

National News

President to cut funds for own War on Drugs

President Reagan's program for a War on Drugs, launched with great fanfare in July 1986, received a devastating blow during the first week in January, when the President himself proposed cutting the fiscal year 1988 budget for federal drug law enforcement, prevention, and treatment by 25%—almost \$1 billion.

President Reagan's proposed budget calls for reducing the anti-drug expenditure from \$3.931 billion in 1987 to \$3.016 billion. More than half the cuts, \$503 million, come in funds for law enforcement. \$225 million of the cuts are in federal support for state and local efforts.

The proposed cuts came under harsh criticism from both sides of the congressional aisle. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, said the move "seriously calls into question the depth of the administration's commitment to an effective drug abuse strategy." The ranking Republican on the committee, Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), are just appalling."

EIR editors released as Weld takes setback

Journalists Michele Steinberg, Jeffrey Steinberg, and Paul Goldstein were released from jail on bail Jan. 9, following imprisonment on trumped-up charges brought by the U.S. Justice Department in October 1986. Mr. Steinberg and Mr. Goldstein are the counterintelligence editors of *EIR*; Mrs. Steinberg is a frequent writer on the war on drugs and terrorism.

The release of the journalists is a major setback for William Weld, the former Boston U.S. Attorney who now heads the Justice Department's Criminal Division and has overseen the ongoing political witchhunt against LaRouche and associates.

The Steinbergs had been held in prison without bail since October, and Goldstein since November. In November, the three were placed in a "work-release" custody program, which required them to report to prison at night, but allowed them to go to their offices during the day—under highly restrictive conditions. Such programs are normally used for convicted felons, rather than those awaiting trial.

The release followed the court-ordered freeing the previous week of *EIR* Law Editor Edward Spannaus and counterintelligence specialist Robert Greenberg, who were released when U.S. Magistrate Robert Collings denied the government's motion to hold them in detention until their April 6 trial date. The Boston U.S. Attorney's office had argued that all five persons should be held without bail—not because they posed a risk of flight, but because they posed a danger of "obstruction of justice."

In evidentiary hearings on Dec. 18-19, attorneys for Spannaus and Greenberg were allowed for the first time to cross-examine FBI agent Richard Egan, the government's chief witness. When his repeated perjury in the previous bail hearings was exposed, the magistrate refused to uphold the government's demand.

Weinberger: Boost conventional forces

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger called for a "conventional defense initiative" to strengthen the NATO alliance, in an article written for *Jane's Defence Weekly* published Jan. 10.

"While nuclear programs are essential and hopeful projects such as the Strategic Defense Initiative are critical . . ." he said, "it is vitally important that we continue to improve our conventional forces. . . . A brief comparison of NATO and Warsaw Pact forces gives the best explanation of why we are concerned about the imbalance of conventional forces: Counting reinforcements for a NATO-Pact conflict, the Pact has 6 million active duty personnel; NATO has 4.5 million.

"In the central Region of Europe, the Pact maintains 2:1 advantages in main battle tanks, combat aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, and combat helicopters, and it has a 3:1 advantage in artillery and infantry fighting vehicles.

"The Kremlin devotes 15-17% of its gross national product to defense, and it recently announced that the military budget will increase by 6% next year. . . . This comes at a time when the U.S.A. is devoting only about 6% of its GNP to defense. . . ."

The Soviet Union has been "actively pursuing strategic defense research for 25 years, and in the last 10 years has spent 15 times as much as the U.S.A. on such research. . . . We should never codify imbalances giving the Warsaw Pact an advantage."

Did you give money to 'gay' Republicans?

New Right activist Terry Dolan, who died of AIDS in December, helped found a Republican-oriented "gay rights" group called Concerned Americans for Individual Rights, according to the Jan. 2 issue of the *Washington Blade*.

Dolan, who headed the National Conservative Political Action Committee and other neo-conservative lobby groups, teamed up with California-based homosexual activist Bruce Decker, and the two "drew up plans to create CAIR during a 1981 vacation at California's Russian River, a resort town north of San Francisco with a large gay population."

Decker was a zealous opponent of Proposition 64, the California ballot initiative which was voted down in November 1986, and which would have mandated emergency public health measures to stop the spread of AIDS. He told the *Washington Times* that he and Dolan started CAIR to fight discrimination against homosexuals within a "pro-freedom framework" that "fits in with conservative Republican principles."

Meanwhile, the Log Cabin Republican Club of Los Angeles County—also very active in the campaign to defeat Proposition

64—has come under fire from Glenn Abel, a newly elected member of the county's GOP Central Committee, who says its charter should be revoked. Committee chairman Robert Whitmore noted that the Club's homosexual status was "a touchy issue and the party is trying to cope with it."

Log Cabin political director Frank Ricchiuzzi replied: "We are proud to be Republicans and we are working hard to promote the party in the gay community."

Armitage may have run drugs in Vietnam

Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage, who supervised the recent transfer of arms to the CIA for sale to Iran, is being investigated for possible ties to a narcotics-trafficking and weapon-smuggling scheme dating back to the Vietnam War era, according to reports in the *Boston Globe* and *Baltimore Sun*.

The *Globe* reported on Jan. 12 that industrialist H. Ross Perot has asked top U.S. officials, including Vice-President George Bush and FBI director William Webster, to ascertain Armitage's role.

In the late 1960s, Ted Shackley, as deputy chief of station for the CIA in Laos, gave secret support to one Vang Pao in the war for control of the opium trade. The *Baltimore Sun* reported that when Shackley was put in charge of the Phoenix Project in Vietnam, opium trade profits were used to finance it. The opium money was administered from the U.S. Office of Naval Operations in Saigon, by a naval officer named Richard Armitage.

More recently, Armitage was named in an investigation into a northern Virginia-based Vietnamese mafia involved in drug-trafficking and other criminal activities. Sources close to the investigation say that Armitage sponsored the entry of a Vietnamese organized-crime figure, a woman, into the United States several years ago and has protected her identity and activities since then.

Perot, in an interview with Associated Press, denied that he had talked to U.S. of-

ficials about Armitage and drug smuggling, but acknowledged rumors about the Defense Department official: "Those stories float out there, but I don't have any evidence."

Chicago mayor drops challenge to Jones

Chicago Mayor Harold Washington's legal experts conceded on Jan. 9 that efforts to remove LaRouche Democrat Sheila Jones from the Democratic primary ballot were futile. "We give up . . . Jones is on!" said a Washington aide, after Board of Elections officials certified that Jones had more than enough signatures to qualify for ballot status.

The primary will be on Feb. 24, and the mayoral election on April 6.

Carlucci won't run covert operations

National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci sees "no role" for the National Security Council staff in covert operations like those which led to the Irangate scandal, according to the statement of a senior White House official on Jan. 7. The NSC's role is to oversee such activities by other agencies, not run its own, the official said.

Carlucci believes, however, that his responsibilities go beyond coordination, and that he can provide the President with independent counsel, even if at times it conflicts with the advice of other agencies.

Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson reported on Jan. 14 that Carlucci has called for a reassessment of the NSC policy of support for the Nicaraguan Contras. At his first NSC staff meeting on Jan. 5, Carlucci reportedly said, "I don't see how the Contras can win. We need a serious review of the policy now."

Carlucci denied the Anderson report.

Briefly

● **HENRY KISSINGER** and Cyrus Vance will be among a delegation of "private citizens" traveling to Moscow Feb. 2-6, under the sponsorship of the New York Council on Foreign Relations. The group hopes to meet with General Secretary Gorbachov. Other members include: Harold Brown, Peter Peterson, Brent Scowcroft, Jeane Kirkpatrick, David Jones, and Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.

● **THE MATHEMATICS** ability of America's primary and high school students ranks "among the lowest of any industrialized country," according to three major studies, made public Jan. 10. "When it comes to academic mathematics, the United States is an underachieving nation," said researcher Kenneth Travers. The studies were released by the National Research Council's Mathematical Science Education Board.

● **NESTOR SANCHEZ**, the senior Pentagon official concerned with Central American affairs, will retire Jan. 31. It's not a moment too soon, as rumors have it that investigators are questioning his role in Irangate and arms smuggling to the Nicaraguan Contras.

● **BRUCE BABBIT**, a Trilateral Commission member who has just completed his second term as governor of Arizona, became the first person to challenge Lyndon LaRouche for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. Babbit threw his hat in the ring on Jan. 5.

● **COL. OLIVER NORTH** boasts that he is descended from Lord North, the British prime minister who imposed the Tea Tax on the American colonies, according to European press reports. From another branch of the North family, a descendant of Col. Caleb North, who was an aide-de-camp to General Washington at Valley Forge, declared: "Oliver should shut up. His branch of the family always made a mess of things."