

National News

U.S. denies visa to Chinese student leaders

The U.S. State Department has refused to extend visas to two leaders of the Chinese freedom movement, according to reports from several U.S.-based Chinese student leaders. Wu'er Kaixi, a student, and Yan Jiaqi, the former director of the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences, had hoped to travel to the United States at the end of July to convene a Chinese student conference in opposition to the Deng Xiaoping regime. The two escaped from the People's Republic of China after the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 3-4.

The State Department told student leaders that to have granted Wu'er and Yan visas would be "provocational" to the Deng regime. The Bush administration has bent over backwards to avoid antagonizing the Butcher of Beijing.

There are some 70,000 P.R.C. students in the United States.

Bush treating LaRouche as 'his man in prison'

Congressional candidate Lyndon LaRouche said he has "received reports, corroborated reports to the effect that the Bush State Department and other U.S. government channels, are placing the highest imaginable pressure, unprecedented pressure on governments and related agencies around the world, as part of a campaign to ensure that there is no pressure which might contribute to getting me out of prison." His statement was issued July 8 from the Alexandria, Virginia jail where he has been held a political prisoner since Jan. 27.

"So far, I don't know if George Bush personally is guilty of this, but someone at a very high level is collaborating with Henry Kissinger in doing this. In effect, George Bush is responsible. The President of the United States in effect, whether he knows it or not, is treating me as his man in prison, his Man in the Iron Mask. Now, George

better clean his skirts of this stuff, and better get the pressure off, and stop this pressure on foreign governments, and I mean foreign governments and others at the highest level. Or else George is going to go down in the history books as personally accountable for a personal vendetta against me, for using the office of President to keep a competitor, a political competitor in prison."

Two Bush cabinet nominations withdrawn

Two nominees proposed by Bush cabinet officials withdrew their names the week of July 3.

Manhattan attorney Robert B. Fiske, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh's nominee for Deputy Attorney General, withdrew suddenly, citing opposition from conservative groups who opposed his role on the American Bar Association judicial selection committee, often cited for its bias against religious nominees.

New Jersey Commissioner of Human Services Drew E. Altman, nominated by Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan to run the Medicare agency, similarly withdrew his name. Altman was said to be opposed by conservatives who were angered at his support for proposals which would require all employers to provide health insurance plans.

Informed sources report that various senators are unhappy that they approved Thornburgh and are resisting his nominees. "This is the most political I've ever seen the Department of Justice," one said. "They are looking for anything and everything to throw at him, primarily through the House," since Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Joseph Biden (D-Del.)

A widespread view holds that Thornburgh is behind the renewed press coverage of the Chappaquiddick story, because Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) mantling of the Organized Crime Strike Forces.

Washington columnist Carl Rowan recently quoted a former black aide of Thornburgh, and others, saying that Thornburgh directed the leak against Rep. Bill Gray (D-

Pa.) investigating Gray until they find something.

European court scores U.S. judicial barbarity

"Death Row Breaches Convention," is the headline of the British paper *The Independent's* July 11 account of the July 7 decision by the European Court of Human Rights, in the *Soering v. United Kingdom* case, to reject the Commonwealth of Virginia's demand that accused killer Jens Soering be extradited to Virginia.

"The extradition of an EC [European Community] national to the United States to face murder charges which could result in the death sentence and consequent exposure to eight years of severely stressful conditions on death row amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment," the article read. [Emphasis in original].

"The European Court of Human Rights unanimously held that the United Kingdom would be in breach of article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights if the U.K. extradited Soering, a German national who has been detained in the U.K., to the United States.

"Article 3 provides: 'No one shall be subject to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.'

"The U.S. sought the extradition of Mr. Soering in connection with charges that he, when aged 18, murdered his girlfriend's parents in Virginia. . . .

"The American prosecutor gave an undertaking that if Mr. Soering were convicted, a representation would be made to the judge that it was the U.K.'s wish that the death penalty should not be imposed. However the prosecutor intended to seek the death penalty. . . .

"The European Court of Human Rights said that the convention did not govern the actions of states not parties to it or purport to impose convention standards on other states. However, the absolute prohibition in article 3 enshrined one of the fundamental values of the democratic societies making

up the Council of Europe. . . .

"The court found that there were substantial grounds for believing that Mr. Soering, if returned to Virginia, would run a real risk of a death sentence and consequently of exposure to the death-row phenomenon, the source of the alleged unhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. . . . [The court] submitted that the death-row phenomenon cumulatively constituted such serious treatment that his extradition would be contrary to article 3."

Abrams slammed for dirty fundraising

New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams has been put on the hot seat for questionable fundraising tactics by the New York State Commission on Government Integrity, which issued a report entitled "The Midas Touch: Campaign Finance Practices of Statewide Officeholders," released June 7.

Abrams is presiding over New York's "Get LaRouche" case, which charges associates of Lyndon LaRouche with conspiracy and scheme to defraud in connection with political fundraising.

The commission has found that Abrams has improperly raised funds for his own election campaigns by—among other things—soliciting large contributions from people who had matters of law before him.

Examples cited in the commission report include Donald Trump, who donated \$7,500 to Abrams's campaign in April 1986, at a time when five co-op conversion plans in which Trump was interested, with a total price tag of \$60 million, were before Abrams's Law Department. When Trump breakfasted with Abrams in January 1985, Trump had three such plans pending. When Trump pledged Abrams \$15,000 in February 1985, he had four such plans pending. And when developer Arthur Cohen met Abrams at the Harmonie Club in October 1986 and pledged \$15,000, he had an interest in plans worth over \$150 million that were before Abrams.

In May 1986, Abrams phoned New York attorney Ira Millstein to ask for a donation.

On Sept. 15 of that year, Abrams presided over a meeting at the Law Department in which Millstein sought relief from the Attorney General's office on behalf of a client. Shortly after that meeting, Abrams hopped on the phone with Millstein, again trying to solicit a \$10,000 contribution for his campaign.

The report also accuses Abrams of having compiled, at state expense, a political mailing list known to the Abrams team as the MML, or "Major Mailing List." Department of Law staff maintained the list under Abrams's direction, and the Law Department computer was used to store it.

Good education ruled a constitutional right

The Supreme Court of the State of Kentucky has ruled that the school system of the state is unconstitutional, and must be reformed, because it is failing to educate the population, according to press accounts July 8.

The court stated its opinion that the "General Assembly of the Commonwealth has failed to establish an efficient system of common schools throughout the Commonwealth. . . . [T]he premise for the existence of common schools is that all children in Kentucky have a constitutional right to an adequate education."

The matter arose from a fight over the inequities in funding for school districts, which varies enormously in rural states, since schools are funded from property taxes, an issue which the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court did not find was a constitutional problem.

Rising above the tax and finance issues, which usually bog down clear thinking, the Kentucky court ruled that the schools were obligated under the constitution to provide "sufficient knowledge of economic, social, and political systems to enable the student to make informed choices . . . sufficient grounding in the arts to enable each student to appreciate his or her cultural and historical heritage . . . [and] sufficient levels of academic or vocational skills to compete favorably with their counterparts in surrounding states."

Briefly

● **MARIO CUOMO**, governor of New York, announced his availability to become the Democratic Party's next presidential nominee, telling a radio broadcasters convention on July 10 that he's "open to the possibility" for 1992.

● **WILLIAM CLEMENTS** introduced Senate Bill 803, which increases the penalties for child abuse during Satanic ritual activity, into a special session of the Texas legislature July 11. It immediately passed the Senate and will now go before the House.

● **PAUL MANAFORT**, campaign strategist for George Bush who runs the consulting firm Manafort, Black, told Richard Collins, executive director of the Savannah, Ga. housing authority, according to Collins, that the authority would receive a federal housing subsidy if it supported a project of the CFM development corporation. Manafort owns 30% of CFM.

● **LEE ATWATER**, chairman of the Republican National Committee, approved the release of the memo entitled "Tom Foley, Out of the Liberal Closet," linking the Speaker of the House to the homosexual Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), according to the *Washington Post* July 3. Atwater had denied approving the document, and fired its author, Mark Goodin.

● **DANNY LEE McDONALD**, the chairman of the Federal Elections Commission, headed an FEC delegation visit to the Soviet Union from June 5-14, according to the July official newsletter of the FEC the *Record*. "We have many common concerns which have been advanced by our meetings," he said.

● **JOHN LEHMAN**, the former Secretary of the Navy, has been mysteriously protected throughout the "Ill Wind" investigation of defense contracting practices despite violations of ethics rules.