

National News

Pentagon reactivates large nuclear bombs

A decision has been made to redeploy 1960s-vintage nuclear bombs that are more than six times as powerful as the largest warhead or bomb now in the U.S. arsenal, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Aug. 6.

The Defense Department acknowledged reactivation of the B-53 bombs on Aug. 5, but refused to explain or discuss the decision, saying only, "The B-53 reactivation provides more flexibility in the planning process."

The B-53 has an explosive yield of 9 million tons of TNT—9 megatons. While it is not the largest warhead ever built by the United States, and is not as large as some bombs and warheads still thought to be in the Soviet Union's arsenal, it dwarfs every nuclear warhead currently fielded by the United States.

The next most destructive nuclear weapon in the stockpile is the B-28 bomb, with a yield of 1.45 megatons.

Bush campaign official accused of dirty tricks

George Bush campaign official Lee Atwater, who has been identified as responsible for Bush's attack on Lyndon LaRouche in Iowa at the end of July ("LaRouche deserves to be in a lot of trouble") has now been accused of running dirty tricks operations against the campaigns of Pat Robertson, Robert Dole, and Jack Kemp, according to the Aug. 4 *Washington Times*.

Robertson told the *Times*, "Lee Atwater has used every dirty trick known to mankind. We suspect he is the author of some dirty tricks used against our campaign, but we have no proof." David Keene, an adviser to Dole, said they also suspect Atwater was involved in operations such as cancelling hotel reservations, and misrepresenting himself as a candidate.

Ed Rollins, chairman of the Kemp cam-

paign, alleged that Atwater sabotaged a convention of the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) this year by circulating attacks on Kemp. Bush sources denied the charges.

Thompson makes Adlai stay 'independent'

Gov. James Thompson of Illinois Aug. 4 vetoed a bill passed by the Illinois State Legislature that would have merged Adlai Stevenson's independent "Solidarity Party" with the Democratic Party of the state.

Thompson, a Republican, said he felt the merger was "unconstitutional."

Stevenson created the "Solidarity Party" in a move to separate his 1986 gubernatorial campaign from Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart, "LaRouche Democrats" who had won the statewide Democratic primary race for lieutenant governor and secretary of state, respectively, in March of that year.

Stevenson had been a close second to Thompson in the 1982 election. But his self-destructive bolt from the Democratic Party made 1986's race no contest.

AIDS called 'greatest plague'

"What we're dealing with is probably the greatest plague ever to hit the world, let alone the United States," said Dr. William O'Connor, an M.D., microbiologist, and head of the Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus Eradication Foundation. He told the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment Aug. 6 that failure to quarantine AIDS virus carriers eventually would be more costly to taxpayers than quarantining them.

"This disease could possibly push us right off the face of the earth," O'Connor said, arguing for mandatory AIDS testing and total quarantine of all whose tests show they carry the virus. Calling AIDS "a draconian

disease," O'Connor added, "You don't treat it as a civil rights issue."

Even those who only a short time ago were defending the civil rights of the virus are beginning to turn around on the AIDS issue. For example, orders to involuntarily detain AIDS patients perceived to pose a public health threat were issued by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Aug. 4. "It is the legal right and moral duty of health officials to detain patients who pose a threat to society," said Supervisor Mike Antonovich, who introduced the motion calling for expanded use of health detention.

The supervisors unanimously ordered county Health Director Robert Gates to review with doctors at county hospitals the laws governing detention for public health reasons of people with communicable diseases. Dr. Martin Finn, medical director of the county's AIDS program, said the board's action would not result in more involuntary detentions, but would lead to new policies for dealing with uncooperative AIDS patients.

Justice targeting black officials?

"Black leaders paint Justice Department as new KKK" is the title of a wire story in the Aug. 2 *Houston Chronicle*, which reports a "growing feeling among blacks that black elected officials are the target of a conspiracy by the white political establishment and the white-dominated media."

U.S. Justice Department criminal division head William Weld is quoted defending the activities of Department. He admitted that since 1981, there has been an "aggressive cadre of U.S. Attorneys" and "more high-profile cases with a major impact on their communities since 1981 than ever before."

But Weld, who has personally directed a political witchhunt against Lyndon LaRouche, U.S. defense contractors, and other Soviet-designated targets, insisted that although this "has the effect of impacting on a broad basis on local politicians, so be it, but that's not race-connected. . . . As long

as the conviction ratio is upheld, I would say the jury system is your safeguard."

Liberals want war powers act invoked

A suit has been filed in District of Columbia District Court to force President Reagan to invoke the war powers act in connection with current U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf.

Some 104 liberal Democratic Representatives and three Senators have introduced the measure. It calls for the Reagan administration to invoke the War Powers Resolution, which would allow Congress to decide whether or not to continue escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers now reflagged as U.S. vessels, and under threat of Iranian attack.

The War Powers Resolution permits the administration to continue activities for only a 60-day period, without declaring war, unless Congress gives permission.

The suit was filed by the Democratic Study Group, a largely liberal institution. Should the administration lose the suit before the District Court, it is expected that it will appeal, a process that could take months.

Meanwhile, Admiral William J. Crowe and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger met at the Pentagon for an hour with top congressional leaders. Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wisc.) said he "felt better" about U.S. policy in the Gulf after the session.

Intruder shot at Pentagon

An armed intruder potentially threatening the lives of senior administration officials was shot dead at the Pentagon Aug. 4, after he bolted past a security checkpoint at the Pentagon's most sensitive entrance. He was brandishing a .25 caliber pistol.

One flight above the entrance Secretary of Defense Weinberger, Secretary of State Shultz, and NSC deputy director Gen. Colin Powell were meeting.

The intruder, Dwain Wallace, had been

a patient at a psychiatric halfway house in Youngstown, Ohio for the last four months, and prior to that had been a hospital in-patient for three years.

Wallace, who believed himself to be a general, had been arrested on two occasions for threatening individuals with pistols. He flew directly from his halfway house to Washington. How he acquired his handgun is not known.

Impeachment sought against Abrams

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), plans to introduce a resolution for the impeachment of Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal.

Conyers asserts that Abrams violated the law by deceiving congressional committees on aid to the Contras. Abrams admitted that he lied to a congressional committee, but was supported in staying on the job by Secretary of State George Shultz.

According to the Aug. 7 *New York Times*, Conyers's office is circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter seeking support for the resolution. The letter says Abrams engaged in "willful and intentional misrepresentation of facts before House and Senate intelligence committees," in violation of federal law against making false statements to certain federal officials, whether or not under oath.

Meanwhile Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh is expected to hand down at least some major indictments by September or October, the *Washington Times* reports. He is expected to bring indictments based upon conspiracy to violate U.S. laws or defraud the government, obstruction of justice, and perjury against Rear-Adm. John M. Poindexter and Lt. Col. Oliver North.

The same three charges were used by Leon Jaworski to convict Nixon administration officials in Watergate. Other principal targets of Walsh's investigation are said to be Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord and Albert A. Hakim. A case is being built against those four for conspiracy to violate the Boland Amendment.

Briefly

● **NEW YORK CITY** Mayor Ed Koch said Aug. 6 that the city would never quarantine AIDS patients. "The reason it's so ridiculous would be that you have 500,000 people in the City of New York estimated to carry the virus. Every one of them is a carrier. Are we now thinking of quarantining 500,000 people in the City of New York? It's ridiculous, so get it out of your heads."

● **THE DEFENSE** Acquisition Board has recommended that six Strategic Defense Initiative programs enter the earliest stage of their development. The programs approved would be used in the first phase of the SDI, and would not be deployed until the mid-1990s, said proponents of the systems, which do not involve lasers or particle beams, but include sensing devices that would be orbited to track Soviet warheads in an attack; satellites to provide warning of an attack and track missiles and warheads, and space-based and ground-based interceptor missiles.

● **C. WILLIAM VERITY, Jr.**, a strong proponent of U.S.-Soviet trade, now heads the list to replace the late Malcolm Baldrige as U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Until 1982, Verity was chief executive of Armco steel company, which his grandfather founded.

● **DOLPHINS** by the hundreds are washing ashore dead or near-dead on the East Coast of the United States from New Jersey to Virginia. Marine biologists are baffled over the cause of death.

● **TELEVISION** evangelists are not believable to 70% of the American population, according to a new nationwide poll conducted by Media-General Associated Press. Of those who made donations to evangelical ministries, 43% said the scandal involving ex-PTL head Jim Bakker would cause them to contribute less in the future.