

National News

N. Y. area governors warn of austerity

Governors of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut warned in their state of the state messages on Jan. 5 of imminent, severe fiscal austerity.

"We must close . . . an anticipated gap between projected revenues and expenditures of more than \$2 billion—\$2 billion," emphasized New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, which will mean a "budget for next year that will grow . . . under the rate of inflation" and "will require you and me to raise hundreds of millions of dollars more in new revenues."

New Jersey is facing a budget deficit optimistically estimated at \$290 million, as estimates of tax revenues continue to be scaled downward. State projected increases of 8.9% in sales tax revenue, 22.4% in corporate taxes, and 13.8% in income taxes have now fallen to increases of only 3.3%, 3.6%, and 7.7% respectively. Gov. Tom Kean and his aides pointed to the increase in corporate debt due to the takeover binge and leveraged buy-outs, as a major factor for the sharply reduced tax payments.

Connecticut Gov. William O'Neill said, "We will have to say 'no' when what we, as elected officials, really want to say is 'yes.'" Estimates of the state's deficit have grown monthly, and it is now projected at \$882 million, out of a budget of \$6.3 billion—a 14% shortfall. "Clearly we have now entered a period of retrenchment. . . . We now have to face the realities. . . . There are going to be cuts."

AIDS infection threat to 5.3 million workers

Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin warned a conference on AIDS and Health Care Workers on Jan. 9 that an estimated 5.3 million Americans at 600,000 work sites risk AIDS infection in the workplace.

These workers, she said, can "potentially be exposed to the AIDS or Hepatitis B viruses if they do not receive adequate pro-

tection." Americans who work in health care, sanitation, fire, and rescue are the "front-line fighters" who "deserve the best protection we can offer them against AIDS and other blood-borne diseases," she said.

McLaughlin's warnings came as the *Washington Post* reported on Jan. 10 that new cases of AIDS attributed to heterosexual contact or "undetermined causes" doubled in 1988 over 1987, and grew from 7% of cases reported in 1987 to 9.5% of cases reported during 1988.

Supreme Court refuses to hear securities case

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Jan. 9 that it has denied the petition of three organizations and individuals associated with former presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche which sought to overturn a Minnesota state court's finding that political loans are securities.

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear this case now raises the possibility that all political organizations and candidates can have their fundraising efforts, specifically loans, curtailed by overzealous political opponents who control state offices at the time.

On June 4, 1986, the Minnesota Securities Commission issued a Cease and Desist order preventing the taking of political loans by Caucus Distributors, Independent Democrats for LaRouche, and Campaigner Publications. Minnesota Attorney General "Skip" Humphrey, who had been waging a political vendetta against LaRouche Democrats in the state, made his vendetta clear three months after this decision, when he stated in written form on stationery bearing his letterhead, "We must show the nation that Minnesota will not tolerate the LaRouche fringe."

The Supreme Court decision ignores two critical First Amendment issues. First, do the First Amendment rights of politically oriented organizations and the individuals who support them prevent a state from using securities law to inhibit the fundraising activities of those organizations? And second, can a state preempt federal laws regulating presidential campaign committees?

John Silber, president of Boston University, will give the keynote address, "Ethics in the Practice of Medicine." Silber, nominally a right-wing conservative Catholic, recently commented, "The patients who are dying, we'll let them die."

Another speaker is infamous neurologist Fred Plum, who created a new diagnosis, to make killing unconscious patients more palatable: He calls them vegetables or labels them in a "persistent vegetative state."

The Knights of Columbus is underwriting the event.

Greenpeace wins battle in War for Drugs

The environmentalist movement Greenpeace "has won a battle with the Reagan administration, this time over the War on Drugs," reported *Newsweek* in its Dec. 19 issue.

Newsweek reviews the history of the attempt by Peru to use the chemical "Spike" which destroys coca plants, and the successful efforts to block its use on the part of the environmentalists and the narco-guerrillas. Most interesting is *Newsweek's* crediting Greenpeace with the success against the country of Peru.

Newsweek also acknowledges that the environmental damage from the chemicals being used to refine the coca leaves into coca paste are destroying plant and fish life in large areas of the Amazon, while rain forest is being cut to grow upwards of 5 billion coca plants.

Bishops to promote 'ethical' euthanasia?

The Massachusetts-based Pope John XXIII Center has launched a major effort to have American bishops promote and export Nazi euthanasia as Catholic policy. Bishops from Canada, the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, the Philippines, and the United States will attend a conference, "Critical Is-