

National News

Justice Dept. still seeks drug testing

A federal judge handed down a ruling July 29 that would block plans by the Justice Department to subject 1,800 of its employees to random drug testing, and the Justice Department immediately appealed the ruling.

Judge George Revercomb issued a permanent injunction against the testing program, siding with 42 department employees who, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, had taken the government to court to stop the tests. The employees were represented by Stephen Sachs of the law firm of Trilateral Commission member and outspoken opponent of the U.S. Constitution, Lloyd Cutler. Judge Revercomb said the tests could not be justified because the Department of Justice does not consider drug use to be widespread among its employees.

The Justice Department has stated that it hopes to proceed with random drug testing of employees who hold sensitive positions, despite the permanent injunction. The Department will ask the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for a stay of the permanent injunction, so that the department can proceed with the testing program, said spokeswoman Amy Brown.

Will Jesse take part in hostage talks?

The Reagan administration is said to be split over what role, if any, Jesse Jackson might play in hostage negotiations with Iran. A senior State Department official said July 29 that the administration at some point might welcome Jackson's help with the hostages. But Sheila Tate, George Bush's press secretary, said Bush continues to see Jackson as a "loose cannon" who might endanger U.S. policy interests.

On July 27, Jackson announced that he was trying to open discussions with the Iranian government on releasing U.S. hostages

held in Lebanon. He met with Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead the next day to discuss the matter.

Bush reportedly opposes giving a role to Jackson because it would boost the Democrats' election chances.

Meanwhile, President Reagan has extended Secret Service protection to Jackson for 30 days, at a cost to taxpayers of about \$600,000.

Judge says starvation is constitutional right

A Missouri judge has agreed to allow the family of a comatose woman to disconnect the feeding tube that has been keeping her alive for the past five years.

In a grotesque ruling, Judge Charles E. Teel said that the patient, Nancy Cruzan, has a "constitutional right" to have all "artificial life-prolonging procedures," including food and water, terminated.

The American Civil Liberties Union is overjoyed, since this is the first case in Missouri addressing the issue of disconnecting food and water when death is not imminent.

Thad McCause, a court-appointed guardian for Miss Cruzan, has already filed an appeal to overturn Teel's ruling. William Webster, the Missouri Attorney General, is also expected to appeal the case to the State Supreme Court.

Journal says prosecutors favor drug legalization

"Nearly three out of every four of the nation's top state and local prosecutors reject the Reagan administration's 'zero tolerance' antidrug policies . . . and one-fourth say marijuana should be decriminalized," according to the July 31 *Washington Post*. The data cited by the *Post* appeared Aug. 1 in the *National Law Journal*.

The *Journal* study claimed that nearly two-thirds of prosecutors believe their ef-

forts have little or no impact on reducing the supply of illegal drugs or increasing the street price.

The survey was based on telephone questioning of 181 chief prosecutors or their top narcotics deputies in every state.

After receiving what Editor-in-Chief Tim Robinson described as the "most surprising results," that 25% of those questioned saw a role for "decriminalization," the *Journal* did follow-up questioning and determined that 27% favored fines instead of jail terms for marijuana offenders, while another 5% said either that marijuana growing should be permitted for personal use, marijuana sales should be permitted in small quantities, or that marijuana should be regulated like alcohol.

FBI rumors lead to judge's removal

Judge Edward F. Zampella was removed from the bench by Hudson County, New Jersey's top judge after a "secret" FBI document claimed that Zampella had ties to organized crime, although he has never been charged with any wrongdoing.

Former Hudson County District Attorney Harold J. Ruvoldt, Jr. has agreed to represent Zampella against allegations that he did favors for organized crime figures while on the bench. Ruvoldt called the allegations "groundless," and told the press, "The conclusions, the inferences, and the factual statements are false [in the documents] and they, indeed, may be maliciously false."

Despite the fact that no formal charges have been filed against Zampella, the FBI report has provoked extensive press coverage and caused his removal.

Maryland orders tests for salmonella

Following the discovery of salmonella infection in four Cecil County chicken flocks,

Maryland has become the first state to require the testing of all commercial egg-laying flocks for the potentially deadly bacteria.

State health and agriculture officials also signed an order requiring producers to pasteurize all eggs from infected flocks before they can be sold for human consumption.

Maryland's action followed tests that found traces of salmonella in 4 out of 15 chicken flocks in Cecil County belonging to A.J. DeCoster, the largest egg producer in the Northeast of the United States.

The Maryland Agriculture Department tested the chickens after the New York Health Department said that it had traced over 500 cases of gastrointestinal illness to DeCoster eggs. Most at risk from salmonella poisoning are infants and the elderly.

DeCoster, which ships most of its eggs to the state of New York, announced at the end of July that it would slaughter about 250,000 infected chickens and sell the meat to processors who cook it for prepared foods.

Editorial rips into Prosecutor McKay

The *New York Daily News* used its lead editorial Aug. 1 to rip into special prosecutor James McKay for his handling of the investigation of Attorney General Edwin Meese.

Under the headline, "The Slander of Edwin Meese," the *News* accused McKay of having "tried very hard to indict" Ed Meese but, "much to his dismay, no doubt, found no grounds on which to seek the indictment.

"That, it would seem, should have been the end of the story," added the *News*. "The special prosecutor should have issued a report explaining that he'd found no grounds for indictment. . . . He opted for a different course, however. . . . McKay publicly labeled Meese a crook."

"No prosecutor," concluded the *News*, "should render a guilty verdict in the court of public opinion after failing to find sufficient evidence even to bring the case to a court of law. Edwin Meese has been cleared of criminal wrongdoing. Whether Mr.

McKay likes it or not, that is the objective result of his inquiry."

Baltimore mayor to tour Europe

Baltimore's Mayor Kurt Schmoke, who made national headlines when he called for a "debate" on drug legalization at the National Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C. at the end of June, is planning an eight-day trip through Europe at the end of September, according to the August issue of *Baltimore* magazine. The trip has, as one of its goals, "to plan the city's participation in the explosion of cultural and economic activity forecasted for 1992," when Europe is to undergo a fascist restructuring eliminating national sovereignty (see page 42).

"The year 1992 not only marks the transatlantic celebration of the five-hundredth anniversary of the New World, it is also the target date for the unification of the twelve-member European Economic Community," *Baltimore* magazine's writer explained.

Schmoke's trip will take him to Madrid and Cadiz, Spain, Genoa and Bologna, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and Brussels.

Preliminary checking on the Baltimore mayor's trip indicates that the next phase of "post-industrial" society is part of Schmoke's interest in Europe 1992. Schmoke will be visiting the Communist-ruled Emilia Romagna section of Italy, which was portrayed by a source in Schmoke's office as a model area of the "post-industrial" era. According to the mayor's promotional material, this area's success has been based upon thousands of small businesses started by many former industrial workers, who are now employed in various "high-tech" endeavors as artisans.

According to one spokesman for the administration, Schmoke will explore the transfer of these lessons to Baltimore. Schmoke will be visiting a building in central Bologna run by the National Confederation of Artisans. Also as part of his tour, he will visit the Johns Hopkins campus, and attend an International Fellows Conference, in Genoa.

Briefly

● **AMERICANS** don't know geography, according to a Gallup poll commissioned by the National Geographic Society. Fewer and fewer Americans can identify any foreign country on a world map; 14% could not even find the United States! 20% could not name a single country in Europe; 75% could not find the Persian Gulf; 25% could not find the Pacific Ocean. Nearly 50% could not find New York State on a map. Statistics for Europeans were a little better, but there, the young know more than the old, while in the United States, it is the reverse.

● **PENNSYLVANIA** was the site of a major police drug raid July 31. A booby-trapped drug factory that could produce \$3 million worth of methamphetamine daily was raided by a state police strike force in Auburn Township, Susquehanna County. Officers called the drug operation "the most extensive ever encountered."

● **NEW JERSEY** health workers have won a fight for notification on AIDS patients. A threatened strike by 700 members of AFSCME Local 2254 was averted when health workers signed a contract with Jersey City Medical Center providing that the center must inform health workers of which patients have AIDS. The hospital will be the first in the state to adopt such a practice.

● **NATIONAL GUARD** volunteers from Military Police units in Texas, Arizona, and Florida, in an experimental 30-day exercise, will be deployed alongside U.S. Customs agents, the National Guard announced July 29. The guard members will be trained by the Customs agents in border interdiction work.

● **JACKIE PRESSER**, the late president of the Teamsters union, was an FBI informer for almost a decade, the FBI's Oliver "Buck" Revell revealed. His code name was "All Pro."