

National News

Safire warns: Moscow is on the march

"In foreign affairs Moscow is on the march," columnist William Safire wrote in the *New York Times* March 6, in an article entitled "A Second Yalta."

Safire notes that in the Near East, Gorbachov has reestablished ties with Egypt and is dangling the promise of recognition in front of Israel, posing as a peace-maker while continuing to arm Arab terrorist states.

In the Far East, he notes that the end of estrangement between the major Communist powers is at hand. And in Western Europe, a Soviet arms-reduction gesture has made NATO complacent.

"This is the real Soviet Union: concentrating political power in a single leader, fishing in our troubled waters, making propaganda concessions to get needed credits and technology, using its Afghanistan retreat to extend its influence in Asia," Safire states.

In Eastern Europe, we should "depend on Mr. Gorbachov to crack down as Mr. Stalin would have, fraternally rolling in the tanks and shooting the dissenters. The present Kremlin leader was not chosen to preside over the dissolution of the Soviet empire."

RICO used against anti-abortion protestors

In a decision which directly threatens constitutional protections, a federal appeals court has upheld a ruling that anti-abortion demonstrators can be found liable under the racketeering (RICO) statutes. The ruling was the first at the appeals court level expanding the use of the RICO act—which was supposed to deal only with organized crime—to cover some forms of civil disobedience.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, in Philadelphia, on March 2 upheld a lower court ruling that 26 abortion foes who demonstrated at the Northeast Women's Center in Philadelphia from 1984-86, were liable for \$43,000 in damages and

\$65,000 in lawyers' fees under civil RICO, even though the case did not involve criminal charges.

Anti-abortion groups called the ruling unconstitutional and said it represented a threat to every demonstrator who practices civil disobedience. "It takes away the right to assembly, the right to free speech, and the right to redress a grievance," said Joseph Scheidler, director of the Pro-Life Action League.

The National Organization for Women and other pro-abortion groups have made RICO prosecutions a central part of their strategy for shutting down the anti-abortion movement. There are about 10 other lawsuits pending against abortion foes based on the RICO law.

In its ruling, the appeals court said that when a demonstration goes beyond expression of dissenting political opinions, into "extortion," in the form of threats and force, then the use of the racketeering law is appropriate.

Defendant Michael McMonagle said that none of his fellow protestors were charged with assault, and that simply pushing someone, which apparently occurred in the heat of a demonstration, did not turn a demonstrator into an extortionist or racketeer.

Greenhouse effect did not cause 1988 drought

A study of the impact of the 1988 drought in North America on world weather patterns concludes that the "greenhouse effect" is not the cause of the drought.

The study, conducted by the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in Reading, England, reportedly the most complex yet conducted on both the drought and the Pacific Ocean "El Niño/La Niña" warming and subsequent cooling of the Pacific, concludes that this, not the greenhouse effect, was a primary cause of the extraordinary North American weather patterns.

The study links the previous severe El Niño, in 1982-83, with the severe drought in the United States in 1983 and flooding in California. The study also identifies abnor-

mally cold North Atlantic waters and unusually high pressure zones over the Atlantic and Pacific as similar to those of the 1934-36 U.S. "dustbowl" drought period.

Baltimore fears 'explosion' of Satanism

Baltimore law enforcement officials are privately warning that there has been an "explosion" in Satanist activity over the last 18 months.

They report that it is now standard procedure for police, when arriving at certain crime scenes, to pull back the rug to see if there are any ritual circles (nine feet for witches, pentagrams for Satanists) on the floor.

They report that so-called Santario ritual murders are now moving up the East Coast. In Florida they are becoming as common as drug murders—"one a day"). These murders are related to the marketing of body parts used in certain Satanist ceremonies. Officials have also seen an increase in the number of "suicide pacts" admitted to by adolescent psychiatric patients, which are related to Satanic pacts. Officials also warn that videos of ritual murders are now freely available at video stores, some as "documentaries."

Meanwhile, Washington became the second state, during the week of Feb. 27, to have an anti-Satanism bill introduced into its legislature. Similar to a bill introduced into the Pennsylvania legislature (see *EIR*, March 3, 1989), the bill is sponsored by Rep. Steve Fuhrman and 17 other legislators, including the chairman of the committee which will hold hearings on it in July.

Catholic Church criticizes border camps

Thousands of undocumented immigrants from Central America and Mexico have been put in "concentration camps," the Roman Catholic bishops of Texas charged in a Feb. 21 statement.

The statement recalls that "concentration camps" had not been seen on "U.S. soil since the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II—a shameful page in our history."

This latest reflection of the U.S. government's Nazi-style immigration policy resulted from a new measure announced Feb. 20 by Immigration and Naturalization Service director Alan Nelson, that applicants for political asylum will receive an immediate answer and would be subject to immediate arrest and detention if denied asylum. The INS "asylum-processing center" is located on the grounds of a Texas prison.

Since the new measures began, less than 1% of the applicants have been granted asylum. This has resulted in a large number of refugees going "underground" to avoid deportation. Reports from Texas indicate that the Border Patrol has launched an intense effort to find the immigrants.

Those immigrants who have been denied asylum are being held in El Corralón (The Corral), awaiting deportation. El Corralón is a large concentration camp inside the fence of a detention center 15 miles from Brownsville, Texas. There, the INS is planning to detain as many as 1,100 inside the concrete prison buildings and another 5,000 in the "tents" being erected by the INS on the prison grounds.

DoJ targets former head of FSLIC

The Department of Justice is investigating Stuart Root, the recently resigned director of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. Root had emphasized, in an interview to *EIR* published Feb. 24, 1989, that the takeover of the FSLIC by the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) could hurt international investor confidence in the entire U.S. banking system, not just in thrift institutions.

Root also has written articles urging a return to more traditional forms of savings and lending to spur industrial production and economic stability.

S&L regulators have reportedly asked the DoJ to determine whether Root tipped

off officials at one savings and loan institution that the government was about to take over that institution, and thus give those officials an opportunity to remove or destroy documents and withdraw deposits. Such warnings are in violation of federal law.

"It never got beyond rumor and innuendo," said Karl Hoyle, a spokesman for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. "We never found any thread of substance. But . . . we referred it to Justice." According to the *Washington Post*, Hoyle claims that the Bank Board investigated the allegations about Root before turning the matter over to the Justice Department.

Root said that he was never questioned by the Bank Board and first learned of the Justice Department investigation when a reporter asked him about it. Root denies warning anybody.

Court undermines 'New Deal' gains

In a ruling that rips up an important gain of labor unions during the last Great Depression, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled by a vote of 6-3 on Feb. 28, that companies are not required to fire employees who stayed on the job during a strike in order to rehire striking workers with more seniority.

The ruling in favor of Trans World Airlines in its dispute with the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, was an interpretation of the Railway Labor Act governing airline and railway industry workers. But most employers were quick to draw the parallels to the National Labor Relations Act covering more of organized labor.

"It strikes me that this is a very broad decision," said Murray Gartner, a lawyer for TWA. "It reaffirms the right of people to decide that they don't want to strike and to not be penalized for their decision."

In a dissenting opinion, Justice William Brennan said the court was allowing the employer "to single out for penalty precisely those employees who were faithful to the strike until the end, in order to benefit those who abandoned it." He said "such discrimination on the basis of union activity is inherently destructive of the right to strike."

Briefly

● **ELAINE PAGELS**, a leading propagandist for Gnostic heresies, was placed on the Aspen Institute Board of Trustees March 4. Her book, *The Gnostic Gospels*, is the winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and the American Book Award. Mrs. Pagels's most recent book is *Adam, Eve and the Serpent*.

● **AMERICAN 'HUMANISTS'** will meet on "new values" during their 48th annual American Humanists Association conference to be held April 21-23 in San Jose, California. The topic is "Bringing Our World Together—New Technologies, New Values." The 1989 Distinguished Service Award will be presented to depopulation enthusiast Dr. Garrett Hardin, who believes in "mutual coercion" against "breeding out of control."

● **SAM NUNN** would have blocked Churchill's nomination, according to the London *Economist*, which reviewed William Manchester's account of Winston Churchill's drinking history on March 4. According to this account, Churchill would drink 2-3 whiskeys, several glasses of sherry, two brandies, and a highball during the average working day.

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** may have his own "Billygate" scandal, according to *Sunday Times* of London investigative journalist Mark Hosenball, who wrote March 5 that "beleaguered White House officials are under siege over the business activities of President George Bush's older brother." Prescott Bush traveled to the same places in the Far East just days before the President arrived, looking for business for his consulting firm, Prescott Bush Resources.

● **WILLIAM REILLY**, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, announced plans March 7 for a nationwide computer bulletin board which will provide information on the pollutants produced by every industrial plant in the country.