

# National News

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## Weinberger: book blasts Iran-Contra affair

Former Reagan administration Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger termed the Iran-Contra affair "one of the most serious mistakes the Reagan administration made during the seven years I served as Secretary of Defense," in his new memoirs, and said it was largely the work of Robert McFarlane and Oliver North.

"The entire McFarlane initiative had arisen from meetings he had been holding with various representatives of Israel, with whom some Iranians were in close contact," Weinberger said.

Weinberger ridiculed the operation and the idea that there were any moderates in Teheran. Selling arms to the "barbaric" Iranian regime was not only bad policy, but, "by implicating the President in a secret deal . . . risked having future administration policy subjected to the equivalent of *black-mail* by anyone who knew it."

Weinberger says that Irangate never would have happened had not Judge William Clark—"one of my oldest friends [and] ideal for the role of [National] Security Adviser, ensuring that all the different viewpoints reached the President on the many matters to be decided"—resigned in October 1983.

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## Defense panel bucks Bush, asks hi-tech funding

A Defense Department panel has called for \$100 million in federal support for R&D in high-definition television. The special panel, convened a year ago, proposes that the present \$10 million support be drastically upgraded in its report, "High-Resolution Systems Critical to National Security—Both Military and Economic."

In addition to the home TV market, HDTV has civilian applications to personal computers and medical imaging, and involves development of new varieties of semiconductor chips and sensors.

The thrust of the report goes directly against recent White House moves cutting

back on such "dual-use" technologies and purging the defense research establishment of supporters.

Michael C. Sekora, who headed Project Socrates, the Defense Intelligence Agency group which monitors the high-technology efforts of America's competitors, has revealed that he submitted his resignation April 20 over policy and funding disputes. Socrates had developed an extensive data base concerning the status of advanced technologies throughout the world. Robert B. Costello, the Reagan Defense official who set up Socrates, said, "They're terminating the only data base the nation has. I don't see how they can do this. You have to have this kind of information to even know how to lay out your research and development money."

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## Call for high-tech takeover moratorium

Dr. Sam Harrell, president of the trade group Semi/Sematech which consists of 125 U.S.-owned companies that supply components and materials to the semiconductor industry, called for a substantial moratorium on foreign acquisition of U.S. high-technology companies, in congressional testimony May 9.

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## Va. AFL-CIO to run labor candidates?

Allegedly "inspired by UMW leader Jackie Stump's election to the House of Delegates, the Virginia AFL-CIO is looking into how . . . unions could run their own candidates for public office," according to the Richmond, Virginia *Times-Dispatch* of May 13.

Danny LeBlanc, a spokesman for the labor confederation, said "If we had a choice of determining who we had [in office] we'd rather it be somebody who has worked with their hands. . . . Union leaders, if they're worth their salt, understand politics better than some politicians."

The campaign for U.S. Senate of Nancy Spannaus, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, and LaRouche's own candidacy for Congress from Virginia's 10th C.D.,

have garnered significant support among labor groups in Virginia. Many union members are particularly outraged that the Democratic Party has refused to nominate any opponent to incumbent Republican Sen. John Warner. Both LaRouche and Spannaus will run as independent Democrats.

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## Endangered Species Act 'too tough,' says Lujan

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. said the Endangered Species Act was too tough and called for changes, in an interview in the May 10 *Denver Post*.

"It's just too tough an act," Lujan said. "We've got to change it. . . . Do we have to save every subspecies? Do we have to save [an endangered species] in every locality where it exists?" he asked.

Lujan cited the red squirrel as "the best example. Nobody's told me the difference between a red squirrel, a black one, or a brown one." The Mount Graham red squirrel is holding up construction of a planned astrophysical complex atop Mount Graham, Arizona.

The statements set off a furor among the eco-fascist set, prompting Lujan spokesman Steven Goldstein to note that, "It is the secretary's opinion that the Endangered Species Act should be used as a shield but not as a sword."

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## Bush sets Mars landing for 2019

President Bush set a long-term goal of putting a man on Mars by 2019 in a speech May 11 at the commencement ceremony at Texas Arts and Industries University. "Thirty years ago, NASA was founded and the space race began. And 30 years from now I believe man will stand on another planet," Bush said.

Bush called for the next age of exploration "with not only a goal but a timetable: I believe that before Apollo celebrates the 50th anniversary of its landing on the Moon, the American flag should be planted on Mars."

## Briefly

Lyndon LaRouche has proposed a slightly longer timetable, to land on Mars about 2025, in order to take the time necessary to develop the most advanced technologies, such as fusion propulsion, which would ensure safer missions and more rapid colonization once undertaken. Bush is unlikely to set shorter-term goals, like a return to the Moon, which require major fights over funding.

In his speech, Bush took a jab at Carl Sagan and the other anti-manned exploration proponents by saying that Thomas Jefferson did not send a robot to look around when it was time to explore the West. Bush also referenced the importance of space exploration for the economy and education.

### American cities back Lithuanian freedom

The city council of Oakland, California on May 14 passed a strongly worded resolution calling on the President and Congress to "extend full diplomatic recognition to Lithuania." The cities of Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Huntington Beach, all in central Orange County, California have issued proclamations in support of Lithuania, and the mayor of Baldwin Park, California has issued a letter of support.

The Oakland resolution, signed by Mayor or Lionel Wilson, the first black mayor of the city, was formally presented to Schiller Institute representative Evelyn Lantz.

In making the presentation, Mayor Lionel Wilson explained that the city of Oakland had supported freedom and democracy in many countries and places and was proud now to support the nation of Lithuania.

### Conservation reserve breeding pestilence

Farmland which has been placed in the federal conservation reserve program is a breeding ground for insect plagues and is causing brushfires, according to reports from Western states officials. The federal program, started in 1985, pays farmers to take cropland out of food production and let

wild vegetation grow up. About 40 million acres are locked up.

In the drylands of Texas, the grasses on CRP land help fires start more often, spread faster, and burn hotter. "It's creating a monster for volunteer firefighters," said Alan Fondy, field consultant for the Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas. "We've lost firefighters . . . and we've lost equipment in this stuff."

CRP lands in Minnesota and Northern Plains states have been "launching pads" for swarms of grasshoppers, beetles, and locusts to attack nearby crops. Officials in the Dakotas and Minnesota have asked for federal funds for spraying. In eastern North Dakota, researchers last fall counted 1,700 grasshopper eggs per square yard, compared with a normal count of 200.

### California to consider police-state legal changes

Two ballot initiatives to change the criminal justice system will be put before California voters in June and November. One proposal, perhaps the most dangerous, would eliminate *voir dire*, the right of a defendant's counsel to question potential jurors for bias. Denial of *voir dire* was a critical element facilitating the frameup and conviction of political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche in Virginia in 1988.

Proposition 115, on the June ballot, is supported by GOP candidate for governor Sen. Pete Wilson. The other, virtually identical proposition, is sponsored by Attorney General John Van de Kamp, Democratic candidate for governor.

Among the proposed changes, the propositions would expand the definition of first-degree murder to include 16 and 17-year-old minors; create the crime of torture; repeal the requirement that a copy of the arrest report be delivered to the defendant at the initial court appearance; change the disclosure law under which prosecutors and defense attorneys must reveal information; require the court to assign felony cases only to defense attorneys ready to proceed within specified time limits; admit hearsay evidence; eliminate preliminary hearings for some felonies; and would hamper the ability to sever cases of those jointly charged.

● **LAROCHE** for Justice, the campaign committee of independent Democrat Lyndon LaRouche, running in Virginia's 10th C.D., has raised \$150,000, more than the \$10,000 raised by his primary opponent, MacKenzie Canter III, and the \$100,000 of the Republican incumbent, Rep. Frank Wolf, according to Federal Election Commission reports.

● **SYLVESTER STALLONE**, who starred as the semi-psychotic "Rambo," wants to shoot environmental violators. "I want Rambo to disappear unless I'm allowed to turn him into the defender of the ecological battle to save the environment," he told Italian television May 8.

● **THE ILLINOIS** State Legislature has passed a law making it mandatory for every child attending public schools to take a course in Holocaust studies.

● **GREYHOUND** chairman Fred Currey declared the strike by drivers is "irrelevant" because the company is close to having enough drivers to operate reduced schedules, the *Wall Street Journal* reported May 8. Los Angeles union president Jim Cushing-Murray said, "They're almost the kinds of words you would use if you wanted to provoke drivers' responses."

● **GROUNDBREAKING** for the Animas-La Plata reservoir in Colorado, one of the last Western water projects, was put on "indefinite hold" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which said it threatened survival of the squawfish. The major beneficiary of the project would have been the impoverished Ute Indian tribe.

● **THE NATIONAL** Labor Relations Board is "seeking criminal contempt findings" against the United Mine Workers, according to the May 10 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. The object of the suit is to "bar key union organizers from direct participation in strike and picketing activities for up to five years."