

## National News

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### Mondale fundraiser is a South African agent

Tom Flaherty, the Democratic Comptroller of Pittsburgh and a supporter of Gary Hart, revealed on Feb. 27 that Phil Baskin, a registered agent of the South Africans, is Walter Mondale's main fundraiser for Western Pennsylvania. In exchange for the money raised for Mondale and additional large sums which Baskin has traditionally contributed to liberal Democrats in the region, Mondale supporter Mayor Richard Calogeri of Pittsburgh and the Mondale-supporting Pittsburgh City Council have given Baskin a monopoly on the Pittsburgh city government's legal business.

According to Flaherty, Department of Justice records reveal that Baskin and his partner, the dismissed 1980 Reagan campaign manager John Sears, receive a \$500,000 retainer plus additional fees in the hundreds of thousands per year for their representation of South Africa. Although Baskin and Calogeri have tried to downplay Baskin's tasks as "simple legal work," Flaherty says that Baskin and Sears have been described by the American Committee on Africa as "the leading agents of apartheid in the United States."

Their agency, Flaherty says, includes "promoting the politics, culture, and ideology of apartheid." According to Department of Justice reports, Baskin and Sears have both represented South Africa with the U.S. State Department in attempts to purchase aircraft parts, and have arranged "social gatherings" in which South African dignitaries can push their government's views in the United States.

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### 'U.S. still seeks Lebanon agreements'

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, speaking to U.S. Marines aboard ship off the coast of Lebanon Feb. 29, stated that the

Reagan administration is "still working and hoping that the withdrawal agreements can be arranged" and wanted "to be of some assistance to whatever broadly-based government of Lebanon takes over." Weinberger made his statement the same day that the State Department announced that the United States had decided to have no further involvement in Lebanon.

The defense secretary told the Marines that he and the President were proud of the job they had done, but that there was no way they could have accomplished their mission because "people working on the political and diplomatic" sides had not done their job.

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### White House apologizes for General Gorman

General Paul A. Gorman, the head of the U.S. Southern Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that Mexico has the "most corrupt government and society in all of Central America," according to a report in the Feb. 25 issue of the Mexico City English-language daily *The News*.

Gorman also stated that Mexico could become the "number-one security problem" for the United States in the next decade unless the government institutes dramatic changes, and that Mexico is a "one-party state that has pursued a policy of accommodation with its own left and international leftist interests." He called Mexico City "the center for subversion throughout Central America."

The White House and U.S. State Department spokesman Kathleen Lang stated Feb. 27 that Gorman's comments on Mexico represented his "personal views." Pentagon spokesman Lt. Commander Richard E. Lake said the same day that "General Gorman's statements do not reflect the views of this department."

Mexican spokesmen denounced Gorman's remarks as "stupid and ignorant" on Feb. 27. One official stated that Gorman's "argument that Mexico could constitute the No. 1 security threat to the United States presents a danger to the security of Mexico."

Mexican Foreign Ministry spokesman Augustin Gutiérrez Canet said that Gorman's statements were an "interference in the internal affairs of Mexico." Gorman had "violated the principle of nonintervention that both countries maintain as a norm of international law."

EIR founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. characterized Gorman's statements Feb. 25 as "stupid and ignorant, and showing an elementary lack of judgment on his part. If it is true that Gorman made the statements," LaRouche said, "he should be removed immediately from his post. . . . As former Mexican president José López Portillo once put it, in his famous phrase, Mexico's internal problems are chiefly historical and geographic."

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### Pentagon reports Soviet strategic superiority

Pentagon research and acquisition chief Dr. Richard D. DeLauer has reported to the House Armed Services Committee that the Soviet Union is devoting 25% of its work force to military industry, and will field 200 new weapons systems during the decade of the 1980s. At a closed-door session on Feb. 27, DeLauer emphasized that "unabated growth" of Russian military research and development spending is continuing, and that annual Soviet military R&D spending is double that of the United States.

The Soviets have been deploying between 10 and 15 new systems per year and important modifications of their defense since 1960, DeLauer stated. In procurement of weapons systems, DeLauer estimated the Soviets spent \$100 billion more than the United States in the decade 1974-83. In addition, according to *Defense Daily* of March 2, DeLauer said that "Soviet military production policy stresses large quantity buys over long periods of time, maintenance of defense production lines for wartime surge." Therefore, each area of weapons systems development represents a greater real investment, planned for longer retention in active military forces.

During the same period, DeLauer reported, the Soviets spent more on strategic defense than the U.S. spent on strategic offense—ironically underlining Dr. Edward Teller's repeated public insistence that the United States should be spending more on President Reagan's strategic defense initiative than on retaliatory offensive weapons systems.

## Maryland ballot law under challenge

Attorneys for Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche have challenged a Maryland statute that determines whether a presidential candidate receives automatic ballot status on whether the candidate is "recognized or advocated" by the national news media.

LaRouche's attorneys filed suit in U.S. District Court, District of Maryland, against Maryland Secretary of State Lorraine Sheehan, who denied LaRouche automatic ballot status Feb. 15.

The suit, which comes before Chief Judge Frank Kaufman on March 5, attacks the Maryland statute as unconstitutional on its face. Neither the letter nor the spirit of the U.S. Constitution delegates authority in electoral affairs to the media.

In arguing for both preliminary and permanent injunctions against the Maryland statute, LaRouche's attorneys state: "This statute . . . suggests that somehow in order to obtain the ease of access to the ballot obtained by such leading candidates as Governor Askew, Senator Hollings, and Senator Cranston, not to mention former Senator McGovern, the candidate must have the recognition of the news media. This, of course, automatically excludes the possibility that a candidate who is not particularly popular with the news media (or a candidate whom the news media has opted to ignore), even though he has obtained more financial and other support than many candidates whom the news media grace with their recognition, could be a candidate. Such a position is untenable."

Before the trial, attorneys for LaRouche will amend the complaint to include Sheehan's conflict-of-interest in the matter. Sheehan is a delegate candidate for Walter Mondale.

Should Judge Kaufman rule in LaRouche's favor, the constitutionality of similar statutes in Oregon and New Mexico will also be in jeopardy.

## State Dept. sabotages U.S. position in Lebanon

A letter sent to President Reagan from Saudi King Fahd, urging that the United States remain involved in Lebanese diplomacy, was apparently withheld from the President by the State Department.

The letter was hand-delivered by a Saudi diplomat, as is usual, to Secretary of State George Shultz on the afternoon of Feb. 28, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. Such important communications are supposed to be delivered to the President by early the next morning, at the latest. But the letter only reached the President after the *Washington Post* leaked the story of the letter in its Feb. 29 editions.

State Department spokesmen announced that the United States had decided to have no further involvement in Lebanese policymaking on Feb. 29, the same day the letter was finally delivered to the President.

When Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met with the President in mid-February, as *EIR* has reported, Mubarak informed Reagan that he had sent him numerous urgent messages about the Middle East situation, none of which had been delivered.

Presidential press spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters at his morning press briefing Feb. 29, "I have a little difficulty commenting on the Fahd letter since the President hasn't received it." Speakes said he was ill-informed about the letter because public affairs officials at the State Department and the National Security Council had not given him enough information. "I'm going to come down on them with both feet," Speakes declared.

## Briefly

● **ADMIRAL William Crowe, Jr.**, commander in chief of U.S. Pacific forces, called on Japan to strengthen its defense capabilities in response to the increasing military threat from the Soviet Union in the Pacific theatre, according to JJI press. Speaking on Feb. 23 at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, Crowe stated that Japan should defend its sea lanes up to 1,000 miles off its coast, and improve antisubmarine capabilities and warning systems. Crowe expressed appreciation of Japan's efforts for self-defense, but emphasized that Japan should contribute to the free world's deterrent force in the vital Pacific region.

● **NORMAN BAILEY**, a former special assistant to the President, denounced the Federal Reserve System and proposed drastic changes on the "Japanese model," including gold re-monetization, in a March 2 op-ed in the *New York Journal of Commerce*.

● **TWO HUNDRED** prominent individuals in the United States and Western Europe have signed a call demanding that Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche be granted Secret Service protection. The call will appear in a paid political advertisement in the March 6 *Washington Times*, LaRouche campaign spokesmen told *EIR*.

● **FRITZ MONDALE'S** campaign obviously counting on winning New Hampshire and just sailing through to the nominating convention, spent \$17.5 million before Feb. 28. But since FEC regulations limit candidates to spending no more than \$24 million over the entire primary season, the former frontrunner can only spend \$6.5 million for the rest of the campaign.