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# National News

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## Foxhound masters protest hunt ban in Britain

Anglophile Hunt Country oligarchs have sounded an alarm against plans to ban fox-hunting in Great Britain, and to rally support for their English brothers in the Countryside Conservancy Movement. A press release from the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America, based in northern Virginia's wealthy Hunt Country, averred that the ban would "take away an estimated 14,000 jobs, bankrupt numerous businesses and make some 20,000 horses and 60,000 hounds useless."

The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America describes itself as "the governing body of organized fox, coyote and drag hunting in the United States of America and Canada. It represents 177 Registered and Recognized packs of hounds. Among its activities are . . . the publication of a *Foxhound Stud Book*."

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## Clinton launches three health care initiatives

President Clinton announced three initiatives in late February to improve health care for all Federally covered individuals (which includes one-third of all Americans), for uninsured children under five, and for minorities, who disproportionately suffer high rates of diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, infant mortality, and cancer fatalities.

The first initiative, the Patient's Bill of Rights, protects 90 million people whose health care coverage stems from Federal programs, including Medicare, disability, Federal employees, military, etc. Designed to protect against corner-cutting by managed care outfits, the rights include: the right to know all medical options, not just the cheapest; the right to choose a specialist; the right to emergency room care wherever, whenever it is needed; the right to keep medical records confidential; and, the right to bring a formal grievance or appeal of a health care decision. With this, Clinton announced, we

are setting a standard for the nation; he called on Congress to pass similar legislation to protect all Americans.

On Feb. 19, the President announced new initiatives for uninsured children of the working poor. Last year's balanced budget agreement includes a Congressional commitment for \$24 billion over five years to provide health insurance to 5-10 million uninsured children, 3 million of whom are already eligible for Medicaid. Some of the funds will help 40 states expand their Medicaid programs, such as South Carolina's, which covers children of families with incomes at 150% of the poverty level.

The third proposal, announced on Feb. 21, is a \$400 million plan to improve health care among minorities through existing Federal programs, new public outreach initiatives, and foundation-supported efforts. It is the first time the Federal government has set national health goals.

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## Six states try to wriggle out of Social Security

Six states are considering various forms of a resolution cooked up by the Conservative Revolution's American Legislative Exchange Council, that would allow states to "opt out" of Social Security. A representative from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the second-largest senior organization, founded in 1982, told *EIR* on March 3, that several state legislatures are now considering ALEC's "model resolution." A resolution has already passed House and Senate committees in Arizona, where millions of retirees live, and one has already passed in the Oregon legislature, where seniors are also confronted with the "right to die," should they become too old and sick.

Similar resolutions are pending in New Hampshire, Indiana, Washington, and South Carolina. The source at the National Committee said that they have introduced a counter-resolution in Indiana, and are urging their 5.5 million members to help defeat these resolutions in every state where they pop up.

Meanwhile, the January-February publications of both the United Auto Workers and

the United Steel Workers have published an article by Fred J. Solowey, hitting the British model for Social Security privatization. He states, "Poverty is deep and growing for British seniors. . . . Thatcher combined her attacks on Social Security with wholesale privatization of state-owned enterprises." People he spoke with in Britain doubted that Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair would reverse the damage Tory Thatcher had done.

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## Islamic Saudi Academy approved in Virginia

By a 7-2 vote on March 4, the Board of Supervisors in Virginia's Loudoun County rejected an anti-Islamic hate campaign that used propaganda from the British intelligence front Christian Solidarity International (CSI); the Board approved a zoning application that will allow the construction of an Islamic Saudi Academy in the county, a Washington suburb.

The climate of hate and fear created by opponents of the project was countered by LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus, who is campaigning for the Congressional seat of CSI-backer Rep. Frank Wolf (R), and by the local newspaper *EIR News for Loudoun County*, which pointed out that the enemies of the Academy represented a "new KKK," and located their efforts as part of a mobilization for a British-inspired war in the Mideast.

The ringleader in the hate campaign, Rev. James Ahlemann, has threatened to lead civil disobedience against the school's construction.

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## Union fights to protect welfare workers' rights

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees won a partial victory on behalf of 54 fired workers at Coney Island Hospital in New York in mid-February. Many of the employees had been on workfare. They had been brought in for about six months, to help the hospital clean up for its annual inspection, and had been

**THE ENERGY DEPT.** announced that it would support six new projects through its Superconductivity Partnership Initiative. Use of superconducting materials in electricity transmission would save up to half of the 8% of power that is lost in delivery, and would increase electrical reliability.

**MICHAEL MILKEN**, the convicted junk-bond king for Drexel Burnham Lambert, got a slap on the wrist for violating his parole condition that permanently bans him from engaging in the securities business. He agreed on Feb. 26 to pay \$47 million, to settle allegations by the Securities and Exchange Commission that he violated that ban in two separate deals. In 1990, before going to jail, Milken's nest egg was still \$500 million, even after paying \$1.1 billion in fines.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN** frequently used the Presidential pardon for capital offenders, including those sentenced by courtmartial in time of war, according to newly discovered papers in the U.S. National Archives. The most recent of his pardons was granted on April 14, 1865, the day he was assassinated by an agent of the British-run Confederacy.

**THE REPUBLICAN** Party claimed the high moral road against the Clinton administration, holding its leadership conference of 1,600 at a gambling casino in Biloxi, Mississippi, on Feb. 28. Dropping the pretense of wooing African-American voters away from the Democrats, the onetime party of Lincoln catered a reception at the home of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

**DR. JACK KEVORKIAN'S** latest "assisted suicide," has been ruled homicide. On Feb. 28, "Dr. Death" dispatched a 21-year-old quadriplegic student, who was despondent over his disability. The county medical examiner found that Roosevelt Dawson had been injected with barbiturates and that his ventilator had been turned off, neither of which he could have done himself.

told they would have a "real" job if they performed their tasks well, AFSCME Local 420 President James Butler told the weekly newspaper *New Federalist* on Feb. 26. "After the hospital passed inspection with flying colors," Butler said, they were abruptly laid off just after Thanksgiving.

"We in the union see this as unfair to the workers. They were dedicated workers. . . . They [management] double-crossed them, put them out on the street." After an all-night vigil and a morning rally in front of the hospital on Feb. 19, Butler said, "We took it to City Hall, to the deputy mayor's office. We presented it to him, saying that the hospital needs the workers, or the hospital . . . will not pass inspection again. . . . They're bringing 16 of the workers back." Butler said, "that's a victory, but we will continue to fight."

In New York City, he said, management is "back-filling jobs with workfare workers," i.e., rather than fill newly vacant positions by hiring full-time employees, the city is hiring workfare enrollees, who work for the amount of their welfare check. "We have nothing against workfare workers," Butler said. "We support them 100%. They wear the same uniform as the real workers, their nameplates are there, but they don't make the same money, they don't get benefits, they don't have union rights."

## U.S.-Iranian relations, exchanges are improving

On Feb. 26, State Department spokesman James Rubin remarked that the United States encourages "people-to-people exchanges" between Americans and Iranians, a statement that received favorable press in Iran. The recent participation of U.S. wrestlers in an international tournament in Teheran was one example of the kind of contacts the Iranians welcome, in the slow, incremental process of reconciliation with the United States. Another example, cited by international wire services, is that numerous Iranian academics living in the United States have been travelling to Iran to participate in seminars and conferences.

Also encouraging were the remarks made by Secretary of State Madeleine Al-

bright, during the press conference announcing which countries had been denied certification for aid to fight the drug trade. Although Iran was denied certification, Albright held out the promise that, "the trend is encouraging. Counter-narcotics efforts are showing vigor, and the threat posed by the transshipment of drugs is being taken more seriously. Although we are unable to certify now, because we lack hard data to verify the extent of related progress, we are seeking more information and will respond appropriately to real improvements."

## Oregon tells poor, disabled: 'Drop dead'

On Feb. 26, Oregon's Health Services Commission voted 10-1 to use state tax funds to pay for "physician-assisted suicide" for the state's 270,000 low-income residents who cannot afford medical care. Last year, Oregon voters passed a Death with Dignity Act, allowing doctors to prescribe lethal doses of drugs for "terminally ill" patients who allegedly request assisted suicide.

When the health commission formulated the nation's first health care rationing in 1988, the plan disallowed costly procedures for indigent patients who had only a few years left to live. Because the Oregon Health Plan, the state version of Medicaid, provides coverage for families at or below 100% of the poverty level, the commission concluded, as member Ellen Lowe put it, that "the most discriminatory thing would be not to give this choice [euthanasia] to the poor." Under the rationing conditions, being ill and indigent could constitute a "terminal" condition. As Dr. Gregory Hamilton, president of Physicians for Compassionate Care, told *EIR*, "To fund assisted suicide in a rationed health care plan for these people puts them at great jeopardy for suicide."

Moreover, the Oregon Health Division, which is charged with monitoring assisted suicides, has banned any public scrutiny of any aspect of an assisted suicide, creating a conflict of interest. Since the Health Division also manages the state's health plan, it has a financial interest in lowering health care costs by denying treatment to the poor.