

# National News

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## Clinton pushes for normal trade with China

President Clinton is making an all-out effort to get Congress to grant China normal trade relation (NTR) status, when the issue comes up early this year. In a letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, reported in a White House press release on Jan. 24, the President makes his case. Unfortunately, he situates his call by supporting the disastrous free-trade agenda of the World Trade Organization, which is no boon to either China or the United States.

"Bringing China into the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the strong terms we negotiated will advance critical economic and national security goals," Clinton writes. "It will open a growing market to American workers, farmers, and businesses. And more than any other step we can take right now, it will draw China into a system of international rules and thereby encourage the Chinese to choose reform at home and integration with the world.

"This agreement is good for America. It is important to understand the one-way nature of the concessions in this agreement. China has agreed to grant the United States significant new access to its market, while we have agreed simply to maintain the market access policies we already apply to China by granting it permanent NTR. China's commitments are enforceable in the WTO and include specially negotiated rules. . . . In the last 20 years, the Chinese have made giant strides in building a new economy, lifting more than 200 million people out of absolute poverty and creating the basis for more profound reform of Chinese society. But tens of millions of peasants continue to migrate from the countryside, where they see no future, to the city, where not all find work. China's economic growth has slowed just when it needs to be rising to create jobs for the unemployed. That is one reason the WTO agreement is a win-win for both nations. China faces critical social and economic challenges in the next few years; WTO membership will spur the economy and, over time, will help establish the conditions to sustain and deepen economic reform in China. . . .

"In sum, it lies not only in our economic interest to grant China permanent NTR status. We must do it to encourage China along the path of domestic reform, human rights, the rule of law, and international cooperation. In the months ahead, I look forward to working with Congress to pass this historic legislation."

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## Civil rights leader convicted in Texas

Civil rights leader and Dallas City Councilman Al Lipscomb, 74, was found guilty on Jan. 25, on all 65 bribery and conspiracy counts, by an all-white jury in Amarillo, Texas. Lipscomb now faces up to 265 years in prison and up to \$16.2 million in fines. Lipscomb was the first African-American to run for Mayor of Dallas, and has been a leader in Dallas-area civil rights activities since the 1960s.

As *EIR* has reported, the U.S. Department of Justice has a systematic, racist policy of prosecuting African-American elected officials, under the code name "Operation Fruehmensch" ("Primitive Man").

Over the objections of Lipscomb's attorneys, U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall moved the trial to the predominantly white, rural city of Amarillo, 360 miles away. Included in Kendall's excuses for the change of venue were Lipscomb's stature, as well as pre-trial news stories. The all-white jury deliberated for less than four hours.

During the trial, Lipscomb took the stand in his own defense, testifying over two days. Lipscomb has always contended that the \$1,000 monthly contributions he received from the owner of a Dallas taxicab company, were to support his civil rights activities and did not influence his vote. (Dallas City Councilmembers, overseeing the activities of one of the largest cities in the country, receive no salaries.)

Two years ago, after months of leaks, the Department of Justice notified Lipscomb that he was under investigation. An ensuing indictment, and accompanying pressure, eventually led Floyd Richards, the owner of the Yellow Cab taxi company, to plead guilty to bribery and to testify against Lips-

comb, in December 1999. Richards had earlier insisted that the monthly contributions were just what Lipscomb said they were.

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## Maddy Albright loses her cool

The London *Daily Telegraph* on Jan. 31 ran the following news item, under the headline, "Maddy Mops":

"Perhaps Madeleine Albright should think about wearing a name badge.

"It has emerged that, during last year's peace negotiations on Kosovo, the American Secretary of State was mistaken for a cleaning lady by one of the Albanian delegation.

"One member of the delegation, who didn't realize who she was, and probably thinking she was some cleaning lady because it was after midnight, simply said to her: 'Give us five minutes and please go away,' says Albanian diplomat Dugagjin Gorani.

"In reply, Albright is said to have started swearing furiously at the group of delegates.

"Veton Surroi, another member of the delegation, recalls: 'Mrs. Albright started using explicit language which the translators never could translate into Albanian.' "

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## Union membership growth is best in 20 years

American trade union membership rose by more than 265,000 in 1999, according to data released on Jan. 19 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and reported in press releases from the AFL-CIO. This is the largest annual membership growth in more than two decades. The number of union members rose from 16.21 million to 16.48 million. In addition, the percentage of U.S. workers who belong to a union remained steady at 13.9%, reversing a trend of decline. It remained steady, and didn't grow, because of the lay-off of thousands of unionized workers over the same time period.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney held a press conference on Jan. 19, to attribute the

**LYNDON LAROCHE**, on hearing President Clinton's puff of Al Gore's candidacy during the State of the Union speech on Jan. 27, commented that "last night's performance can be summed up in ten words: Even on the morning after, the reek of sophistry is monumental. The biggest pile of b.s. you ever saw, with Gore all over the top."

**THE TEXAS NAACP** is calling on Gov. George W. Bush to support the removal of two Confederate memorial plaques in the Texas Supreme Court building, one of which contains a likeness of the Confederate flag.

**GEORGE SOROS'S** push for drug legalization surfaced in Seattle in January, at a conference on "Preventing Heroin Overdose: Pragmatic Approaches." Among the "strategies" discussed was the establishment of "safe injection rooms," where addicts shoot heroin under supervision. Sponsors of the conference were the University of Washington's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute and the Lindesmith Center, which is financed by Soros.

**A EUROPEAN** source, knowledgeable in international affairs, was asked by *EIR* why U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke invited Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) to speak at the UN, where Helms delivered a tirade against everyone and everything. "I know Holbrooke's calculation," said the source. "If Gore is elected President, and the Republicans control the Congress, Holbrooke counts on being appointed Secretary of State, and then, he would have to be approved by Helms."

**DEMOCRATIC** Party leaders in Kalamazoo, Michigan officially instructed Democrats to vote for Republican John McCain in the Feb. 22 primaries, rather than vote for Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., who became the only Democrat on the ballot, after submitting the signatures of more than 23,000 Democratic voters.

increase in unionization to the AFL-CIO's organizing drive, since he became president of the association, and, to a lesser degree, to what he chose to describe as the "strong" economy. In 1999, AFL-CIO unions organized 600,000 additional workers, the most since the 1970s, and an increase of more than 25% over 1998.

An AFL-CIO press release states that the principal motivation to join unions is economic: "Although workers' wages have shown a recent uptick, they still lag far behind 1970s level, fueling the growing gap between the wealthy and working Americans. As low-wage, service, and temporary jobs increase, many Americans find themselves without benefits or a steady paycheck."

Workers at Microsoft, Amazon.com, IBM, and AT&T are among those exploring union membership, since the high-tech firms are among the worst, in terms of benefits and security for their employees.

## 'Mr. Manatt: Where Is Lyndon LaRouche?'

"Mr. Manatt: Where Is LaRouche?" was headline that appeared on Jan. 31, in English, over the weekly "International Panorama" column by Jorge Meléndez that is published in the Dominican Republic's daily *El Siglo*. Meléndez writes that he checked the Internet search engine Yahoo for the results of the Iowa caucuses, "but on the Democratic side there were only two candidates listed, Al Gore and Bill Bradley, along with some guy called 'other.' As everyone knows, there is a third Democratic candidate, Lyndon LaRouche, who had enough popular support to qualify for Federal matching funds. But that—as was the case with those who fell in disgrace under Stalin—apparently is not enough for his name to be listed. When I saw that LaRouche had been turned into a 'non-person,' I immediately e-mailed Yahoo: 'Where is Lyndon LaRouche?'"

"That's the same question I ask United States Ambassador to the Dominican Republic Charles Manatt, the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who, ever since he took up the embassy post, has not ceased in his efforts to ensure that

there be free and honest elections in the Dominican Republic. Recalling the Biblical precept of not looking at the mote in your neighbor's eye if you can't see the beam in your own, I ask, 'Mr. Manatt, Where is Lyndon LaRouche?'" . . .

"Could it be that the establishment fears that LaRouche will win? If not, why not allow him to compete on a level playing field? If it's true that LaRouche is an extremist, crazy, not a true Democrat, and all the other epithets that are hurled at him, then, simply, people will not cast their votes for him. Is it not the essence of democracy for all the choices to be presented, and to then let the people decide, Mr. Ambassador Manatt?"

## U.S. renews military dialogue with China

The visit to Washington by Gen. Xiong Guangkai, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army, which began on Jan. 24, has renewed the military-to-military relationship between China and the United States, which was broken off after the U.S. bombed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in May 1999.

General Xiong, the former chief of Chinese military intelligence, headed a 16-member Chinese delegation. He began his visit with a meeting at the State Department with Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering. It was during Pickering's visit to Beijing last December, that the Chinese agreed to schedule General Xiong's trip to Washington. Pickering informed the Chinese government that the Clinton administration would seek Congressional approval for \$28 million in payment for the damage done to the Chinese Embassy by the U.S. bombing, and \$4.5 million in compensation to those injured in the bombing and to the families of the three Chinese journalists killed in the bombing.

Xiong also met with Undersecretary of Defense Walter Slocombe, planning out how the relationship would proceed, with further military-to-military exchanges, at a variety of levels, being scheduled for this year.