

# National News

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## Texas Fails To Care for Its Poor Children

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice ruled on Aug. 14 that Texas, under Gov. George W. Bush, has failed to adequately care for the 1.5 million low-income children in its Medicaid program, and gave the state until October to find a solution.

The court found that Texas was not adequately providing dental care, regular check-ups, transportation to doctors, or information about what services are available to children in Medicaid, despite a 1996 agreement (when Bush was Governor), in which the state promised major improvements in its program. The ruling also concluded that Texas failed to address the needs of about 13,200 abused and neglected children under state supervision.

Judge Justice is a Democrat, appointed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968.

Texas announced that it will appeal the ruling, and Bush's campaign staff said that the problem started with the Democratic administration that preceded him. Al Gore's aide, Mark Fabiani, responded to the ruling by saying, "It's basically a sweeping indictment of the way George Bush has run his state's Medicaid system."

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## Wyoming Unions Back LaRouche Dem Logan

Mel Logan, the LaRouche Democrat who is the Democratic Party's candidate for U.S. Senate in Wyoming, on Sept. 7 received the endorsement of the state AFL-CIO in his race against incumbent Republican Senator Craig Thomas. Logan is a local officer in the United Mine Workers. The Executive Board of the state AFL-CIO passed a resolution that said:

"...WHEREAS, Wyoming's workers deserve to have a Senator who is devoted to supporting, defending, and standing with working people and a person who is not indebted to out-of-state corporate interests who seek to run Wyoming from their corporate boardrooms; and

"WHEREAS, all Wyomingites share a

concern that their Senator represent—first, last and always—the people of Wyoming and not out-of-state corporations that seek to use Wyoming for their own benefit; and

"WHEREAS, Mel Logan has demonstrated that he can provide an effective and badly needed voice for workers and the Wyoming public as a whole; and

"WHEREAS, he has shown a concern for the economy and can provide the balance needed between workers' rights and those of the business community; and

"WHEREAS, Wyoming workers have not been represented in the U.S. Senate for the past 24 years; now therefore be it

"RESOLVED, Mel Logan be strongly and wholeheartedly endorsed by this 37th Constitutional Convention of the Wyoming State AFL-CIO; and be it finally

"RESOLVED, that the local unions, councils, and members in Wyoming work to ensure the election of Mel Logan to the U.S. Senate."

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## Family Sues NAMBLA for Role in Child's Murder

The family of murder victim Jeffrey Curley filed a \$1 million wrongful death suit in May against the North American Man Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), the organization that has been trying to legalize sex between men and boys.

In October 1997, 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley was killed when he resisted the sexual advances of two men, Salvatore Sicari and Charles Jaynes. Both were convicted of the murder, and the Curley family was awarded \$328 million in a civil suit against them.

But, according to the *Washington Times* on Sept. 1, the Curley family suit against NAMBLA charges that Jaynes was a member of NAMBLA, and frequented the organization's website. The lawsuit says that Jaynes was influenced by the site and "became obsessed with having sex with ... young male children." The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has come to the defense of NAMBLA.

NAMBLA has been tied to the "Get LaRouche" networks that involve the pro-drug legalization *High Times* magazine, and "researcher" Chip Berlet, who attended

meetings of the "Get LaRouche Task Force" at the salon of investment banker John Train, in 1983-84, prior to the frameup trial and imprisonment of Lyndon LaRouche and associates. NAMBLA was also identified as a key component of the child-kidnapping and sex-torture ring exposed in Nebraska attorney John DeCamp's book *The Franklin Cover-Up* (Lincoln, Nebraska: AWT, Inc., 1992) which documented pederasty and murder operations, involving the highest levels of the U.S. financier and political establishment.

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## No. California Faces Electricity Inflation

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. warns that all of Northern California could soon get the "San Diego treatment," the *San Jose Mercury News* reported on Sept. 15, referring to the fact that electricity rates have doubled in San Diego in the past year. PG&E, the main Northern California electrical utility, filed papers with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), stating that the freeze on Northern California electricity rates could end in a matter of months.

PG&E has announced its intention to sell off its entire hydroelectric system, including 68 powerhouses and 140,000 acres of watershed land. The sale would supply PG&E with enough capital to retire its old power plant debt. Under the original California deregulation statute which went into effect in March 1998, a statewide freeze on consumer electricity rates was implemented, lasting until March 2002. However, any utility able to retire its old debt, prior to March 2002, could apply to have the rate freeze lifted. That's exactly what happened in San Diego earlier this year, and PG&E is now preparing to ask the state's Public Utilities Commission to lift the rate freeze for its service area as well.

According to the report filed with the SEC, in July 1999, PG&E was paying 4.1¢ per kilowatt hour, and charging consumers 5.4¢. Under the freeze, they are still charging consumers 5.4¢, but they are now paying 18.7¢ per kilowatt hour! According to PG&E, this increase in costs has left them with \$2.2 billion in unpaid bills. If they were to meet their operating costs, rates to cus-

tomers would have to more than triple. PG&E services 4.5 million residences and businesses in Northern California.

## Inmates Are Tortured in Virginia Prisons

At least 20 District of Columbia inmates at Virginia's Sussex II state prison have been shackled to their metal beds for 48 hours or more for minor disciplinary infractions, according to D.C. Prisoners Legal Services Project, the *Washington Post* reported on Aug. 27 and 29. The prisoners are being placed in "four-point restraints," with leather straps on their wrists and ankles, and over their chests and thighs. They are allowed to move only once every six hours. This practice, which is standard at the "supermax" prisons in Virginia, has not been reported before at lower-level prisons.

At Virginia's Wallens Ridge supermax, Correctional Medical Services, Inc. of St. Louis, which is supposed to provide medical services, has been fined \$1 million for failing to live up to its contract. Two Connecticut inmates died at there earlier this year, and dozens have reported being beaten repeatedly and stun-gunned.

Under Republicans Gov. George Allen and Attorney General Jim Gilmore, the state overbuilt prisons. Gilmore, now Governor, is trying to fill the prisons from other states' overflow.

## Iowa Wants Its Share of Immigrants

Iowa's 2010 Committee, appointed by Gov. Tom Vilsack, has proposed that the state be granted exemptions from Federal immigration laws so as to acquire a larger share of immigrants, the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* reported on Aug. 28. The state is suffering a demographic collapse; its population is the same in 2000 as it was in 1980; the average age of Iowa farmers is now 58; and even if 100% of high school students graduating between now and 2005, stay in Iowa, the state will still have a net loss of 3% in the available workforce. For these and other reasons, the state's economy is shrivelling up.

The Governor's commission has called for "an immigration enterprise zone," recruitment of large numbers of immigrants to boost the labor force, with state agents going abroad to direct immigrants into Iowa, and special Federal programs to help in the process.

Immigrants have come in recent years especially from Mexico, Bosnia, and Sudan.

## Buchanan Rejects Charge of 'Jeffersonianism'

Responding to a column by Gen. William Odom that appeared in the Aug. 11 *Wall Street Journal*, Reform Party Presidential nominee Pat Buchanan published a reply in the same newspaper on Aug. 23, in which he upheld the American System of political economy. General Odom had characterized Buchanan as a Jeffersonian who feared American engagement in the global economy. Buchanan wrote in reply: "Prof. Odom calls me a Jeffersonian agrarian. Has he read my book? My ideas are rooted in the economic nationalism of Washington, Hamilton, the Madison of the Tariff of 1816, Henry Clay, Friedrich List, Lincoln and the Republicans who, from 1865 to 1914, took the U.S. from half of Britain's manufacturing power to more than double her power—a 50-year period where growth rates averaged 4%, with bursts under McKinley up to 7%. They all put America first.

"As Hamilton insisted," Buchanan went on, "U.S. trade policy should be designed to ensure the highest standard of living on Earth for the American people, and the economic independence of the nation, so that, if need be, America could stand alone. Only thus could we stay out of Europe's wars."

Buchanan concluded, "'Independence Forever' was Adams's deathbed toast. Men will die for the 'ashes of their fathers and the temples of their gods,' not for some New World Order created of, by, and for the greedy global mandarins who endlessly lust after America's wealth and power."

*EIR* reviewed Buchanan's book, *A Republic, Not an Empire: Reclaiming America's Destiny*, in our issue of Oct. 22, 1999. Reviewer Nancy Spannaus showed that Buchanan's "America First" standpoint contradicts the actual foreign policy of the greatest American leaders.

**HEALTH INSURANCE** premiums for Federal employees and retirees will rise an average of 10.5% next year, the Clinton Administration announced on Sept. 15. The increase, the fourth consecutive year of higher rates, means health premiums for Federal employees and retirees have jumped a staggering 36% since 1998.

**THE SECESSIONIST** "Southern Party" won its first electoral victory, when Wayne Willingham was elected mayor of the town of West Point, Alabama, beating the incumbent by one vote. The London *Guardian* reported this result on Sept. 18, in a story on the rise of neo-Confederates in the U.S. South.

**A GROUP OF GOVERNORS**, led by Tony Knowles, the Democratic governor of Alaska, and Bob Taft, the Republican governor of Ohio, convened a meeting on Sept. 20, in Columbus, Ohio, to discuss what it calls the coming "natural gas crisis." The governors' objective is to get a bipartisan understanding of what is driving natural gas prices up, and what to do about it.

**SELMA, ALABAMA'S** longtime mayor, Joe Smitherman, was defeated on Sept. 12 by African-American businessman James Perkins, who won 57% of the vote. Smitherman, once an arch-segregationist, has been mayor for 37 years. It was he, who, in March 1965, allowed state troopers to attack civil rights demonstrators as they attempted to march for their voting rights from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery.

**'THE RELUCTANCE** of many Jewish leaders to accept the earnest efforts of Catholics to seek forgiveness for past wrongs is not only disrespectful and self-defeating—it defies Judaism's core belief in the transformative power of [forgiveness], which lies at the heart of our High Holy Day prayers." This is the crux of an article in the Fall issue of the *Reform Judaism*, the quarterly magazine of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.