

It's time to cancel the Weld nomination

by Jeffrey Steinberg

President Clinton must rescind his nomination of William Weld as U.S. ambassador to Mexico. A more careful vetting of the Weld file than has been prepared for the President to date, would show that Weld is thoroughly unfit for the post, and would do grave harm to the national security of the United States, particularly at a moment when the administration is confronting an escalation of the British oligarchy's "Opium War" against the Americas. The reasons that Weld is thoroughly unqualified for the post, or for any other post in government, for that matter, have nothing to do with the ideological sparring between the ex-Massachusetts governor and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), which has been grabbing media headlines for the past weeks. To the extent that Senator Helms goes after Weld for his soft-on-drugs stance, he is barely scratching the surface of Weld's collusion with Dope, Inc.

Attempted murder by decree

As longtime readers of *EIR* are aware, William Weld, while U.S. Attorney in Boston, and later as Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in the mid-1980s, presided over a "judicial" assassination attempt against Lyndon LaRouche, run under the cover of a massive, Waco-style Federal, state, and local police paramilitary assault against LaRouche's publishing offices in Leesburg, Virginia. When the plan failed to "eliminate" the target, Weld helped to launch a string of Federal and state frameup prosecutions against LaRouche and a score of his associates, five of whom are still in state prison in Virginia, serving sentences of between 25 and 77 years, on fabricated charges of securities law violations.

There is a growing groundswell of support—from state and Federal elected officials, civil rights leaders, leading figures from around the world, as well as tens of thousands

of average citizens—for President Clinton to reverse the Bush-league frameup of LaRouche and fully exonerate him. The same forces, for the past year, have been pressing the Senate Judiciary Committee to hold public hearings into the Justice Department/FBI atrocities against LaRouche and other targets. A full public airing of the efforts of the "Get LaRouche" strike force would likely lead to criminal indictments against many of the leading participants—William Weld included!

An opium warrior

While William Weld was busy conducting political frameups against an "enemies list" of prominent Democrats, including LaRouche and Boston's popular mayor, Kevin White, his track record as U.S. Attorney in Boston set a new standard for coverup and collusion with narcotics traffickers, a fact not unrelated to his family background. The New York-New England patrician Weld family made their initial fortune, as William Weld admits, peddling opium as Tory junior partners of the British East India Company.

This family pedigree was at least one factor in Weld's coverup of the biggest case of drug-money laundering by a major U.S. bank in recent history, the \$1.2 billion Bank of Boston case in 1985.

In late 1984, investigators at the U.S. Treasury Department's enforcement division uncovered evidence of a multi-billion-dollar money-laundering scheme, run through the Bank of Boston, and involving several overseas banks, including *Crédit Suisse*, the Geneva-based bank with long-standing ties to such international organized crime figures as the late Meyer Lansky. Then-U.S. Attorney Weld was handed the Bank of Boston case on a silver platter. According to high-ranking drug enforcement officials who were involved in the

probe, the Bank of Boston case was to have set a precedent, by criminally prosecuting high-ranking bank officials “above suspicion,” as co-conspirators with major international narcotics traffickers. John Walker, then Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, confirmed that the Bank of Boston crimes were by “every indication . . . the laundering of drug money.”

Yet, on Feb. 7, 1985, Weld announced that the Bank of Boston case had been closed—with a one-count plea agreement and a fine of \$500,000. No specific bank officials were even named in the plea deal. The profits that the bank enjoyed through its criminal activities far exceeded the meager half-million-dollar penalty. Yet, Weld had the nerve to issue a press release, trumpeting the action as a paragon of effective drug enforcement.

The Bank of Boston coverup sent shockwaves through the Federal law enforcement community. Weld had not only failed to prosecute what Bank of Boston officials admitted were 1,163 separate instances of violations of Federal currency laws, totalling more than \$1.2 billion in dirty money transactions. The coverup was also a blatant case of nepotism and personal corruption.

A careful review by *EIR* researchers revealed, last year, that William Weld and members of his family benefitted handsomely from the coverup. Had Weld pursued indictments against senior bank officials involved in the money-laundering scheme, he would have certainly been forced to prosecute Bank of Boston’s chief of foreign operations, Ogden White, Jr.—his first cousin. Furthermore, the family brokerage firm, White Weld and Co., had previously merged with *Crédit Suisse*, the leading foreign partner of Bank of Boston in the money-laundering scheme. Weld not only neglected to recuse himself from the case; he ran interference on behalf of his family interests, including his own lucrative holdings in *White Weld/Crédit Suisse*.

When then-Vice President George Bush, whose family financial interests interlock with the White-Weld clan, sponsored Bill Weld to become DOJ Criminal Division chief, in September 1986, Weld continued his efforts to cover up the activities of certain major international drug-trafficking organizations—in this case, drug cartels helping to bankroll the Nicaraguan Contras. Weld’s role in the Contra-cocaine coverup was revealed in the final report of a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee, chaired by John Kerry, the Massachusetts Democrat who, last year, soundly defeated Weld in the U.S. Senate race. Unlike the Congressional Iran-Contra panel, which covered up the evidence of Contra cocaine trafficking, the Kerry subcommittee focussed its attention on the widespread evidence that the secret war in Nicaragua had been bankrolled by the proceeds of illegal drug sales on the streets of America. Kerry identified a half-dozen leading international traffickers, who received U.S. government funding and protection, in return for their arming and bankrolling of the Contras.

In a 20-page appendix to the final Kerry Committee report, released in 1989, chief investigator Jack Blum highlighted the efforts of the Criminal Division of the DOJ to block the probe, and otherwise obstruct the effort to expose the Contra cocaine connection. Weld was cited, by name, along with such career DOJ officials as Mark Richard, as the culprits in the attempt to obstruct Congress, a Federal crime.

Strange bedfellows

As governor of Massachusetts, Weld has been a consistent proponent of softening drug laws. Weld is on record backing the legalization of “medical marijuana,” a scientific hoax that even the pro-drug Dutch government has admitted is hogwash. President Clinton’s own director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, on July 23, 1997, issued an attack against the very idea of medical marijuana. The measure, he charged, “is the latest effort to undermine sensible drug control policies designed to keep marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and other dangerous substances away from the nation’s children.”

Weld’s soft-on-pot stance has won him the support of a collection of dope lobbyists, beginning with the homosexual activist group Act-Up, which told the *Washington Times* on Aug. 7, that they would mobilize support for Weld’s nomination to the Mexico post, because of his backing for the legalization of medical marijuana. Act-Up is coordinating a signature drive in Washington, D.C. to get the medical marijuana referendum on the November ballot. In late July, General McCaffrey wrote to D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C. Financial Control Board head Andrew Brimmer, Mayor Marion Barry, City Council President Linda Cropp, and School CEO Gen. Julius Becton, urging them to oppose the Act-Up referendum.

Standing behind Act-Up, and an ad hoc coalition of dope lobby fronts in other parts of the country, who are pushing similar resolutions, is Queen Elizabeth’s own mega-speculator, George Soros. Soros’s Quantum Fund handles a large portion of the British monarch’s personal fortune, estimated at well over \$2 billion; and Soros has recently poured millions of dollars in tax-exempt funds into the dope legalization drive. A spokesman for Soros’s Open Society Institute in New York revealed that Soros has also poured some of his personal fortune, estimated at well over a billion dollars, into the dope legalization effort.

Last year, after drug legalization referenda were voted up in California and Arizona, through deceptive advertising practices, the Clinton administration uncorked a stream of public attacks against George Soros, by name, for bankrolling the dope legalization scams. Along with Act-Up and the other front groups pushing “medical marijuana” and other drug legalization hoaxes, Soros now emerges as one of the Weld boosters that the President should feel most uncomfortable about.