

# National News

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## Some health care benefits to be taxed

The Clinton administration plans to tax some health care benefits, as part of its health care package, Hillary Clinton told members of the Senate Finance Committee on April 20. According to the *Washington Post*, Mrs. Clinton told the committee that the administration would not tax health care benefit packages in existing union contracts, but would do so when the pacts are renegotiated. The idea behind the proposal is not simply to raise revenues, but to raise the cost, through taxation, of certain health care plans that are deemed by the cost-controllers to provide "excessively generous" health care benefits to enrollees. The aim is to convince employers to offer less comprehensive health care packages to their employees, through the mechanism of punitive taxation.

Mrs. Clinton also told the committee that the administration is still considering imposing short-term price controls on the health industry.

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## Southern Baptists put Freemasons on defensive

The May issue of the Freemasons' *Scottish Rite Journal* is entirely dedicated to combating a group within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) that wants to proclaim Masonry incompatible with the SBC doctrine and Christianity in general. In June, the convention will vote on this issue. The issue first arose at the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention, where a decision was made to study the question of compatibility. This effort, which could mean the ouster of as many as 1 million Masons from the convention's 15 million members, is being led by Dr. James L. Holly, of Beaumont, Texas. Dr. Holly has documented that Masonry, particularly the esoteric degrees associated with Albert Pike's *Morals and Dogma*, is a satanic, syncretic religion.

For the first time within memory, the *Scottish Rite Journal* has exhortations from

C. Fred Kleinknecht and Francis G. Paul, respectively Sovereign Grand Commanders of the Southern and Northern Scottish Rite Jurisdictions. Kleinknecht wrote: "We are confronted by a virulent attack on our gentle craft from a faction within the Southern Baptist Convention. . . . Our unprecedented unity of response to the crisis facing Freemasonry represents a historic closing of Masonic ranks. I invite all Masons of all Blue Lodges and of all Appendant Bodies to join the Scottish Rite, Southern and Northern Masonic Jurisdictions, in opposing . . . religious extremism."

Paul took cover behind the words of "the man, the Baptist, the President, and the Mason" Harry Truman: "Unfortunately, the current anti-Masonic movement in the Southern Baptist Convention persists, even gaining momentum. . . . Although the perpetrator of the scurrilous and totally erroneous attack on our Masonic Fraternity feels he is on the side of Christianity and that Freemasonry is the work of the devil, we take our stand with the man from Missouri who said, 'I am by religion like everything else. I think there is more in acting than in talking.'"

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## Do PrairieFire Maoists have links to ADL spies?

Documents released by the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) April 8 from their ongoing investigation into the Anti-Defamation League's illegal spying activities, include citations of the Des Moines-based PrairieFire Rural Action, that point up the need for a full-scale investigation of the ADL and PrairieFire's illegal spying and dirty tricks in Iowa and the farm belt, according to an April 22 release from the Schiller Institute Food for Peace organization. PrairieFire's name comes from Mao Zedong's dictum that "one spark can start a prairie fire."

Leaders of Food for Peace, which was founded 1988, are calling for the Iowa Attorney General, the legislature, and police authorities to investigate ADL illegal activities in Iowa. A dossier of ADL operations against farm activists is in the possession of Food for Peace. The SFPD inventory of

ADL files from its Dec. 10, 1992 raid on the San Francisco ADL office, includes mention of PrairieFire reports.

ADL spy operations in the farm belt have prominently involved PrairieFire Rural Action, and such individuals as Dan Levitas, its former director. The spy activities range from illegally obtaining confidential information from government files, stalking meetings and individuals, defaming people and organizations, and setting up farmers for violent confrontations and prosecution over farm foreclosures.

One example is John Norris, who is operating out of the PrairieFire office to control testimony before the April 23 House Agriculture Committee Subcommittee hearing at Ames, Iowa. *EIR* has already exposed how the Hollywood mafia around the Willie Nelson FarmAid group acts as a nexus for funding for ADL-approved dirty operations in the farm belt (*EIR*, April 19, p. 15).

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## Historian exposes multicultural hoax

On April 27, France's *Le Monde* carried an interview with American historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., in which he warns that the outbreak of "multiculturalism," "ethnocentrism," "Afrocentrism," etc., could transform the U.S. into a "Yugoslavia or Beirut."

He warned that the American notion of cultural "assimilation" is under attack from advocates of "separate identity" and "multiculturalism," who go way beyond the traditional and acceptable ideas of cultural self-assertion. "They have gone, very fast, much too far. It is a question now of those who oppose the concept of national identity, and who promote and perpetuate a separate development of the races. At the end of this logic, there is Beirut or Yugoslavia." While acknowledging that American whites have failed to bring true justice to minorities, Schlesinger said of Afrocentrism, "It is one thing to honor the contribution of Africa to the civilization of our country, to teach African history, but another to impose a false history. . . . The danger is that this notion is now imposed in the American public schools."

He continued: "The current corruption of

## Briefly

● **SEN. PHIL GRAMM** (R-Tex.) is the duck-billed platypus of economic theory, according to a recent analysis by Lyndon LaRouche. He claims to be a mammal, but all he does is lay eggs all day.

● **ZOE BAIRD**, whose nomination to be President Clinton's Attorney General was withdrawn over violations of tax law, has been named to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

● **AT EARTH DAY** ceremonies in Washington, President Clinton on April 21 announced his plans to back two major environmentalist treaties, both aimed at imposing supranational government on sovereign nations. Clinton promised to sign the Biodiversity Treaty, and committed the U.S. to meet the standards on so-called greenhouse gas emissions set by the 1987 Montreal Protocols.

● **RICHARD CHENEY**, former secretary of defense, joined the growing chorus of political figures calling on President Clinton to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, during a speech in April at a Houston oil conference.

● **FBI DIRECTOR** William Sessions failed to make a scheduled appearance on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley" on April 25. The other guest was David Koresh's attorney Richard DeGuerin. At first Brinkley explained that "the Department of Justice ordered [Sessions] not to come. We do not know why." He later said Sessions himself had decided not to show, and had not been so ordered.

● **THE NATIONAL ACADEMY** of Sciences announced on April 15 that it was forming a German-American Academic Council at a Washington press conference with Reimar Lüst, president of Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The new organization aims to "strengthen U.S.-German cooperation in all fields of science and scholarship," according to a release by the NAS.

the curriculum by the methodology of Afrocentrism is alarming. . . . Stanford University has its 'houses of ethnic themes.' At Oberlin College, the blacks are in a building called 'African heritage,' and the foreign students in 'a house of the Third World.' He calls this an "institutionalized separatism," which is "becoming dangerous. It is necessary to stem the tide of ethnocentrism."

### Hentoff compares health policies to Nazis

In his weekly column, which appeared in the April 24 *Washington Post*, Nat Hentoff used a recent exhibit on "The Value of the Human Being: Medicine in Germany 1918-1945" to attack U.S. medicine for following in the Nazis' footsteps. The exhibit was put together by German physicians Christian Pross and Gotz Aly, and appeared at the U.S. National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington. It demonstrated how the post-World War I Germany implemented a "universal healthcare" policy which turned into the Nazis' policy of eliminating the "human burdens" who cost too much.

Hentoff noted that this policy of seeing people in ill health as "stealing from the mouths of others," is being picked up by U.S. doctors, in the midst of a parade of medical journal articles endorsing euthanasia. He singled out the utilitarian Oregon Plan which denies medical care to those most in need under the excuse of rationing care, and concluded: "We, who are not Nazis, have started in that direction here."

### Innocent Virginian freed after seven years

Seven weeks after the Alexandria, Virginia prosecutor joined in the request to release Walter Snyder, a man wrongfully imprisoned for seven years for rape, Gov. Douglas Wilder finally granted executive clemency. Snyder was released on April 23. As *EIR* reported last week, although Snyder's innocence was proven through DNA tests in December, state "law" forbids presenting new

evidence more than 21 days after conviction, and Snyder's release could only be obtained by gubernatorial clemency.

As a result of outrage over the fact that Snyder remained imprisoned five months after his innocence was proven, a subcommittee of the state House of Delegates will hold hearings on extending the period for introducing new evidence. The committee was originally created after the execution of Roger Coleman last May, whose innocence gained international ill-fame for the state.

April 1 hearings by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on innocence and the death penalty disclosed 10 cases of persons sentenced to death in the past decade whose convictions were overturned—in every case, long after any 30-day, 1-year, or 2-year time periods, which are law in a majority of U.S. states. Famous cases include James Richardson in Florida, cleared after 21 years; Walter McMillian of Alabama, cleared after 6 years only in March, 1993; and Randall Dale Adams of Texas, cleared in 1988 after 12 years.

### Arab-American group hosts Christopher

Secretary of State Warren Christopher is the first high government official who has ever accepted the invitation to address the National Conference of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (AADC). In his address to the conference he expressed his support for "a real Arab-Israeli peace settlement based upon the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338" calling on Israel to withdraw from its occupied territories, which got him big applause from the AADC members.

He also said that in the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, "I believe that self-government is possible as an interim stage toward a negotiated final settlement . . . the outcome must provide a peaceful and orderly transfer of authority to the Palestinians who must then be free to elect their own representatives." However, he got a cold response when he pushed the Bush line of enmity toward Iraq and made no mention of the slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia.