

Satanwatch by Patricia Salisbury

Anti-Satan bills before two governors

Louisiana and Illinois are the first states where constituency pressure has pushed bills through legislatures.

State lawmakers around the U.S.A. are responding to intense constituency pressure demanding action against the virtual epidemic of Satanic activity surfacing in the United States. In the third week of June, Louisiana and Illinois became the first states in which state legislators have passed bills outlawing Satanic practices. The bills are now before Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson (R) and Louisiana Gov. "Buddy" Roemer (D) for final approval.

Bills are also actively being considered in the Pennsylvania state legislature and were introduced in the Texas and Washington state legislatures, both now out of session.

Two bills sponsored by Rep. Robert Regan of Crete, Illinois have passed the legislature. Regan received 1,000 petition signatures from citizens demanding legislation to outlaw Satanic activity, and a delegation of activists associated with the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), the political action committee co-founded by U.S. statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, met several times with Representative Regan and his staff during the period he was formulating the legislation.

The two bills passed by the Illinois body would increase the penalties for crimes that are performed in the context of ritualistic activity. Under the first, HB 1882, anyone who "mutilates, dismembers or tortures" another person as part of a "ritual, observance, ceremony, rite or initiation," would be guilty of a Class 2 felony. Under the amended Criminal Code, that person would face up to seven years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

The ritual aspect of the crime becomes an aggravating factor and triggers the maximum sentence. "If five people are involved in the ritual, they can all be prosecuted," said an aide to Representative Regan, the bill's sponsor.

In the second bill, HB 1884, on Ritual Brutality, the maximum penalty is triggered if any of the following acts are committed as part of a ritual or any ostensible religious activity: brutalization of humans or animals, theft of corpses, kidnaping of humans, desecration of buildings or property. Regan said that he drafted his legislation after sponsoring forums on the problem with hundreds of law enforcement officials throughout Illinois.

A third bill, HB 1883, has passed the Illinois House, and is now before the Senate. It attempts to deal with the terrible problem of suicides induced by Satanic cults. HB 1883 make it a felony to "induce or coerce" someone to commit suicide while maintaining control over the person through a variety of means, such as control of physical circumstances, psychic pressure, religious, political, or philosophical principles. The suicide must have occurred before a crime is considered to have been committed.

Representative Regan, in motivating the legislation, pointed out that, had cult leader Jim Jones carried out murders of the character of Jonestown and survived, he could not be prosecuted under current Illinois state law. Two teenagers have committed suicide as part of Satanic suicide pacts in Regan's district recently. Regan be-

lieves that in such cases it is possible that evidence of inducement of the act might be left behind in the *Book of Shadows*, ritualistic diaries kept by even young Satanic followers, or by information supplied by witnesses to the inducement.

In an interview with *EIR*, Regan mentioned that he is also very interested in exploring ways to deal with the effects of metallic rock and games such as "Dungeons and Dragons," which many experts believe have induced suicide and other violent acts, but has not as yet been able to formulate legislation which he believes would comply with constitutional guarantees of free speech.

The bill, HB 928, passed in Louisiana by both houses of the legislature unanimously, like the Illinois measures, amends the state Criminal Code, making it a felony to commit certain "deviant ritualistic acts including mutilation, dismemberment or torture of animals or humans, and drinking of blood or wastes as part of a ceremony, rite or practice." Those found guilty may be sentenced to up to five years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. The bill also makes it a capital murder if someone is killed during a ritual. The Louisiana bill was sponsored by Rep. James David Cain (D-Dry Creek) and 10 other lawmakers from both parties. The bill was initiated in a grassroots organizing drive which mobilized ministers, law enforcement officials, and other citizens who testified on behalf of the bills. The effort was headed by Democratic Party activist and National Democratic Policy Committee leader Fred Huenefeld of Monroe, who marshalled broad-based statewide support for the bill.

With this model legislation a step from final approval, it is expected that many other state legislatures will move on the issue.