

National News

Clinton seeks aid for Colombian war on drugs

President Clinton will seek \$1 billion in added emergency aid to Colombia for the fight against narco-terrorism, the *Washington Post* reported on Jan. 8. The aid plan will be in the form of \$500 million in supplemental funding from the FY 2000 budget, and \$500 million, to be included in the FY 2001 budget, which the President will submit to Congress on Feb. 7.

The *Post* noted that there has been a split between the administration and Congress over the issue of providing aid to the Colombian military. House Republicans say that all the aid should go to the Colombian police, and some House Democrats have also pushed this idea, on the grounds of alleged human rights violations by the Colombian Army. However, the administration insists that the war against the narco-terrorists cannot be won by the police, and that the Colombian Army has made significant progress in ridding itself of abuses.

Legal troubles hit Cato Institute funder

In a civil suit in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Dec. 23, 1999, a Federal jury found that Koch Industries, funder of the Cato Institute and other Conservative Revolution causes, had cheated the Federal government, underreporting the amount and quality of petroleum it took from Federal and Indian lease-lands between 1985 and 1989. The company could be liable for a penalty ranging from a half-million to a quarter-billion dollars, depending on the judge's final ruling.

Koch Industries, America's second-largest privately held company, deals in oil, gas, asphalt, and other enterprises. It is one of the leading funders of conservative think-tanks, electoral campaigns, and the training of judges.

Plaintiff William Koch is the brother and former partner of the company's chairman, Charles G. Koch. William Koch was ousted

from the company's leadership in 1982, and he told the Associated Press that the organization "has been corrupted to the point where it's organized white-collar crime."

The Cato Institute and Citizens for a Sound Economy are both Koch's projects. Cato was originally known as the Charles G. Koch Foundation; it is a leading lobbyist for drug legalization.

A spokesman for William Koch told *EIR* that Richard Fink, a Koch Industries board member, is the "Rasputin" to company boss Charles Koch. Fink founded Citizens for a Sound Economy and sits in a web of British Intelligence conduits associated with London's Atlas Economic Research Foundation and the Mont Pelerin Society.

Support grows for fight against DNC racism

Close to 500 dignitaries have signed the open letter by the Hon. Theo Mitchell to Democratic National Committee officials Ed Rendell and Joe Andrew, which is being circulated nationally under the headline "Stop Racist Attempt to Overturn Voting Rights Act."

Mitchell, a founder of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators and a former South Carolina Democratic gubernatorial nominee, decries the call for nullification of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, made by DNC attorney John Keeney, Jr. before a Federal district court in August 1999. The case involves a lawsuit brought in 1996 by Lyndon LaRouche and Democratic voters from Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona, charging the DNC with violation of the Act, in its refusal to seat duly elected delegates pledged to LaRouche at the Democratic National Convention.

The list of co-signers includes:

- two former Congressmen;
- 104 current and former state legislators in 31 states, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands;
- 141 current and former municipal elected officials, of whom 105 are mayors, vice or deputy mayors, and city council members;
- 113 civil rights and religious leaders,

including many prominent activists from the civil rights era;

- 14 Democratic Party officials;
 - 32 trade union and farm leaders;
 - 45 other prominent people such as journalists, lawyers, and ethnic constituency leaders;
 - 39 Philadelphia ward leaders.
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Buchanan lashes out at 'new world order'

In a Jan. 6 speech before the Boston World Affairs Council, Reform Party Presidential pre-candidate Patrick J. Buchanan attacked the concept of globalization and "the new world order," naming H.G. Wells and Zbigniew Brzezinski as two of its proponents, and citing the opposition to the World Trade Organization in Seattle in December, as a sign that globalization will not be accepted by the world's nations.

Early in the 1970s, he said, Zbigniew Brzezinski, later Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser, wrote that "transnational elites" are emerging, whose "interests are more functional than national."

According to Buchanan: "In a lame-duck session of Congress in 1994, both parties voted to enslave the United States in the World Trade Organization where America gets one vote out of 135 and gives up its right to negotiate trade treaties that serve the national interest. . . ."

"Let it be said: Loyalty to the New World Order is disloyalty to the Republic. In nation after nation, the struggle between patriotism and globalism is under way. In England, the Tory Party draws a line in the sand at giving up Britain's pound. In France, farmers riot to preserve a way of life. In Canada, the fight to preserve national culture is gaining recruits. In Germany, Gerhard Schröder makes a political comeback by embracing economic nationalism. . . ."

"In 1939, in his work, *The New World Order*, H.G. Wells wrote: 'Countless people . . . will hate the New World Order. . . . We have to bear in mind the distress of a generation of malcontents. . . .'

"Well, Mr. Wells, we are your malcontents. But we're not going to die protesting

your New World Order; we're going to live fighting it. And Seattle may prove to be the Boston Tea Party of that New World Order."

TRO blocks drug-testing of welfare recipients

A temporary restraining order imposed against Michigan's drug-testing of welfare recipients, issued by Federal Judge Victoria Roberts on Nov. 10, was the subject of Nat Hentoff's column in the *Washington Post* on Jan. 8. Hentoff notes that the drug-testing is in violation of the General Welfare clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The 1996 Federal welfare reform law allowed states to test welfare recipients for drug use. However, the only state that has done so to date is Michigan. In October 1999, welfare recipients began to be required to take a urine test in three parts of the state, including Detroit. There did not even have to be any suspicion that the person was using drugs. Anyone who tested positive had to enroll in a substance abuse treatment plan, and failure to submit to testing, or enter treatment, resulted in families with children under 18 losing all monthly cash payments.

The Michigan American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sued on behalf of two Michigan recipients, claiming that mandatory testing of a broad swath of the adult population has never been enacted by a state government, much less approved by a court. (The Supreme Court has approved mandatory testing of narrow sectors of the population, who hold jobs that could endanger the public, such as railroad engineers.)

On Nov. 10, Judge Roberts ruled that requiring such tests, without individualized, reasonable suspicion, is probably unconstitutional. The judge has scheduled additional hearings on whether she will issue a permanent injunction, and whether to grant the ACLU's request that this become a class-action suit, covering all welfare applicants in the state.

Hentoff points to the 1970 *Goldberg v. Kelly* case, in which the late Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, who resigned from the court in 1990, held for the first

time that it was unconstitutional to cut off welfare payments without first giving the recipients notice and a hearing. Hentoff cites the core of the Brennan decision: "From its founding, the Nation's basic commitment has been to foster the dignity and well-being of all persons within its borders. We have come to recognize that forces not within the control of the poor contribute to their poverty." Citing the prologue to the Constitution, Brennan continues, "Public assistance, then, is not mere charity, but a means to 'promote the General Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and our Posterity.'"

Disenfranchisement of felons hits blacks hard

Texas and Florida, the states governed by the Bush brothers George W. and Jeb, disenfranchise more than 600,000 former felons each—triple the national average—according to a report by The Sentencing Project, "Losing the Vote: The Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in the United States" (October 1998).

African-Americans are hit the hardest by felony disenfranchisement: 36% (1.4 million) of the total disenfranchised population in the United States are black men.

While most states have a total disenfranchisement in the range of 100-200,000, Florida has 647,000 disenfranchised voters (of whom 204,600 are black men), and Texas has 610,000 disenfranchised voters (of whom 156,600 are black men). In Florida, 31.2% of blacks are disenfranchised (the highest percentage in the nation), and 20.8% in Texas.

The Sentencing Project report says that "criminal disenfranchisement laws may also be vulnerable under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was adopted to remedy persistent racial discrimination in American voting."

Felony disenfranchisement laws were re-drafted by the former Confederate states, following the Civil War, in order to reduce the number of black people who could vote, according to the report.

THE CLINTON administration supports a Russian initiative to host a Middle East peace conference in Moscow, from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1, according to State Department spokesman Jamie Rubin. Countries from the Middle East, Europe, North Africa, and North America will participate. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will attend, and will take the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials.

THE TEXAS Democratic Party's former executive director has written a confidential memo, suggesting that Al Gore would lose in a Presidential race with George W. Bush, and that Gore would drag state Democrats down with him. The memorandum was obtained by the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR Jeb Bush has rammed through legislation to speed up execution dates for death row prisoners. Based on brother George W. Bush's 1995 Texas bill, the Florida law restricts the number of Federal appeals that a death row prisoner can file. The goal, Jeb Bush told the press, was to cut down the time between sentencing and execution from a current average of 14 years to less than 5.

NEW YORK CITY'S policy toward the homeless was put on hold for at least one week, in a ruling by three judges on Jan. 7. The policy would allow the city to kick homeless people out of city shelters unless they meet workfare and other requirements. If families fail to meet the guidelines, their children could be put in foster homes.

THE ADMINISTRATION has decided to continue the delay in opening all 50 states to Mexican trucks and buses, which was supposed to have occurred on Jan. 1, 2000, under the North American Free Trade Agreement. A delay has been in effect for several years. Safety reasons were cited, but the issue is also a political hot potato.