

# National News

## U.S. Army prepared for dictatorship duties

U.S. Army officials told the Feb. 14 *Los Angeles Times* they had concluded from the Panama invasion that they must increase the number of active-duty troops specializing in "civil affairs" functions such as public works and government administration. A special unit of Army analysts had submitted these conclusions to the Army brass Feb. 4.

They also advised more intensive training of troops for police functions and urban warfare to improve Army performance "in future military operations." The Feb. 19 *International Herald Tribune* reported that the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division has been holding exercises in urban warfare. West Point Prof. Augustus Richard Norton was quoted saying, "Given the population trends throughout the Third World, the prospect for urban warfare has actually increased in the past several decades."

## Crowe confirms Pentagon opposed SDI

Retired Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Adm. William Crowe confirmed that he and much of the Pentagon opposed the Strategic Defense Initiative, in an interview in the Feb. 18 *Washington Post*. *EIR* had maintained that due to parochial interests and lack of understanding of the economic benefits, much of the Pentagon opposed the SDI.

Crowe said the Pentagon only accepted Reagan's 1983 proposal to "see if the technologies have anything to offer," and because "we thought the Soviets were driving hard" on their own program. "There is evidence that the Soviets have not been doing as much as we thought. There's been a lot of hoopla about this stuff which has been misleading."

The Feb. 18 *Washington Post* gloated that the "politically beleaguered SDI program may be facing 'last hurrah.'" The Pentagon is desperately renewing an SDI push, but only for "brilliant pebbles" and related kinetic energy weapons, while there

are no plans, even from purported SDI supporters, to push "exotic laser or particle beam weapons."

## NDPC lobbies Congress on LaRouche, economy

A 60-person strong National Democratic Policy Committee delegation, a political action committee representing the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party, lobbied Congress on Feb. 21 to reverse the political frameups of Lyndon LaRouche and Michael Billington, and the looming financial crash. Six Congressmen were briefed directly, as were aides in about 30 more offices.

The NDPC delegation demanded that Congress intervene to force President Bush to release the exculpatory documents in the LaRouche case. Several congressmen indicated that they have been following his case with interest and curiosity, while others were genuinely shocked at the barbaric prison treatment of Billington.

The delegation also emphasized the need for emergency economic measures to restart the physical economy as the financial blowout nears.

## Bennett swipes at DoJ in BCCI plea bargain

White House Director of National Drug Control Policy William Bennett stated on NBC's Meet The Press broadcast on Feb. 18 that the plea bargain deal struck between the Department of Justice and Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) had been done without consultation with his office, and that he had personally protested the plea bargain at a cabinet meeting attended by President Bush.

Bennett's attack on Attorney General Richard Thornburgh came in the context of his calling for harsh punishments of dope bankers, which paralleled his call for capital punishment for drug kingpins.

Interviewer Brian Ross pointed out that the bank was the eighth largest private bank in the world, and that such prominent Dem-

ocratic Party establishment figures as Clark Clifford had been associated with BCCI. "The decision to plea bargain on the eve of trial did not come from the U.S. Attorney prosecuting the case," Ross said. "The decision came from Washington, after Clark Clifford personally lobbied to save BCCI."

## UMW votes to approve Pittston coal contract

Members of the United Mine Workers voted two-to-one on Feb. 20 to ratify an agreement ending their bitter ten-month old strike against Pittston Coal Co. in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

UMW President Richard Trumka declared the strike "officially over." The union compromised on sweeping work rule changes, including unprecedented rotating shifts. In return, Pittston compromised on one of the key issues in the strike, health care benefits.

Trumka blasted "federal labor laws that he said are destroying the ability of labor and management to reach a 'peaceful resolution of disputes,'" Virginia's *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported Feb. 19. Trumka also told union members that the union would continue to contest the \$64 million in fines, "unprecedented in the United States," imposed by Judge McGlothlin.

Senior U.S. District Court Judge Glen M. Williams, after cutting by two-thirds the fines he had levied against the UMW, said "I didn't feel fining was effective in getting the orders complied with." Williams indicated his belief that the "cease and desist" order against the UMW, which would include significant fines if disobeyed, gave him grounds for reducing the fines, the Feb. 15 *Times-Dispatch* reported.

he said.

## Book on occult shows control of Reagans

Nancy Reagan's astrologer Joan Quigley's new book, *What Does Joan Say?* was reviewed by New York *Daily News* columnist

Liz Smith on Feb. 20 as the most frightening reading of the year because of the extensive occult control over the Reagans while they were in the White House.

According to Smith, the preface states, "Through Nancy, I had a direct line to the President. . . . I was responsible for timing all press conferences, most speeches, the State of the Union addresses, the take-offs and landings of Air Force One. I picked the time of Ronald Reagan's debate with Carter and the two debates with Walter Mondale. I timed congressional arm-twisting, the second oath of office, the announcement of Anthony Kennedy's Supreme Court nomination. I delayed the President's first operation for cancer . . . and chose the time for Nancy's mastectomy. I re-created Nancy's image, defused Bitburg. . . ."

Liz Smith asks her readers if the Reagans will respond to Quigley's claims, and if they're true, will anyone apologize to Don Regan. The book is scheduled for release March 19 by Birch Lane Press.

## Minneapolis jury critiques prosecutor

A jury in Minneapolis has written a critique of prosecutorial methods which should serve as an example for what is necessary to change the climate of legal fascism spreading in the United States.

The case involved an American Indian woman who was arrested and held in jail on a charge of having stabbed her boyfriend. After hearing the evidence presented, the jury spent one minute in the jury room and voted acquittal. They then composed a letter which was sent to the mayor, the police chief, the county attorney, and other state officials, which delivered a scathing criticism of the conduct of the police and prosecutor in the case.

The jury said the only evidence against the woman was a confession which they believed had been coerced; that police conducted a "sloppy" and "unprofessional" investigation, ignoring evidence that someone else had stabbed the victim; and they deplored the fact that the woman had been held four months because she could not meet the high bail set by the court.

The jurors demanded that the real assailant be "picked up," and they offered suggestions on how the police should conduct investigations and interrogations, including the modest proposal that evidence should be "compelling" before a charge is pressed.

The police had constructed the charge without the testimony of the victim, who was unable to communicate during his recovery. At trial, he testified that the woman accused had not been his assailant. The police blamed the prosecutor's office for the fiasco, saying that the prosecutor's concerns about the future political repercussions of a failure to convict in the case motivated the rush to prosecution.

The big question the jury asked the judge was, "Why didn't you stop this?" The judge said he felt it was up to the jury to decide the matter—so they did.

## Bush friend tied to child abuse scandal

Sources close to the sex crimes investigation of Franciscan Father Bruce Ritter have revealed that his New York-based Covenant House has been used to transship children from Central America to wealthy American society pederasts, according to the *Village Voice* of the week of Feb. 17. Several weeks ago, Ritter was publicly accused of having had numerous "affairs" with several of the runaway center's children.

Covenant House, one of the world's largest child care organizations, was created in 1977 by Ritter and Robert MacCauley, who is the president of Americares, the CIA-linked, Knights of Malta charity which supervised the shipment of thousands of tons of "medicine" to the Contras throughout the 1980s. Ritter is Americares vice president. MacCauley is an intimate friend of George Bush and was his classmate from kindergarten to Yale University.

Americares' other board members are: Prescott Bush, Jr.; tertiary William E. Simon; former AIFLD director J. Peter Grace; Inter-American Dialogue leader Sol Linowitz; and former Pentagon intelligence chief Gen. Richard Stilwell.

## Briefly

● **DETROIT MAYOR** Coleman Young associate, former Detroit deputy police chief Kenneth Weiner, was indicted Feb. 15 by a federal grand jury on charges he allegedly lured investors with his connections to Detroit city officials and defrauded investors of millions.

● **THE BUSH** administration joined with former President Reagan Feb. 15 in efforts to shield Reagan's diaries from subpoena by former National Security Adviser Adm. John Poindexter, claiming that releasing the diaries would undermine "executive privilege."

● **VICE PRESIDENT** Dan Quayle, the supposed Gorbachov doubter in the Bush administration, called for a smaller U.S. Armed Forces in the Feb. 16 *Washington Times*. The "cold war is not over," Quayle said, but added he hopes to be "able to attend its funeral."

● **CLARK CLIFFORD**, adviser to Democratic Presidents since the 1940s, admitted, "There was a steady, long, praiseworthy rise to eminence in the world almost unequaled since Rome ruled and Greece had its turn . . . and now we are in decline. . . . We have frittered it away" through economic policies that "reduced this economic Gibraltar to the largest debtor nation in the world."

● **A RESOLUTION** which would have rotated the chair of the Selma, Alabama School Board from white to black each year, aimed at peacefully resolving the school crisis that has sparked racial confrontation over the past month, was defeated by the white majority on the board. The four black council members walked out.

● **THE CAPITAL GAINS** tax cut proposed by President Bush would yield only 0.4% of its benefits to taxpayers earning under \$20,000, a report from congressional Joint Committee on Taxation said. Over 66% of the benefits would go to those making over \$200,000.