

National News

Louisiana gubernatorial primary defeats Bushmen

Former Louisiana governor Buddy Roemer, who campaigned in favor of establishing prison chain gangs in the state, was unexpectedly defeated in the gubernatorial primary on Oct. 21. Roemer had been strongly endorsed by Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who had campaigned in the primary on his behalf.

U.S. Rep. Cleo Fields (D), the first black American to make it into a Louisiana race for statewide office since the 1870s Reconstruction era, came in second in the primary and will face white populist self-made millionaire State Sen. Mike Foster in the Nov. 18 final election. Many in the state credit Fields's defeat of Roemer to the dual effect of the Million Man March, which occurred five days before the primary, and the recently passed motor-voter registration law, which was followed by a large-scale voter registration drive.

Fields told the press Oct. 23, "I'm not running to be the black governor, I'm running to be the best governor." Both candidates will have to develop policies to deal with the economic crisis facing Louisiana, which includes a 25% cut in Medicaid funding this year, to be followed by another 25% cut next year.

Health care coalition attacks 'toxic' cuts

Led by the American College of Physicians, a coalition of health care providers and organizations held a press conference on Oct. 23 to urge that the Republican Medicaid "reform" legislation either be changed to reduce the amount of funding to be cut, or, failing that, requested that President Clinton veto the legislation.

Dr. Howard Shapiro, director of public policy for the American College of Physicians, told the gathering that "people will be sicker, and people will die as a result of this toxic mix of funding cuts and elimina-

tion of standards." Shapiro attacked the "veritable orgy of deal-making" in the Congress on Medicaid reform legislation and said that the job of his coalition is "on behalf of patients, to insist that Congress revise Medicaid sections . . . to protect this core program of the social safety net."

Shapiro also attacked the notion that states can do more with less if "freed" from federal constraints. "This is a new experiment in voodoo economics that uses poor patients and our elderly and disabled people in nursing homes as guinea pigs."

Other organizations in the coalition represented at the press conference were the Catholic Health Association, the National Association of Public Hospitals, the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Children's Hospitals, and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

Mass. governor pushes pirate ship to limits

Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, the blueblood pilot for the Conservative Revolution's privateers, continues on a mad course which should wreck the ship. On Oct. 17, he demanded that all welfare recipients in the state be fingerprinted—just five days after he proposed that unwed mothers under 18 be cut off from all cash grants. On Oct. 13, Weld also proposed that state welfare administrators be allowed to report illegal immigrants to federal immigration authorities, in the approximately 1,500 cases where the immigrants' children are *U.S. citizens*.

Weld said, "Welfare fraud is a particularly ugly crime, like robbing a Salvation Army Santa or stealing from church. . . . It's not just thievery; it's a calculated insult to kindness and charity." Democratic House Speaker Charles Flaherty declared, "The governor has created a new meanness office," suggesting that Weld must be giving an award to the staffer who comes up with "the meanest idea of the week."

On Oct. 13, Weld gave a group of newspaper editors his thoughts on impoverished

teenage mothers: "Let's face it. We're making sure these girls have shelter, and we're paying for food, medical care, and day care. What's left? New duds, CDs, movies? Well, we think a hundred-plus a week for that stuff still makes teenage motherhood look like too much fun."

Meanwhile, Weld has proposed to extend some hefty charity to the state's horse racing and betting "industry," by shifting more funds to track owners and easing state regulation, the *Boston Globe* reported on Oct. 20. With casino gambling rapidly expanding in New England, race tracks owners say their take is way down. Weld has proposed legislation which would allow the tracks to keep bettors' unclaimed winnings—which now revert to the state treasury—and require them to be checked and licensed only every five years, instead of annually.

Weld is the scion of New England Brahmins prominently involved in British subversive operations against the United States. His feelers earlier this year for a possible Republican Presidential bid came up empty. Weld said he got used to being fingerprinted while he worked for the U.S. Department of Justice—where he helped originate the witchhunt against Lyndon LaRouche.

London ping-pongs Colin Powell endorsements

Without a pang of conscience, the London-directed press continues to take in each other's laundry list of fulsome praise for possible U.S. Presidential candidate Colin Powell. The London *Guardian* of Oct. 24 ran a front-page claim that Powell will run for President, quoting *Weekly Standard* editor Bill Kristol who says, "If I had to bet today on one person for the Republican Presidential nomination, I'd put my money on Colin Powell." The *Weekly Standard* is the magazine launched this fall in Washington, D.C. by British propaganda conduit Rupert Murdoch.

Martin Walker, the London *Guardian's* Washington correspondent, claims that support for Powell is building throughout "conservative" Republican Party circles. Powell

is reported to be "in touch with" Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, while Gingrich—not to be outdone—is "in frequent contact with Ken Duberstein, the unofficial strategist of Powell's shadow campaign."

Radio talk-show loudmouth Rush Limbaugh has endorsed Powell, while Bush-era U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney declared that "Colin Powell has the qualities I like to see in a President. I am a big fan." Powell and Cheney, of course, are no strangers to each other, having collaborated closely in the Gulf war slaughter of the Iraqi population.

In its eagerness to gather praise from all the approved sources, the *Guardian* provides a perhaps less than felicitous image of a Powell candidacy. It quotes an aide of Conservative Revolutionist Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), saying that a Powell candidacy would have the effect of a "thermonuclear explosion," sucking in after it everything else.

Media promote breakup of U.S. western states

The publicly promoted scheme of Britain's Prince Philip Mountbatten, for balkanizing the United States into a group of petty principalities, is moving into its operational phase, as certain U.S. media seek to fan tensions in the western states. On Oct. 21, National Public Radio interviewed author John Margolis, who contends that recent migrations out of the Great Plains states have lowered population levels to the point that some states may no longer be worthy of statehood.

Margolis cites North Dakota, where the population has fallen to approximately 650,000, under savage attacks against family farms by the grain cartels. Supposedly, moves to annex portions of that state by bordering states are said to be under serious consideration. North Dakota Gov. Ed Schafer has defended his state by saying that North Dakota is number one in five categories of production—something other states might try to emulate.

Joining the hyena chorus, *Time* maga-

zine of Oct. 23 featured an anti-federal diatribe entitled "An Inside Look at the West's Growing Rebellion: Don't Tread on Me." After hyping one man's bulldozer protest as a "new movement," the article shows precisely what it is designed to accomplish. Cato Institute senior fellow Karl Hess, Jr. claims he fears that the owner of some marginal ranch, pushed to the brink by changing rules, may turn desperate. "Someone's going to carry a gun, someone's going to shoot, someone's going to bomb a Forest Service office. . . . And God knows what's going to happen then."

Pesticide foes all wet over dihydrogen oxide

Supporters of a ban on all pesticides demonstrated a high level of desiccation recently when they responded enthusiastically to a call demanding an end to the production and use of water. The call was contained in a letter from the "Stop the Silent Killer Foundation," which warned against the dangers of dihydrogen oxide, which killed 4,100 Americans in 1991 alone.

The *Journal of Commerce* reported on Oct. 20 that the letters had been sent by Peter Sparber, a Washington business lobbyist, who concocted the hoax to test whether "environmental zealots . . . blindly follow the lead of others." The letter from the bogus foundation asked the recipients, who favor a ban on all pesticides, to send letters to the Dihydrogen Oxide Institute, demanding that the manufacture and use of dihydrogen oxide be ceased immediately. Signed by "John Alan Waterman," the letter neglected to mention that dihydrogen oxide is water.

Among the outraged letters which were duly sent to Sparber's fictitious Dihydrogen Oxide Institute, was the following: "I know that producing this poison is how you make your living. You must also realize that this same poison is what causes some peoples' death. How in God's name can you live with yourselves? Stop production and get a job you can be proud of, one that won't ruin your karma."

Briefly

● **THE NATIONAL PARK** Service estimate, that the turnout in Washington for the Oct. 16 Million Man March was only 400,000, was absurd, according to many observers. Dr. Farouk El Baz, director of an imaging laboratory and an expert in space satellite photography, told CBS-TV on Oct. 19 that analysis of photos from fixed-wing aircraft and elevated ground sites, puts the most likely number at 875,000, and perhaps as high as 1.1 million.

● **LOUIS FARRAKHAN** hopes to perform Beethoven's violin concerto in Berlin, according to an interview with Germany's *Der Spiegel* released Oct. 16. He also urged blacks to get more involved in "mathematics and other sciences with which one can build civilizations." Farrakhan said of the Beethoven work, "as soon as I master it, I would like to perform in Germany, with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra."

● **MAGGIE THATCHER'S** 70th birthday bash at Washington's Union Station was a "flop," the London *Guardian* reported. "George Bush sent apologies, and Mikhail Gorbachov was nowhere to be seen. Nor was Chancellor Helmut Kohl or President Jacques Chirac—even though both sat on the committee which organized the event." Bob Dole was a no-show, Thatcher "disciple" Newt Gingrich was an hour late, and "there was no representative of the Clinton administration."

● **U.S. PROPOSALS** for United Nations reform include imposing a "moratorium on global U.N. conferences once the present series is completed." The U.S. plan would thus shelve any reruns of the Rio de Janeiro environmentalist revival, the Cairo population conference, and the Women's Conference at Beijing.

● **AIDS** is sweeping "through the musical community with extraordinary virulence," the *Washington Post* claimed Oct. 22. It added that "the New York City Opera alone has lost some 100 people to the disease."