

National News

One-worldists push referenda in Missouri

Paid petitioners are hustling to get two referenda on the Missouri ballot. One is called "Philadelphia II," promoting a world federalist convention that would then deploy organizations ranging from Greenpeace to the Conservative Caucus to promote national referenda. It is sponsored by a group calling itself "One World," which has also targeted California, which, like Missouri, makes it easy to get initiatives on the ballot.

The second is the Missouri "Hancock II" proposal, which would require a state constitutional amendment for any significant tax increase, but explicitly exempts user fees and costs of privatization. Many opponents of the New Age school reform known as "outcome-based education" are backing Hancock II as a way to cut off school tax hikes and thus supposedly defeat OBE by cutting public education funding.

Nick Clement, a supporter of Lyndon LaRouche who is running for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, issued a statement warning that both ballot initiatives are actually one-worldist measures. Clement pointed out that Hancock II was initiated by the "free trade" circles around the Mont Pelerin Society and followers of Friedrich von Hayek, and it would allow a takeover of the state economy by Time-Warner, Morgan Guaranty, and other entities inimical to republican government. Other opponents of Hancock II include the St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce, and the Democratic Speaker of the House vehemently opposes it.

California to deregulate interstate electricity?

California's Public Utilities Commission voted unanimously April 20 to formulate rules under which all types of consumers could shop for low electricity rates inside and outside of the state, rather than being tied to a single regulated local utility, according to the April 28 *New York Times*.

The plan, which would take effect in August following public hearings, would allow large consumers to seek low rates starting in 1996. Residences and small companies would begin in 2002.

A second phase of the proposed reform would shift the industry from traditional rate-making, which tends to base utilities' earnings on the recovery of capital expenses, and reward utilities instead for efficient operations, management, and investment. The utility industry has been in turmoil over this approach, called "retail wheeling," a system in which a major customer could bypass local suppliers and buy power more cheaply from other utilities. Some utilities are setting up divisions and assembling pools of cheap power that they could peddle outside their own areas.

California's deregulation project ignores the necessity for redundancy in infrastructure which is crucial in emergencies. Increasing competition among utilities will only serve to reduce mechanisms for delivering power in the name of "maximizing efficiency."

Case against ADL spy Gerard dismissed

San Francisco Municipal Court Judge Dominique Olcomendy dismissed charges against former San Francisco Police Department officer Tom Gerard on April 29, in a case involving Gerard's spying activities against Americans on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The charges were dropped on the grounds that the FBI was refusing to turn over wiretap evidence which the judge had ruled was crucial to Gerard's defense. The FBI had conducted extensive, and probably illegal, wiretaps of the entire San Francisco police intelligence unit for months, ostensibly because they were probing Gerard and Roy Bullock's involvement in selling confidential FBI documents to the South African government.

The evidence of massive ADL spying against over 10,000 individuals and organizations—in some cases operating as a branch of the FBI Cointelpro dirty tricks division—exploded into national attention

in 1992, outraging many who had been deluded into believing that the League was a "Jewish civil rights" organization. The ADL ultimately made a sweetheart deal with the San Francisco district attorney in November 1993 that closed down a grand jury investigation, and forestalled the possibility of broader charges against national ADL leaders.

However, had Gerard gone to trial, the ADL and FBI faced the prospect that pre-trial evidentiary hearings and trial testimony would have brought their dirty activities further to light.

Decorated Vietnam vet blasts Oliver North

Oliver North is "one of the most dangerous men in America," charged Col. David Hackworth, now a *Newsweek* contributing editor, on April 29. North, a candidate for the Virginia Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, is now idolized by conservative layers in the Old Dominion, and received an endorsement from Lynchburg-based televangelist Pat Robertson.

At a news conference in Richmond, Hackworth told reporters, "Like most phonies, he's a slick salesman and he's selling the people of Virginia and this nation a lot of bull droppings. North, like Adolf Hitler, appears to a lot of people as the solution to what is wrong with our country." Hackworth continued, "He is an authoritarian figure who would love to get his hands on the Constitution and shred the whole thing."

Hackworth is the most decorated living combat veteran of the Vietnam war. He said North was "a good platoon leader" in Vietnam who did an extraordinary job, "as did about 3 million others."

Planned Parenthood sex ed flunks in Texas

Planned Parenthood is waging a counter-offensive in the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas where some school boards have adopted "abstinence-only" sex education

Briefly

programs, according to the *Houston Chronicle* of April 28. The daily reported that Planned Parenthood has conducted a telephone poll of 1,797 households in two counties along the Texas-Mexico border. Planned Parenthood claimed that its poll shows that 76% of the population wants public school sex education programs to teach about birth control methods.

This poll has drawn a sharp response from the Catholic Church and school officials. "If you look at our culture down here, the general population doesn't want their children to have sex," said Pam Downing, a spokeswoman for the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville. "A lot of these children are not ready for these [sexual] relationships."

When asked about the poll, the president of the Harlingen Parent-Teachers Associations (PTAs) told the *Chronicle*, "I'm wondering who was polled. They didn't poll me. I'm shocked to see those numbers, and I say that from talking to parents. All I can state is that we have 7,400-plus PTA members in Harlingen, and our position is abstinence." The Harlingen school system has an abstinence-only sex education program.

Virginian executed based solely on DNA evidence

Virginia retained the death penalty legacy of its bloodthirsty former Attorney General Mary Sue Terry, when it executed Timothy Wilson Spencer on April 27, the first person whose capital conviction was based exclusively on DNA testing. DNA testing was first used in this case seven years ago, pioneered in Virginia by Dr. Paul B. Ferrara, director of the state's Division of Forensic Science, who convinced the legislature not only to legalize its use, but to establish the nation's first DNA data bank for felons. Virginia now has the most extensive DNA data bank in the country.

Spencer's execution was also the first in which an ethics ruling made by the American Medical Association in March was tested. The AMA ruled that its ethics code prohibits doctor participation in state executions. The ruling was joined by the American College of Physicians and the American Nurses Association, which called

on state licensing and disciplinary boards "to treat participation in executions as grounds for active disciplinary proceedings, including license revocation."

As a result, the doctor who is required by state law to witness the execution and verify the death refused to do so. Dr. Balvir Kapil, told the press, "The state is doing the same thing the criminal did." A spokesman for the AMA said Kapil was the first doctor known to decline execution duty since the AMA statement.

Dangerous new drug, 'cat,' hits U.S. cities

The loopholes in federal law allowing the bulk sales of ephedrine are now closed under the 1994 Domestic Chemical Diversion Control Act, which became law on April 29, the same day the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) swore in its new director, Thomas A. Constantine.

For the first time, the law allows the DEA to regulate sale of ephedrine tablets, which are readily available as over-the-counter appetite suppressants. Processed ephedrine is the main ingredient in some asthma inhalants.

When ground up and cooked, ephedrine pills form "cat," the street name for the addictive drug methcathinone. The synthetic drug, a cocaine-like white powder most commonly snorted, gives users a euphoric high characterized by enhanced sexual endurance and lack of appetite. Such effects can be followed by uncontrollable shaking, hallucinations, severe depression, and extreme paranoia.

A DEA study last year stated that cat traffic will be "exceptionally alluring" because the drug is cheap, easy to make, and provides a longer high—four to six hours—than "crack" cocaine. Methcathinone sells for \$75-100 a gram on the street. A gram supplies a user with 4-10 "lines" or "hits."

Nationally, law enforcement agencies have discovered at least 54 cat labs since 1991. More than 30 labs were in Michigan, where a college student "liberated" the arcane drug while working at a pharmaceutical firm in 1989.

● SPOTTED OWLS are thriving while thousands are losing their jobs in Washington and Oregon's commercial logging industries, according to a feature in the April 24 *Sacramento Bee*. "Whereas a headline-making 1986 Audubon Society report said that 1,500 spotted owl pairs . . . was the number necessary to prevent extinction, it now seems that as many as 10,000 pairs may exist."

● THE BRITISH ARMY has been conducting joint exercises loading trucks on the big cargo ships at Fort Eustis, the U.S. Army's transportation headquarters in Newport News, Virginia, the first such exercises in history. A retired Navy officer told *EIR* that the Navy is planning various military strategies based on cargo logistics capabilities that no longer exist.

● DAN QUAYLE sharply criticizes both former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp and former Secretary of State James Baker in his forthcoming book, *Standing Firm*. Kemp and Baker, alumni of the Bush administration, are both potential rivals of Quayle's for the Republican presidential nomination in 1996.

● GOV. PETE WILSON of California held a press conference on April 29 to announce a \$2 billion lawsuit against the U.S. government for the cost of imprisoning illegal immigrants. Wilson, who has erected a virtual "Berlin Wall" along the Mexican border, claimed it has cost the state \$377 million this year alone to house 17,000 illegal immigrants. The \$2 billion is supposed to cover the cost and also the building of additional prisons. New York and Arizona plan to file similar lawsuits.

● TEXAS LEADS the nation in prison beds, according to the *Texas Observer*, a political newsletter, which reported on comments made by Carol Vance, chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice. Vance pointed out that 500,000 Texas adult males (1 out of every 18, or over 5%) are currently in prison, on parole, or on probation for serious crimes.