

National News

Justice Department sues Hansen's wife

The vendetta of the Department of Justice against former Congressman George Hansen is apparently continuing.

On Dec. 18, the Justice Department filed suit against Constance Hansen, wife of the former representative from Idaho. She is accused of failing to file financial disclosure forms on three occasions, once when she worked for the federal government as a consultant to the Housing and Urban Development agency in January 1985, again in February 1985 when she left the agency, and once again in 1986 when she ran unsuccessfully for the House seat vacated by her husband.

George Hansen was paroled after serving 11 months in prison for failure to disclose certain financial interests while a GOP congressman. An outspoken critic of the liberal Establishment and of abuses by such government agencies as the IRS and Justice Department, Hansen was forbidden by his parole conditions to leave his home state for speaking engagements and was jailed when he refused to comply.

He said in late December that, despite receiving a warning letter from the Justice Department, his wife would not file the forms. "They came back at her after 18 months of silence with a sledgehammer," he told the *Idaho State Journal*. He said that he has asked Idaho Sen. Steve Symms to help block the suit, which could cost his wife \$5,000 per count.

AMA publicizes San Francisco AIDS testing

Last October, a San Francisco orthopedic surgeon announced that AIDS testing would be conducted on many patients, and the decision has now sparked a feature article in the *American Medical News*, newsletter of the American Medical Association. The Dec. 4 issue put the article on its front page, "Or-

thoped Urges HIV Testing—Decision in San Francisco Sparks Heated Debate."

Dr. Lorraine Day, chief of orthopedics at San Francisco General Hospital announced that, in order to protect medical personnel, "all elective surgery patients on the public hospital's orthopedics service would be asked to take a blood test to determine if they carry the AIDS virus."

According to the article, "Dr. Day's announcement came the day after hospital officials disclosed that a health care worker had contracted the human immunodeficiency virus after accidentally puncturing his or her thumb with a needle that had been used on an HIV-infected patient."

The article locates the action taken by Dr. Day in the context of the growth of the AIDS epidemic. "Dr. Day's decision to test elective surgery patients comes at a time when a small but growing number of hospitals across the nation have quietly instituted routine HIV antibody testing programs, and when an increasing number of surgeons have decided not to accept HIV-infected patients."

AIDS infected show mental impairment

Tests conducted on "asymptomatic" men carrying the AIDS virus showed that an unusually high number have impaired coordination, cognitive difficulties, or abnormal results on magnetic resonance tests, the *Washington Post* reported Dec. 18. In response to the preliminary results, the Defense Department has acted to remove AIDS-positive service personnel from stressful, high-performance jobs such as flying aircraft, handling nuclear weapons, or working on sophisticated machinery.

"This could look like Alzheimer's disease in a young person," said Dr. Edmund Tramont, director of the AIDS unit at the Walter Reed Institute of Health. "We just aren't sure when the clinical manifestations of HIV infection begin, so the smartest thing to do seems to be to exclude those who are infected from critical tasks."

In the study, published in *Annals of In-*

ternal Medicine, Dr. Igor Grant and colleagues from the University of California at San Diego tested 55 patients and controls from a group of homosexual men. Four groups were formed: 15 patients with AIDS, 13 who were classed as having AIDS-related complex (ARC), 16 asymptomatic men who tested positive for AIDS, and 11 healthy men.

In the healthy group, the rate of mental impairment was 9%. In the symptomatic AIDS group, impairment was 87%; in the ARC group, 54%; and in the group of infected, but seemingly healthy men, 44%.

"I was stunned by the results," said Grant, a professor of psychiatry. "I had expected the large number of AIDS patients to show deficiencies, but to have 44% of the seropositive people show problems, that's dramatic."

Dole tells Europeans INF Treaty sure thing

Senator Bob Dole is telling Europeans that their fear and opposition to the INF Treaty is pointless because the treaty's ratification by the U.S. Senate is certain, according to members of a German delegation that recently visited the United States. The delegation met with "conservative" senators in the United States to seek their advice on what to do about the treaty, which confronts Europe with the prospect of near-term Soviet domination.

German conservatives, among them members of the parliamentary caucus of the Bavaria-based Christian Social Union (CSU), were told by Dole that "everything is set in the Senate for the ratification of the INF Treaty."

Dole's voice is just one in a chorus of "conservatives" who are staging a synthetic opposition to the treaty, using the line that the treaty is bad, but opposition to it is hopeless.

Henry Kissinger keynoted a meeting of all CSU parliamentarians on Jan. 7-9 in Bad Kreuth, Bavaria, with the expected line that "even if the INF deal is bad, let's ratify it, because it's a *fait accompli*." CSU party chairman Franz Josef Strauss, who met with