

National News

AIDS transmission routes increase

The number of identified ways that the AIDS virus can be transmitted is rapidly increasing. According to letters by medical experts published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, acupuncture and oral sex have now been identified as routes of AIDS transmission.

A letter in the *Journal* published during the week of Jan. 24 from doctors at two hospitals in France, documents the case of a 17-year-old boy who tested positive to the HIV virus after undergoing acupuncture for tendonitis.

The doctors write, "The patient had never had sexual intercourse. He did not have hemophilia and had never had a transfusion. He was not an intravenous drug user, had no tattoo and had not been in jail."

Another report by two Boston area physicians, which will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Journal*, says that a 60-year-old man who is diabetic and impotent contracted AIDS from a prostitute via oral sex. Doctors at the Lahey Clinic did not approach the prostitute because of Massachusetts state laws protecting confidentiality.

The article concludes with a revised warning on practicing "safer sex." It "cautions against exchange of bodily fluids during other sexual practices, such as oral sex."

A 17% increase in AIDS in New York City during 1988 has now made it the third leading cause of death overall, and the leading cause of death in men ages 30 to 44, and women ages 25 to 39. Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph reported on Jan. 24, "To date, almost 19,000 people have been diagnosed with AIDS in New York City."

'Openness' vanishes in new Congress

The opportunity for constituents to provide testimony or public comment to the new Senate has been dramatically curtailed, if

the Senate confirmation hearings on the Bush administration nominees are any indication.

Democrats who controlled the Senate during the Carter administration, and Republicans who controlled the Senate during the Reagan administration, generally provided ample opportunity for attacks on, or backing for, a cabinet nominee to be openly aired. Constituents were generally welcomed before committee confirmation hearings to comment on needed policy changes, or simply to suggest questions for the nominees.

Whether, because of the establishment nature of the Bush administration, or the nature of the Democrats who now control the Senate, or both, the current round of confirmation hearings has ended such openness.

Only the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chaired by Sen. Bennett Johnston (D-La.), which considers the Secretaries of Energy and Interior, has welcomed all testimony. The Committee on Veterans Affairs chaired by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) has invited some, but not all, who requested the opportunity.

The Senate Foreign Relations, Banking, Labor and Human Resources, Governmental Affairs, Agriculture, and Environment and Public Works Committees did invite written statements to be submitted for the record.

But the Senate Finance Committee chaired by Sen. Lloyd Bensten (D-Tex.), the Senate Armed Services Committee chaired by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee chaired by Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), have apparently not even responded to requests to give testimony.

Thornburgh's war on drugs: cut consumption

Evidence continues to mount that the Bush administration is shifting the focus of the War on Drugs away from law enforcement to other means of cutting domestic consumption of drugs.

U.S. Attorney General Richard Thorn-

burgh confirmed this shift, stating, "To lose the war on drugs, leave it to law enforcement," on the TV news show "Meet the Press" on Jan. 22.

Thornburgh said to cut demand would require "education, rehabilitation, and treatment," and a "change in values" within the population. He said that he expects the new drug czar, William Bennett, to concentrate on the reduction of demand.

The libertarian Cato Institute added its voice for drug legalization in its recently released recommendations to the Bush administration in a report titled, "An American Vision: Policies for the '90s." It calls for "allowing the sale of drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana" in the same "fashion as sale of alcoholic beverages," because it is the "public disorder and criminality that make the drug-related problem worse rather than better."

According to Cato founder Edward H. Crane, some of the prominent people associated with the institute include Federal Express chairman Frederick Smith, former Delaware Gov. Pierre du Pont, Nobel economist Friedrich von Hayek, and Georgetown University Prof. Earl C. Ravenal.

Texas Democrats move to oust Jones

Texas state Democratic Party officials are moving to oust Claude Jones as chairman of the Harris County (Houston) Democratic Party alleging that he failed to support the party nominee, Michael Dukakis, in the presidential election. The move is the culmination of efforts by the party elite to ignore the voter mandate and to strip Jones, a "LaRouche Democrat," of all powers, and seeks to oust him before the 1990 primary gets under way.

Even though Jones has so far only been informed of the allegations and is still chairman, state party chairman Bob Slagle is already holding meetings on the effect the battle over who will replace Jones will have on the next gubernatorial race. Slagle and state party executive director Ed Martin came to Houston to hold an "informal" meeting with

about 70 top local Democrats in an attempt to avoid a split which could not be repaired before the 1990 race for governor, according to Jan. 24 press reports.

Jones on Jan. 19 denounced those "extremist, liberal elitists who have been more concerned with personal power and personal gain than with the true interests of the party . . . [who] have become completely estranged from their own electorate." Their response to his electoral victory "should have been to accept defeat, profit in knowledge gained from the loss, and go at it again in the next election." Instead of attempting to defeat him at the polls, these elites are resorting "to an overt attempt to unseat" him.

WSJ attacks Justice Dept. lawlessness

The *Wall Street Journal* leveled an attack on the Department of Justice and U. S. Attorneys for setting themselves up as a power above the law of the land, including the President, in a scathing lead editorial entitled "The Kinder, Gentler Hog Butcher," on Jan. 26. The FBI raids on the Chicago commodity trading pits under the direction of U. S. Attorney Anton Valukas, and the Department of Justice's use of the RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) law in that probe, provoked the *Journal's* attack.

The use of RICO must be approved in Washington "according to a set of detailed guidelines," the *Journal* notes, which "prohibit the use of RICO to coerce a plea bargain" or "to seek testimony against others. Yet, clearly this has become the standard of this law." The *Journal* demands that Attorney General Richard Thornburgh take responsibility for Valukas's actions.

"Since when does the public put up money so FBI agents can play at speculation?" the *Journal* asks. "Since when does a prosecutor turn the disciplinary proceedings of an exchange into criminal charges? Since when does a U.S. prosecutor's office strike a secret alliance with a politically connected private market competitor like Archer Daniels Midland?"

The tactics, plus the fact that many of the 93 U. S. Attorneys did not tender their resignations, as other appointees do with a new administration, led the *Journal* to conclude "that someone had a larger purpose in mind." "The most striking thing about the Valukas extravaganza, indeed, is its timing: literally on the eve of a presidential inauguration. It seems designed . . . to erode the administration's control over law enforcement procedures.

"The Constitution wisely provides that the duty to execute the laws faithfully rests with the President, not with some bank of attorneys beyond the reach of the electorate. At the moment, it looks to us as if no one's in charge, indeed, that a new President's authority is under attack."

Pentagon probes electronic warfare

The Pentagon has acknowledged for the first time that it has conducted investigations into the possibility that electronic warfare has been responsible for the downing of military planes. According to the Jan. 22 *Washington Post*, the Pentagon is conducting a probe into the crash of an F-111 jet during the 1986 strike on Libya, and believes that electronic interference was likely to have been responsible. So far, Pentagon officials are pointing publicly at their own systems, saying that the interference may have come from radio waves transmitted at high frequencies from U. S. ships in the area.

Some radio waves common above the battlefield "will actually affect the electrons within the aircraft's flight controls as well as its fuel controls," said Air Force Col. Charles Quisenberry, who is leading the probe. In the past, he said, the Pentagon too often ignored its safeguards designed to protect weapons from electromagnetic interference.

EIR has continually pointed to the emerging danger of a new generation of radio frequency or electromagnetic pulse weapons, and demanded an investigation of Soviet culpability in the extraordinarily high number of military plane crashes.

Briefly

● **ARMAND HAMMER** told *EIR* on Jan. 18 that "President Gorbachov has already announced a reduction of 500,000 conventional troops. There will be no further linkage" to the START talks seeking 50% cuts in strategic weapons. On the Strategic Defense Initiative, Hammer noted that President Reagan offered to give them the technology once developed, "but I don't think the Soviets will wait that long."

● **THE NEW YORK Times** admitted that the "greenhouse effect" is a fraud on Jan. 18. "While some [scientists] point to the vast uncertainties as reason to delay action in confronting the greenhouse effect, many experts argue that the possibility of accelerated damage warrants strong measures now to reduce the human impact on global systems that remain beyond scientists' understanding."

● **THE TAXPAYER Bill of Rights** became law on Jan. 1, which demands that an administrative procedure within IRS be pursued, and the taxpayer informed of all his rights, before the IRS pursues civil or criminal penalties. According to a senior Senate aide, this may be one reason that the tax charges in the trial of Lyndon LaRouche and others were rushed to trial before the Jan. 1 deadline.

● **RONALD REAGAN** had "excellent political sense" which enabled him "to hear voices in the country, and from them to filter out that which promised success, and to proceed on that basis. . . . Reagan was much more realistic than one could have judged from his speeches," the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* gushed in a Jan. 20 commentary.

● **THE SOVIETS** are responsible for the buildup of biological and bacteriological warfare capabilities in the Near East and Asia, according to a National Security Council briefing reported in the Jan. 19 *Washington Times*. U. S. intelligence has identified two definite and five probable sites where the Soviets are producing such material in violation of treaties.