

National News

Backlash against GOP kingmaker reported

Arthur J. Finkelstein, whom the Republican Party has paid \$500,000 as a "senior political consultant" to a number of its candidates in the November elections, may have overplayed his hand in the Minnesota Senate race.

According to a poll in the Oct. 22 *Washington Post*, many of the voters who had seen Finkelstein's campaign ads, said they were now more inclined to vote for incumbent Paul Wellstone (D), and against Republican Rudy Boschwitz, whose campaign is being guided by Finkelstein. The Boschwitz campaign has depicted Wellstone as soft on welfare recipients, murderers, drug-pushers, and terrorists. One ad showed a bearded hippie, inducting Wellstone into the "1967 Liberal Hall of Fame."

Finkelstein is an avowed homosexual, who played an important role in the Bush-league National Conservative Political Action Committee—infamous for its Iran-Contra intrigues and the White House "call-boy" scandals. Finkelstein's secret role as Benjamin Netanyahu's campaign manager was revealed after the Israeli elections. There, Finkelstein's television ads had linked together terrorist-bombed houses, Arafat, and Netanyahu's opponent Shimon Peres, as "a dangerous combination for Israel."

After 20 years, America prepares return to Mars

NASA Administrator Dan Goldin, opening a series of press briefings Oct. 16, issued a stirring declaration: "After a hiatus of 20 years, America returns to Mars." Goldin was referring to two American spacecraft scheduled for Mars launchings over the next two months. Responding to a question about manned missions to Mars, Goldin replied: "I think we could be on Mars in the second decade of the next century. If the nation has the will to do it, America could do anything

it wants to do."

The Mars Global Surveyor, which will place a spacecraft in Mars orbit for geological and climate mapping for a full Martian year (687 Earth days), is scheduled for launch on Nov. 6. On Dec. 2, the Mars Pathfinder lander heads for the planet, carrying a micro-rover named Sojourner, which will be the first rover on Mars. Between these two launches, on Nov. 16, the Russian Mars '96 mission is scheduled to launch, carrying an orbiter, two landers, and—for the first time—two penetrators to probe under the surface of the planet.

Goldin also announced that the photographs and data transmitted from the Mars missions will be made available on the Internet. "Every day on the Internet, we're going to post the weather report on Mars," Goldin said. Internet users will also be able to see what the Pathfinder lander and rover "see." The rover, which Goldin describes as a "22-pound geologist," has cameras which will provide close-up views of the rocks it has been deployed to examine.

Pathfinder will be landing in the Ares Vallis region of Mars, which is an ancient flood plain. Dr. Michael Carr of the U.S. Geological Survey explained that a channel in the targetted area is up to one kilometer deep, and was created by a catastrophic water event. It is estimated that the equivalent of the water in America's Great Lakes was discharged into this plain in the space of two weeks.

St. Louis aldermen cite Bush's role in dope ring

On Oct. 18, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen became the first elected body in the country to pass a resolution naming George Bush in connection with recent exposés of secret government drug-trafficking. The resolution, passed unanimously by the 29-member board, declares in part:

"Whereas, the *San Jose Mercury News* has in a three-part series, alleged the role of the U.S. Intelligence Agencies in financing covert operations through the sale of drugs, specifically crack cocaine into neighbor-

hoods throughout Los Angeles to finance Iran-Contra operations; and

"Whereas, these alleged activities were under the aegis of then Vice-President George Bush in his capacity as National Security Director, and that the Kerry Committee elicited testimony to the Congress on Feb. 11, 1987, that the Contras moved drugs . . . 'Not by the bag, but by the ton, by the cargo plane load.' . . .

"Now therefore be it resolved, that the St. Louis Board of Aldermen endorses the call by Congressman Waters, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, the Los Angeles City Council, and others for the investigation of these allegations as they will serve the best interests of the citizens of the United States."

FBI official charged in Ruby Ridge coverup

Federal prosecutors filed charges Oct. 22 against an FBI official for obstruction of justice in the murder trial of Randy Weaver, following the 1992 shoot-out instigated by federal agents at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. Justice Department sources said E. Michael Kahoe, who was chief of the FBI's violent crimes section during the incident, has agreed to plead guilty to the charges, and to cooperate in the long-running probe.

U.S. Attorney Michael Stiles of Philadelphia, who was specially appointed to conduct the investigation, said Kahoe participated in the concealment and destruction of a document from FBI headquarters, sought by federal prosecutors in Idaho preparing for Randy Weaver's trial. According to the new charges, Kahoe was ordered by his superiors to prepare an "after-action" critique of the FBI's conduct in the shoot-out. Kahoe allegedly received a copy of a letter from the prosecutors in Idaho requesting any documents about the incident.

When the Justice Department eventually ordered that all of the FBI documents be given to the prosecutors, Kahoe allegedly withheld the after-action report from the documents to be delivered, then destroyed all his copies, and ordered a subordinate to make it appear as if "it never existed."

'BUCKINGHAM Palace would not normally expect to figure in an American election campaign, but the Queen popped up unexpectedly in Oklahoma the other day, courtesy of George Bush," the London *Sunday Times* reported Oct. 21. At a GOP event, "Bush embarked on an anecdote about his visit to the palace, to be invested as an honorary Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Bath. 'I was made a real live knight,' he told his tittering audience."

WILLIAM WELD has been caught in another lie, according to the Oct. 22 *Boston Herald*. In his Massachusetts U.S. Senate campaign, Weld has intoned that "the only cure for pedophilia is prison." Seven child pornographers he prosecuted on felony charges during his stint as U.S. Attorney, however, were released on probation without serving any time.

SERIAL KILLER Jack Kevorkian delivered the corpse of Mrs. Nancy DeSoto Oct. 17 to a hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. At the same hour, his lawyer was telling a press conference that Mrs. DeSoto had not come to Michigan to commit suicide, but only to talk to Kevorkian. Attorney Geoffrey Fieger claimed he did not know where DeSoto was. "Dr. Death's" latest victim, afflicted with multiple sclerosis, was 55 years old.

DRUG LEGALIZATION advocates still have not scored with the electorate, and face another defeat this year, according to a recent survey. The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America released a poll Oct. 23 of over 1,000 candidates running for office in November, showing that 86% of them have no confidence in legalization as an effective means of dealing with the current drug crisis.

A NEW STUDY released by the American Medical Association, claims that 45% of uninsured adults report having difficulty in obtaining medical care, and that 70% of them were unable to get treatment when their symptoms were either "very serious" or "somewhat serious."

The FBI's destruction and concealment of documents in the Ruby Ridge case, was cited in affidavits submitted earlier this year by the plaintiffs in the long-pending *LaRouche v. Webster* civil rights case against the FBI, filed in federal court in New York in 1975. In the *LaRouche* case, the FBI had argued that the absence of any records showing illegal activity, could be taken as conclusive proof that no such activity had ever taken place!

On Sept. 2, 1996, Federal Judge Mary Johnson Lowe issued a landmark ruling in New York's Southern District Court, vacating key sections of the FBI affidavit in *LaRouche v. Webster*, which was used as the basis for the Justice Department's 1985 motion to dismiss the *LaRouche* suit. One part of the FBI affidavit struck by Judge Lowe's ruling, was its statement that the FBI's Headquarters file comprised "a complete record" of its investigation of the *LaRouche* organization. Judge Lowe cited the plaintiffs' allegations that the FBI had destroyed records—a practice again confirmed in the Ruby Ridge case.

Postal workers campaign against privatization

The American Postal Workers Union is waging a campaign against the plan by Congressional Gingrichites to privatize the postal system. Postal workers are distributing a flyer nationwide with the title "Postal Customer: What Postal Privatization Would Mean for You." It is a devastating exposé of the privateers' scheme to loot the nation on a vast scale.

The leaflet details the huge stakes involved: If the U.S. Postal Service were privatized, four of its six major product lines would qualify as Fortune 500 companies. The Postal Service owns 6,865 buildings with a total of 168 million square feet, and leases 27,437 buildings with 89 million square feet. If the Postal Service were a private company, it would be the 12th largest business in the United States and the 33rd largest business in the world. Its 1995 revenues of \$54 billion exceeded those of Coca-

Cola, Xerox, and Eastman Kodak combined.

The postal workers charge that privatization would increase the cost of mailing, cut rural delivery, and reduce security of the mail. Another major attraction to the privateers, not mentioned in the flyer, is the fact that the Postal Service has the largest and most sophisticated cash transaction system in the world.

Suits filed against immigrant aid cuts

The first suits filed to stop the cut-off of aid to illegal immigrants, under the provisions of the new federal welfare reform and immigration bills, were filed Oct. 11 in New York and Oct. 15 in California—the states with the largest immigrant populations.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (R) sued on behalf of New York City in Manhattan federal court, contending that provisions allowing city employees to turn in illegal immigrants, who seek services such as police protection, hospital care, and public education, were unconstitutional. Provisions in both of the new federal bills overturned a 1985 New York City executive order, which forbade city employees from reporting illegal immigrants, with the exception of criminal suspects.

In California, the American Civil Liberties Union joined with a coalition of immigrant rights groups, seeking a court injunction against a federal Welfare Reform Act provision, which allows California to withhold prenatal care from illegal immigrant women. They brought their suit to U.S. District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer—the same judge who issued the injunction against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 in 1994, and the 1995 summary judgment blocking any implementation of the ballot initiative.

According to the Oct. 16 *Washington Post*, California Gov. Pete Wilson's press secretary, Sean Walsh, denounced the suit as "madness, lawyers run wild even before any services have been eliminated." Seventy thousand illegal immigrants currently receive prenatal care in California, according to Susan Drake, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center.