

National News

Gore and Bush: the view from Europe

Al Gore and George W. Bush are the two worst "leading candidates" imaginable, said a well-connected source of French origin, in a discussion on March 8. He added that the candidacy of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. is all the more important, in view of the March 7 "Super Tuesday" outcome.

"The two candidates, Gore and Bush, are as bad as possible," he stressed. "Bush, in my view, is a kind of criminal, while Gore is corrupt." This source said that the U.S. leadership situation is all the more disconcerting, because the instability in the world financial system is worsening, as typified by the recent weeks' fall of the Dow Jones index and the rise in oil prices, with a complete vacuum of leadership available to deal with it.

"It's a *very dangerous* situation. There is nobody to lead, no more leadership in the Group of Seven countries. There is no authority, as all those who have authority, have disappeared. So, if a major financial crisis arises, which seems more and more likely every day, there is no captain on the ship."

From this standpoint, he said that it is very important that "the campaign of Lyndon LaRouche has produced some effects, that he has represented truth in this campaign. I think Mr. LaRouche's ideas will progress, in the time ahead."

Religious leaders seek halt to executions

Several Jewish and Christian leaders called on President Clinton on March 9 to impose a moratorium on Federal executions, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism reported in a press release. The leaders, who joined Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.) in a press conference on Capitol Hill, were The Most Rev. Ricardo Ramirez, bishop of Las Cruces, New Mexico; The Rev. J. Philip Wogaman, Sr., minister, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C.; The

Rev. Archie LeMone, associate director, Public Policy Office, National Council of Churches of Christ, U.S.A.; and Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president, Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

In an especially polemical statement, Rabbi Yoffie told President Clinton, "We urge you to rise above the cheap-shot politicians who pander to public wrath. We urge you by your example to rebuke the opportunistic demagogues who offer quick-fix solutions to the problems of crime, and are even prepared to accept wrongful executions. . . . Until justice and fairness in our criminal justice system are ensured, human decency and Biblical values require that we put an end to this grisly march of legalized death."

Bishop Ramirez noted that the Catholic Church opposes capital punishment "primarily because of what it does to us as a society: It perpetuates a terrible cycle of violence and the notion that we can settle our most intractable problems by resorting to violence."

Reverend LeMone pointed out the irony that: "The church is concerned first and foremost with the question of justice. However, when issues such as the death penalty arise, it is 'just us' in the minority community who pay an imbalanced price in the courts of law and on the modern 'gallows.'"

Ferraro attacks Bush for anti-Catholicism

The Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* on March 10 ran an interview with Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic Party's 1984 vice-presidential nominee, who denounced George W. Bush as an enemy of Catholicism, and said that Bush must be defeated. "Catholics Will Beat George" is the headline of the interview, which will be read closely by Vatican officials, among others.

"America's 70 million Catholics," said Ferraro, "are sick and tired of the mud-slinging campaign against them, and are getting ready to play a very major role in the November Presidential elections. . . . We have had it with Bush's visit to Bob Jones University, where Catholicism is called a 'Satanic cult'. . . . In New York, besides [Mayor Rudolf]

Giuliani and [Gov. George] Pataki, Bush can thank the spokesman of the Archdiocese, Joseph Zwillig, who supported him against McCain. If I were [New York Archdiocese] Cardinal O'Connor, I would punish him." Ferraro called George W.'s candidacy the "revenge" of the senior Bush's White House, and said that Dubya is "unprepared for the job."

Clinton sends China legislation to Congress

President Clinton sent legislation to Congress on March 8, which calls for China to be given Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status. To underline the importance of this measure, the President gave a speech at the Paul Nitze School for Advanced International Studies on the same day, making a strong case for passage of the legislation. At the same time, he urged China's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO)—a concession to the "free trade" mafia which will, as *EIR* has pointed out, benefit neither China nor the United States.

"Through all the changes in China and the changes in our perceptions of China, there has been one constant," Clinton said. "We understand that America has a profound stake in what happens in China and how China relates to the rest of the world. That's why, for 30 years, every President, without regard to party, has worked for a China that contributes to the stability of Asia, that is open to the world, that upholds the rule of law at home and abroad.

"Of course, the path that China takes to the future is a choice China will make. We cannot control that choice; we can only influence it. But we must recognize that we do have complete control over what we do. We can work to pull China in the right direction, or we can turn our backs and almost certainly push it in the wrong direction."

He underlined that passage of PNTR "is the equivalent of a one-way street. It requires China to open its markets—with a fifth of the world's population, potentially the biggest markets in the world—to both our products and services, in unprecedented new ways. All we do is to agree to maintain the present

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted on March 9 to abolish the death penalty. This is the first state body, since the U.S. Supreme Court reintroduced the death penalty in 1976, to pass a bill to abolish it. The bill now heads to the State Senate.

CALIFORNIA voters on March 7 approved Proposition 21, which requires that prosecutors try juveniles 14 years of age or older, who are charged with committing certain types of murder or a serious sex offense, as adults. Since 1993, at least 43 states have passed laws making it easier for children to be tried as adults, but this is the stiffest to date.

PRESIDENT CLINTON affirmed, in a letter to Congress, that economic sanctions against Iran will continue, AFP reported on March 13. "The actions and policies of the government of Iran," he wrote, "including support for international terrorism, its efforts to undermine the Middle East [peace] process, and its acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States."

LEONARD WOODCOCK, the former president of the United Auto Workers union and former Ambassador to China, criticized "organized labor's vociferous negative reaction" to improving trade relations with China. In an interview with the *Washington Post* published on March 8, he said, "I think our labor leaders have got it wrong." He pointed out that progress in human rights in the United States took place gradually, "and I doubt if lectures or threats from foreigners would have moved things faster."

U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY to North Korea Charles Kartman and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan began talks in New York on March 8 to prepare for the first-ever visit of a high-level North Korean official to the United States.

access which China enjoys."

Clinton also warned that, in all the debate about China in the United States, "it's easy to forget that the Chinese leaders and their people are also engaged in a debate about us, there. And many of them believe that we honestly don't want their country to assume a respected place in the world. If China joins the WTO but we turn our backs on them, it will confirm their fears. All I can say to you is that everything I have learned about China as President and before, and everything I have learned about human nature in over a half-century of living, now convinces me that we have a far greater chance of having a positive influence on China's actions if we welcome China into the world community instead of shutting it out.

"And we will continue to reject the use of force as a means to resolve the Taiwan question, making absolutely clear that the issues between Beijing and Taiwan must be resolved peacefully and with the assent of the people of Taiwan. There must be a shift from threats, to dialogue across the Taiwan Strait. And we will continue to encourage both sides to seize this opportunity after the Taiwan election."

Gore's record on KKK, civil rights under fire

Al Gore, whose fraudulent claims to a pristine record on civil rights issues have been exposed by *EIR* (e.g., Feb. 25, p. 56), is now coming under more widespread fire for his stand on racial matters in his home state, Tennessee, birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan.

A *New York Post* commentary on March 1, "Confederate in Al's Attic," attacked Gore's silence on Nathan Bedford Forrest, founder of the KKK and slave trader, whose troops massacred 300 black Union soldiers who had surrendered in 1864. Tennessee has a state park named after Forrest with a monument; black prisoners were used to clear land for the statue of Forrest. All of this has been the focus of controversy and protests from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1988; Gore has said nothing.

Philip Christenson wrote in the *Wash-*

ington Times on March 2, "It takes no particular guts to go to a black church in Harlem and give a speech attacking the Confederate flag flying over the South Carolina State Capitol. . . . [But,] from the number of streets, parks, schools, and other monuments that Tennessee Democrat state legislators and local officials have named after him, one can only conclude that Forrest is the official hero of the Tennessee Democratic Party."

Christenson writes that Gore did not object in 1978 when the Democrats in Tennessee's legislature placed a bust of Forrest in the State Capitol. Gore was then a Congressman with a powerful position, but he said nothing. The Tennessee legislature is now still controlled by Gore's Democrats.

Commenting on this column, a letter to the editor by James V. DeLong, published on March 7, asked, "What about Woodrow Wilson, that proud racist and re-segregator of the civil service?" and "I greatly honor Lyndon Johnson for his actions in the 1960s, but a higher percentage of Republicans than Democrats voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

Soros front pushes 'shooting galleries'

The New York City-based Lindesmith Center, a front for financial speculator George Soros and leading advocate of the decriminalization of narcotics, is peddling the idea that the Canadian government should create "North America's first sanctioned site for the safe injection of illegal drugs," according to a press release by the center.

The release cites the health officer for British Columbia province, Dr. Perry Kendall, who called for the creation of government-run "shooting galleries," after a study revealed that 90% of "injection drug users in B.C. are infected with hepatitis C."

An estimated 5,000-7,000 IV drug users live on Vancouver's East Side. Dr. Kendall is pushing for the Canadian government to issue prescriptions for heroin to drug addicts, and provide safe locations where they can take the drugs, a practice already being tested in several European cities.