

National News

Supreme Court grants broader seizure powers

The Supreme Court decided in two rulings on June 4 to give the police broader powers to seize evidence and to conduct undercover operations in jail without warning suspects of their rights.

In one case, the Justices voted 7 to 2 to allow the police to seize evidence not identified in a search warrant, if it is in "plain view." The discovery of the evidence not identified in the warrant does not need to be "inadvertent."

In another ruling, the Justices voted 8 to 1 to allow an undercover officer posing as a fellow inmate, to interrogate a suspect without giving him the "Miranda" warning of his legal rights.

Billington appeals 77-year sentence

Attorneys for Michael Billington, tried in Roanoke, Virginia for "securities fraud," filed on June 4 an appeal to overturn his conviction and 77-year sentence. Billington is a political associate of Lyndon LaRouche, and his trial was a frameup by a federal-state "Get LaRouche" task force.

The appeal, filed with the Virginia Appeals Court, calls his 1989 trial before Judge Clifford R. Weckstein "one of a nationwide series of cases aimed at dismantling the political organization which promotes the policies and ideas of former presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche." The brief reads, "these prosecutions were spearheaded by the joint efforts of the federal government and several of the states," and, referring to the Anti-Defamation League, among others, "were backed by a number of private organizations which were publicly avowed political opponents of LaRouche and his policies."

Billington's attorney in the trial was Brian Gettings, who had been part of a joint defense team, but who, on the eve of trial, "turned on the defendant" and "sabotaged

his defense." "The resulting trial was a travesty," the brief states. The trial court, "for the sake of expediency," refused to allow Billington to change counsel.

The brief charges that it was error for the court to have denied dismissing the case on double jeopardy grounds since Billington had already been tried and convicted on the same charges in federal court; that Brian Gettings had a conflict which prevented Billington from calling witnesses in his own defense; that the jury *voir dire* (questioning) was grossly inadequate to assure an impartial verdict; that the charge to the jury on "securities" was wrong; and that the court erred on evidentiary and venue matters allowing prejudicial hearsay into evidence.

President plans to purge PFIAB

Leo Cherne, the right-wing social democrat and a key individual in the "secret government" apparatus known as Project Democracy, may be ousted from the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) as part of an expected broader shakeup, columnists Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta have reported.

In the first of two pieces on a pending reorganization of PFIAB, published May 25, the columnists wrote that President Bush has been reluctant to use PFIAB and that he would like to purge the whole lot except for former Sen. John Tower (R-Tex.). Anderson wrote that Bush would like to make Tower chairman of a reconstituted PFIAB, in a purge that may take place as early as June or as soon as FBI background checks are completed.

A second Anderson column on the subject reviewed the role of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) in helping to oust Henry Kissinger from the Board:

"Helms did not like the fact that Kissinger, a paid Washington consultant for several countries and international corporations, had his fingers in the business world and the White House at the same time. . . . Kissinger has had a long association with Chinese business and government leaders. After the brutal Chinese suppression of the Tianan-

men Square demonstration last June, Kissinger took a soft public stance on the issue. Worse, when Bush sent secret envoys to China, he chose two former employees of Kissinger's consulting firm—national security adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. One PFIAB member, who is also a friend of Kissinger's, told us that PFIAB never advised Bush on Tiananmen Square. . . . Such assurances did not convince Helms and others who wanted Kissinger off the board."

New York GOP approves abortion rights plank

The New York Republican Party, for the first time, unanimously approved an "abortion rights" plank in its platform adopted at a party convention on May 29.

State Assemblyman George Pataki, chairman of the platform committee, said that the state GOP was essentially adopting the position of Republican national committee chairman Lee Atwater, who said earlier this year that the Republican Party should be a big enough "tent" to accommodate both pro- and anti-abortionists, even though the national GOP platform opposes abortion.

The New York GOP is in the process of selecting economist Pierre A. Rinfret as its gubernatorial candidate; Rinfret is pro-abortion.

Judge rules Social Security acted illegally

A federal judge has ruled that the Social Security Administration acted illegally in denying tens of thousands of Americans Social Security disability benefits under rules enforced in the 1980s.

The case stems from an earlier court decision which had ruled improper the procedure Social Security was using to deny the eligibility of many disabled applicants. The Reagan administration directed the agency to continue to use its own interpretation, not that of the court with which it disagreed, in

its determinations.

The policy, termed "non-acquiescence," failed to inform tens of thousands of applicants that the procedure under which they had been turned down had itself been voided by a federal court. Most such applicants, unaware of their excellent grounds for appeal and unable to afford lawyers, simply let the matter drop. A large majority of those who did appeal their denial won those appeals. According to Burt Neuborne, who argued the case on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, the government's policy was to "use non-compliance against people who couldn't afford lawyers."

Spannaus files for Senate against Warner

Nancy B. Spannaus, an independent Democrat for U.S. Senate running on policies associated with Lyndon LaRouche, filed petitions with the Virginia Board of Elections in Richmond on June 8 to be placed on the November ballot in opposition to Sen. John Warner (R-Va.).

"As of today, I am putting the Independent Democrats for Spannaus campaign into high gear, in my determination to provide a vehicle for rebuilding the Democratic Party around the principles of scientific and technological progress most recently seen in the programs of John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt," Spannaus said. "More broadly, my campaign reaffirms the principles of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, upon which this nation was founded."

Environmentalists rev anti-population effort

Science, the magazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, on May 11 reported that environmentalist groups are putting the issue of reducing world population back on the agenda as a high priority.

"Fear of alienating people in developing countries and fierce opposition to family

planning by the American right-to-life movement caused activists to shy away from the issue," *Science* wrote.

"In recent years, the Audubon Society has been the only major environmental group that has had a population program. But in January, the Sierra Club hired former marine activist Nancy Wallace as its first full-time population lobbyist. . . . Barbara Bramble of the National Wildlife Federation says her group is now looking for the money to hire a population person. And the board of the Natural Resources Defense Council has voted, for the first time, to list world population stabilization among its priorities.

"Audubon is now organizing a coalition of groups to lobby for increased appropriations for the Agency for International Development's population program. The goal is to more than double the budget, from about \$220 million to \$500 million a year. As part of this push, Audubon's Patricia Baldi is seeking private funding to help from a network of population lobbyists within environmental groups."

Thornburgh unveils new indictments in New York

Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and U.S. Attorney Andrew Maloney unveiled 15 racketeering indictments against members of alleged New York crime families May 31. The indictments are the first phase of an ongoing Justice Department operation which Maloney said will shortly produce up to 50 more indictments against New York City labor organizations.

"Today's indictments closed the window on this lucrative enterprise," Thornburgh said, adding that the key in the fight was going after top mob figures.

Thornburgh, who has led the attack on the savings and loan institutions, defense, and other U.S. industry, elaborated his legal philosophy. "To dismantle Chrysler Corp., you wouldn't do it by disrupting sales meetings or by grabbing one LeBaron at a time. You'd go after Mr. Iacocca and their bank accounts," he said, referring not to prosecution of criminality, but a more broadly defined "criminal enterprise."

Briefly

● **GOP POLLSTER** Richard Wirthlin found that President Bush's popularity is falling, over his handling of the economic crisis. Some 51% think that the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction, and less than 25% strongly approve of Bush's presidency. "Bush partisans are particularly alarmed" about the results, *U.S. News and World Report* reported.

● **THE ADL** "has strongly supported legislation" for gun control, according to the February 1990 issue of the Anti-Defamation League's *Capital Agenda-Update*.

● **OLIVER NORTH** testified June 1 before a new grand jury investigating other Reagan administration officials in the Iran-Contra scandal.

● **NASA** Administrator Adm. Richard Truly announced May 31 that NASA will reach beyond the space community to evaluate new ideas in technology, systems, and architectures for lunar bases and President Bush's Exploration Initiative. The effort opens the door to a broader flow of new ideas into the Moon-Mars program, but may be used by some to forestall a crash program.

● **GROW MORE GRAIN**, the *Boston Globe* urged in a June 2 editorial. "Recent reports indicate that, for the first time in decades, supplies of grain are inadequate for tiding the country over a period of deep drought," the paper wrote.

● **MAGICKNET**, the self-styled "world's largest electronic coven"—a satanic network—is undergoing a shakeup. Coordinator Brad Hicks resigned, citing exposés by Lyndon LaRouche and his associates in his letter of resignation.

● **MASSACHUSETTS'** Department of Mental Health is drafting a plan to dump mental patients into the ranks of the homeless by releasing them to shelters if housing cannot be found elsewhere.