

National News

Defense Science Board attacks Bush policies

The Defense Science Board, in a series of reports which the Department of Defense (DoD) has so far refused to release, attacks the Bush administration's defense and industrial policies, *Washington Technology* reports. The magazine states that industry and government officials familiar with the four reports say DoD officials intend to quash them.

According to *Washington Technology*, the reports emphasize the importance of DoD support of the development of dual-use technologies, which have both military and civilian applications. These programs help both the military and economy, the Board states, and should be co-funded with other government agencies and industry. One year ago, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency head Craig Fields was forced out of his position for promoting such dual-use funding.

Billington files Virginia appeal

Attorneys for Michael Billington, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche convicted on concocted "securities fraud" violations in Virginia, filed an appeal with the Virginia Court of Appeals May 29, addressing eight grounds on which that court should dismiss the indictments and pending 77-year sentence against him.

Three of the issues addressed in the appeal go to the violation of Virginia's double jeopardy statute and violations of both state and federal constitutional protections against double jeopardy.

The February 1987 Virginia indictments were the third in a series of cases naming Billington as a defendant, following federal investigations in Boston and Alexandria. All three relied on the same body of evidence to prove an alleged nationwide conspiracy to defraud lenders by Lyndon

LaRouche and his associates. Virginia, which was fully aware of and involved in the preceding federal prosecutorial efforts, tried to circumvent the double jeopardy statute by charging criminal violations of "securities" statutes, rather than the fraud charges brought by the federal authorities. At trial, the Commonwealth relied on the specific "acts" of mail and wire fraud for which Billington was convicted and sentenced to three years in federal prison in Alexandria.

The appeal also focuses on the trial court's refusal to charge the jury that the Commonwealth had to prove that Billington knew that the political loans he solicited were "securities." The State Corporation Commission did not decide that issue until after he was indicted.

High Court bans funds to promote abortion

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 on May 23 that since the federal government may favor childbirth over abortion, it may also prohibit the use of federal funds to promote abortion in any way. The ruling comes after years of litigation of the Reagan administration rule that federal monies to family clinics cannot be used to advise women about abortion nor refer pregnant women to abortion clinics.

Planned Parenthood, by far the biggest abortionists in the country and worldwide, as well as the major recipient of federal family planning funds, brought the Supreme Court case. The group said they would have to refuse federal funds.

According to media reports, Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote that it was not the decision that impinged on the patient-doctor relationship since these clinics do not provide the full range of medical services, only a few. Nor did the decision deny a poor woman's access to abortion, since one could find out about and acquire an abortion from a private physician. Rather, he wrote, it was the poor women's indigence that denied their access to abortions via private physicians.

The dissent, written by Justice Blackmun, stated that the Court was, in effect,

nullifying *Roe v. Wade* (the 1973 Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion on demand) via the back door, and making doctors propagandists for the anti-abortionists. Since *Roe v. Wade* was passed, about 28.5 million fetuses have been terminated in the U.S.

No pattern of defense fraud, Hudson admits

Henry Hudson, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, admitted that his three-year investigation into defense acquisition fraud, conducted under the operation code-name "Ill Wind," has demonstrated the absence of widespread corruption, *Aviation Week* magazine reports.

Hudson began the investigation with what many considered a high-publicity media stunt—a virtual police raid carried out against the Pentagon. "Ill Wind" apparently included 38 wiretaps, six microphone implants, 44 search warrants, millions of subpoenaed documents, and hundreds of interviews, according to the magazine. The last few indictments are expected within a few weeks.

Hudson told the National Aviation Club in mid-May, "Folks, it is just not there. There are pockets of irregularity. . . . But it is not deep or widespread."

Maryland eugenics law attacked by columnist

Syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff pointed out in a late May column that Maryland has passed a law which codifies the *Roe v. Wade* standards governing abortion, but adds an explicitly eugenicist twist which "will gladden the hearts of eugenicists, who are considerable in number—though many are still in the closet."

He points out that "the section on Abortion (Restrictions) Procedures declares that the state is not permitted to interfere—at any stage—in a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy if 'the fetus is affected by genetic

defect or serious deformity or abnormality.'

"This means that a viable fetus can be destroyed if he or she has *any* genetic defect. Although the qualifier, 'serious' precedes 'deformity or abnormality,' there is no such restriction on performing an abortion because of 'genetic defect.'

He points out that the burgeoning field of genetics research is identifying increasingly spurious connections between certain gene patterns and specific abnormalities. Hentoff notes that the Maryland law would make it legal for a woman to abort a fetus if it were determined that the baby had myopia, or any number of "undesirable" traits.

The abortion movement is openly hostile to advocates of the rights of the disabled, who have been warning that such eugenic thinking is contrary to all the gains made by the disabled in recent years. Hentoff adds that the triumph of eugenics (startling to observers at the time) against "defectives" in German hospitals, opened the way to the Nazi concentration camps a few years later.

Dioxin is harmless, and may help combat cancers

Dr. Vernon N. Houk, a director of the federal Center for Environmental and Injury Control at the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control, told an international environmental health conference in St. Louis May 21 that the 1982 decision to evacuate 2,200 residents of Times Beach, Missouri, a southwest suburb of St. Louis where minute traces of dioxin were found, was a mistake, the *May 26 St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported.

EIR had warned that the alleged dangers of dioxin were a hoax designed to justify the police powers of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and as a part of the attack on the use of herbicides in agriculture.

Houk said that if dioxin is a carcinogen, "it is in my view a weak one that is associated only with high-dose exposures." Two other researchers at the conference said that no lingering illnesses have been found in people exposed to dioxin at Seveso, Italy, or Times Beach.

Armon Yanders, head of the Environmental Trace Substances Research Center at the University of Missouri, reported that "\$100,000 a day has been spent over the last 30 years researching this single material . . . and we still don't have all the answers," but dioxin may actually be useful in fighting some cancers, including human breast cancer. "Perhaps dioxin will have some useful application after all . . . other than keeping lawyers engaged," he said.

Queen Elizabeth not welcomed in Texas

Queen Elizabeth II and her consort Prince Philip met protests at each stop of their recent tour in Texas. Despite statements from the royal entourage about the "wonderful" reception they received, the word is out that "some Texans are rude," according to an anonymous spokesman quoted on a Houston radio show.

Over 150 demonstrators, including black officials, protested the Queen's visit in Dallas. A photograph of County Commissioner John Wiley Price holding a sign which read, "Where did the Queen get her money? Slavery, Opium, and Genocide," appeared in the *Dallas Times Herald*.

In Houston, the Queen was booed by crowds, which was noted in the newspapers. A large picture of the royal couple on the front page of the *Houston Chronicle* being greeted by Houston Mayor Whitmire, shows them with red, demonic eyes, clearly not a picture which would have been chosen by Buckingham Palace. Republican state representative Harvey Hilderbran from Uvalde, upset over the hoopla surrounding the visit, said, "I thought we fought a revolution so we didn't have to put up with that royalty stuff."

Even the press carried commentaries hostile to the Queen. Syndicated columnist Donald Kaul in the *May 21 Houston Chronicle*, blasted the royal family, "down to the last parasite," for their high living. *Houston Post* columnist Lyn Ashby reviewed the long history of hostile relations between Britain and Texas.

● **DAN QUAYLE** received a letter sent May 21 from European Space Agency director Jean-Marie Lutton, which strongly urged that the U.S. fully fund Space Station Freedom, despite elimination of its funding by a House committee. Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama sent a similar letter to Secretary of State James Baker.

● **U.S. BISHOPS** were called to Rome by Pope John Paul II May 27-28 for discussion of their draft pastoral letter on the role of women in the Church. Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati will lead the American delegation.

● **GEORGE W. BUSH**, President Bush's eldest son, is involved in a business deal in the Persian Gulf with William H. Quasha, a Manila attorney who represented the Philippine branch of the Nugan Hand Bank, the CIA proprietary that collapsed in 1980 amid charges that it was involved in the heroin trade and drug money laundering.

● **JOHN GARAMENDI**, California State Insurance Commissioner, told a House subcommittee May 22 that in "elemental fairness, the IRS should move to the back of the line," to collect \$643 million in back taxes from the failed Executive Life Insurance company of California.

● **ENVIRONMENTAL** Protection Agency prosecutions increased 133% in 1990 over the previous year, penalties paid by "polluters" increased by 74% over last year to \$61.3 million, and 55 individual and corporate defendants were convicted and sentenced to jail.

● **FEDERAL JUDGES** are threatening to quit to protest mandatory sentencing, according to William Schwarzer, head of a research agency for the federal judiciary. Such laws have increased the power of prosecutors and relegated judges to "umpires."