iacocca, and AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland to the committee. The group is supposed to come up with a politically palatable austerity program.

"Those of us named today are not ideologues, and I am confident that will be also true of the Republicans named," said Strauss, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee. "We are going to define an economic program that will be politically stable."

Six GOP nominations will be forthcoming shortly. Two each are to be designated by President Reagan, Rep. Robert Michel, and Sen. Bob Dole.

---

## President signs space booster plan

President Reagan on Jan. 13 signed a plan to provide for joint NASA-Defense Department development of a giant new unmanned space booster for the 1990s. Under the plan,

the military would foot the entire bill for development of the "advanced launch system" (ALS).

In a report to Congress on the status of the ALS, President Reagan approved creation of the program, which calls for an operational rocket "no later than 1998." The ALS would be based on new technology and would be capable of carrying more than 100,000 pounds of payload into low orbit—twice that of the new Titan-4 rockets now being built for the Air Force space program.

Meanwhile, the first Titan-4 rockets were delivered to the Air Force at Cape Canaveral, Florida. At least 23 more are on order. Air Force Secretary Edward "Pete" Aldridge dedicated the first Titan-4 launch pad on Jan. 14 at the Air Force Station.

The 1.9 million-pound Titan-4 is an upgraded version of the Titan-34D built by Martin Marietta Denver Aerospace to serve as a backup for the Space Shuttle and to ensure access to space for secret military payloads.

---

## Richard Burt demands austerity from Germany

U.S. Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt, friend of the Greenies and the decouplers, demanded that the German government accept higher inflation and budget cuts, in a discussion with journalists in Bonn on Jan. 13.

Burt—whom one German paper accused of acting like a "proconsul"—denounced the Bonn government's economic, budgetary, and monetary policies as "insufficient," because they avoided the "very necessary cuts in subsidies to agriculture and the communications sector." They had to be cut, said Burt, to give American products access to German markets and thus help the U.S. economy.

Burt demanded that the Germans stimulate their economy by Keynesian-style deficit-spending. This would drive inflation up, but reduce unemployment, said Burt. Should the Germans refuse to do so, he warned, they would be held responsible for a recession in the United States. In that case, Burt foresaw "a tide of sentiment against Ger-

many and for troop reduction" in the U.S. public.

"Economic frictions between the U.S.A. and the Federal Republic of Germany," threatened Burt, "are much more severe than problems in defense. If there is a longer recession in the West, there'll be a lot of frictions in NATO, and the dispute will be on the eventual linkage of security and economic problems, then."

## Texas teenagers forged GOP petitions

Southern Political Consulting, the Houston firm whose petition-gathering procedures for the presidential campaigns of Al Haig, Bob Dole, and Pete du Pont were rife with fraudulent signatures, gave teenagers beer and paid them to forge signatures on the petitions, according to Peggy Harmening, the mother of two of the youths, who was interviewed on KTRK-TV in Houston.

"They all sat around in the office building there . . . and drank beer and passed the voters' registration list around among them, and the kids were instructed to just sign the next name on the list," said Harmening. According to a report in the *Washington Post* on Jan. 14, the names of Harmening's children appeared as signature collectors alongside some signatures on the petitions of Pete du Pont.

## Kissinger: Soviets won't use nuclear weapons

Henry Kissinger called for ratification of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, and insisted that the Soviet Union "is not planning a first strike," at a forum at the Heritage Foundation in Washington on Jan. 14. In response to a challenge from *EIR*'s Nicholas F. Benton, Kissinger said that the Soviets are "relying on conventional preponderance" in their military planning, and use their nuclear capabilities only for "blackmail purposes."

Although Kissinger claims that he op-

poses the INF treaty, he claimed that any efforts to prevent its ratification would lead to a "political backlash" in Europe which would result in the removal of the U.S. medium-range missiles anyway, while the Soviets retained their SS-20s. Even though he argued against what he called the "flawed concepts" motivating the treaty, Kissinger pronounced, "If 34 senators vote against its ratification, then it will bring about a strategic disaster." The mistake of the INF "cannot now be undone," he said.

## Government goes on debt-collection binge

Attorney General Edwin Meese and Office of Management and the Budget (OMB) head James Miller held a press conference Jan. 15 to announce that the federal government was going into the debt collection business in a big way this year. Meese and Miller, flanked by assistant U.S. attorneys from around the country, said that they were aiming to collect \$32 billion owed to the government, plus \$50 billion owed to the IRS.

The collection effort against people Meese called "deadbeats" will target those who have outstanding loans from the Veterans Administration, HUD, and the Department of Education, and those who owe court judgments to the government. From the examples given, most of these individuals will be small debtors—probably including local farmers, the homeless, the jobless, and so forth.

Those who won't take on the drug-pushers are talking very tough against these debtors.

The measures discussed include:

- 1) A Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act, which will eliminate local barriers to seizures of property of debtors, and the like;
- 2) IRS seizures of refunds to be applied to judgments owed the government;
- 3) Siphoning off of prisoners' income to be applied to debts owed the government;
- 4) Contracts with private attorneys to help collect debts;
- 5) Pilot programs to allow payment of taxes by credit card.

## Briefly

● **A SIGN** observed hanging in the offices of the Democratic Policy Committee on Capitol Hill reads, "The only difference between this place and the Titanic is that they had a band."

● **JACK KEMP**, the Republican presidential hopeful, has renewed his charges of discrepancies in Soviet data for the INF treaty. "Reported problems concerning the accuracy of the Soviets' photo of an SS-23 short-range missile are one example," he said. The proportions of the missile in the photo supplied by Moscow do not match the dimensions contained in the INF memorandum of understanding on data exchange.

● **THE ADL** considers its "biggest achievement of 1987" to have been the indictment of "the extremist and anti-Semite Lyndon LaRouche, who was accused of blocking a federal investigation into a fraud of millions of dollars committed by members of his movement," reports the Israeli Spanish-language weekly *Semana*, in its Jan. 6 edition. The quote is attributed to a report issued by the Anti-Defamation League.

● **THE SOVIET UNION** probably didn't know that it was shooting down a civilian airliner when it destroyed a Korean Air Lines 747 in 1983, killing 269 people, U.S. intelligence officials told Congress in an assessment released Jan. 12. The view contradicts previous public statements by top administration officials.

● **CHUCK ROBB**, the former Virginia governor and current Democratic senatorial candidate, called for more aid to the Contras, in a speech before the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "If there is no significant, irreversible breakthrough after the Central American peace talks," he said, "the United States should vote sustaining military aid to the Nicaraguan resistance."