

National News

'Senator Sleaze' takes aim at Brookhaven lab

New York Republicans Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and Rep. Michael Forbes are attempting to shut down the Brookhaven National Laboratory's High Flux Beam Reactor at the Long Island facility. Laboratory scientists and other employees have rallied to foil this operation, which kow-tows to the anti-nuclear hysterics among D'Amato and Forbes's well-heeled constituents. The duo announced their "unalterable" opposition to the reactor at a Sept. 2 press conference, and have introduced bills to decommission the reactor, under the guise of protecting local drinking water from alleged nuclear contamination. Two days later, 500 scientists and other workers, including union leaders, from the lab held a lunchtime rally in front of Forbes's office, demanding that he and D'Amato act on the basis of "science fact and not science fiction."

The research reactor produces nuclear isotopes for medical use and other research. The impetus for D'Amato's green grandstanding was that a trace of tritium was found in the aquifer. However, regulatory agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Suffolk County Water Authority, have affirmed that there is no health threat. One scientist told protesting Brookhaven workers that if D'Amato and Forbes were so worried about such trivial amounts of radioactivity, they would close the local beach, because of the naturally occurring radioactive thorium in the sand.

Resistance 'pledge' spreads vs. workfare

Close to 80 non-profit groups, churches, and synagogues in New York City have signed the "WEP Pledge of Resistance," saying they "morally oppose and reject the existence and continuation of the WEP (Work Experience Program) in its current form," and "will not be party to the city administration's efforts to expand the workfare pro-

gram." They base their opposition on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees that freedom from poverty is a basic human right. So-called "workfare" or "welfare reform" programs throughout the country seek to replace unionized workers with welfare recipients, who receive no more than their "benefits."

The pledge continues, "Instead, we will make every effort to end workfare and fight for the creation of living wage jobs for all who need them. Additionally, we will fight for the availability of a four-year college education for all, regardless of their economic circumstances. We believe that government is responsible for promoting job creation and, if necessary, for developing public works programs to employ hundreds of thousands of the poor and unemployed across the nation."

On Sept. 19, former United Autoworkers Public Relations Director Rev. Peter Laarman told the weekly newspaper *New Federalist* that "the real story of this program is that it's a displacement program, where people on welfare are being made to do work that was done in the past by some 23,000 regular city workers, no longer on the city payroll. It's destroyed those jobs and these people aren't going to get jobs from the city or anywhere else. They're going to be left high and dry when their time limits run out."

Jewish leaders back U.S. hard line on Netanyahu

The Clinton administration does not need to fear a backlash from Jewish voters from its taking a more assertive role in the Middle East peace process, several American Jewish leaders have been telling the administration, according to the *Washington Post* of Sept. 19. Many U.S. Jewish leaders were enthusiastic when Secretary of State Madeleine Albright demanded that Israel stop "provocative" unilateral actions that jeopardize the peace process, and have asked the administration to take a harder line against the Netanyahu government. Theodore Mann, a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Or-

ganizations, told the *Post*'s Caryle Murphy that he was happy with Albright's stance on her recent trip to the Mideast, which was not only to pressure Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on security cooperation, "but to emphasize as well that there isn't going to be a peace process with unilateral actions by Netanyahu."

J.J. Goldberg, author of *Jewish Power*, said, "What we're seeing is a much greater willingness by mainstream Jews and Jewish groups to distance themselves from Israeli policy." These groups "are becoming more willing to encourage American pressure, because there's widespread anger at the Likud . . . over the perception that it's undermining the peace process."

Ze'ev Schiff, writing in the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* recently, noted the "fears among U.S. Jews that Netanyahu is leading the peace process into a cul-de-sac."

Ammerman lashes out at LaRouche, Chaitkin

Pentecostalist Rev. Jim Ammerman, who was exposed as a religious front within the U.S. military and among the militia movement for Britain's "invisible empire," in our Aug. 22 issue, lashed out at Lyndon LaRouche and investigative reporter Anton Chaitkin, during a Labor Day meeting at a hotel in Bozeman, Montana.

Ammerman began by asking whether his listeners had seen the *EIR* report on him by Chaitkin. A half-dozen people raised their hands. Ammerman proceeded to attack LaRouche, using the media ID format that he is a "perennial candidate," and falsely asserting that LaRouche had been sent to prison for income tax fraud. Given the hatred among these layers for the Internal Revenue Service, that line of attack was not very well received. Ammerman then warned that the LaRouche report had been circulated to 50 officers in the Pentagon (the actual number is much greater).

However, the tables were turned on the former Army colonel, during his presentation, after he had repeatedly mentioned "my friend the general." An audience member challenged whether he was referring to Gen.

Briefly

SIR CASPAR WEINBERGER accused the Clinton administration of “appeasing” North Korea by encouraging four-party talks among the United States, China, and North and South Korea.

VIRGINIA Gov. George Allen turned down a request to hand Mexican death row inmate Mario Murphy over to them to serve out his sentence in Mexico, rather than carry out the execution in Virginia. A stickler for law and order, Allen had Murphy executed on Sept. 19, despite the fact that Virginia violated Murphy’s right under the Vienna Convention, as a Mexican national, to speak to a Mexican consul, when he was arrested.

WILLIAM WELD, the former Massachusetts governor (R), who was spurned as nominee to become ambassador to Mexico because he is soft on drugs (and softer on drug-money laundering), put to rest rumors that he might replace Janet Reno as Attorney General. “I plan to make a long-term investment in the private sector,” Weld told the Sept. 18 *Boston Globe*.

WHITEWATER prosecutor Kenneth Starr got a \$163,000 raise from his law firm last year. In addition to his \$87,385 salary as Whitewater independent counsel, Starr was paid \$1.2 million—\$163,000 more than in 1995—by his Chicago-based firm, Kirkland & Ellis. Starr also received \$25,000 for teaching law at New York University, according to financial disclosure statements he filed with the Office of Government Ethics.

GUN- AND DRUG-RUNNER Oliver North is vigorously campaigning for the Republican gubernatorial ticket of Jim Gilmore in Virginia. North appeared at the Brandermill Country Club Sept. 11 on behalf of the Republican candidate to replace Gilmore as Attorney General, Mark L. Earley. The ticket is expected to be a bellwether for Conservative Revolution candidates in the 1998 elections.

Ralph E. Haines (whom *EIR* had exposed as the godfather of Ammerman’s Full Gospel Chaplaincy within the Armed Forces). Ammerman admitted that, yes, it was indeed Haines. And was he aware that this Haines was the author of the infamous “Operation Garden Plot”? Yes, Ammerman admitted, Haines was the man. And are you aware, the questioner asked, that Operation Garden Plot was a scheme to enslave our country, put us under military rule, and destroy our national sovereignty? Ammerman spat out that he was aware of that, too.

EIR continues to receive indications that its exposé is being circulated throughout the “Patriot movement.”

Greenpeace facing extinction in U.S.

“Greenpeace in Biggest Ever U.S. Retrenchment,” headlined the *New York Times* on Sept. 16. All ten branch offices are being closed, leaving only a Washington, D.C., office. Door-to-door campaigning, which had made Greenpeace the “Avon lady” of environmentalism, will stop. Out of 400 staff members, 335 are being laid off—mostly canvassers.

Due to plummeting membership, and a deficit of \$2.6 million over the first six months of 1997, the Executive Board cut the group’s U.S. budget from \$29 to \$21 million, and decided to narrow its focus to “global warming” and “danger to forests,” de-emphasizing toxic waste and fishing issues. U.S. donations have fallen from \$45 million to \$25 million per year.

Ray’s request for trial in M.L. King case denied

The latest request by James Earl Ray for a trial in the assassination of Martin Luther King was denied by Tennessee State Judge Cheryl Blackburn of Davidson County Criminal Court. Ray, who is extremely ill with liver disease, pleaded guilty to the murder—under threat of death sentence—in

1968, but soon thereafter attempted to withdraw his plea and secure a trial. Since then he has insisted that he was a patsy in a much larger conspiracy, which a trial would prove.

In his latest motion to be granted a trial, Ray sought to use the fact that the judge who accepted Ray’s guilty plea died before Ray made the request to withdraw the plea. According to the law, only the judge who took the plea could consider the withdrawal of it, and therefore Ray should have been freed and given a trial, said Ray’s attorneys.

Ray’s terminal liver condition continues to worsen, and his attorneys say he may have only another 3-4 months to live. The rejection of this latest request creates a further obstacle to his obtaining a liver transplant, which is his only hope for survival.

Carville: Whitewater is a ‘giant hoax’

James Carville blasted the immorality of the Whitewater scandalizing against President and Mrs. Clinton, at a News Maker Forum at Washington’s National Press Club on Sept. 22, referring to the politically motivated investigations as “the biggest hoax in American history.”

“Does ethics in politics matter? Sure it matters, scandals matter; the problem is, you have to show people a scandal. It started out with the great Whitewater scandal, and it was all pontificating, editorialists, Independent Counsel, it was all rock solid . . . five years and \$50 million into it: zip, zero, nothing! It was the greatest political dirty trick in American history,” he said. If Republican ideas “are so good,” he continued, “why don’t they run on ’em; and quit running with the Pendleton Act, impeaching the Attorney General with all this gobbledygook they’re talking about. . . . People are tired of the criminalization of political differences in this country.”

Carville was no less gentle with the media: “I think the media should be held accountable. Someone should be accountable for these 50,000 stories. . . . We have to know how this giant hoax, how this political dirty trick was spawned on the American people, and what can we do to see that it doesn’t happen again.”