

National News

Appeal filed in sale of Univision

Attorney Robert Thompson and Esther Renteria of the National Hispanic Media Coalition held a press conference to announce they were filing an appeal to the U.S. court of appeals on the Hallmark sale of Univision to a group made up of Mexico's Televisa and Venezuela's Cisneros group. The Federal Communications Commission hastily approved the sale without any public scrutiny or review, despite substantive opposition. Thompson and Renteria said local Spanish programming in the United States would be under control of foreign owners who want to produce mainly soap operas and deny any local input of Spanish programs for U.S. Hispanics. Univision is the largest Spanish-language network in the country.

EIR had also filed an objection to the sale, noting that consortium member Gustavo Cisneros does not believe in free speech and has a proven record of quashing dissent. *EIR* also cited the fact that in several instances his name and/or the names of his associates and companies have been alleged to be linked to corrupt activities, including drug trafficking and drug-money laundering.

Will Bush be President or go to jail?

"The key question in the United States is not whether George Bush will be President next year, but whether or not he will be in prison," commented the British newsletter *Private Eye's* intelligence page the last week before the U.S. elections. The magazine stressed that the key to "Iraqgate," and the reason that Bush and James Baker III have been reluctant to pursue the scandals surrounding the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), even though it would appear to inculcate Jimmy Carter and the Democrats, is that "the BNL scandal leads back through Iraqgate to *Irangate*."

And any clearing out of the 'Georgian' stables might provide yet more proof that the man who has always claimed he was 'outside the loop' of *Irangate* was the man who started the whole scandal off—former vice president George Bush."

Private Eye then recalls that it had been insisting for years that *Irangate* did not begin in 1985, as the Tower Commission claimed, but in 1984. The newsletter recaps its extensive coverage of the trial in Britain of British arms dealer Michael Aspin, whose defense was that he was working for Casey and Oliver North. This case involved Robert Sensi, U.K. chairman Republicans Abroad, who, after being extradited to the U.S., "told friends and colleagues he was working direct with the office of Vice President Bush."

Aspin lost his case, but, *Eye* continues, Sen. John Kerry's (D-Mass.) committee report on BCCI provides "further corroboration of the Aspin case," especially on pages 400-402. *Eye* concludes by indicating that Britain's MI-5 and other agencies have acted to seize and seal certain crucial documents from the Aspin-BCCI-*Irangate* affair.

Pro-abortion bigots help doom death-row man

In an op-ed in the Oct. 24 *Washington Post*, Nat Hentoff, who writes for the *Village Voice* took hecklers at New York University's Cooper Union to task for preventing Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey from giving the pro-life speech Clinton forces blocked him from giving at the Democratic Convention. Hentoff wrote, "Casey is a liberal Democrat. He has created and expanded, for example, a program providing crucial medical services to low-income pregnant women and young children, and he was responsible for the first increase in minimum teacher salaries in the state for a quarter of a century." Hentoff moderated the event where Casey was to speak on the theme, "Can a Liberal Be Pro-Life?" but disrupters from ACT UP and "Women's Health Action Movement" (WHAM) prevented him from speaking. Although at least 80% of the audience wanted to hear Casey,

Hentoff said, the governor finally gave up.

Hecklers unfortunately included a small group of supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is on death row in Pennsylvania, convicted of killing a policeman. Hentoff wrote, "Jamal's trial—his lawyers and I agree—included egregious violations of due process on the part of the prosecutor and the judge." Hentoff continued, "At Cooper Union, I had intended to ask Governor Casey a number of constitutional questions concerning Jamal's conviction and sentencing, and I had also expected that some of Jamal's supporters would have raised various specific points with the governor. It would have been the only chance they had to inform Casey directly about the particulars of the case and thereby maybe influence him—if all else failed—to grant clemency."

A visitor who saw Jamal a few days later, said Hentoff, reported him to be "surprised, displeased, shocked, and saddened by the self-indulgence of his supporters."

Execution stayed after outcry from disabled

After several organizations representing the handicapped had protested to Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder over the planned Oct. 28 execution of Charles Stamper, and 788 Virginia citizens had written asking for clemency (against only one letter for execution), Wilder delayed the execution on Oct. 23. The stay is a tactical victory for the movement against the death penalty in the Virginia/Washington, D.C. area, which just issued a leaflet against the upcoming execution. But while Wilder formally ordered a delay of indefinite duration, observers think it is likely to be for only 30 days.

Stamper has been confined to a wheelchair since being crippled by injuries in a beating by another inmate, and the spectacle of the state "protecting itself" by killing him had drawn opposition from the public and handicapped organizations contacted by *EIR*. One organization wrote Wilder that "the electrocution of an individual who was not protected" from crippling injury "while in public custody, compounds the moral ambi-

guity of the electrocution." Moreover, reasoned death penalty proponents, Washington, D.C.'s imminent vote on a death penalty referendum would also have been affected by publicity of the gory spectacle. Were the unpopular referendum to pass, Virginia's electric chair would be the beneficiary of District death row victims.

FBI 'investigations' harass black voters

FBI interrogations of black voters since the 1990 elections, under the cover of investigating alleged voter registration fraud, have had a "chilling effect" on many poor black voters, who now refuse to sign petitions for black candidates or vote at all, the *New York Times* reported on Oct. 25. The FBI operation, which often included Justice Department prosecutions of black candidates and their campaign workers, has been conducted in Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas.

The chairman of the Democratic Party in Longview, Texas, "where scores of black residents were interrogated by the FBI following Republican ballot challenges in 1990," told the *Times* that black voter turnout was way down this year, because "many black people told us that they wouldn't ever vote again because they didn't want to be harassed like they were in 1990." The *Times* cited the case of Helena, Arkansas where prosecutors are about to open trial for fraud against several black candidates and their campaign workers, after a two-year federal investigation.

Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton has remained silent about the charges of FBI harassment against black voters in his state.

Sioux seek support to stop reservation casinos

Two members of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation are fighting to block construction of a casino on their reservation, and

have sought support from throughout the country, including from the independent presidential campaign of Lyndon LaRouche and Rev. James Bevel. North Dakota LaRouche supporter Annabelle Bourgois, attended the hearing on the issue at the tribal court at Fort Yates on Oct 22. The court was packed with members of the reservation, the press, and tribal council members. Reverend Bevel has put out a statement of support, and letters of support came in to them from around the country and Canada. The tribal judge dismissed their petition on a technicality, and they immediately filed a new, corrected petition. They've pledged to go to federal court.

Casinos have been established on Indian reservations since Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988. In the Standing Rock case, the reservation's local lawyer turned out to be a front-man for a casino outfit based in Zurich, Switzerland.

Activist calls Vessey POW trip 'whitewash'

The mission of former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. John Vessey to Vietnam and President Bush's Oct. 24 announcement of a "real breakthrough" appears to be just a continuation of the POW-MIA coverup, said Larry Haggerty, an official of the Florida-based International Forget-Me-Not Association, an activist group for men listed as "prisoners of war" (POW) and "missing in action" (MIA).

Haggerty, while not speaking officially for his organization, told *EIR* that he believes the administration is rushing to shut the POW-MIA issue down and normalize relations, but "closing the books and drilling for oil [off the Vietnam coast] is not right" where there is still evidence that POWs are alive in Indochina, especially in Vietnamese-controlled camps in Laos.

Senator Bob Smith (R-N.H.), one of the strongest opponents of the Defense Department's coverup of the issue, is quoted in the press as saying he opposes any normalization of relations "until there's a full accounting" of all POWs and MIAs.

Briefly

● **THE BUREAU** of Prisons plans to begin charging new federal inmates a "user fee" for the cost of their incarceration for up to one year. The fee was enacted when Congress approved the Justice Department budget. Attorney General William Barr estimates 9% of new inmates would have the ability to pay, recouping \$49 million of the \$1.075 billion prison expansion appropriation for fiscal years 1991 through 1993.

● **BRAVE GEORGE, EH?** In mid-October, George Bush, on the hustings in Atlanta compared himself to the Braves and their come-from-behind win, in game 2 of the World Series, yelling, "You've got to take a position. I'm for the Braves, courageously!" But the Toronto Blue Jays walked off with the Series.

● **SEN. JOHN WARNER** (R-Va.) confirmed in a speech to the Hampton Roads, Va. Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 22, that military base closings would be announced next year no matter who is elected President. Warner is the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

● **LATE ENDORSEMENTS** include a backhanded nod from the *Jerusalem Post* toward Bill Clinton, via a cartoon showing Clinton and Bush in a foot race. George Bush, limping behind Clinton, is wearing a T-shirt reading "I Love Bush." Clinton's reads, "I Love Israel." A recent Reuters wire said that the Hanoi government in Vietnam favors Bush.

● **JUAN REBAZA**, Peru's former fishing minister, endorsed Lyndon LaRouche for U.S. President at an event in New York on Oct. 17. He said he wanted to see Hispanics become part of a new civil rights movement. "Hispanic-Americans and blacks, united, would be an incredibly powerful force," he said. "Each vote for LaRouche is a vote that favors Latin America."