

National News

Dems recall Dole vote against JFK wage bill

At a May 3 press conference, marking the 35th anniversary of the passage of the minimum-wage hike sought by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) recalled that Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) had voted against an increase even then.

A tape was played of one of JFK's political ads, during his 1960 Presidential campaign against Richard Nixon, in which Kennedy declared, "Mr. Nixon has said that a \$1.25 minimum wage is extreme. . . . What's extreme about that? . . . Americans must be paid enough to live." As a freshman Republican in the House of Representatives in 1961, Dole voted against President Kennedy's proposal to raise the minimum wage from \$1.00 to \$1.25 an hour.

Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, echoing Yogi Berra's old joke, said Dole's current opposition was "*déjà vu* all over again. Here we are in 1996, trying to make sure that Americans are paid enough to live, and Senator Dole is saying no." Dole, the apparent Republican Presidential nominee in the coming election, replied by saying, "I don't know what that has to do with 1996. That was 35 years ago."

Fed chairman warns of 'financial implosion'

Speaking at the "Eighth Frankfurt International Banking Event" on May 7, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan felt compelled to mention the unmentionable: The entire world financial system could collapse overnight. He offered no solutions, other than arming central banks "with unlimited power to create money." But even his technocratic discussion of a global collapse provided significant public confirmation, of what the world's top financial players have been privately discussing for some time.

"The changing dynamics of modern global financial systems require that central

banks address the inevitable increase of potential systemic risk," Greenspan declared. "It is probably fair to say that the very efficiency of global financial markets, engendered by the rapid proliferation of financial products, also has the capability of transmitting mistakes at a far faster pace throughout the financial system in ways that were unknown a generation ago, and not even remotely imagined in the 19th century."

Greenspan avoided all reference to the cancerous speculative bubble which has doomed the current financial system, and rejected any efforts to "bar or contain the expansion of global finance by capital controls, transaction taxes, or other market-inhibiting initiatives. . . . We cannot turn back the clock, and we should not try to do so."

Nonetheless, Greenspan declared, "With leveraging there will always exist a remote possibility of a chain reaction, a cascading sequence of defaults that will culminate in financial implosion if it proceeds unchecked. Only a central bank, with unlimited power to create money, can with a high probability thwart such a process before it becomes destructive. Hence, central banks will of necessity be drawn into becoming lenders of last resort. . . . Such a public subsidy should be reserved for only the rarest of disasters, triggered, at most, a handful of times per century."

Lester Brown compares mankind to 'amoebae'

Lester Brown, the Worldwatch Institute genocidalist who wants to eliminate most of the people on this planet, compared the human race to "amoebae in a Petri dish," during a May 1 press briefing in Washington, D.C.

After ranting that today's food shortages and high commodities prices prove that the world is overpopulated, Brown declared, "Any biology student knows" about the "S-shaped curve," and proceeded with his abominable amoeba comparison—a flat denial of human history and mankind's creative powers. In the early stages, Brown said, the population can rise; but then, it exceeds the physical basis for its contin-

ued growth.

Topping off his deranged argument, Brown said, "You can use rats in a cage" to see this. When the resources are exhausted in the cage, rats turn to aberrant sexual behavior; there are spontaneous abortions. He also lied that the decline in wheat production per hectare is governed by finite biology.

The occasion for Brown's recycling his garbage was to release the latest Worldwatch "Vital Signs Brief," urging the World Bank and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to cease "overestimating food production and misleading political leaders." Even though world grain output tripled from 1950 to 1990, Brown claimed there has been no growth for the past five years—and there is unlikely to be any more.

LaRouche wins 40,000 votes in North Carolina

Despite the blackout by major media, and ongoing sabotage of his campaign by the Democratic National Committee, Lyndon LaRouche continues to receive significant vote totals in the Democratic Presidential primaries. On May 7, LaRouche scored more than 40,000 votes (7.3%) in the North Carolina primary, in a two-way race against President Clinton. In the District of Columbia, LaRouche received 2% of the vote in a primary that had been threatened with cancellation by the city's Financial Control Board.

In the D.C. primary, Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler even refused to allow LaRouche's delegates to appear on the ballot. In addition, the local media did next to nothing to inform voters that the election was still on. As a result, fewer than 8% of the District's Democrats turned out to vote—the lowest turnout in the city's history.

In a statement released May 8, LaRouche presented the following evaluation of the vote: "Yesterday's Democratic primary results, in the District of Columbia and North Carolina, reflect the continuing policy of the national print and television-news media, to run a total blackout of my

Briefly

BANKRUPTCY filings skyrocketed 27% in the first four months of this year, compared to the same period a year ago, to a record 318,893, according to MasterCard International. One investment bank's chief economist told the *Wall Street Journal* May 8, that the news is "a danger sign for the economy, that may well reflect the growing disparities between the haves and the have-nots."

SEN. PHIL GRAMM (R-Tex.), the free-market privateer, has rushed to endorse price-rigging by the oil multinationals. He told ABC News May 5 that it was "kind of unseemly" that President Clinton, "without giving a single thought . . . orders the Attorney General to investigate a major industry in America, with no evidence whatsoever to substantiate that anybody did or could have engaged in a conspiracy against the public."

DWAYNE ANDREAS, head of the Archer Daniels Midland grain cartel, which the FBI has been investigating for the past year, has contributed \$1 million to Don Fowler's Democratic National Committee, CBS Evening News claimed May 7. The only previous contribution steered by Andreas which hit the million-dollar mark, went to the Anti-Defamation League, the racist, right-wing hate-group.

DAVID LASSER, 94, first president of the American Interplanetary Society, founded in 1930, died recently. In 1931, he wrote the first English-language work on space exploration. A consultant to President Roosevelt's World War II War Production Board, Lasser was denounced in Congress during the McCarthy period as "a crackpot with mental delusions who thinks we can travel to the Moon."

REP. DICK ARMEY (R-Tex.), now guiding Newt Gingrich's sinking ship in Congress, said May 5, "If you took the words 'greed' and 'extremism' out of our vocabulary, there's a lot of people around this country who couldn't conduct political discourse at all."

campaign. This blackout has succeeded in minimizing the turnout of my supporters to the polls. Once that 'blackout' factor is taken into account, the results so far indicate that I represent, currently, more than 10% of the potential Democratic vote in the November 1996 general election.

"Also, many of those who vote for the President's renomination, either support or tend to support my emphasis on the importance of the President's supporting those policies for which I am campaigning.

"In addition to these two implications of the vote for my candidacy, my campaign addresses the most important issue facing the next President, an issue which no other candidate has addressed to the present time.

"With those three considerations in view, it should be understood, that, crooked news media notwithstanding, the campaign for my candidacy will continue, successfully, into the middle of the August Democratic Party Convention."

Ex-Texas prison chief under investigation

The Texas official who expanded the state's prison system, into what was officially described last year as the largest "in the free world," is now under criminal investigation. According to the May issue of *Texas Monthly*, the Texas Rangers and the FBI are looking into "sweetheart contracts" allegedly made with private prison companies, by Andy Collins, former head of the state's Department of Criminal Justice.

Collins resigned in December 1995, reportedly under pressure from Texas Gov. George W. Bush, son of the benighted ex-President of the United States, Sir George Bush. Apparently, Governor Bush decided to step away from the spotlight on "the tawdriest [state] government spectacle" in 25 years, which was focussing on Collins. While Collins ran his model for the "free world," private prison companies reaped more profits in Texas than anywhere else in the nation.

Following an orgy of construction during the past five years, the Texas prison system has established itself as the "gulag" of

America, with 129,000 inmates behind bars. It holds thousands of inmates—for a price—shipped in from other states with overcrowded facilities. But now, Texas prisons are running at a "deficit" of 17,000 potential inmates; and eight new facilities remain closed.

Collins himself is whistling a different tune. In an interview with *Texas Monthly*, he now says that the prison buildup "was the stupidest thing the state of Texas has ever done. . . . I mean, look who was behind it all. Prosecutors, cops, politicians—all of them with a self-serving agenda."

Eco-freaks mount benefit for accused 'Unabomber'

Earth First! and other radical-environmentalist swamp creatures are organizing "benefit concerts" for suspected "Unabomber" terrorist Ted Kaczynski. The first of a planned series of events was scheduled for Eugene, Oregon, at "Icky's Teahouse," a popular New-Age hangout, according to the *Eugene Register Guard* of May 1.

The advertised attractions featured two punk-rock bands, and an address by anarchist John Zerzan, one of the leading movers behind the event. Zerzan's book, *Future Primitive*, is reportedly widely used in courses taught at U.S. universities. The benefit's promotional posters, issued in the name of "the Antipathy Collective and the Eugene Cultural Defense Militia," portrayed Kaczynski placing a bomb with a lit fuse beside a building.

Next to that crazed graphic, the poster listed detailed instructions and diagrams, for making four varieties of "molotov cocktails" and a simple pipe bomb, around the slogan "Go unabomber!!!" The *Register Guard* also reported that Richard Mosher, one of the members of the collective that runs Icky's, said that Kaczynski should not be tried as a "serial killer," because he is really "a political activist, whether you agree with his tactics or not." Mosher claimed this was a "war-type situation," because corporations are poisoning the food, water, and air, and "people are dying as a result."