
National News

Schwarzenegger Moves Quicker Than Hitler

One month into his gubernatorial term, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger gave himself emergency powers on Dec. 18, to impose austerity spending cuts without the legislature's approval. It took Adolf Hitler about six weeks after coming to power in January 1933 to invoke emergency measures.

The state is facing an estimated \$12-24 billion deficit for the coming fiscal year. Schwarzenegger will use his emergency powers to impose an immediate \$150 million in spending cuts, which will come largely from social service programs. Schwarzenegger, whose first act in office was to respond to populist pressures to eliminate increases in the car tax, will make up for some of the lost \$300 million in tax revenues by squeezing the poor. Immediate massive cuts in police, fire, parks, and library services loom. City governments are threatening lawsuits, and police groups have appealed to the governor.

Defending his move, the Terminator said, "I was elected by the people of this state to lead. Since the legislative leadership refuses to act," he lied, "I will act without them." Schwarzenegger's action is exactly along the lines of what austerity fanatic George Shultz and others threatened: that if the legislature doesn't go along with what he wants, they'll become irrelevant.

Blumenauer Calls For Probe of Wal-Mart

Speaking on the floor of the House of Representatives on Dec. 8, Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) detailed several of the destructive practices and crimes of Wal-Mart, and said, "Congress ought to start now, investigating the practices of America's largest retailer, particularly as it relates to labor and employment."

This is the first known call by a Congressman for a Congressional investigation

of the company. Attacks and actions against Wal-Mart have escalated since Nov. 1, when 2004 Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche launched an international boycott of the company, which is the biggest company in the United States and the kingpin of the "globalization" mafia.

Blumenauer denounced Wal-Mart as the leading force in a drama which is deciding "the future, not just of America's economy, but of the global marketplace." The company is destroying U.S. communities and jobs, he said. "It appears that the communities lose far more jobs with Wal-Mart than they gain. Depending upon that community and whether or not those jobs are unionized, the jobs that they do get are \$2 to \$10 an hour less than those that are destroyed."

Further, Representative Blumenauer stated, "Last year in Oregon, a jury found that company managers had coerced hundreds of employees to work overtime without compensation, as Wal-Mart managers were tampering with time cards, and forcing employees to work off the clock. This appears not to be an isolated example."

The Congressman stated that Wal-Mart has used illegal workers to clean its stores in the United States, and has been unwilling to make its suppliers follow the law, inclusive of labor laws. "Wal-Mart is the only major retailer that refuses to allow independent auditing of its factories overseas."

Drug Czar Walker Blasts George Soros

The Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, John P. Walters, lashed out at financier and drug legalization advocate George Soros on Dec. 18, for promoting lies about drugs and refusing to debate the issue publicly. Walkers spoke in response to a question from this news service, at a meeting of the American Bar Association's committee on national security law.

EIR asked about Soros' efforts to buy up the Democratic Party, pointing out that Soros is not only the leading promoter of drug legalization in the United States, but that his organizations back drug producers

in Ibero-America, and worked to undermine Colombian President Uribe, whom Walters had just praised in his remarks.

Walters answered that he did not want to get into partisan politics, and that Soros can do whatever he wants in politics, but that in the area of drug policy, "he is extremely detrimental." Walters noted how the financier has been funding ballot initiatives over the past five years, and uses "misrepresentations" about the "miraculous medicinal value of marijuana," and about the effects of drugs.

Walters said that he had repeatedly asked Soros, both privately and public, to debate, but that Soros has always refused.

Walters pointed out that he, for the first time for someone in his position, had gone into the states where Soros was financing ballot initiatives, to fight against what Soros was doing. "At the end of the day," he said, "the fundamental thing is, that he has to push a huge lie uphill, that more drugs in a child's life, or an adult's life, or in the family, or in the community, or in the country, is okay. You can't push that lie uphill for very long in this country."

Hans Blix Says Cheney Tried To Armtwist Him

Former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix was interviewed by BBC-TV's "Hardtalk" program on Dec. 16, charging that Vice President Dick Cheney tried to armtwist him on the issue of alleged Iraqi WMDs. "It was a very unpleasant affair, indeed," said Blix.

Blix said that the arrest of Saddam Hussein will not be of any help for the search of WMDs in Iraq, because "both we UN inspectors and the American inspectors have come to the conclusion that there aren't any."

Blix was in Stockholm for the inauguration of a new international commission on weapons of mass destruction, which has been established upon an initiative of the late Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, who was assassinated several months ago. The new commission will not carry out any inspections, but will concentrate on political campaigns against proliferation.