

National News

Brits denounce Clinton's counter to legalized pot

The Jan. 4 issue of the London *Economist*, foaming against President Clinton's efforts against legalizing marijuana, brands him as "paranoid" and accuses him of "demonizing marijuana." The concern of the British free-trade addicts centers on the November 1996 referenda in California and Arizona, where voters fell for the propaganda of George Soros to allow dope use "for medicinal purposes."

The *Economist*, which is a creature of the Rothschilds (just like Soros), criticizes "the announcement from the White House that Bill Clinton intends to use all available means to frustrate the will of those voters . . . who want their doctors to be able to be able to prescribe pot for medicinal purposes." Clinton should not "crush the experiments in California and Arizona," but merely "monitor them."

The magazine calls on the American President to sanction a "scientific study" of marijuana. If the results "have implications for the drug's legalization for healthy people as well as the sick, so be it."

Pennsylvania Gov. Ridge seen as 'mad scientist'

A guest column in the Philadelphia *Daily News* in January compares Pennsylvania's Nazi-like Governor Tom Ridge's eliminating health care for the poor, to a mad scientist's experimenting with human lives. The column by Nate Goldiner, a board member of the Philadelphia Unemployment Project, blames the death of heart transplant patient Lolita Cunningham squarely on Ridge's policy.

"If by the stroke of a pen," Goldiner argues, "a bill is passed that makes life-sustaining or death-preventing treatment unavailable and the person dies, was that person killed? Webster's Dictionary describes killed as 'to cause the death of.' I

would agree with Mr. Webster." Goldiner then reviews the history of Ridge's murderous budget cuts.

In characterizing Ridge's mentality, Goldiner writes, "I am picturing a mad scientist who has the authority to experiment with his population. He is testing his own sinister version of the survival of the fittest. He removes access to health care from 220,000 individuals to see how they will [get along] without it. Will sickness and death really accelerate? How many will die? At what rate and by which diseases? He is especially hoping to find out that many will survive because they have good genes. If mutations take place that increase the survival rate, he will be thrilled. How puffed up he will be about the money saved by the budget cuts.

"This scenario describes an immoral experimenter who recognizes the equation that the more people we can sacrifice, the more dollars we can hold on to. What makes this scientist amoral (if not immoral) is that he derives gratification from the dollars saved and is not distressed by the lives sacrificed.

"The tragedy of Lolita compels us to ask: How many tragedies will it take to restore funding for the 220,000 Pennsylvanians whose eligibility has been suspended?"

Lawsuit says line-item veto is unconstitutional

Six members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, led by Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.), filed a lawsuit on Jan. 2 in federal court in Washington, D.C., challenging last year's line-item-veto legislation as unconstitutional. The line-item veto, long favored by British tinkerers seeking to subvert the U.S. constitutional republic, was a central plank in the Gingrichite Contract with America, but was also supported by the Clinton administration.

The plaintiffs charge that the line-item veto illegally rewrites the Constitution, by surrendering legislative powers of Congress to the Executive branch. The new law circumvents the Constitution's requirement that the President veto a bill in its entirety,

not in pieces. It "smacks of a royal prerogative that we tried to get away from over 200 years ago," said Rep. David Skaggs (D-Colo.), one of the plaintiffs in the suit.

Other parties to the suit, besides Byrd and Skaggs, are Senators Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), Carl Levin (D-Mich.), and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.). Attorneys include Lloyd Cutler, Clinton's former White House counsel; and Charles Cooper, who served in the Justice Department under President Reagan.

Lack of infrastructure worsened floods in West

The week of heavy storms, beginning before New Year's in five Western states, resulted in floods, mudslides, power outages, and mass evacuations; there were at least 18 deaths, and estimated damage in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Much of the devastation resulted from decades of lack of infrastructure development for such exigencies. In most cases, the volume of storm-water runoff overwhelmed long-neglected drainage systems.

In California, Gov. Pete Wilson declared a state of emergency on Jan. 2 in 25 northern counties. The original California water programs, developed in the 1950s, mandated that river improvements for those areas be constructed during the 1960s to 1980s, for catchment, runoff, and storage, as well as canals to deliver surplus water for use in arid regions. The projects were all halted, in the name of "environmentalism."

Along the Feather River in northern California, over 60,000 people had to be evacuated from four towns, when a major break opened in a levee about 50 miles north of Sacramento, the state capital. According to the Jan. 4 *Los Angeles Times*, "Floodwaters were pouring through a 900-foot-wide gap . . . when an earthen levee on the Feather River gave way . . . The levee was scheduled for reinforcement under a rehabilitation program authorized by Congress after the 1986 floods, which caused \$1.5 billion in damage and killed 15 people."

In a Jan. 6 editorial entitled "Disaster and the Era of Limits," the *Times* notes that "aging dams and levees" were a contributing factor to the destruction, and that the recent flooding "resurrects old concerns" over what to do about them. In 1990, it was estimated that \$1 billion was required for strengthening the Sacramento Delta levees; but nothing was done.

Lyndon LaRouche, in a Jan. 8 interview with "EIR Talks," said that the problem is one of bad policy, not the weather. "First of all, there has been, since the 1960s, since the cultural paradigm shift which occurred about 1966-67, away from an industrial society to what's sometimes called a post-industrial utopia; that under those conditions, we have eliminated the significant investment in infrastructure, even in maintaining pre-existing infrastructure. That's the key to the floods in the Northwest. It is the New Age, the past 30 years' drift away from maintaining infrastructure, as well as developing it, which is the cause of those floods, and not the weather."

State workfare schemes drive poor into abyss

According to a preliminary study, a large percentage of welfare recipients who lost their benefits under state workfare programs, have been left jobless as well. Over the last four years, the welfare rolls were reduced in Massachusetts by 34%; Wisconsin by 41%; Oregon by 37%; and Oklahoma by 36%—enforced by workfare schemes authorized under federal waivers. Since the federal "Welfare Reform Act" went into effect on Oct. 1, 1996, all of the states have begun implementing murderous programs.

The Jan. 5 *Washington Post* highlighted the case of Gov. William Weld's Massachusetts, where welfare recipients are required to work or perform community service within 60 days of receiving welfare benefits. Since July 1992, when there were 370,533 welfare recipients, 150,000 have been slashed from the rolls. According to the *Post*, between one-quarter and one-third of

them were adults—only about 50% of whom found jobs at very low pay, or were put to work in "community service" to work off their welfare check. Thus, at least half the adults are not working, are not on welfare, and are unaccounted for.

The fact that so few have found employment comes as no surprise. Under Weld's workfare fraud, only 2,000 job slots in private industry were set aside for welfare recipients in the first place. According to the study reported in the *Post*, only 260 of those jobs have been filled to date. Furthermore, there has been no increase in the number of people receiving the state's transitional child care assistance, set aside to help former welfare recipients who could find work—another indication that a great many of them never even made it into slave-labor jobs. Nor has there been an increase in the number of Medicaid recipients.

Projects proliferate for fascism with 'civility'

New projects are emerging to push a fascist consensus under the guise of "political civility." According to the Dec. 25 *Hartford Courant*, two of America's "tartest tongues" are leading the drive: retiring Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.), the longtime feminist icon; and former Bush-league Secretary of Education William Bennett, the professional peddler of "virtual morality."

Schroeder will chair a \$5 million research project sponsored by the Institute for Civil Society, based in Boston. Bennett, along with retiring Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), will chair a group called the National Commission on Civic Renewal. The Bennett-Nunn project, funded by the anglophiliac Pew Foundation Center for the People and the Press, plans to hold its first meeting in Washington on Jan. 24.

According to the *Courant*, another pitch for political civility has been made by Reps. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.) and David Skaggs (D-Colo.), who sent letters to House members during Christmas week, asking them to attend a retreat in March in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Briefly

SERIAL KILLER Jack Kevorkian can be tried for murder in Michigan, U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen ruled Jan. 3 in Detroit. The judge affirmed that the U.S. Constitution provides no protection for assisting in a suicide. Richard Thompson, former Oakland County prosecutor, called Judge Rosen's ruling "a total victory," and predicted it would have national impact.

U.S. BANKRUPTCY filings hit a record 1.1 million during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1996, an increase of almost 26% over fiscal 1995. Personal bankruptcies accounted for all but 40,000 of the total. All-time highs were set in each of the last three quarters, reaching 303,309 during the final period.

'**A SMALL ICE AGE**' is beginning in North America, according to Prof. Ernest Kung, head of the University of Missouri's Department of Atmospheric Sciences. The cold weather hitting the United States is an indication that this long-cycle climatic shift is again under way, and Kung projects that North America can expect "a period of some 20 years of cold weather."

SHAKESPEARE is no longer required reading for English majors in most American colleges. A survey of 70 universities by the National Alumni Forum, as reported in the Dec. 30 *Washington Post*, found only 23 which require a course in Shakespeare. At Dartmouth, students can substitute such "classical" alternatives as "Twentieth Century Boxing," or "Fiction and Film."

CORPORATE takeovers reached \$658 billion in the U.S. in 1996, according to Securities Data Co. The orgy of speculative looting, officially billed as mergers and acquisitions, surpassed the previous record of \$519 billion, set in 1995. The \$1.177 trillion in takeovers during the past two years, along with the burgeoning bubble in fictitious derivatives, has fueled the 40% increase in the Dow Jones average over the same period.