

# National News

## Federal sentences double since 1989

Federal judges are imposing sentences twice as long as they were in 1989 before new sentencing guidelines went into effect, according to a study written by Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Gerald Heaney to be published in the *American Criminal Law Review* in September.

The study analyzes 800 criminal sentences in three Midwestern states during 1989. Under the new sentencing rules, the average prison sentence rose from 1.5 years to 3.3 years, while drug sentences increased from 2.9 years to 4.5 years.

Blacks have been the biggest losers under the new rules. In two judicial districts in Missouri and one in Arkansas, the average sentence for blacks rose 55%—from 3.8 to 5.9 years. The increase for whites was only 7%—from 2.9 to 3.1 years. “This nation simply cannot afford to have 23% of young black males in the criminal justice system,” Heaney writes. “We are doing something wrong.”

## Bush involved in Bay of Pigs fiasco?

That question—and the related one of whether Bush has been a CIA operative for decades—has been raised once again, this time by retired Col. Fletcher Prouty.

Prouty, who coordinated supplies for the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, has commented that the operation was code-named “Zapata,” and that the two boats used by the anti-Castro invaders were named “Barbara” and “Houston.”

The Aug. 21 *Washington Times* commented on Prouty’s revelation: “Well does this suggest that George Bush was involved or what? The President has been accused of a youthful CIA background before and denied it. But as Colonel Prouty pointed out, Zapata was the name of Mr. Bush’s oil company, and it was based in Houston. ‘At the time I had no idea why they [the CIA] picked those names,’ he said. ‘Later I realized—

Zapata, Barbara, Houston—a triple coincidence is pretty rare.’”

The *Washington Times* suggests, presumably only half-jokingly, that this is something the “October Surprise” investigators in Congress might want to take a further look at.

## Noriega claims Bush okayed weapons, drugs

George Bush and six other CIA chiefs authorized Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega to ship weapons and drugs, according to information in a document filed last March but only released in mid-August by the Noriega defense team. Noriega, who was seized in the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1990, is facing charges in the United States of drug-money laundering.

According to defense attorney Frank Rubino, Bush, Richard Helms, William Colby, and other CIA heads, “requested and authorized General Noriega to allow shipments of weapons to either pass through Panama or be unloaded in Panama for transshipment to Honduras or Nicaragua.”

The document alleges that the current head of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Terrance Burk, and three previous DEA directors, requested Noriega’s help, in not seizing designated illegal drug shipments or arresting the traffickers, “per the instructions of the DEA.” Noriega’s own undercover officers made their own investigations and informed the DEA when suspects were found with large sums of money. Bank deposits of millions of dollars were made in Panamanian banks, with the information sent to the DEA, but unless directed otherwise by the DEA, Noriega left the deposits untouched.

## Gephardt comes out in support of NAFTA

House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) endorsed Aug. 15 a study prepared by his top trade adviser which promotes the North American Free Trade Agreement

(NAFTA) between the U.S. and Mexico.

Gephardt is being challenged in the Democratic Party primary for Congress by Leif Johnson, whose attacks on NAFTA are one of his major campaign themes. Gephardt is campaigning for reelection door to door in his district for the first time since 1976, an indication of political vulnerability.

Clyde Prestowitz, president of the Economic Strategy Institute which released the study favorable to NAFTA, and an adviser to Gephardt, says that if the U.S. changes its negotiating strategy with Mexico to demand that most of the investment come from the United States, then as many as 260,000 new jobs will be created and the loss in auto jobs (a particular concern to Missouri) will be minimal. The conclusions of the study are supposed to remedy concerns about loss of jobs and an increased trade deficit, which will prevent the proposed agreement from “flying with Congress.”

In mid-August, the *St. Louis Journal* reported on Johnson’s campaign. Johnson asserted, that “Hordes of paupers will flow through the land, begging and stealing from those who have little more. The elderly will perish first . . . while many young people will find employment scouring deserts and jungles in Bush-Gephardt colonial rampages.” Johnson quoted Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche’s forecast that the financial bubble will soon burst.

## Bush scored for lack of commitment to liberty

William B. Allen of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights wrote in a recent letter to George Bush that Bush’s recent comments on Operation Rescue activities, including blocking access to Wichita, Kansas abortion clinics, “raise critical questions touching on the liberties of Americans.”

Allen wrote he has personally monitored Operation Rescue’s protests “to ascertain exactly what they do in the course of their rescues,” adding that any “charge that they are violent or intemperate is entirely false. . . . They are lawbreakers . . . not criminals. They seek to reform the law, not elude the law,” and are willing to take the respon-

sibility, such as prison sentences, for violating it.

In his letter asking Bush to meet with Operation Rescue, Allen wrote that orderly citizens with the group "must be protected by the law even as they expose themselves to the wrath of the law. They deserve neither the slurs that would confuse them with protestors who spit upon and assault others, nor be singled out for an unbridled and vengeful punishment by the law. My inquiries persuade me, however, that this is exactly what is occurring."

For years, Bush and the Justice Department have ignored and refused to intervene in the grossly unjust jail sentences and outrageous brutality and pain and torture techniques used by police in dozens of cities against peaceful demonstrators outside of abortion clinics.

Operation Rescue sought Bush's intervention, asking that he speak out against the civil rights abuses and judicial tyranny of federal Judge Patrick Kelly who is sending people to jail for four months to a year for trespassing or loitering violations, and is threatening to seize church assets if ministers or priests "dare to follow their consciences in defense of innocent children."

## New York bar protests DoJ intimidation

"It is time for the Justice Department [DoJ] to live up to its name by renouncing the tactics of the bully and the methods of the tyrant," the president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York concluded in a commentary entitled "Justice Department Intimidation," in the Aug. 19 *Washington Post*.

The New York bar is particularly upset that the DoJ has directed them to cease their longstanding practice of evaluating nominees for federal judgeships, labeling it an "interference in the constitutional process of selecting and appointing federal judges." The DoJ has also warned judicial nominees not to cooperate with local bar associations, a policy the New York Bar Association calls one of "intimidation of nominees and local bar associations." The association has been evaluating judicial nominees since 1874.

## NASA outlines future shuttle missions

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has announced that Robert "Hoot" Gibson, a veteran of three Shuttle missions, will command the new Shuttle Endeavour for an August 1992 Spacelab research flight featuring a Japanese scientist. Endeavour will then launch in November 1992 with the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite and be commanded by John Casper. It will launch again in July 1993 with the Space Radar Laboratory.

David Walker, veteran of two previous missions, was named to command a military flight aboard the Shuttle Discovery in October 1992.

Shuttle Columbia will launch in May 1992 with a payload of materials science equipment. The commander will be Richard Richards. Columbia will launch in September 1992 with the Laser Geodynamics Satellite and be commanded by James Wetherbee. It will launch again in January 1993 with the German-sponsored Spacelab module.

Shuttle Atlantis will launch in June 1992 with an experimental Italian satellite that will be tethered to it. The commander will be Loren Shriver.

## FBI, ADL, gays sponsor 'hate crimes' meetings

The FBI is working hand-in-hand with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in sponsoring a series of seminars around the country on "hate crimes." The ADL, in particular, is known for staging "hate crimes" to boost its own recruitment efforts and carrying out political vendettas. It cooperated intimately in the multi-jurisdictional "Get LaRouche" task force.

The purpose of these seminars is to establish working groups on "hate crimes" to "educate" the public, but the seminars are "not open to the public." Strikingly absent from the national co-sponsors are any black civil rights organizations.

● **THE CENTERS** for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia funded the 13th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference July 24-28 in New Orleans, the Christian Coalition reported in its July newsletter. Among the "mental health" workshops was one on "Normalizing S/M," described as "An attempt to explore s/m [sado-masochism] as a normal healthy sexual identity."

● **REP. STENY HOYER** (D-Md.), co-chairman of the U.S. Commission on Cooperation and Security in Europe, called on President Bush on Aug. 22 to "officially recognize the democratically elected governments of the Baltic states." Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, issued a statement declaring, "It's time to free the Baltics."

● **A MASSACHUSETTS** Senate message that continued relations were contingent on the release of political prisoners and a halt to police-state repression, was read at a banquet in China Aug. 23 celebrating U.S. slave-labor agreements with the Chinese dictatorship. Gov. William Weld, rankled at the message, told the press he had told Guangdong's acting governor Zhu Senlin that he understood "things were getting better, and we were happy to hear that."

● **VINCENT BUGLIOSI**, the former District Attorney of Los Angeles, proposes military intervention into Colombia, even without the consent of that government, to capture top drug traffickers. The proposal was made in his recent book entitled *Drugs in America, the Case for a Victory*.

● **FOOD & WATER**, the anti-nuclear group, has stepped up its harassment campaign against Florida supermarkets and growers, now that it lost the battle to stop the opening of the nation's first food irradiation plant in Mulberry, Florida. The group is bragging about having Rockefeller funding.