

National News

GOP activist to run Cisneros investigation

After having named Republican Party activist and Bush-Leaguer Kenneth Starr as Whitewater special prosecutor, the same federal appeals court panel has chosen another GOP activist as independent counsel to investigate Henry Cisneros, the Clinton administration's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). David M. Barrett, a former GOP fundraiser and candidate, who headed Lawyers for Reagan in 1980, was appointed on May 24, the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Ironically, Barrett was named in a 1989 congressional report as being one of a group of influential lawyers who had benefitted from influence-peddling at HUD in the 1980s. Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) called Barrett's appointment "mind-boggling," and said, "Mr. Barrett is someone who clearly benefitted from influence peddling at HUD during the Reagan administration and, incredibly, he is named special counsel to examine the secretary of HUD."

The special judicial panel is headed by Judge David Sentelle, a pro-Confederate Mason who is a close crony of Senators Jesse Helms and Lauch Faircloth, both Republicans from North Carolina who are rapidly opposed to President Clinton.

N. Y. Times wants probe of Dems' Senate leader

In a May 29 editorial, the *New York Times* called for an investigation of Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), the Senate Minority Leader. The editorial signaled an attempt to heat up minor allegations against Daschle, long simmering in the South Dakota press, in hopes of having them boil over into a national scandal. The attack on Daschle comes during an across-the-board, British-directed escalation against President Clin-

ton, his cabinet members, and key congressional allies.

Daschle is accused of intervening on behalf of a long-time friend, Murl Bellew, owner of an airline charter service in the Dakotas, who was allegedly under investigation by federal agencies. According to the *Times*, one of Bellew's planes crashed last year, killing the pilot and three government doctors who were passengers. The families of the doctors are claiming that the plane was improperly operated, despite an investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board which found no error.

The American Conservative Union is feeding the campaign against Daschle in Washington, with claims that he improperly impeded the U.S. Forest Service in its own investigation of Bellew, who occasionally contracted to fly Forest Service officials in the Midwest. Investigating airlines, however, is properly the role of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), not of environmentalists. Daschle reportedly looked into the Forest Service's actions at the request of Bellew, a constituent who complained that its irregular activities were a form of harassment.

The FAA Inspector General's office has conducted its own internal investigation, as has the Senate ethics committee, and neither has issued a report. The *Times* editorial demanded that the reports be issued forthwith.

Dershowitz warns Brits may be spying on U.S.

Writing in the *Los Angeles Times* on May 19, Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz warned that the British secret services may still be spying on American citizens inside the United States, under a little-known intelligence arrangement worked out with J. Edgar Hoover during World War II. Reviewing a book by John Loftus and Mark Aarons, *The Secret War Against the Jews—How Western Espionage Betrayed the Jewish People*, Dershowitz reported that Hoover seized upon President Roosevelt's authorization of British "listening posts"

inside the United States, to set up a system for evading the Constitution and spying on American citizens.

Long after the war, Hoover kept up the arrangement under which the British would bug American citizens in the United States, while the FBI would return the favor by bugging homes and offices of British nationals inside Britain. "The intelligence services would then simply swap their information," Dershowitz declared in his review.

"This clever criss-cross scam assumed increasing significance over the years, as the courts and legislatures made it difficult for the FBI to snoop on Americans in the name of 'national security,'" Dershowitz said. Hoover simply expanded the arrangement with other friendly intelligence agencies, "and the snooping went on."

"It is more than ironic," Dershowitz concluded, "that two centuries after we declared our independence from Great Britain, we are conspiring with the Intelligence Establishment of that nation to deprive our citizens of a right guaranteed by our Constitution." Calling for a congressional probe of such filthy FBI-British collusion, Dershowitz declared, "The privacy of Americans is too important to be left in the hands of a foreign country."

Terrorist pool rising with mental health cuts

The *Washington Post* claimed on May 27 that police in the Capital area have logged more than 100 bomb threats since the Oklahoma City bombing, and that threats to members of Congress since the beginning of the year are up 43% over last year. The alarming news was reported in a lead article in the paper's "Style" section, attributing the problem to increased mental illness in the population.

Entitled "A World Gone Mad?" the article by Megan Rosenfeld toes the *Post's* long-standing propaganda line that "political violence" is a "sociological" phenomenon, generating virtual hordes of "lone assassins" who require not the least direction

to select and strike their political targets. The article's claims concerning the breakdown of the country's mental health system, however, would certainly suggest that there is a much larger pool of disposable assassins for high-level conspirators to draw upon.

As the result of the "deinstitutionalization" movement of the 1950s and 1960s, many mental institutions were shut, or limited their services strictly to out-patient treatment, the *Post* claims. The situation has gotten so bad, the *Post* says, that the largest mental hospital in the country is now located inside the Los Angeles County Jail! Roughly 2,000 to 3,000 of its inmates receive "psychiatric care" or "medication" on any given day. The Los Angeles Police Department has even begun deploying mental health workers in some of its squad cars to provide on-the-spot "treatment."

One Washington, D.C. psychiatrist, E. Fuller Torrey, told the *Post* that there are currently 80,000 people institutionalized for mental illness in the United States. Based on projections of institutionalized care prior to the shutdown of so many mental hospitals, he estimates that 870,000 people in the United States would currently need in-patient care. The *Post* offered no critique of this Orwellian scenario.

Ukrainian to fly on U.S. space shuttle

Following a meeting in Kiev on May 11, U.S. President Clinton and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma issued a joint statement declaring that the two nations will increase their cooperation in space development, according to the May 22 *Space News*. Specifically, the agreement includes having a Ukrainian cosmonaut join the crew of a U.S. Space Shuttle flight scheduled for October 1997.

Last November in Washington, the two Presidents signed an umbrella agreement, after Ukraine met the U.S. request to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and agreed to become a non-nuclear-weapons state.

While the November umbrella agreement provided the framework for cooperative programs, similar to the U.S.-Russian joint efforts, the Clinton administration has delayed action on Ukraine's request to be granted permission to launch U.S. satellites on its Zenit and Cyclone boosters, due to objections from the U.S. launch industry over potentially unfair price competition.

A complicating factor in the case of Ukraine is that its rockets are not launched from its own territory but from the Baikonur facility in Kazakhstan, under lease to Russia. Negotiations will continue between the two countries, with an agreement expected on the number of launches and price guidelines by the end of this year.

ACLU wins Va. fight over treatment of prisoners

Attorney Gerald Zerkin and the Virginia American Civil Liberties Union have won a settlement in a case brought against the Virginia Department of Corrections for mistreating prisoners, the Richmond *Times-Dispatch* reported on May 24. The suit charged that search and seizure procedures, used against seven prisoners at the Mecklenburg prison, violated constitutional prohibitions against cruel and unusual punishment.

The settlement, which establishes a new rule controlling when and how prison cells are searched, applies to the whole state system and constitutes a victory against the barbarism that prevails in Virginia prisons. The settlement was reached one day before the case was to come to trial.

Zerkin's suit documented acts by guards who were supposedly looking for a missing piece of metal that might be used as a weapon. They stripped the cells completely; inmates were left in their underwear for several days, and prevented from talking to their lawyers. They had no bedding, clothing, or other personal belongings.

Zerkin told the *Times-Dispatch*, "The new regulation will go a long way to prevent a situation like that from occurring at Mecklenburg, or anywhere else in the system."

Briefly

● **BOUTROS** Boutros-Ghali had more than he could chew, at a luncheon in Houston on May 25 marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. The U.N. secretary general spoke under the auspices of ex-President George Bush. Organizers from the Schiller Institute distributed copies of the 1994 pamphlet, "Never Again, Stop the United Nations Genocide Conference," featuring pictures of Boutros-Ghali and Adolf Hitler.

● **ARKANSAS** Gov. Jim Guy Tucker declared on May 26 he would challenge subpoenas in the Whitewater case, to appear before the grand jury and turn over financial records from his 1990 campaign for lieutenant governor. He argued that federal prosecutors could only investigate the U.S. Executive branch, and would be questioning him "about matters which have absolutely nothing to do with Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, or any of the matters" involved.

● **PHIL GRAMM** has again displayed his pro-British subversive proclivities. According to the May 28 *Washington Post*, the plummeting GOP Presidential candidate told the recent National Rifle Association convention in Phoenix, "We haven't had a dedicated, committed hunter in the White House since Theodore Roosevelt. I tell you, it's been too long."

● **SEN. JESSE HELMS** (R-N.C.) still claims that President Clinton is "not qualified" to be Commander-in-Chief. Asked on CNN's "Evans and Novak" program on May 27 about Clinton's potential decisions in the Bosnian war, Helms responded, "I hope he won't shoot from the hip, because I don't think he's qualified."

● **VIRGINIA** shipped 283 inmates to a private prison in Texas on May 23, bringing the total to 738. Though the Texas prison still has 62 places, the Virginia Department of Corrections said no more could be sent without further state funds.