

National News

Ray allowed to subpoena witnesses on appeal

A Memphis Criminal Court ruled on April 15 that James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty 25 years ago to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., may subpoena witnesses in support of an appeal for a new trial. Judge Joseph Brown said he was constrained by Tennessee law to deny the new trial, because the time limit allowed for such appeals had long since expired, but that the new evidence should be introduced because the case is one of "extreme historical curiosity. . . . At least the historical record will be illuminated by the process."

Last summer Memphis businessman Lloyd Jowers came forward to say that he had hired King's assassin on orders from New Orleans organized-crime figures, and said that Ray was not involved.

Rev. James Bevel, who was at the Lorraine Motel with Dr. King when he was shot and has fought for 25 years for Ray's right to a proper trial, applauded the decision, and told the national weekly newspaper *New Federalist* on April 18: "Dr. King used to say that the curve of the universe is bending slowly toward justice but it is bending. . . . In time, the truth of what happened and why it happened will come out."

He continued, "Without a real trial for James Earl Ray, there cannot be an atonement of the American people. You'll have this black rage and this white guilt. A fair trial for Ray would get the American people back to the central question of justice and due process and moving on constitutional policies and programs in the interests of all people, rather than actions based on revenge and guilt."

One-third of Chicago children live in poverty

One-third of all children under the age of 18 in Chicago live in poverty, according to a report released at the end of March from Voices for Illinois Children. Chicago is the

third most populous city in America. Based on the 1990 Census figures, 240,000 out of a total of 723,000 of Chicago's children live in poverty, as defined by the 1990 Bureau of the Census: an income of \$12,674 for a family of four.

According to the report, the greatest poverty is in Chicago's South and West Sides. In the Grand Boulevard neighborhood, median family income for all families was, as of 1989, \$8,371, which means an entire neighborhood is condemned to a median income which is a full 33% below the poverty level. Fifty percent of the neighborhood's children are born to teenage (and often unwed) mothers.

In Oakland and the Near South Side of Chicago, 80% of the children live in poverty. In Chicago's Fuller Park area, infant mortality is 30 per 1,000 live births, more than 2.5 times the national rate.

'Village Partnership' targets Wisconsin schools

School restructuring is taking place in Wisconsin under a plan called "The Village Partnership," whereby school districts receive \$400,000 to run partnership programs in 22 districts, funded largely through private industry and the Aid Association for Lutherans. Founders hope that the state will join in and expand the program to become a major restructuring of education. Twenty-one more districts are expected to join soon. There are 200 districts in the state.

Among the organizations working with the Partnership are the Wisconsin Education Association, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers, Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Milwaukee Public Schools, University of Wisconsin System, and Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers. The program began, according to the *Fond du Lac Reporter*, with training for representatives of each organization to work with local school districts in creating broad-based, long-term systemic change.

The teachers union is supposed to work with the school board and administration

locally, bypassing their contracts and effectively agreeing to union-busting. "It will take a lot of flexibility on the part of the unions," a spokesman for the Partnership said.

Virginia Senate race gets Wilder, and Coleman

Both former Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder (D) and former state Attorney General J. Marshall Coleman (R) moved on April 15 to throw their hats into the ring as independents in Virginia's U. S. Senate race. Wilder and Coleman ran for governor against each other in 1989, with Wilder winning a hotly contested race to become the nation's first post-Reconstruction black governor.

Coleman will seek a spot on the November ballot as an independent if the state Republican convention taps the unsavory Oliver North. Similarly, Wilder is eyeing an independent position if his old nemesis, incumbent Chuck Robb, wins the June 14 Democratic primary.

Chuck Robb filed his petition signatures for the primary on April 15, submitting only 20,620 names. By comparison, Lyndon LaRouche associate Nancy Spannaus was the first of the four Democratic contenders to file, with 33,000 names, over twice the number needed to secure ballot status in the primary. The Virginia Democratic Party is holding its first primary in 20 years.

California Dems protest foreign meddling in U.S.

Over 100 delegates to the California Democratic State Convention in Los Angeles in mid-April signed a resolution calling for "an investigation of those foreign and related interests which are currently treating the United States as a banana republic." The resolution was circulated with a cover letter from David Kilber, a LaRouche Democrat running for State Superintendent of Public Instruction who was a delegate to the convention.

Briefly

The Resolution to Congress to Investigate Foreign-Authored Destabilization of the U.S. Presidency reads:

"Whereas, there is currently a campaign to cripple the office of the Presidency of the United States by the British friends of Henry Kissinger and dupes of British foreign interests, among which are foolish Republicans, who have joined in this very serious and dangerous disrupting of the U.S. government; and

Whereas, this is occurring because President Clinton questioned the counterproductive features of the Bush-Thatcher International Monetary Fund 'shock therapy' policy toward Russia;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this meeting calls upon the California Democratic Congressional delegation to initiate an investigation of those foreign and related interests which are currently treating the United States as a banana republic by attempting to destabilize the Presidency of the United States."

Rep. Obey demands U.S. invade Haiti

Wisconsin Democrat David Obey, the new head of the House Appropriations Committee, has added his voice to the Anti-Defamation League/Hollywood crowd which has been lusting after a U.S. move into Haiti. Speaking to a foreign aid hearing on April 15, and repeated in an interview, Obey called for the United States to militarily remove Haiti's military leadership and re-install ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who has become infamous for advocating the murder of his opponents through the grisly practice of "necklacing."

Obey qualified that he would "prefer" that a multinational force carry out the invasion, but short of that, U.S. troops should go it alone. Obey said he has long opposed U.S. military intervention in the hemisphere, but Haiti was "a special circumstance" where "something like this is achievable at minimum cost." He admitted that a U.N. peacekeeping force following the invasion would have to remain in Haiti for as long as a decade.

His statements follow a crescendo of similar demands from the ADL circles around Aristide adviser Michael Barnes, from Hollywood's "Artists for Democracy in Haiti," and from the duped Black Congressional Caucus. In response to Obey's call, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America Alexander Watson declared that he would convey the invasion proposal to Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Whitewater scribbler had one martooni ti many

Times are getting rough for journalists trying to come up with yet one more devastating exposé on Whitewater. Take the case of *New Republic* scribbler L.J. Davis. On March 23, both the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Post* reported how Davis had been assaulted while working on a Whitewater story in Little Rock, with crucial pages stolen out of his reporter's notebook. Davis claimed that he was returning to his hotel room at about 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 13. He said that the next thing he remembered, he woke up four hours later, lying on the floor, with a lump on his head.

The *New York Post* featured Davis's tale as part of a lengthy article on other alleged violent attacks, quoting Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, U.S. correspondent for the London *Sunday Telegraph*. The *Journal* featured the incident in an editorial which devoted about half of its copy to Evans-Pritchard's tales of violence in Arkansas. The *Journal* averred solemnly, "We believe Mr. Davis."

Truth is, an April 13 AP wire revealed, Davis "actually spent the evening knocking back martinis in a hotel bar." The two hotel employees say that Davis was in the hotel bar between 7 and 10 p.m., and have produced a bar tab showing Davis had six drinks during that time. Davis admitted to being in the bar; but, he claims he drank all six martinis between 5:15 and 6:30 p.m.

The *Wall Street Journal* responded to the AP wire, declaring that they still believe Davis's version, but demur that the *New Republic* is "a place full of precocious talent badly in need of adult supervision."

● **LYNDON JOHNSON** didn't buy the "magic bullet" line that the Warren Commission put out about the JFK assassination. According to a recently released taped phone conversation, commission member Sen. Richard Russell told Johnson, "The commission believes that the same bullet that hit Kennedy hit Connally. Well, I don't believe it." Johnson replied, "I don't either."

● **PLANNED PARENTHOOD** is cosponsoring a Philadelphia conference promoting "outcome-based education," at which former New York Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez will be a featured speaker. Fernandez became notorious for pushing a pro-homosexual curriculum whose books were put out by a publisher associated with the North American Man/Boy Love Association.

● **FORMER N.J.** Congressman Cornelius Gallagher, 73, who is a lifelong foe of the late FBI chief "Gay" Edgar Hoover, was indicted on April 14 on charges of tax evasion, bank fraud, and conspiracy in connection with a real estate development deal. Gallagher, who has been a victim of a political frameup before, was a signer on the international petition to free statesman Lyndon LaRouche.

● **THE HOUSE** of Representatives voted to add nearly 70 capital crimes to its new \$15 billion anti-crime bill on April 14. Among those crimes added were treason, assassination of a President (both rejected by Supreme Court action in the past), drive-by shootings, a killing committed while stealing a car, and activities of big-time drug dealers, even if they do not directly result in death.

● **ENVIRONMENTALISTS** are recruiting Indian and black leaders to do their dirty work opposing the building of a waste storage site for Minnesota's Prairie Island nuclear plant. The green-shirts are handing out the line, which has been picked up by the chairman of Minnesota's NAACP that the waste site is "environmental racism."