National News

Anti-abortion protests slated for 60 cities

Randall Terry, leader of the national "Operation Rescue" anti-abortion movement in the United States, announced Aug. 30 that 60 cities will be chosen for anti-abortion protests. Terry said the particular cities have not yet been selected, but that they will be the cities for large demonstrations over the coming months.

Terry pointed to the ongoing protest action in Wichita, where a stadium rally of 36,000 people took place in August, as an example of the rallies planned.

On Aug. 30, federal Judge Patrick Kelly ordered Operation Rescue leaders to get out of Wichita, Kansas and stay out, in the latest attempt by authorities to shut down the antiabortion protest there. Two of the leaders banned by Kelly vowed at a press conference in Washington, D.C. to return to Wichita, despite the order. "Hell will freeze over before I surrender my constitutional rights," vowed Patrick Mahoney.

Casolaro death being probed

The death of investigator-writer Danny Casolaro in Martinsburg, West Virginia on Aug. 10 is now being investigated by at least one federal agency, according to sources close to the probe. Casolaro was found with both his wrists slashed in a local motel after reportedly traveling to Martinsburg to meet with a crucial "source" who was to provide evidence linking the Department of Justice's (DoJ) theft of a valuable software program from the computer firm Inslaw, Inc. to the Iran-Contra and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International scandals.

Investigations by both police agencies and reporters center around two shadowy figures in the Inslaw affair: businessman Dr. Earl Brian and U.S. Customs and DoJ official Peter Videnieks. *EIR* has received reports that at the time of his death, Casolaro was about to meet with Videnieks. Videnieks.

nieks's wife Barbara is the executive assistant to Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.).

Dr. Earl Brian has been in the headlines recently over the bankruptcy of United Press International, which he owns. Last year, another well-known media outfit owned by Brian, Financial News Network, also went-under. Brian has been accused by former employees of fraudulent financing. Brian has also been accused by jailed Irangate figure Michael Riconosciuto of having funneled money and technology to Iran as part of the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign effort to delay the release of the U.S. hostages in Teheran until after the defeat of Jimmy Carter.

Medical groups balk on AIDS guidelines

Dozens of medical groups rejected a directive from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia that they set up guidelines restricting health workers with AIDS from performing "high-risk" procedures on their patients, at a meeting convened Aug. 28 by the American Medical Association (AMA).

Earlier in August, the CDC set a Nov. 15 deadline for professional groups to devise lists of procedures which AIDS-infected health workers should not engage in, following the discovery that a Florida dentist had infected five of his patients with the disease.

AMA vice president Dr. M. Roy Schwarz said, "The prevailing attitude was that compiling a list implies there is a significant risk, and thus would mislead the public and capitulate to public fears. Most of the representatives felt there was no scientific basis to do that." Now, the AMA says it will review the policy it announced in January of urging doctors to be tested for the virus and to warn their patients about their condition, because the "risk of transmission is . . . so low."

At a news conference Aug. 29, former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop said the chances "are essentially nil unless [the patients] are having a sexual relationship or shooting drugs and sharing needles" with their health-care workers.

Opponents of legislation regarding AIDS-infected doctors which passed Congress earlier this year, argued at the time that legislation was unnecessary because the CDC and the AMA were already addressing the problem on their own.

Fact-finding trip on AIDS treatment

Minister Abdul Alim Muhammad, national spokesman for Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, announced in Washington Aug. 26 that he is undertaking a fact-finding visit to Kenya to explore the merits of an alleged cure for AIDS. Dr. Muhammad, who is a surgeon as well as a former congressional candidate, plans to meet with Dr. David Koech, director of the Kenyan Medical Institute.

Dr. Koech claims that research conducted at his institute has shown that a variant of the drug alpha interferon alleviated the symptoms of HIV infection in several patients.

Dr. Koech has been denied entry into the United States to present his findings for independent review. Dr. Muhammad hopes to determine if there is any validity to Dr. Koech's claims, and if so, to undertake a campaign for research to be conducted in the U.S. and elsewhere on the use of the drug to fight AIDS.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi announced that his government will establish a factory to manufacture the alpha interferon drug, which goes under the trade name Kemron.

'Free Jim Bakker' call begs LaRouche issue

An editorial in the Aug. 26 evening *Baltimore Sun* called for the freeing of jailed televangelist Jim Bakker. The call begs the question of why Lyndon LaRouche, who was railroaded by a multi-jurisdictional task force of government and private agencies, is not also immediately freed from prison.

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While the *Sun* writes that it is "good news" that Bakker's sentence was reduced from 45 years to 18 years, it is "wholly out of line with the offense Bakker committed.

"What makes Bakker's case for release compelling is the considerably shorter sentences given to the perpertrators of the Wall Street financial scandals of the 1980s. Even Ivan Boesky, who garnered three times as much money as Bakker did, got only three years, and was out in no time. Michael Milken, who gave America junk bonds, also got less than Bakker.

"The U.S. government argues that Bakker's offense was more reprehensible than Boesky's because Bakker preyed upon naive people. That's a debatable premise, and very patronizing to people who find solace in Bakker's particular brand of religion. Fraud is fraud, without regard to the victim. The two years Bakker has already served should be ample to put the fear of the courts, if not the fear of God, into any future TV evangelist out to make a fast buck with fraudulent religious appeals. Bakker should be set free."

AAM proposes to end farm support payments

David Senter, the national director of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM), has called for eliminating federal farm programs following a vote by the AAM board on July 13 to work for abolition of the federal farm programs. "We support zeroing out funding for USDA. If it is a free market we need, then let's get on with it. Let's really show them what a free market would look like: a disaster for family farmers," said the spokesman.

The call follows the release of bulletin 630 in August by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service entitled "Farms Without Program Payments."

Without a parity price paid to the farmer which covers his cost of production plus something more to ensure technological modernization, the abrupt end of federal farm programs would finish off the few family farm operations which remain in the

United States. While the AAM was originally committed to a parity-price policy, it abandoned that policy as it came under increasing cartel domination.

Senter is known for extirpating the "LaRouche influence" from the AAM, i.e., the fight for a parity price and opposition to the Trilateral Commission. The AAM has received generous funding from the cartels, and Senter has brought them into the cartel-controlled farm umbrella organization, the "national family farm coalition."

Economic depression boosts Solidarity march

Some 250,000 to 300,000 people turned out for the Aug. 31 "Solidarity Day" march on Washington, D.C., according to estimates by various police agencies and participants. The high attendance was impelled by the economic collapse now rolling across the country, epitomized by the news that a record number of jobless have now exhausted their government unemployment benefits.

The AFL-CIO was the initial sponsoring group for the march, joined by dozens of other entities, including the United Auto Workers and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

March coordinators announced that they deliberately deterred politicians from speaking to dramatize that no politician can rely anymore on the automatic endorsement of organized labor. However, AFL-CIO functionaries booked such Hollywood humanoids to address the march as Willie Nelson and Pete Seeger. Nelson is billed as "friend of the farmer," and advocates a "hempbased" (i.e., dope) economy. Seeger still sings ditties about the "common man."

The only proposals which addressed the depression were introduced by supporters of Lyndon LaRouche, who distributed several thousand copies of his proposal for a "Productive Triangle" to start a worldwide economic recovery. Two large banners reading "Dump Bush, NAFTA Equals Slave Labor, Free LaRouche," and "Impeach Bush, Free LaRouche," received a positive response from march participants. Many agreed, "Yes, it's time to free LaRouche."

Briefly

- MARONITE Bishop John Chedid of Los Angeles was the victim of what police describe as a "hit and run" car accident Aug. 12. By late August he was listed in fair condition. The bishop's assistant pastor disputes the police claim that it was an accident, and the bishop has reportedly received personal threats. The incident occurs in the context of a worldwide assault on Lebanese who are opposed to Syria's takeover of Lebanon.
- THE CIA announced Sept. 2 that agency employees will be allowed to donate to a legal fund that was recently set up for former and current CIA agents who have come under investigation by Irangate special prosecutor Judge Lawrence Walsh.
- GEORGE BUSH'S Aug. 1 speech in Kiev, Ukraine, in which he told Soviet republics to sign Gorbachov's "union treaty," "is a model of Marxist dialectics," charged Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, according to the Aug. 29 French-language Lettre d'Afrique. "For more than a half-century, the victims of Soviet-communist annexations have naively believed that America supported democracy and the liberation of oppressed peoples," he said.
- ROBERT KIMMITT, Donald Gregg, and William Odom were named as suspects in the "October Surprise" scandal in the "Inside the Beltway" column of the Sept. 3 Washington Times, based on a report in the latest issue of the Washington Monthly.
- 'BRIDGE Across Jordan,' the book by Amelia Boynton Robinson on the civil rights movement, was presented to the Graterford Prison NAACP chapter near Philadelphia Aug. 29 by Schiller Institute representative Phil Valenti. About 150 inmates attended the ceremony after prison officials reneged on their promise to allow the general prison population of 5,000 to attend.

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