

National News

FEC certifies LaRouche for matching funds

On Nov. 2, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) approved Lyndon H. LaRouche's application for federal matching funds for the 1996 Presidential primary elections. LaRouche qualified for the program by raising a threshold amount of \$100,000, in amounts of \$250 or less from each contributor, from at least 20 contributors in each of 20 states. Having qualified, the campaign can submit additional funds for matching, up to \$250 per person, to a campaign maximum of \$10 million.

The FEC decision is a reversal of its fraudulent rejection of LaRouche's application for matching funds for the 1992 elections. Having refused to certify the candidate's qualifying submission at that time, the commission was ultimately ordered to do so by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. The FEC had denied the application, on the grounds that it chose not to believe the candidate would abide by federal campaign laws. The Court ruled that the argument had no legal justification, and had strayed out of the realm of law into the domain of subjective whim.

In addition to the benefit of the matching funds themselves, FEC certification has become a significant criterion in many states, for decisions by election officials to place candidates on the Presidential primary ballot.

10,000 rally in N.Y. to protest GOP health cuts

A mass demonstration against proposed Republican cuts in federal Medicare and Medicaid funding, took place in New York City on Nov. 2. At least 10,000 participated, according to police estimates. When the marchers poured into Times Square during the afternoon rush hour, the crowd reached twice that number, organizers insisted. The *New York Times* reported Nov. 3 that the marchers included health care workers,

union officials, hospital administrators, and Democratic officials—many waving signs and banners.

First Lady Hillary Clinton addressed the rally, declaring that "the budgets the Republicans have passed are dead on arrival, when they arrive in the Oval Office." House Minority leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) told the crowd, that the deep reductions in health care programs were designed to pay for capital-gains tax breaks contained in the Republican proposals.

Rally organizers derided members of the New York Republican congressional delegation who had voted for the House budget the previous week. Dennis Rivara of Hospital Workers Union Local 1199 told the crowd, "It is time for New York Republican members of Congress to decide whether they represent us, or they represent Newt Gingrich." Organizers of the rally said it marked the start of an intense push to stop the budget cuts over the coming weeks. The *Times* reported that they have already spent about \$1 million placing newspaper ads denouncing the reductions.

N.H. welfare bill declares war on unions

The Republican-dominated New Hampshire state legislature, during a one-day special session Nov. 1, approved an unprecedented set of vicious measures against trade unionists and welfare recipients alike—intending to pit them against one another as well. The new legislative package was presented as a scheme to reorganize the state's Division of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The legislation includes a provision which would deny all benefits to recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), if any member of the family participates in a labor strike. Simply translated, the measure decrees that even employed children of AFDC recipients must serve as scab labor, or suffer their entire family to lose any welfare assistance. This latest stab at welfare "reform" depends upon securing a waiver from the Clinton administration, before it can go into effect.

New Hampshire's traditionally Republican legislature, which the GOP now controls by a 4-to-1 margin over the Democrats, fell further under the sway of Conservative Revolutionists following the 1994 elections. The latest assault on Health and Human Services also empowered the commissioner of HHS to implement further reorganization, without legislative approval, for three years.

The planned "downsizing" of HHS would eliminate large numbers of state workers from its payroll, while circumventing existing protections for employees based on seniority. Democratic State Rep. Ed Mears, who is also vice president of the state's AFL-CIO, told *EIR* Nov. 2, "There's no doubt that they're using union-busting tactics," and attempting to set welfare recipients against union labor.

Weld says Massachusetts must sink with his ship

Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, acting more and more like the doomed privateer, unfurled a plan to take the state down with him at a news conference Nov. 1. Weld calls his proposal to eliminate as many resources and necessary functions of government as possible, the "Stronger Commonwealth" plan, according to the *Boston Globe*.

The blueblood pirate demanded that Massachusetts: eliminate five cabinet-level departments, 76 state agencies, and 263 boards and commissions, which will result in the firing of 7,500 state workers; eliminate county governments altogether, but retain their sheriff's departments; privatize the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (which includes the entire public mass transit system for the Greater Boston area); privatize prison services, some highway and airport services, and the management of two higher education institutions; create a voucher system for all public school students, effectively wrecking the first system of public education established in America; and eliminate teacher certification.

With the loot Weld expects from this orgy of savage budget cuts, he plans to dispense a record \$500 million tax cut, leaving

Briefly

the suckers to fight over it among themselves.

During the night of Nov. 1, meanwhile, Weld added Massachusetts to the list of states dealing in the prison slave-labor trade, when 299 state prisoners were rousted from their beds, shackled in groups of three, and shipped off to Texas. The Texas prison system, which has become the gulag of America, currently houses prisoners from Virginia, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Missouri, and Alaska.

Catholic bishops address '96 Presidential issues

The U.S. Catholic Bishops issued their quadrennial statement on Presidential politics Nov. 5, declaring that it "reflects the themes and values articulated by Pope John Paul II in his October visit to the United States." In an accompanying release, the bishops urge Catholics to "act on their values in the political arena . . . to help shape a society more respectful of the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, especially the poor and vulnerable."

The bishops warn that "widespread public cynicism and disenchantment with politics is an ominous trend which threatens to undermine this nation's democratic traditions," and urge "broad participation in the electoral process."

The document, issued exactly one year before the 1996 Presidential election, is entitled "Political Responsibility: Proclaiming the Gospel of Life, Protecting the Least Among Us, and Pursuing the Common Good." It decries the "growing temptation to blame our sense of economic insecurity and moral decline not on cultural disarray or the failures of political and economic leadership, but on too much compassion."

"To listen to some, our nation is in trouble because of too many immigrants and welfare mothers, not enough birth-control, abortions, prisons and executions, and too much foreign aid and affirmative action. Our problems are far more fundamental. They cannot be blamed only on people who are poor and powerless."

The statement adds, "We regret public attitudes which dismiss the legitimate role of government and ridicule public officials in misguided frustration with all politics. We need more, not less public participation." The bishops also offered some critical comments on the U.S. news media (which generally blacked them out). "We urge the news media to cover campaigns in ways that tell us more than who's ahead, or whose commercials are more clever. The nation needs more thorough and unbiased coverage of the positions and qualifications of the candidates and the major issues facing the nation."

Minnesota paper prints LaRouche policy outline

The St. Paul *Pioneer Press* printed a guest column by Lyndon LaRouche Nov. 1, entitled, "Measures that saved the nation after Depression needed again." In preparation for St. Paul's participation in the Nov. 7 CityVote straw poll, the paper had invited all 20 announced and potential Presidential candidates to "lay out the urban agenda they would implement if elected." Five candidates accepted the offer, including LaRouche and Jesse Jackson, whose statement appeared earlier.

LaRouche's reply, printed almost in full, lays out the problem of the nation's collapsing, per-capita tax revenue base, noting that the "market-basket of income and productive output per capita of the labor force has collapsed to about half of what it was a quarter-century ago." He traces the radical change introduced into national economic policy at that time, and the consequences of those "post-industrial" policies.

The measures needed to reverse this decline are "no different in principle than the kinds of measures we employed to rebuild the nation after the Great Depression of the 1930s," says LaRouche. "The 1996 election-campaigns may be the last good chance to mobilize the majority of this nation, behind a leadership dedicated to address both the physical problem and the equally deadly deterioration of popular morale," he writes. "The alternative would probably be unthinkable. Think about it."

● **THE FOUNDING FATHERS** showed great wisdom, President Clinton declared Nov. 2. "They understood that there would be times in the history of our republic . . . when elections would produce unintended consequences and extreme conduct, and the President was given the veto because only [he] has the responsibility to look after all the people of this country, and to look into the future, to imagine that future, and to keep the country on the right path."

● **THE CITYVOTE** urban primary straw poll on Presidential candidates was conducted in 18 cities on Nov. 7. Out of 21 candidates, President Clinton came in first with 91,763 votes (43.8%), compared to his closest rival, Colin Powell, who had 18%. Lyndon LaRouche garnered roughly 0.5%, comparable to nationally known figures such as Gov. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) and Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.).

● **VIRGINIA** Gov. George Allen announced plans Nov. 2 to use prisoners and welfare recipients to "beautify and refurbish Virginia's state parks, state agencies, and local communities." During his press conference at Pocahontas State Park, he told prisoners who were breaking up rocks, "Thank you-all for doing this! You're saving the taxpayers money."

● **PRESIDENT CLINTON** has formed a Cabinet-level task force with local leaders from the District of Columbia to address the city's financial crisis, according to the Nov. 2 *Washington Times*. During a private meeting with African-American newspaper columnists Nov. 1, Clinton reportedly declared he would no longer keep a low profile on the issue, and that "nobody believes the city is" Newt Gingrich's "laboratory."

● **SIX HOSPITALS** in the Pittsburgh area may have to shut down, says Moody's Investors' Service. The agency said Nov. 2 that proposed Medicare/Medicaid cuts would eliminate 73-78% of the hospitals' income, leading to lower ratings.