

National News

New Bretton Woods Call Passed in Alabama

State Rep. Thomas Jackson of Thomasville, Alabama introduced a "Call for a New Bretton Woods Conference for International Monetary Stability," into the Alabama state legislature on April 25, which was passed on May 2, as a non-binding resolution, in the House of Representatives.

The bill is a verbatim copy of a resolution that was submitted to the European Parliament on March 16, by four Italian parliamentarians. Noting the devastating effects of the "speculative bubble" on the world economy, it calls for "the convocation of a new conference, similar to the one at Bretton Woods, with the aim of creating a new international monetary system to eliminate gradually the mechanisms which have led to the 'speculative bubble'"; "to evaluate the possibility of anchoring currency values to an element of real reference, and to better and more completely control the movements of currency rates"; and to propose the creation of new credit lines oriented toward developing the real economy, including infrastructure projects "of continental dimensions." (For the full text, see *EIR*, April 7, p. 7.)

Bush Says He 'Won' Nonexistent Primary

A press release claiming victory for GOP Presidential candidate George W. Bush, in the April 4 Kansas primary, and entitled "Gov. Bush Wins Three More Primaries; Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Kansas Overwhelmingly Embrace Bush," was posted on the Bush campaign's website. But the fact is, the Kansas primary never happened! Pointedly noted on the website of the Kansas Democratic Party, which reprints Bush's press release under its own title, "Bush Claims to Win Kansas Primary That Didn't Happen," is the irony that "Shrub Claims Win in Kansas, Even Though His Republican Friends in the Kansas Legislature Cancelled the Primary in February."

At a February meeting of the State Legis-

lature's Republican-controlled budget committee, lawmakers determined that the Kansas Presidential primary should be cancelled, because the state didn't have \$1.5 million to cover the costs. They claimed that since the Kansas primaries were scheduled to occur after Super Tuesday, when the nominees for the two parties would, supposedly, have already been decided, it would be "irresponsible" to hold a primary. The Democratic Party, which toyed briefly with the idea of a party-run primary, later dumped the idea. Both parties, therefore, resorted to caucuses, making it more difficult for voters to register their Presidential preference, and forcing many citizens to drive great distances to get to the caucuses.

Despite the excuse for skipping the primaries, in favor of holding caucuses (which the Bush and Gore camps could more easily control), is that both the parties' nominations "have already been decided," a slate of LaRouche Democratic delegates is running in the May 6 Kansas Congressional District caucuses, which mounts a challenge to the attempt to lock up the nominations.

NASA Will Launch Orbiter to Mars

NASA Mars project manager George Pace stated at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on April 24, that the space agency will launch a spacecraft next year, to return to Mars. It will be the first launch opportunity since the loss of the two Mars probes last winter. A small lander that had also been planned for that launch window has been postponed.

The Mars Surveyor 2001 Orbiter will be launched on April 7, 2001, with three scientific instruments on board, to examine the planet from orbit. The satellite will also be outfitted with technology to act as a high-speed data relay for future Mars missions. Such a capability would have allowed mission managers to better assess what happened to the two recently failed spacecraft.

Over time, NASA plans to build an "interplanetary Internet" in orbit around Mars to increase the data rate and allow it to collect and relay data not only from spacecraft, but also from aircraft and balloons at Mars. "This is the first Internet node at Mars," Pace

stated, describing the 1,668-pound orbiter. It has been designed to operate for at least four years, but in most cases, the orbital lifetime ends up being double the design lifetime.

Court Won't Give Files on Diana to Al-Fayed

The Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled on April 26 that the U.S. National Security Agency does not have to give documents concerning Princess Diana and her fiancé Dodi Fayed, to Dodi's father, Mohamed Al-Fayed. The two died in a highly suspicious car crash in Paris, on Aug. 31, 1997.

Al-Fayed had attempted to subpoena the information for use in the French investigation into the 1997 car crash which killed Diana and Dodi. He cited a report that the NSA had 182 documents relevant to the matter. The NSA opposed the request on national security grounds; a Federal judge refused to issue the subpoena, and the Fourth Circuit has now upheld that decision.

Former Black Panther Wins Settlement

Former Black Panther Party (BPP) leader Geronimo Pratt, who spent 25 years in prison until his murder conviction was overturned in 1997, has won a \$4.5 million settlement from the FBI and the City of Los Angeles, the *Washington Post* reported on April 27.

Pratt, a decorated Vietnam veteran, charged the agencies with prosecutorial misconduct. He has always maintained that he was framed by the FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), which knew, because of illegal wiretaps, that he was in San Francisco at a BPP convention, when the murder took place in southern California.

Pratt was convicted on the basis of testimony of a former BPP member, who denied that he was an informant; but it later turned out that he had been providing information to the FBI and LAPD for at least three years before the trial.