

ing the defeat of Hitler, the Mont Pelerin Society serves as the de facto ministry of the exchequer for the worldwide underground economy. It is, therefore, not surprising that Mont Pelerin's longtime vice president, Milton Friedman, has been one of the most vocal advocates of unbridled drug legalization.

But the key to the Mont Pelerin Society's role in the worldwide drive to legalize drugs, is to be found in the 1980 keynote speech at its gathering at the Hoover Institute, delivered by Max von Thurn, the scion of the 600-year-old Venetian Thurn and Taxis family. Von Thurn called for the abolition of all distinctions between the above-ground and the underground economies, and demanded the complete integration of the offshore, criminal enterprises into the mainstream of the world economy.

For years, Mont Pelerin Society front-groups, such as the Fairfax, Virginia-based Atlas Institute, the Pacific Research Institute in San Francisco, and the Washington, D.C.-based Cato Institute, have been churning out "objective" studies on why drugs should be legalized.

In the mid-1980s, the Pacific Research Institute hired two of NORML's founders, Harvard University professors Norman Zinberg and Lester Grinspoon, to prepare a study, *Dealing with Drugs: Consequences of Government Control*. In that report, DPF President Arnold Trebach spelled out the legalization strategy: "A small group of drug-law reformers has been gaining strength in the United States and in other countries recently. If they can achieve some political stature as a centrist and moderate force . . . if enough good people . . . come forward soon enough . . . our current war against drugs can be averted and the war itself ended."

During the Bush administration, the dope lobby was riding high—pointing to Bush's miserable (intentionally so) track record in the war on drugs as "proof" that victory was impossible. Clinton's break with Bush's narco-collusion has changed all that—and now the dope lobby is hoping that piles of Soros money will help recoup the setbacks.

Dope, Inc.'s Soros: Vesco of the 1990s

by Scott Thompson and Jeffrey Steinberg

According to a former business partner of George Soros, back in the late 1960s, when Soros was starting up his offshore investment empire, he turned to one of the Rothschild family's retainers to obtain his start-up capital. It was an ironic and, perhaps, prophetic choice. George Karlweis, Soros's initial benefactor, had, just a year earlier, put up seed funds, courtesy of Rothschild's Banque Privée, to launch the career of an ambitious man from Detroit, Michigan named Robert Vesco.

With Karlweis's backing, capital infusions from Me-

shulim Riklis, a financial front man for Drexel Burnham's Michael Milken, and with legal and financial support from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Vesco launched a string of takeovers, beginning with the buyout and looting of Investors Overseas Services, a shady, Swiss-based mutual fund that had been used by National Crime Syndicate boss Meyer Lansky to launder proceeds from his illegal drugs and gambling empire. Vesco spent the next 20 years parlaying the \$260 million he looted from IOS into his own global crime syndicate. Vesco became, first, the "American Connection" to the Medellín Cartel's chief of logistics, Carlos Lehder Rivas, and, eventually, Fidel Castro's bag-man for Cuba's drug trafficking, industrial espionage, and narco-terrorist operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Vesco was a creature of the 1970s and 1980s, an era when financial speculation was still measured in the tens and hundreds of millions of dollars, and when the deregulation of the world financial system was still in its initial stages.

Historians may well look back on Soros, who, in one 48-hour speculative binge in September 1992, made a \$1 billion net profit by crippling the Italian lira and British pound-sterling, as the Robert Vesco or the Robert Maxwell of the late-1990s. At the peak of their careers, Vesco and Maxwell, the British wartime assassin-turned-speculator, were viewed as pioneers in the late-twentieth-century "growth industry" of financial piracy.

Today, Soros is the king of the financial pirates. But, what Soros is today, Vesco was in 1972, and Maxwell was in 1986. All three are wholly owned by the City of London and the financial establishment associated with the House of Windsor and the Club of the Isles. Contrary to media mythology, they are not "independent" characters, any more than "organized crime" is independent of the major international private banks.

Vesco's career ran aground in a run-down villa in Havana, Cuba, where he now sits under house arrest. The final chapter of the Vesco story is yet to be written.

Maxwell met a sorry end, floating face down in the sea off the coast of Spain, the victim of what only the most naive still view as a suicide. Maxwell, according to some accounts, got caught up in the mad scramble to loot a collapsing Soviet empire, and was murdered by rivals. According to other accounts, Maxwell double-crossed one-too-many intelligence services (he purportedly worked with, or for, British MI-6, the Israeli Mossad, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and the Soviet KGB), and megalomaniacally began to see himself as an "independent," world-class financial power.

Events may be catching up

Events may be catching up with Soros in a similar fashion. Already, three Italian government probes are under way into his speculation against the Italian currency, the lira. There are unconfirmed reports that several U.S. federal regulatory agencies are looking into his more recent efforts to trigger a first-ever default by the U.S. government on the national debt. If, as some Wall Street sources assert, Soros was attempting

to manipulate conservative Republicans in the U.S. Congress into forcing a federal government bankruptcy, at the same time that he was speculating on a sharp hike in Treasury bond rates, the Hungarian-born investor could be in deep trouble in America as well.

Soros has been banned from the People's Republic of China, and he is one of the most controversial figures in every country in the former Warsaw Pact—all of which he has helped to loot blind, through his patronage of Harvard punk Jeffrey Sachs and other proponents of "shock therapy." Sachs, who is now on Soros's payroll, first caught the speculator's eye when he engineered a "financial miracle" in Bolivia, which left that country in the clutches of the cocaine cartels. Sachs not only shares with Soros a commitment to legalize drugs; he openly calls for "financial liberalization for drug dollars."

Soros's Open Society foundations, which spread about \$500 million a year in tax-exempt largess to so-called cultural projects, have penetrated 24 countries, including every newly independent state of the former Warsaw Pact, South Africa, and Haiti.

The headquarters of Soros's "charitable" activities is in New York City, where the Open Society Institute is located. In September 1993, Soros hired Aryeh Neier as the president of OSI-New York. For a dozen years, Neier had headed the Soros-funded Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental organization and a vehicle for British and United Nations chicanery around the globe, especially where Soros has financial interests.

Since Neier's arrival, Soros's biggest single "charitable" interest has been the legalization of drugs—and this, more than his speculative binges, may prove to be his ultimate downfall.

On July 8, 1994, Soros announced that OSI would provide a three-year, \$10.5 million grant to the Drug Policy Foundation, the quasi-official drug lobby in America. A month earlier, OSI-New York had announced the launching of its own, in-house drug lobby, the Lindesmith Center. The head of Lindesmith since its founding has been Ethan Nadelman, a former Princeton University professor who has dedicated the last decade to the drive to legalize drugs. Nadelman is a founder and board member of the Drug Policy Foundation, so his "move" over to the Soros office is a reflection of Soros's takeover of the DPF, in the drive to win drug legalization globally.

One typical recent Lindesmith study touted the Dutch marijuana policy of legalization and regulated sale, ignoring the fact that, as the result of this policy, the Netherlands has become a mecca for drug users and criminals from all over Europe. Nadelman told a *High Times* magazine interviewer in October 1995, that "the right to possess marijuana for personal use is inviolable any place in the United States. That should be a federally protected right."

Nadelman, like Soros, has friends in "high places" inside the world financial establishment. (Soros, to this day, enjoys

Frank introduces Gingrich bill to legalize 'pot'

On Nov. 10, 1995, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) introduced H.R. 2618, which would legalize the medical use of marijuana. The bill is almost identical to one brought onto the floor of the House in 1981 by Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), a self-described "New Age Conservative." The bill would create an Office for the Supply of Internationally Controlled Drugs within the Department of Health and Human Services, which would be in charge of licensing domestic marijuana production. It would also reclassify marijuana as a Schedule II drug, to be issued under doctors' prescription to "cure" a wide range of illnesses.

The Frank bill was introduced at the same time that the *Journal of the American Medical Association* was issuing the most scientifically authoritative studies ever, showing that marijuana is a dangerous drug that causes severe long-term mental and physiological damage.—*Jeffrey Steinberg*

the backing of the Rothschilds, who maintain two seats on the board of directors of his Netherland Antilles-based Quantum Fund, NV.)

And Nadelman is close to some senior officials at the World Bank. In May 1994, the World Bank brought Nadelman in as an "expert" to brief its staff on the world drug situation. When the Clinton administration balked at Nadelman's presence, the World Bank cancelled the event, rather than cancel Nadelman's appearance. The administration had also objected to the fact that another well-known narco-apologist, then-Colombian Attorney General Gustavo de Greiff, was on the speakers list. De Greiff, now the Colombian ambassador to Mexico, and a suspected Cali Cartel business partner, was a keynote speaker at one of the Drug Policy Foundation conferences bankrolled by Soros.

The other legalization lobby that has recently benefitted from millions of dollars in Soros funds, is Drug Strategies, headed by Malthea Falco, former Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters in the Carter administration. Falco maintains that she is not as hard-line an advocate of full drug legalization as the DPF, but she was a founding member of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), the first big pro-drug lobby in America. Drug Strategies lists Robert Strange McNamara among its directors. McNamara is former president of the World Bank and a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, another private agency that is on record supporting the legalization of drugs throughout the Western Hemisphere.