

New York—next banana republic?

The announcement by New York Governor Hugh Carey that he will convene a special session of the state legislature on Sept. 7 to vote up a constitutional amendment permitting gambling in New York signals a new phase in the operation to take over U.S. cities by the entity this review first labeled "Dope, Inc." nearly ten months ago.

New York is now slated to be the showcase for a national urban policy made-in-Britain, a policy that carries "free enterprise" to its ultimate conclusion. Mayor Edward Koch and Gov. Carey have already overseen New York's escalating loss of industrial jobs and the dismantling of such necessary services as schools, hospitals and transport. The transformation of the city into a Sodom and Gomorrah capital for drugs, prostitution and other "entertainments," will under the Koch-Carey plan, be supervised directly by the merchants of death themselves—organized crime.

The plans are already very far advanced. The legislative session is expected to be followed by a pro-gambling referendum in next November's elections. Similar referenda are either already rammed through (as in New Jersey) or proposed in several other states.

Ladbroke's, the largest British gambling house and a key cog in the international drug trafficking, real estate speculation machine, has bought a large tract of land in Westchester County north of Manhattan in anticipation of soaring land values there. Four nursing home for the elderly, situated in the choice seaside areas of Long Beach, Far Rockaway and Coney Island, have been targeted to become the proposed casinos.

A typically British cover of gentility has been devised for this squalid deal. Richard Armao, until a few

days ago the public relations representative for a casino gambling coalition, confided: "It's going to be gambling London-style, in private houses. Ladbroke's is key—we're working with the state legislature to keep organized crime out. We don't want a 42nd Street operation."

Nonetheless, according to indications from Mr. Vincent Reede, director of research for the Casino Gambling Panel, one of the three corporations that will dominate the New York casino scene is the Meyer Lansky-linked Resorts International. Resorts was documented in the popular book *Dope, Inc.: Britain's Opium War Against the United States* as an offshoot of the notorious Perminindex organization that killed JFK and was implicated in the attempted murder of Charles de Gaulle. Under such direction, Mr. Reede predicted, "New York will become a free port" and gambling cruise ships "will be pouring into New York—just like the West Indies."

Perhaps the most dismal note is sounded by the fact that the large commercial banks are rushing to cash in on the expected "action." A consortium of three banks led by

Morgan Guaranty admits having loaned tens of millions of dollars to Dell Webb Construction Co. for building casinos in Las Vegas.

But "Dope, Inc." should not think that British economic policies will wash so easily with other segments of the U.S. population. On Aug. 8, a legalized-gambling bid was set back in the nation's capital when the Washington Board of Elections invalidated over 50 percent of the signatures on petitions being circulated by backers of a referendum to legalize gambling. According to reports, petitions were being collected by children under voting age and a larger percentage of the signatures was fraudulent. Key to the defeat was the work of a group of black Baptist ministers who have been working with other forces toward the formation of a National Anti-Drug Coalition.

As the New York case shows, what is at stake in the fight to destroy the international drug mafia is not merely the drug issue in itself. The very future of American cities as centers of industrial progress and advanced education is on the line.

—Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

Italy has a government—but it doesn't bode well for the country's antiterrorism battle. The surprise appointment of former Interior Minister Francesco Cossiga as Premier last week, after incumbent Giulio Andreotti and two other candidates failed, is viewed as a victory for the U.S. Ambassador to Italy Richard Gardner, who had openly opposed Andreotti's collaboration with the Communist Party in

locking up the masterminds of Italian terrorism.

Cossiga, a Christian Democrat, headed the Interior Ministry during the 1977 terrorist buildup that culminated last year in the 54-day kidnap of statesman Aldo Moro. He resigned one day after Moro's body was found, amid widespread rumors that the Red Brigades had spies and collaborators in his ministry.

A special antiterrorism unit headed by Gen. Carlo Dalla Chiesa subsequently scored a series of dramatic arrests, including university professors, and had recently closed in on such Socialist Party barons as parliamentarian Giacomo Mancini for their ties to the Red Brigades.

The Cossiga government has the Socialist Party's support but is of decided "right-wing" cast and can be expected to preside over a dangerous social polarization this fall. Along with the Christian Democrats, portfolios went to representatives of the tiny Liberal Party (an affiliate of Britain's Tories) and the NATO-backed Social Democrats (PSDI). Excluded are the Communists, who had backed the Andreotti antiterror program and whose base is Italy's trade unions.

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Nicaragua's Government of National Reconstruction may be forced "to take extreme and radical measures," unless immediate and massive aid is forthcoming, according to the Foreign Minister of Mexico, Jorge Castaneda. Returning from a tour of Nicaragua, Castaneda said that food and medical supply shortages are "severe, worse than is suspected outside."

The United States has been shipping 100 tons of food into the country a day, and has announced plans to increase that amount by 40 tons. But estimates are that several thousand tons daily are the minimum required to stave off hundreds of deaths by starvation a day.

Nicaraguans suspect that the withholding of aid by the United States and Western Europe is economic warfare—a plan to force the newly liberated nation to accept International Monetary Fund austerity conditions. The Reconstruction junta has declared a moratorium on debts to the IMF and World Bank contracted during the last months of the Somoza dictatorship, funds which they have documented went to buy armaments against the population and drugs.

They also fear that the U.S. government may be deliberately trying

to force Nicaragua to seek aid exclusively from Cuba and the Soviets, in order to provide a pretext for an invasion by U.S. marines. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had tried to mount such an intervention during Somoza's recent war on the Nicaraguan population, but backed down when the Organization of American States overwhelmingly rejected the plan.

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"Mexico's state-owned oil company Pemex should be congratulated for the work they are doing in controlling the Ixtoc-1 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico," Paul Adair, the well known expert in shutting down oil spills, told the Mexican press this week.

Not only is Pemex capable of controlling the Ixtoc-1 oil, but the company is contributing greatly to the technological development of the oil industry by applying the most advanced equipment to control the oil spill, Adair concluded.

The oil expert added that despite the U.S. press scare—echoed this week by the West German news magazine *Der Spiegel*—the Ixtoc-1 spill is not the worst in history, only the largest. Adair has fought oil spills in Libya, Iran, Sumatra, Kuwait, Oklahoma, and Texas.

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"Planned shrinkage" is the policy of the individuals who have taken over New York City, charged outgoing New York Deputy Mayor Herman Badillo. This city is now "firmly in the control" of individuals who are committed to "shrinking the city," said Badillo, who was removed from his post in an administration shake-up by Mayor Edward Koch.

He said that the city administration plans to reduce the population of poor ghetto areas to shift power to the well-to-do sections of the city. The "planned shrinkage" policy will involve the closing of hospitals, schools, fire and police stations, and subway and bus services in low-income areas to force people out.

Badillo attacked Robert F. Wagner, Jr., head of the City Planning

Commission, who is reported to be first in line for Badillo's deputy mayor post, for wanting to turn midtown Manhattan into a "fantasy land" while turning other parts of the city into "slums." "I think we should rebuild the city, not shrink it," Badillo, a former Congressman, said in a television interview.

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A preliminary agenda has been set for the founding convention of the National Anti-Drug Coalition in Detroit on Sept. 29, the leaders of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition announced. The convention will be held at Cobo Hall and is expected to draw 2-3,000 representatives from organizations across the United States.

Michigan Coalition chairman Juan Torres and Vice-chairman Salahuddin Muhammad, who launched the call for a national coalition to be formed in June, reported that some 200 leaders and groups had endorsed the call.

Among the speakers already slated are: Dr. Gabriel Nahas, special advisor to the United Nations on drug abuse; Major Al Fiumano, military specialist on air/marine drug traffic detection; Costas Kalimtgis, co-author of the book *Dope, Inc.*; Colombian agrarian leader Fausto Charris; Richard Headlee, a leader of the tax limitation referendum recently passed in Michigan, and of the state's Republican Party; and U.S. Labor Party chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

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From Bogota, antidrug fighter Fausto Charris issued an appeal Aug. 3 to defend his battle against the Colombian dope networks. Charris said that his recent tour of the United States and Mexico, undertaken at the invitation of the New York-New Jersey Anti-Drug Coalition, "was the most important event of my life."

"I urge you to help free Colombia now from the clutches of the drug-running coup forces," he said, in a statement addressed to North Americans.