

# National News

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## Two bombs found before Clinton visit in Oregon

Police in Eugene, Oregon found two bombs in a culvert near the local airport, shortly before President Clinton landed there in Air Force One, on June 12. The President was in Portland to deliver the commencement address at Portland State University, and then he flew to Eugene, in order to visit nearby Springfield, the scene of a recent high school shooting incident. The President met privately with students and family members of two students who were killed and 20 who were injured, when 15-year-old student Kip Kinkel opened fire on his classmates.

Eugene police had received a call at 3 p.m. on June 12, telling them that bombs were planted near the airport, at the local bus station, and at Springfield City Hall. Police safely detonated the two bombs found near the airport. The Greyhound Bus depot and Springfield City Hall were evacuated, but a seven-hour search turned up no further explosives. Local police refused to rule out that the bombs were planted in connection with the President's visit.

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## London's Bin Laden threatens U.S. attacks

The U.S. State Department issued a terrorist alert in early June, after Saudi millionaire terrorist Osama bin Laden issued a threat against the United States during an interview with ABC News aired on June 10. The alert is for all Americans travelling in the Middle East and Persian Gulf, and the Pentagon has issued orders for all U.S. military facilities in the Gulf to tighten security. Bin Laden's threat came in the form of a *fatwa* (religious decree), in the name of his own bought-and-paid-for clerics. In fact, a *fatwa* can be issued only at the highest level.

Bin Laden has been linked to the World Trade Center bombing, to the downing of American military helicopters in Somalia, to two car bomb attacks against U.S. military bases in Saudi Arabia, and to planned at-

tempts on the lives of President Clinton and Pope John Paul II.

In the interview from Afghanistan, which aired on ABC's "Nightline," Bin Laden repeated his threat to carry out new terrorist actions against Americans, including women and children, until the United States pulls its troops out of the Middle East. Two days later, he issued the *fatwa*, calling for new anti-American terror attacks. "Nightline" neglected to mention that Bin Laden also maintains a luxurious residence in London. While the U.S. administration is pursuing Federal charges against Bin Laden, the British government continues to provide safe haven to him, as well as more than a score of terrorist organizations (many of which he funds) now on the U.S. State Department's list of groups banned from access to the United States.

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## U.S. benefitted from China satellite trade

Amidst all the China-bashing about Loral's satellite deals with China and the Clinton White House waivers, it has now been acknowledged by both the Pentagon and the National Security Agency that the United States benefitted significantly from the technology transactions with China, including the Loral deal. According to the June 13 *Washington Post*, after the Chinese Long March rocket exploded in 1996, wrecking a Loral-Hughes commercial satellite, the Chinese provided U.S. technicians with previously unavailable data on their intercontinental ballistic missile program. These data helped the United States to assess the Chinese military capability, and convinced the Pentagon that China poses no threat to the United States from an ICBM strike. China has an arsenal of 50 ICBMs, according to the *Post* story, but this represents a deterrent force.

The United States was also a beneficiary of the technology trade, according to Pentagon documents made available to the *Post*, because successful Chinese launches of U.S. satellites gave the United States access to Chinese military communications, which had hitherto used only cable.

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## State AFL-CIO cozies up to Virginia Gov. Gilmore

Virginia AFL-CIO head Danny LeBlanc, who is on the Democratic National Committee and played a prominent role against LaRouche Democrats at the recent Virginia Democratic Party Steering Committee meeting, is making strange bedfellows with the anti-labor Republican Governor James Gilmore, in "defense" of tobacco workers. LeBlanc, who successfully sponsored a resolution at the Democratic Steering Committee in early June in favor of protecting tobacco workers, heads a group called "Save Our Jobs, Save Our Communities," and penned a commentary published in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on June 11 which charged that politicians of both parties had ignored this constituency, and would be judged on what they did.

LeBlanc apparently finds it easier to defend labor when Philip Morris's millions, and the Republican governor, are in his corner. He was invisible when it came to the issue of prison slave labor, the UPS strike, free trade, and the low-wage bubble economy. Now he cites the 120,000 workers in Virginia who allegedly depend for their livelihood on tobacco, and seeks to "help" them.

The move has so far resulted in Sen. Chuck Robb (D) and several of Virginia's Democratic Congressmen (Scott, Sisisky, and Goode) to break from the party's general position on tobacco taxes.

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## Scaife bankrolled 'Judicial Watch' gang

According to the June 10 issue of the *Washington Post*, in 1997, Richard Mellon Scaife's Carthage Foundation gave a \$550,000 grant to Judicial Watch. Headed by former Justice Department attorney Larry Klayman, Judicial Watch operates as a "privately funded independent counsel," with 18 lawsuits now pending against the Clinton administration.

Judicial Watch claims credit for break-

**RAS BARAKA**, the son of Prudential's "black nationalist" Amiri Baraka, lost his bid to be elected to the Newark City Council, on June 9. Although he at first seemed to be a shoo-in, his campaign was badly hurt by his father's association with Rep. Donald Payne (D) and their backing for British-puppet dictator Laurent Kabila in the Congo. Both Payne and Amiri Baraka supported Kabila's mining concessions to British companies, including George Bush's Barrick Gold.

**THE JUSTICE** Department seized nearly \$1.5 million in seven bank accounts controlled by Mohammed Salah, an accused financier for alleged Hamas terrorism. This is the first time that the government has applied civil forfeiture rules in an effort to stop an alleged flow of funds from an American group to terrorists operating abroad. Salah has not been charged with a crime, and denies the government allegations.

**WISCONSIN'S** Supreme Court upheld the use of state funds for school vouchers on June 10. Using the vouchers, parents could send their children to religious institutions, further undermining the public school system.

**BERNARD SCHWARTZ**, the CEO of Loral, rebuffed rumors that he would resign, in an interview with *Aviation Week*. "This goes with the territory," he said, referring to the manufactured scandal around China's failed launch of a Hughes/Loral satellite in 1996. "It should be absolutely clear—Bernard Schwartz did nothing wrong, and I truly believe Loral people did nothing wrong."

**MARYLAND** LaRouche Democrat Thomas M. Jenkins announced on June 5 that he would run for the party nomination to challenge incumbent Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R). Jenkins said that he would focus on "cleaning out the Department of Justice," and exonerating Lyndon LaRouche, the world's only competent economist, so that he could exercise leadership.

ing the entire "Chinagate" scandal as a result of its first Freedom of Information Act request and lawsuit against Ron Brown's Commerce Department in 1994, seeking information on trade missions to China and other parts of the world. Klayman claims to have discovered former Commerce employee John Huang; Klayman boasts that the publicity around his October 1996 deposition of Huang helped the GOP to maintain control of Congress in the 1996 elections. More recently, information from Klayman's depositions of White House and Pentagon personnel around the Linda Tripp case have been quickly funnelled into Kenneth Starr's office.

In an interview published in the April 27, 1998 issue of *The Washington Weekly*, Klayman was asked about the funding for Judicial Watch. He said that it was originally funded by himself, but that now it is a full-time operation. "We have now sought donations from the public. We primarily get donations in small amounts."

As of April, his most recent IRS filing showed an annual budget of \$68,000. Other sources have indicated that in 1996, Klayman kicked in \$110,000 of his own money, and raised \$60,000 in outside contributions.

## Court rules, Smaltz may not expand Espy probe

A three-judge appellate panel, which included David Sentelle, struck down a move by independent counsel Ken Starr's bobsey-twin, independent counsel Donald Smaltz, to expand the scope of his long-running probe of former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy. Espy is already under a 39-count indictment, charging him with taking a total of \$35,000 in alleged payments in kind while he was secretary. His trial is scheduled to begin on Oct. 1.

Smaltz was trying to win authorization to extend his probe back to 1988 and 1990, when Espy was a Congressman from Mississippi. He left the Congress in 1994 to take the USDA top spot. The three-judge panel said that the targetting of Espy's Congressional campaigns was beyond the scope of Smaltz's investigation. Smaltz's chief dep-

uty, Ted Greenberg, was quoted in the June 13 *Washington Post* account of the panel's decision. Greenberg is part of the DOJ permanent bureaucracy, who specializes in cases of fraud by public officials. The probes against Espy, the late Ron Brown, former Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, and now, Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, have raised the question of whether the permanent bureaucracy in the DOJ has now trained its "Fruehmenschen" guns against minority members of the Clinton White House.

## U.S. judge rules for PKK and Tamil Tigers

In a major favor to British intelligence, U.S. District Court Judge Aubrey Collins ruled in New York on June 15 that key provisions of the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which bans the harboring of terrorist organizations in the United States, are unconstitutional. The case against the Justice Department, which was filed by the U.S. branches of two terrorist groups, the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) and Tamil Tigers, was argued by the New York Center for Constitutional Rights. Both groups are among the 30 terrorist organizations banned by a ruling of the U.S. State Department in October 1997. With the June 15 decision, that ban has been overturned.

According to Collins's decision, the Justice Department has no right to ban the PKK and Tamil Tigers from maintaining offices in the United States, or from deploying their foreign cadre into the United States to maintain these offices. Nor does the United States have the right to ban these groups from providing "training" to its recruits and supporters here. However, Judge Collins did not accept the PKK and Tamil Tigers argument that both groups should also have the right to gather "materials" here, in order to supply their terrorist comrades in the field.

Other British-run terrorist organizations maintaining an active U.S. presence, all banned by the State Department, include Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Kach party of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.