

National News

Black farmers say USDA discriminates

Calling the plight of America's black farmers "a national crisis," John Boyd, Jr., president of the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA), held a demonstration and press conference outside the United Nations headquarters in New York in mid-March, to request UN action on their behalf.

Boyd and the NBFA blame "political appointees and career bureaucrats" in the Agriculture Department for what they charge are "entrenched discriminatory practices" dating back to the Reagan administration, when the USDA Office of Civil Rights was "systematically dismantled."

At a meeting with President Clinton on the issue last Dec. 17, the farmers laid out "one horror story after another" about racist practices which each year prevent hundreds of black farmers from getting badly needed loans. President Clinton pledged \$600 million in aid to disadvantaged farmers, but Boyd was informed in mid-March by USDA officials that no funds were forthcoming this planting season.

In the 1940s, there were more than 1 million black farmers in the United States. Today, that number has withered to approximately 18,000.

U.S. drug report blasts back-door legalization

The Clinton White House, through its policy adviser Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.), recently released the 1998 "National Drug Control Strategy," an annual report mandated by Congress. For the second year in a row, the document called for a concerted effort to "counter attempts to legalize marijuana." While McCaffrey's Office of National Drug Control Policy report did not name George Soros, it did hit at one of his latest schemes for introducing marijuana legalization through the back door: the promotion of hemp as a new industrial crop. "Permitting hemp cultivation would result in de-

facto legalization of marijuana cultivation, because both hemp and marijuana come from the same plant—*Cannabis sativa*," the report stated.

"Chemical analysis is the only way to differentiate between cannabis variants intended for hemp production and hybrids grown for their psychoactive properties. According to the Department of Agriculture, hemp is not an economically viable crop. For every proposed use of industrial hemp, there already exists an available product, or raw material, which is cheaper to manufacture and provides better market results." The report also emphasized that, at the present time, marijuana is a Schedule I dangerous substance, whose possession or production is a Federal crime.

Wall St. Journal lionizes 'Get Clinton' judge

After Washington, D.C. Federal Judge Royce Lamberth slapped an aide to former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy with a prison sentence, when the sentencing guidelines recommended probation for the man's conviction, the *Wall Street Journal* on March 22 heaped editorial praise on Lamberth. The *Journal* also hailed him for levying \$286,000 in sanctions against the White House for a "cover-up" involving Hillary Clinton's health-care task force; and for finding "a pattern of stonewalling and evasion" by the Commerce Department in a lawsuit brought by Judicial Watch seeking documents on trade missions organized by Ron Brown.

The *Journal's* praise of Lamberth is lawful, given its role in British-led efforts to destroy U.S. government institutions, especially the power of the Presidency (see last week's *EIR*, "An Enemy of LaRouche Is an Enemy of Clinton").

The *Journal* editorial gushed: "In his nonsensical approach to such behavior, Judge Lamberth may be stepping into the shoes filled by Judge John Sirica during Watergate." Sirica, in fact, played a key role in the operation run by the *Washington Post*, Alexander Haig, and Haig's intelligence briefing officer, Bob Woodward, to bring

down President Nixon, and to blame Nixon and his Attorney General, John Mitchell, for actions carried out by others.

During the 1970s, the *Washingtonian* magazine noted that, during the Watergate burglars' trial, Sirica had "used the threat of lengthy sentences to force defendants into abandoning their constitutional rights. He turned the trial into an inquisition and justice into a charade."

On March 24, Douglas Caddy, who had been the attorney for E. Howard Hunt and Gordon Liddy, wrote a commentary in the *Journal*, blasting Judge Sirica, who had ordered Caddy to reveal to the Watergate grand jury, the contents of his discussions with Hunt and Liddy. When Caddy refused to answer, on the grounds that this would violate attorney-client privilege, Sirica held Caddy in contempt and ordered him jailed.

Maryland bill to sanction Nigeria heatedly argued

On March 25, the Maryland House Commerce and Government Matters Committee held hearings on a bill which would impose trade sanctions against Nigeria. The bill was inspired by Baroness Caroline Cox and the British intelligence front, Christian Solidarity International. U.S. front-men for Cox's "religious freedom," "democracy," and "anti-corruption" crusades against such countries as Nigeria, Sudan, and China, include chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), former chairman Donald Payne (D-N.J.), and Virginia Hunt Country retainer Rep. Frank Wolf (R). Strong opposition to the sanctions was mobilized by Maryland-based Nigerian publisher Lawrence Fejukwo and *EIR's* Lawrence Freeman, while less polemical opposition was offered by the State Department.

Fejukwo's testimony called the bill "ill-timed," pointing out that elections in Nigeria for the Senate and the House, and gubernatorial and Presidential elections, are scheduled for April 6 and Aug. 1, 1998, respectively. "The Nigerian military is at the last stage of the transition to democracy, that will terminate on Oct. 1, 1998, when a democratically elected government will be inaugurated," he said.

"The majority of the Nigerian population is definitely in support of the transitional program," he said. "Any sanctions at this stage will further encourage economic and social dislocation that can exacerbate the social and political turmoil," in the world's most populous black nation (120 million), which has 250 ethnicities.

Rather than sanctions, he said, "The State of Maryland should seek greater mutual relationship with Nigeria."

Attorney scores Virginia legal 'death squad'

William S. Geimer, a professor of law at Washington and Lee University who was the attorney for executed killer Ronald L. Watkins, on March 26 denounced the Virginia Attorney General's "death squad," which, he said, obstructed the clemency process for his client by barring news cameras from Virginia's prisons. Geimer likened Watkins, who was executed on March 25, and who had become a born-again Christian while on death row, to Karla Faye Tucker, the Texas murderer who gained international recognition for having reformed herself in prison, before she was executed.

"There were some very sympathetic people in the media, but when I couldn't get anything on camera, they had to back off," he said. Virginia implemented a ban on news cameras in its prisons in 1995. "They're not doing it for security reasons," Geimer said. "They're doing it to kill people in secret, to make sure that nobody sees a human being."

Michigan lawmakers vote to ban assisted suicide

Although it took eight years, Michigan's House and Senate finally passed a ban on so-called assisted suicide on March 12. One day later, Jack Kevorkian murdered his 100th known victim. Unfortunately, even after Gov. John Engler (R) signs the bill, it will not take effect until April 1999.

A Kevorkian support group, known as

"Merian's Friends," has been petitioning to have a referendum on legalized euthanasia put on the November ballot. However, after receiving a luke-warm response, they have been forced to hire professional petitioners from Nevada at \$.90 a signature. The law they propose, "A Terminally Ill Patient's Right to End Unbearable Pain and Suffering," goes beyond Oregon's legalized Nazi euthanasia, by including mental torment in the category of "unbearable suffering." It also takes the Oregon law a step further, in casting a shroud of secrecy around all cases, including from family, law enforcement, or medical examiners.

The Oregon law, which passed with the financial largesse of George Soros, has now officially claimed two victims.

Jackson champions tradition of Lincoln, FDR

Illinois Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. called on the Democratic Party to return to the tradition of Lincoln and FDR, in a speech before the Young African-American Democrats on March 27. He was born in the midst of the courageous battle for voting rights in Selma, Alabama, he began; now, over 30 years later, African-Americans are taking their seats in Congress. He called upon the young Democrats to see their own actions from the vantage point of future centuries.

The Democratic Party, he said, was founded as "the party of slavery," which it remained until Franklin Roosevelt brought blacks into the party. He called for Democrats to return to FDR's principles of economic justice, and cautioned that there was no way of making measures such as affirmative action effective, except under conditions of rapid economic progress. He noted that the corporate CEOs have become richer, while many Americans, including his constituents, are denied health care, clean water, steady employment, etc. The Democratic Party must support an activist Federal government which fosters the rights of all.

His speech was a refreshing counter to that of Maryland's Rep. Elijah Cummings, who attacked President Clinton for opposing needle-exchange programs.

THE FIRST NATIONAL research efforts to quantify the extent of hunger in the United States were published in the current issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, and indicate that 10 million Americans, the majority of whom are members of families in which at least one person is working, don't have enough to eat.

JONATHAN POLLARD, who is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel, blamed the American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, and Anti-Defamation League for doing nothing to get him freed from jail. On March 23, Pollard met with Israeli Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman at the Federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, amid speculation in Israel that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will finally declare Pollard an Israeli agent, to expedite his negotiated release.

DEFENSE SECRETARY William Cohen reportedly sent a classified memorandum to Congress on April 7, saying that Cuba does not represent a significant threat to U.S. national security, and urging closer contact between U.S. defense officials and their Cuban counterparts, according to the *Miami Herald* on March 28.

GOV. GEORGE BUSH of Texas was noticeably absent at a Houston Republican gathering on March 28, which is something of a "coming out party" for GOP Presidential aspirants. Others also avoided the shindig, fearful, perhaps, that their popularity might "peak" too soon.

THE 'BUCKEYE REVIEW', a black weekly published in Youngstown, Ohio, reprinted *EIR's* report on "Operation Fruehmenschen," the long-running FBI effort to frame up and discredit African-American elected and appointed officials. The report, authored by Debra Hanania Freeman, first appeared in *EIR's* Feb. 6, 1998 issue.