

National News

Danes call on Clinton to exonerate LaRouche

President Clinton was greeted at his arrival in Denmark on July 11 with banners calling for the exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche and to stop the genocide in Africa. The greeting was organized by the Schiller Institute on the occasion of the first visit to Denmark by an American President, whose banners read: "Exonerate Lyndon LaRouche," and "Never Again, Stop London's Africa Holocaust." They were among the first sights the President saw as he arrived at the airport, as well as among the last, as his helicopter took him away for his appointments.

The next day, the two banners were positioned on the President's route to a cemetery to lay a wreath in memory of Denmark's resistance fighters. Schiller Institute allies from Burundi were also posted along the route waving American and Burundian flags alongside the banners. The large-circulation daily *Ekstra Bladet* noted that the banners were displayed at the airport, as part of the campaign to have Lyndon LaRouche exonerated.

Spannaus demands justice for O'Dell

Nancy Spannaus, the LaRouche Democrat running against Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.), challenged her opponent to begin to apply his alleged concern for human rights at home, starting with the case of Virginia's death row inmate Joseph Roger O'Dell III. In a July 10 release, Spannaus said, "I hereby call upon Congressman Wolf to show that he is not a hypocrite on the question of human rights. Representative Wolf has so far declined to take action against the genocide being perpetrated by the legions of British Privy Council pet Yoweri Museveni, in Central Africa. He has declined to act on the most egregious set of human rights cases in Virginia, the incarceration of five innocent associates of Lyndon LaRouche. But will he, perhaps, take action to stop an unjust and

unnecessary execution here in Virginia?"

Spannaus continued, "Surely, if a person with a claim to innocence, and who had his constitutional rights violated in sentencing, were about to be executed in Sudan, or China, Representative Wolf would be screaming bloody murder. Yet Joseph Roger O'Dell, who has been subjected to both these injustices, is now scheduled to be executed by the Commonwealth on July 23, for a crime he claims he did not commit. . . . Execution is totally unjustified, where these questions of justice are outstanding. Where is Frank Wolf?"

"As a candidate, I urge Governor Allen to prevent this execution."

O'Dell was convicted and sentenced in 1986 for the 1985 killing of Helen Scharfner. O'Dell's case has gained international attention, including pleas for clemency from Pope John Paul II. O'Dell sent an impassioned plea to the Pope in mid-July, stating: "If I could make one more wish, it would be to feel the presence of His Holiness the Pope spiritually at my bedside at the moment when the executioner pushes the plunger of poison into my arm. I've committed awful acts in my wretched life. I've done things for which I had to do just time behind bars. But one thing I have not done: I have not killed the poor woman whose blood is on the hands of someone walking free in America."

Unionist backs minimum wage for workfare

The Congressional Republicans' effort to deny workfare recipients adequate compensation for their labor is the fight for "minimum wage, round two," Chuck Loveless, legislative director for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, told the weekly newspaper *New Federalist* on July 7. President Clinton ruled in May that workfare recipients are covered by minimum wage laws and the Fair Labor Standards Act, and AFSCME fully supports that ruling. But the House and Senate budget bills, in effect, repeal that ruling, declaring that workfare recipients are not really "employees," and thus not covered under standard work legislation.

"Welfare workers should have the same basic employment rights, if they're doing the same work, as regular employees. That is the bottom line of this issue. It's our position that a worker is a worker is a worker," Loveless said. "We feel that this group of workers are very much open to exploitation, and there is no question that they are going to be denied basic protections that other Americans enjoy, and other Americans expect. I think the great majority of the American public feels the same way." Loveless said that the use of workfare recipients is already breaking wage levels nationwide, and that the passage of the Congressional legislation will just make it worse.

McVeigh seeks new trial, cite suppressed evidence

Attorneys for Timothy McVeigh, who was convicted in June for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, and was sentenced to death, asked for a new trial on July 7, filing a 180-page argument along with 31 volumes of documents as exhibits. The motion is based upon 15 different grounds, including the judge's refusal to allow into evidence the Justice Department Inspector General's report which is highly critical of procedures in the FBI's crime laboratory. It also cites the judge's refusal to allow testimony from Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms informant Carol Howe, who would have testified that "the government failed to investigate leads which concerned a larger conspiracy to bomb the federal building in Oklahoma."

Defense attorney Robert Nigh cited so-called "victim impact" testimony as another reason for granting a new trial. He called the testimony "simply overwhelming," saying, "It triggered a decision that was not based upon reason, but instead a decision that was based upon emotion." McVeigh's lawyers also cited overwhelming prejudicial pretrial publicity as one reason for seeking a new trial. "In the months and the weeks leading up to Mr. McVeigh's trial, there was a firestorm of adverse publicity that made it impossible for him to get a fair trial at that time," Nigh said.

GEORGE MCGOVERN, former South Dakota senator, scored the incessant scandal-mongering over Whitewater, in a syndicated commentary for the *Los Angeles Times* on July 9. "Let's continue to debate and criticize public policy," he wrote. "But how about a truce on personal attacks on the President and the First Lady? Let's move Whitewater and sexual speculation to the back page . . . and move the well-being of our children and America's role in the world, to Page 1."

CULT AWARENESS Network former chieftain Cynthia Kissler lost her defamation suit against the Scientologists, according to the *Washington Post* on July 12. Kissler sued Scientology for an article, calling her "a longtime advocate of forcible restraint and assault conducted under the guise of 'deprogramming.'"

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney led a demonstration of 500 unionists outside the Washington, D.C. headquarters of the Sprint telecommunications giant on July 14. The company has refused to rehire 177 workers that the National Labor Relations Board determined were illegally fired two years ago, and to pay \$10 million in fines.

ROBERT TORRICELLI, the Democratic senator from New Jersey, detailed the hideous conditions under which Whitewater victim Susan McDougal has been kept in prison, because she refuses to lie in order to help special prosecutor Kenneth Starr smear President and Mrs. Clinton.

WILLIAM WELD, governor of Massachusetts (R), said he would fight efforts by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) to stop his nomination as Clinton's ambassador to Mexico, on the grounds that Weld is "soft on drugs." Soft is not the word: In 1985, as head of the Justice Department Criminal Division, he oversaw a plea bargain after the Bank of Boston was caught laundering \$1.2 billion, letting the bank off with a measly \$500,000 fine.

McVeigh's alleged co-conspirator, Terry Nichols, is scheduled to go on trial on Sept. 29 in Denver.

Payne, Smith take aim at Nigeria for Brits

New Jersey Representatives Donald Payne (D) and Chris Smith (R) joined hands to co-sponsor legislation to impose sanctions against yet another African target of Britain's genocidal mania: Nigeria. Payne, a staunch ally of Congo butcher Laurent Kabila, is former head of the Congressional Black Caucus and a "black militant" poseur. Smith, a board member of Baroness Caroline Cox's bloodthirsty "Christian Solidarity International," is head of the Pro-Life Caucus. The draft bill mandates the following sanctions:

"The finite foreign assistance resources of the United States provided to Nigeria should be re-prioritized in order that more funds can be expended for democracy building and the promotion of rule of law through non-governmental organizations. . . .

"U.S. representatives of each international financial institution shall vote against any loan or other utilization of funds.

"Air transportation with Nigeria shall be prohibited. . . .

"No national of the United States may directly or through another person make any new investment in Nigeria, including new investments in the energy sector.

"Assets of any Nigerian national who benefits from policies which hinder Nigeria's transition to democracy shall be frozen."

Clinton: U.S. committed to Bosnia peace accords

President Clinton reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to full implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords for the former Yugoslavia on July 11, responding to Stabilization Forces' deployment to arrest two Bosnian Serb war criminals. The President stressed that the capture of war criminals is only part

of a broader program: "It would be fair for you to conclude that we have decided we should try to save Dayton," Clinton said. "And to save Dayton, all the elements had to be implemented. . . . I think it would be a fair conclusion for you to draw that we made a commitment . . . that every element should be given greater attention," including arms control and development of infrastructure and the economy.

The President also made the point that one reason for accelerating implementation of the peace process was the push in the Republican Congress to insist on having a passive withdrawal of SFOR troops from Bosnia in June 1998. Observers noted that such withdrawal from a country destroyed by war, by the International Monetary Fund-World Bank dictates, and by lack of any real reconstruction, could lead to a new war. Clinton criticized the idea of putting "too much focus . . . to what happens in June of '98 and too little focus being given to each of these other elements" of securing peace.

House committees want intense China scrutiny

The House Intelligence Committee and the House National Security Committee pushed through legislation in early July, mandating the creation of a \$5 million center at the National Defense University, to study Chinese military affairs and produce an annual classified report on Chinese espionage activities possibly targeting the United States.

The bill was drafted by Florida Republican Bill McCollum, a leading Clinton-basher, who linked the special China study center to the Chinagate scandal. But the wording of the House bill also emphasized that the unit is not being created because China has been deemed an "enemy," but because the "stated geopolitical ambitions of China will pose challenges that will require careful management in order to preserve peace and protect" U.S. interests.

The bill, which has not yet gone to the Senate, "mandates that the Secretary of Defense detail plans for the center by Jan. 1, 1998, open the facility by March 1, and appoint a director by June 1."