

National News

Poverty ignored by Bush, Americans believe

The Jan. 27 *New York Times*, citing a poll which it recently conducted, noted that the majority of people not only think that poverty is getting worse, but that President Bush is doing little or nothing about reversing the trend.

The *New York Times* suggests that a new phase has been entered, with many of the homeless becoming hardened to the grinding poverty, no longer have any hopes of rising out of their misery, and are becoming a permanent underclass. Comparison with conditions in the underdeveloped nations is now commonplace, the paper reports.

H. Ross Perot, an independent Texas multimillionaire commented that if President Bush were so concerned about rape, plunder, and pillage, he should do something about conditions in New York City or Chicago, and not be preoccupied with the troubles of Kuwait.

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), who was an early leader of the civil rights movement, said, "It's not just this administration. . . . In the Congress or in the private sector, the problems of the poor are just not on the agenda. They're becoming more visible and yet invisible."

Bush buddy too insane even for the USIA

U.S. Information Agency (USIA) director Bruce Gelb has accepted a White House offer to become ambassador to Belgium, the Jan. 26 *Washington Post* reported, amid revelations over his paranoid behavior. Gelb is a longstanding friend of George Bush.

Gelb tells and retells the story of how his classmate George Bush saved him from bullies when he was 14, and has been at the center of a continuous fray since he took office.

Gelb has repeatedly tried to fire Voice of America (VOA) director Richard W. Carlson, a Reaganite who is protected by congressional patrons, and has also moved to subordinate

VOA and Radio Free Europe to his control. His feud with Carlson became so bizarre that at one point, over 1,000 USIA employees were ordered to attend a debate between the two held in the USIA auditorium.

In January, Gelb had his offices virtually torn apart by security agents who had been ordered to look for bugging devices. Several months ago, he called his top staff into his office and announced that he had discovered "evidence" that two staffers had trusted on his office couch after hours, and threatened them with lie detector tests unless the culprits confessed.

Bush caused crackdown, Baltic-Americans charge

George Bush is responsible for the ongoing Soviet crackdown in the Baltic states because of his failure to act last spring, the Estonian-American National Council has charged. The group has documented how Bush and his National Security Adviser Gen. Brent Scowcroft had been personally warned since last spring on steps that might have helped avoid the present crackdown.

"When we met with Bush in April [1990], he explained his lack of support for the Baltics as based on a fear of a repeat of Hungary 1956. Yet Bush's message to Gorbachov has been so mixed and so weak, that, tragically, it has resulted in the very outcome the President feared—Baltic blood in the streets. You can be sure Gorbachov also studied very closely the lack of meaningful U.S. reaction to the massacre of students in Tiananmen Square," council president Juhan Simenson said.

Baltic-American leaders met again with Bush and Scowcroft on two occasions this January and urged Bush to stop "appeasing" Gorbachov.

On Jan. 21, the day before the second meeting, Mari-Ann Rikken of the Council issued a release warning, "We warned the NSC [National Security Council] a week ago that if the U.S. does not punish the Soviets for what they did in Lithuania, they would attack again. Unfortunately, all we heard was rhetoric from the administration—and now Latvians have died at Soviet

hands. How many Balts must die for the U.S. to say 'stop!' in a way the Soviets can understand? . . .

"The President shouldn't worry about losing Soviet 'help' in the Gulf war—the Soviets are only pretending to support the coalition against Saddam Hussein. In reality they continue to aid Iraq's war effort."

After a meeting on Jan. 22 where Baltic-American leaders publicly charged Bush with "appeasement," several leaders who attended the meeting reported harassment to *EIR* that is believed will be traced to the Bush administration.

Farrakhan charges assassination plot

Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, says that the U.S. government plots to assassinate him. "I don't believe that they plan to send me to jail because too many of my people are in there. They know if they leave me out there to talk, more and more people will come to me," he said, the Jan. 23 *Washington Times* reported, citing the *Washington Afro-American*.

According to the *Washington Times*, Farrakhan told a selected group of black reporters that he has decided not to make any more public speeches until the Gulf war is over. The reason for the public silence, he said, are the threats against his life and because he has issued enough warnings. "There is a war coming that will engulf the whole planet, he said," the paper reported.

Judge will not modify Billington sentence

Roanoke County, Virginia Circuit Court Judge Clifford R. Weckstein has refused to schedule argument on motions filed by Michael Billington's attorneys that request modification or suspension of the 77-year sentence Weckstein imposed on Billington on Dec. 1, 1989. An associate of Lyndon LaRouche, Billington was convicted of "securities fraud"—i.e., taking political loans.

In a Jan. 14, 1991 letter to Billington's attorneys, Weckstein wrote that he would "decline to reinstate the cause upon the pending docket."

In their papers, Billington's attorneys argued that the disproportionality of the 77-year sentence flies in the face of all federal and state efforts to end sentencing disparities, and "certainly raises the specter of vindictiveness in response to the exercise of a fundamental constitutional right," the right to be tried by a jury of one's peers. As a result, the brief states, Billington received a sentence twice the maximum number of years considered in Virginia's own voluntary sentencing guidelines for the most egregious type of fraud, committed by a five-time prior felony offender.

Judge Weckstein's latest outrageous ruling is expected to be appealed to a higher court.

Fifty thousand march for life in capital

The March For Life reports that 50,000 people converged on Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22, the 18th anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* that proclaimed that unborn children have no constitutional protection.

Concern over the war in the Persian Gulf and the possibility of terrorism kept thousands of pro-lifers from participating in the march. The National Right to Life Federation reports that more than a dozen expected buses did not travel from Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey for these reasons.

Speakers included U.S. Reps. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), Robert Dornan (R-Calif.), Barbara Vucanovich (R-Nev.), and Chris Smith (R-N.J.), Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), and Sheriff Ruben Rodriguez of the National Association of Officers for Life. President Bush urged the crowd via telephone hook-up to keep up the fight to reverse *Roe v. Wade* in the Congress, state legislatures, and the courts.

Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) referred to the "volatile events unfolding in the Persian Gulf," saying we can draw lessons from the

war for those who struggle "to end the holocaust that destroys 4,000 babies every day. . . . The first is the lesson of cost—what are we willing to pay to achieve protection for the unborn." He said it was about time that those in journalism, medicine, education, religion, social services, and politics "who know the truth about abortion faced up to the cost—and take a bold stand for life." The second lesson, Smith said, is the "crafting of a prudent strategy coupled with total commitment."

While the majority of marchers carried signs emphasizing "life is the natural choice," others opposing the President's war were evident. It is conservatively estimated that about 27 million lives have been taken through abortion in the U.S. since *Roe v. Wade*.

War puts no claim on loyalty, says Sobran

"No, I don't consider that Mr. Bush establishes a sudden claim to my loyalty by pulling the trigger," writes conservative intellectual Joseph Sobran in the Jan. 29 *Washington Times*. George Bush "is the sort of politician our Founding Fathers were trying to prevent. I love this country enough to keep trying to protect it from him."

Sobran ridicules the idea that now that an unjust and crazy war has started, everybody must rally around the President. This is a polemic against his colleague Pat Buchanan, who opposed the war before shooting started, but is now acting as the "loyal opposition," recently stating that the United States must now win the conflict decisively.

"Dan Quayle wants the peace movement to be treated as an eccentric fringe. . . . But the anti-war movement this time is distinguished by its evident patriotism," Sobran writes.

"If there were any chance that Hussein could light up the skies over Washington as we are lighting up the skies over Baghdad, Mr. Bush would not be taunting Saddam and calling him a Hitler; he would be negotiating and posing for photographers with him and calling him 'our partner in the peace process.'"

● **U.S. PILOTS** who fly the F-117A Stealth bombers listen to heavy metal rock music to prepare for assaults on Iraq, according to a Reuters wire from Saudi Arabia. The pilots, who sleep during the day and fly at night, call themselves the "Ghostly Horsemen."

● **OSCAR WYATT Jr.**, chairman of Coastal Corp., told the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Jan. 22, "I have five sons, and I don't want them or any of your sons to be the white slaves of an Arab monarch." Wyatt said that "The mentality of the people we are defending is that they think they can buy their liberty with our blood."

● **THE ANTI-DRUG** war in Boston, Massachusetts, was dealt a setback in 1990 as leaner police budgets resulted in a sharp drop in drug seizures by state and local police, the Jan. 21 *Boston Globe* reported. The State Police laboratory in Boston reported a drop of 19%, or 850 fewer cases, in 1990.

● **REP. EDWARD** Madigan (R-Ill.), the ranking Republican on the House Agriculture Committee, has been nominated by President Bush to become the new secretary of agriculture. There is no indication that the food cartels' control of the USDA will be changed.

● **HANDS OFF**, a group assisting in the legal defense of conscientious objectors, reported that there are around 1,000-2,000 CO applications in from all the services, at a Jan. 25 press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

● **A COMMENTARY** by Lyndon LaRouche associate Steve Douglas was published by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on Jan. 26, in response to the paper's "Norplant" editorial calling for forced birth control against the poor. The commentary was headlined, "We Need Steel Plants . . . not Norplants!"