

National News

Inouye defends 'Keating Five'

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hi.) defended the so-called "Keating Five" senators before the Senate Ethics Committee, calling their actions on behalf of Charles Keating "vigorous, but not improper," the Dec. 4 *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Inouye characterized the senators' actions as legitimate services for constituents, adding that most senators engage in such actions, often for contributors. "If contributions are that evil, sir, then I think the whole system should be changed," Inouye told committee special counsel Robert Bennett. "We are on trial, the U.S. Senate."

What the senators are accused of, ultimately, is questioning the judgment of executive branch federal regulators. Syndicated columnist Warren Brookes in his column in the Dec. 4 *Washington Times*, noted the "dangerous agenda" of those who "would like nothing better than to concentrate still more power in the hands of regulators and unelected bureaucracies."

Death education programs kill children

A debate on the Phil Donahue TV talk show on Dec. 3 demonstrated how school death-education curricula are killing U.S. school children.

One mother told how her eight-year-old child and other second-graders had a "feelings" class and then went to watch a film meant to make viewers empathize with people with handicaps. The film showed a young child who committed suicide after finding out his father thinks he is worthless because he had a leg amputated. The second-grade viewer, imitating the child and his suicide technique in the film, hung himself the next day. Parents had no idea the school had showed the film until after their child's death.

A former straight-A student said her

school continually told students from first grade on that their parents were incompetent and should not be trusted. Instead, students should depend on their "class daddy" or "class mommy" to help them. The woman said the school taught teens reincarnation: when you die, you become part of the over-soul; you become free of your body; you learn everything that God knows and then you can come back as a better life-form. The woman said that as a teen, learning was everything to her, if she could die to learn more, she would. Her father caught her on her way out to drive her car off a cliff.

Altered states of consciousness, hypnosis, and guided imagery are also being taught in most of the country's schools. One exasperated parent asked, "Are these teachers trained to teach anything besides sex and death?"

'60 Minutes' exposes Israeli massacre

The CBS News program "60 Minutes" broadcast an exposé Dec. 2 on the Israeli government and U.S. media lies about the Oct. 8 murder of 21 Palestinians on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Host Mike Wallace opened the segment with the video of what the U.S. public was shown about the incident, and quoted Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying that the Palestinians had stockpiled rocks nearby the Wailing Wall in order to attack Succoth worshippers and to divert world attention from Saddam Hussein.

Videos by Israelis and others showed that Palestinians were throwing rocks only at police and soldiers, and that all Jewish worshippers at the foot of the Wall had been evacuated.

U.S. news media footage caught incidents in which Israeli soldiers shot into crowds pointblank, fired into the mosque, and, in one clip, soldiers continued shooting to kill in spite of their lieutenant hysterically screaming to cease fire.

An ambulance attendant described how soldiers shot through the windshield of the vehicle as she treated victims. She was nev-

er interviewed by the Israeli investigative commission, which claimed that she was "too ill" at the time of the hearings to testify.

The same commission also claimed that the loudspeaker atop the Al Aqsa Mosque was exhorting Palestinians to "kill the Jews." However, in a videotape taken by an American tourist and shown to the U.N. investigating commission, the voice on the loudspeaker was telling the soldiers, "Stop firing into the crowd!" and "Let the ambulances through!"

Test widely for AIDS, argues columnist

Harry Schwartz, an editorial board member of the *New York Times* for 29 years, urged wider testing for the AIDS virus in a commentary in the Dec. 7 *USA Today* entitled "Protect everybody; test widely for AIDS."

"It is time that U.S. hospitals tested every patient for the AIDS virus," wrote Schwartz. "This should be done automatically, with no folderol such as the present regulations that require getting the patient's consent for this test. When I attended the latest American Medical Association convention in Orlando, Florida, earlier this week, I discovered a real revolution has taken place in doctors' thinking. Earlier the [American Medical Association] AMA had been urging that patient confidentiality and the patient's right to give informed consent before testing be given the highest priority. But almost all the doctors I met in Orlando considered that old position rubbish. They made no bones about the fact that they are now scared."

Five of six "people in the street" that the paper chose to quote, answered "yes" to the question, "Is it necessary to test all patients for AIDS?"

USA Today editorialized, however, that policy should be to "limit AIDS testing." The paper warned that a report published by the *Journal of the AMA*, "showed that an alarmingly high number of U.S. hospitals are testing patients—without their knowledge or permission—violating published federal recommendations."

Briefly

● **RONALD REAGAN** was to be inducted into a select British group called "Saints and Sinners," according to British gossip columnists. On Dec. 5, Reagan told the Cambridge Union debating society in London that Gorbachov may "feel the need to invoke some of his more drastic powers . . . to impose and maintain martial law," and thought it justifiable.

● **JAMES LILLEY**, U.S. ambassador to Red China, attacked demonstrators protesting China's human rights abuses. "You should go back to China and serve China. . . . You're cowards," Lilley yelled, the Dec. 2 *Seattle Times* reported.

● **JOHN SUNUNU**, the White House chief of staff, is Syrian, not Lebanese, according to the French newsletter *Intelligence Newsletter/Le Monde du Renseignement*. It reports that Sununu brokered the meeting between Bush and Hafez al-Assad.

● **GEN. COLIN POWELL**, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been designated as an honorary grand marshal of the Jan. 21 Martin Luther King day parade in Atlanta, Georgia. The designation has created controversy in black leadership circles.

● **THE VOICE** of America was preparing a news item designed to warn Iraq that the U.S. would come to the aid of any Mideast nation that was attacked, on the day that U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie told Saddam Hussein that the U.S. had no interest in his quarrel with Kuwait. A news report read on a National Public Radio debate said that the broadcast was suppressed on orders of Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs, John H. Kelley.

● **GEORGE BUSH** is planning to declare "victory" in the war on drugs, just as Richard Nixon announced that the U.S. had "turned the corner on drug addiction" "even as the 'cocaine cowboys' were establishing their first beachhead in Miami," according to *Time* magazine in its Dec. 3 issue.

Drug dealer told to waive rights

Convicted crack dealer Moe West, in what was described by Virginia's director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as "constitutional extortion," has been ordered by Judge Herbert C. Gill, Jr. of Chesterfield County, Virginia to waive his rights against unlawful searches and seizures for 40 years after his release from prison, a right safeguarded by the Fourth Amendment, the Dec. 5 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported.

Had West not agreed to the waiver, the prosecutor threatened to jail him for his full sentence of 75 years. Now, West will serve 15 years and then be subjected at any time to searches and seizures.

Commonwealth Attorney William Davenport claims the waiver is no violation of the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. case against Noriega in disarray

The government's case against Gen. Manuel Noriega was "thrown into further confusion" when investigators "identified as their chief suspect" in the theft and release of the State Department's tapes of Noriega's conversations with his lawyers, "one of the principal government witnesses against Noriega," José Blandon, the Dec. 10 *Washington Post* reported.

The government has charged Blandon, whose testimony before the U.S. Congress against Noriega in February 1988 was the pretext for stepped up sanctions against Panama at that time, with leaking the tapes, a charge he denied.

Blandon, who is a key prosecution witness, said that in all of the material seized by the government, he has seen "nothing that incriminates Noriega."

The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) meanwhile, admitted it taped more than 1,400 calls made by Noriega, in papers filed in federal Court in Miami on Dec. 7. Al-

though most of the calls were to Noriega's lawyers, and thus privileged communications, the DoJ claims the tapings were legal because Noriega did not tell prison officials he was going to be discussing legal matters with his lawyers during those calls.

The prosecution is witness-shopping, "visiting prisons all over the world, and offering to let [drug traffickers] out if they'll give a little kernel of fact about Noriega. It's the hottest 'Get out of jail free' card around," according to the lawyer of one of Noriega's co-defendants, the Dec. 9 *Washington Post* reported.

Perot, Connally attack Bush war policy in Gulf

H. Ross Perot, a conservative Texas businessman, and former Texas governor John Connally have attacked George Bush for leading the nation to the brink of war in the Persian Gulf.

At a National League of Cities luncheon Dec. 4, Perot said: "The bottom line is we're draining our economy. . . . You will not be able to get much done at the local level until this is over." Citing the lesson of Vietnam, he said, "We owe it to the nation to follow our Constitution, to first commit the nation and then commit the troops." "Go back to grassroots America and have a raging debate about this incident in the desert," Perot urged his listeners.

Former Texas Gov. John Connally returned to Houston, Texas Dec. 8 with 22 hostages from Iraq following a trip to Baghdad, which included a 45-minute meeting with Saddam Hussein. Connally described Saddam as "tough-minded" but willing to negotiate. Saddam "wants peace, but peace with dignity," he said.

Connally warned Bush that the U.S. forces would be fighting "on behalf of a regime unworthy of the blood of Americans. . . . Unquestionably, we will win the battle and just as surely lose the war. We will incur the enmity of 200 million Arabs, including most of those in the lands we would be protecting. . . . I see no justification for getting into a shooting war in that part of the world."