

# National News

## IRS stung by corruption charges

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is dealing with reports of illegal conduct by agency staff by bringing in an outside agency to retrain personnel.

The IRS damage control came after the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs investigated "allegations of misconduct and resulting cover-ups by many senior IRS personnel," the Feb. 24 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported. Some of the incidents looked at were: 1) information given by a top IRS investigator and several IRS informants; 2) a scheme allowing some tax evaders to avoid prosecution; and 3) retaliation against IRS managers who reported misconduct by superiors.

As a result of the congressional attention, the Josephson Institute has been called into conduct a random survey on "ethics" of 5% of the IRS's 105,000-man work force. The institute has already concluded that "senior managers, left unchecked, abused their position and authority." In a preliminary survey last year, 7% of IRS employees replied that they had seen corrupt actions. The institute's current questionnaire asks for instances where IRS employees have lied to taxpayers, instances where those with "political clout" received preferential treatment, and instances of unfair treatment of taxpayer grievances.

Apparently such widespread corruption is expected that all of the 105,000 employees will receive 6-8 hours of classroom instruction on the IRS's ethics problems.

## Can't innocence be bar to execution?

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to consider whether it is unconstitutional to execute a person who may be innocent, the Feb. 25 *Washington Post* reported.

The case involves Texas death-row inmate Leonel T. Herrera, who was scheduled for execution on Feb. 19. As in the cases of Herbert Bassette, Roger Coleman, and

Roger O'Dell in Virginia, Herrera's lawyers have developed evidence since his murder conviction 10 years ago that someone else committed the murder, and have filed a petition for a hearing in federal court. A Texas federal judge granted the hearing, but his decision was overturned by a three-judge appellate panel. That court ruled that "Herrera's actual innocence claim does not allege a ground upon which *habeas* relief can be granted."

Herrera's lawyers asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene because Texas, similarly to Virginia's 21-day rule, allows no new evidence to be introduced 30 days after sentencing unless a defendant can show that the new evidence was not available, for example, because the prosecutor violated the defendant's constitutional rights and withheld it. Herrera's brief states, "While there has been much debate of late about capital punishment and *habeas corpus*, there is not yet a groundswell for executing innocent persons. . . . If it would violate the Constitution to execute someone who was 12 years old at the time of the offense, or someone who was insane at the time of an execution, then . . . it would violate the Constitution to execute an innocent person."

## Court okays patients' work without pay

The U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 24 let stand a decision requiring retarded and mentally ill patients in institutions to work full-time without pay, UPI reported. The Court's refusal to review an Indiana Supreme Court decision "tells Indiana and other states that they can forcibly exact labor with no fear whatsoever that they will ever have to pay a dime in compensation," charged Lawrence Tribe, attorney on behalf of a class action suit seeking back pay for former patients at 10 Indiana mental institutions.

The case was brought under the Thirteenth Amendment, which prohibits involuntary servitude. The plaintiffs contend they were threatened with delayed release, solitary confinement, and even electric shock treatments if they failed to work at continuous menial labor.

"If the Thirteenth Amendment can be banished here, it can be banished anywhere," Tribe warned. The implications are potentially far-reaching. The state of Indiana rejected the plaintiffs' invoking of the Thirteenth Amendment, on the grounds that requiring payment for labor "would raise serious constitutional questions nationwide for public (and private) programs such as workfare and 'token' economies developed for welfare recipients and the handicapped."

## Anti-Semitism smears must stop, says rabbi

The "Jewish establishment" should stop "waging an anti-Semitism smear campaign" against Pat Buchanan and other American politicians, because "Jews have no right to label people anti-Semitic," states Brooklyn's Orthodox Rabbi Isaac Levy, head of an organization called "Jews for Morality," in comments made to the Feb. 23 *Jerusalem Post*.

Levy said that his group, a "grass-roots" organization of Orthodox rabbis, specifically regards Buchanan as "a friend of the Jews," and supports his "pro-family" activities. The group has investigated, and found to be false, the accusations that Buchanan is anti-Semitic.

He affirmed, "We have no right to call politicians anti-Semitic. I'm not one of the founding fathers of the United States. Jews have no right to label people anti-Semitic."

## Texas bishop hits abortion as eugenics

The real purpose of abortion providers is "to control and stop the population growth of the black, brown, red, and yellow minorities," said Bishop Rene Gracida of Corpus Christi, Texas, in "A Pastoral Letter on Racism and Abortion" published Jan. 24 in the *South Texas Catholic*, his diocesan newspaper.

Gracida pointed to Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger's writings in

## Briefly

● **VIRGINIA** Attorney General Mary Sue Terry's office has announced that it had obtained a May 20 execution date for Roger Coleman. Terry has argued in court that Coleman has no right not to be executed even if he is innocent, because of procedural defaults. Terry's "office has spent more time arguing against" a hearing on evidence of innocence "than the hearing itself would have taken," the Feb. 26 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* noted.

● **THE 'JFK' MOVIE** is "courageous" says the January-February issue of *Solidarity*, the magazine of the United Auto Workers. Reviewer Dick Olson calls for the release of the Warren Commission files, stating, "Americans shouldn't have to wait until deep in the 21st century for the assassination inquest record to be open to the public."

● **VICE PRESIDENT** Dan Quayle told reporters over the Feb. 22-23 weekend that President Bush's decision to break his tax pledge was necessitated by the war buildup against Iraq. Ironically, the U.S. got a net infusion of funds from the war because of allied contributions.

● **THE YANKEE ROWE** nuclear power plant will be closed due to government and environmentalist pressure. Andrew Kadak, president of Yankee Atomic Electric Co., told the Feb. 27 *Boston Globe*, "The technical criteria we must meet and the path we must follow to restart the plant are not sufficiently defined to justify spending" money to keep the plant going.

● **THE AMERICAN** Council on Science and Health held a press conference in Washington on Feb. 26 to warn against another Alar apple-type scare. In that panic, people stopped eating apples, growers lost \$100 million, and in the end it was shown that Alar never posed a risk of cancer.

● **DR. JACK KEVORKIAN** must stand trial for his "assisted suicide" murder scheme, Archbishop of Detroit Adam J. Maida said in a letter prepared for distribution in the 1.5 million member archdiocese.

which she argued the "inferiority" of "Slavs, Latins, and Jews."

"The cultural traditions of Native American, Hispanic American, Asian American, and African American women find the abortion-on-demand mentality to be reprehensible and repugnant," he added. "And so, millions of dollars are being spent in a massive propaganda attempt to 're-educate' these persons into thinking that abortion is not only an acceptable means of birth control, but is actually what the modern 'liberated woman' should do in order to free herself from enslavement to men, or church, or society in general."

In a separate pastoral letter issued Feb. 13, Kentucky's Catholic bishops have called the policy of abortion on demand a "national scandal" and said no Catholic politician or voter can "hide behind the evasion" that they personally oppose abortion but feel it's a matter of choice.

### FOIA action seeks secret FBI files on LaRouche

Release of the FBI's most tightly held secret files on the case of Lyndon LaRouche is being sought in papers filed Feb. 27 before federal Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson in Washington. The files at issue include the FBI's secret file compiled under Executive Order 12333, and its file on Henry Kissinger's instigation of an FBI investigation against LaRouche and his associates in 1982-83. Disclosure of the files is being sought in a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit brought by *EIR* counterintelligence editor Paul Goldstein, who charges that government misconduct is being protected under the guise of "national security" and "personal privacy."

It was in the Goldstein proceeding that the existence of the "12333 file" on LaRouche was first disclosed in 1989. One of the grounds for release of the files, Goldstein argues, is that the FBI is "concealing evidence of an improper and unauthorized investigation" by keeping the files classified.

As part of Goldstein's motion, extensive evidence is presented of the targeting of LaRouche by a faction of the intelligence

community centered around such figures as Roy Godson, Walter Raymond, and Herb Romerstein. Documentation is presented which shows how Godson's line, that LaRouche and his associates are "Soviet disinformation" agents, was used as a pretext for investigating LaRouche, and was circulated by the FBI and disseminated to foreign governments.

The second bloc of files sought is the "Kissinger file," much of which the FBI is withholding on the grounds of protecting the privacy of Kissinger. "This is not a case of good and honest citizens cooperating with the FBI to root out crime," Goldstein argues. "This is simply a case of a powerful former government official using his political connections to go after his political enemies. . . . Kissinger and his friends pounded [FBI Director William] Webster's door down to get the FBI to go after LaRouche—yet their identities and related information are being protected, under the guise of preventing 'an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.'"

### Thornburgh appointment to U.N. post criticized

George Bush's appointment of former Attorney General Richard Thornburgh to a post at the U.N. has been sharply criticized by the highest ranking American at the U.N., Undersecretary General Ronald Spiers. Spiers is largely responsible for many of the so-called reforms now under way in the U.N. bureaucracy.

In an interview in the Feb. 29 *Washington Post*, Spiers said that the appointment of Thornburgh to the U.N.'s most important administrative post creates the appearance of patronage at a time when the organization is trying to reform itself. "It could be that Thornburgh turns out to be very good . . . but I am concerned about a process where it's effectively an unemployed politician that has been put in a job that requires a lot of management strength and skill. People in Washington tell me he's got a reputation as a not-very-good manager. You have to get members to stop using it [the U.N.] as a patronage dump."