

# National News

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## Teamsters offered DoJ dictatorship

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters labor union has reportedly been offered a "deal" by U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani which would result in the Department of Justice dictating who can and cannot hold union office. In exchange for surrendering control over internal union affairs, the racketeering suit brought against the union by Giuliani would reportedly be "settled."

According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the deal calls for direct elections of top Teamsters officials, instead of elections at delegated conferences, with an independent panel named to oversee the process.

The *Los Angeles Times* reports that Giuliani is demanding the resignations of 5 of 16 international vice presidents, including Robert Holmes from Detroit, Harold Friedman of Cleveland, Joseph Trerotola of New York, Joseph Morgan of Hallandale, Fla., and Ted Cozza of Pittsburgh, allegedly because of their organized crime ties.

The effort to seize control of the Teamsters' leadership drew blood on Jan. 28 when Robert Holmes of Detroit resigned his position without comment. Teamsters General President William McCarthy has called the 16 vice presidents into Washington to discuss the offer.

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## Sullivan, Yeutter nominations delayed

The confirmation hearing for the nomination of Dr. Louis Sullivan to become Secretary of Health and Human Services, which had been scheduled before the Senate Finance Committee on Feb. 1, has been postponed indefinitely at the request of the White House pending completion of the background check. Dr. Sullivan stirred controversy when he reportedly told Sen. Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) that he did not want the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* which legalized abortion, overturned.

The Senate Agriculture Committee has also not rescheduled its hearing on the nomination of Clayton Yeutter to become Secretary of Agriculture. As *EIR* reported last week (p. 13), the Yeutter hearing, scheduled for Jan. 26, was postponed after Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) asked for an investigation of Yeutter's role as president of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. His term of office overlaps the stated FBI probe of the years 1983 to 1985.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chaired by Sen. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) joined the rest of the Senate in dramatically limiting the ability of constituents to testify on the Bush administration nominees. After allowing all who requested to appear before the committee in the case of Manuel Lujan's nomination to become Interior Secretary, the committee abruptly changed plans and disinvited witnesses on the nomination of Adm. James Watkins to become Secretary of Energy.

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## Admiral warns of Soviet Pacific buildup

Adm. David Jeremiah, the commander of the U.S. Pacific fleet, has charged that the Soviet Union has broken Mikhail Gorbachov's pledge not to increase the number of nuclear weapons in the Pacific, and is also increasing the use of spy ships in the waters around Hawaii.

According to statements reported in *Stars and Stripes* Jan. 29, Admiral Jeremiah also warned that in recent months the Soviets have added a new attack submarine to their Pacific fleet, in contradiction to a speech Gorbachov made in September. This submarine raised the total of Soviet delta-class strategic subs in the Pacific to 17.

Said Jeremiah in a speech in Honolulu, "While those of us in senior military positions welcome the new era of openness with the Kremlin, we remain concerned about the disparity between what we hear from the Soviets and what we actually see in the fleet."

On the spying in Hawaii waters, he stated, "The presence of Soviet intelligence-collections ships in the near vicinity of Ha-

waiian Islands has grown from 60 days in 1986 to more than 250 days in 1987 and 1988."

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## Pro-life activists to be shunted aside?

With the Supreme Court signaling its intention to reconsider its decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion, seasoned political observers report that the Bush administration's welcoming of the Court's move is a calculated effort to decrease the impact of Right to Life activists on the national Republican Party and relegate their impact to the state level. Such a development would, of course, mean less interference with the "Establishment" nature of Bush's tenure.

U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh signaled this desired outcome on the TV news show "Meet the Press" on Jan. 22, when he expressed his belief that the Court would likely put the issue of the legality of abortion back into the hands of the states. Thornburgh said that this was just one option the Court would have, but it was the one he considered most likely.

White House Chief of Staff John Sununu echoed this assessment on the TV news show, "This Week With David Brinkley" on Jan. 29. Sununu said that 45 states would be expected to make abortions illegal, and that it made perfect sense for Right to Life proponents to be active on the state level where they could do some good.

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## U.S. Attorney McNamara forced to resign

Boston U.S. Attorney Frank L. McNamara, Jr., resigned his post on Jan. 30 after U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh reportedly decided on Jan. 27 that he would suspend McNamara if he did not resign. McNamara had been an opponent of his predecessor, William Weld, who initiated attacks on Lyndon LaRouche and the Pentagon. The Thornburgh Justice Department,

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which is probing whether McNamara lied in alleging that Weld smoked marijuana, has announced that its investigation will continue.

McNamara told the *Boston Herald* on Jan. 29 that he was being forced out of office by local promulgators of conventional wisdom who see politics as "a secular religion." He named "the [*Boston Globe*], the Kennedy School, the Cambridge elitists, and the bow-tie liberals" as in this category.

McNamara's resignation followed reports a week earlier that "he had repeatedly urged federal drug enforcement agents to probe allegations of casual drug use by U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy, II (D-Mass.) and former Dukakis fundraiser Robert Farmer," according to the Jan. 31 *Boston Globe*. This information was contained in a confidential memo written by John Coleman, special DEA agent in charge for New England, and leaked to the press, but which McNamara denied. The *Globe* also cited sources who reported that McNamara "had pushed prosecutors to investigate whether the Dukakis administration had broken the law in buying land for the New Braintree prison."

McNamara, a member of Opus Dei, a Catholic lay society, had also angered opponents last September, when he debated Alan Dershowitz, a libertarian Harvard law professor who advocates drug legalization. McNamara said that drugs not only ruined the mind but also "destroy love."

### Court of Appeals OKs political organizing

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in the case of *U.S. v. Kokinda* on Jan. 31, striking down a Post Office ban against political organizing on federal property and reversing the convictions of Marsha Kokinda and Kevin Pearl. The two were arrested in August 1986 at a Post Office in Bowie, Maryland, while organizing support for the policies associated with the National Democratic Policy Committee and Lyndon LaRouche, and charged with violating postal regulations banning solicitation and "electioneering," and

subsequently convicted in federal District Court.

The panel, with one dissent, upheld the First Amendment doctrine of the primacy of expressive activity in a free society, and struck down the regulations as being unconstitutional.

Jay Alan Sekulow, a nationally known First Amendment and public forum attorney, who argued the appeal, said after the decision that "the Fourth Circuit has today touched the heart of protecting the rights of those who wish to exercise their political, religious, or social beliefs as is guaranteed by the Constitution, this in a courageous departure from the majorities in other Circuits."

The Court stated, "The sidewalks have hosted groups . . . who would bring the issues of drug abuse or POW's, acid rain or SDI, into public view. What the debate has lacked in decorum, it has supplied in vitality, and it is important to the dialogue of a democratic system. Without the streets and sidewalks, there might have been no civil rights movement. . . . Today the sidewalk may harbor the religious dissenter, the cultural iconoclast, the political maverick; tomorrow it may stage a movement of social protest whose message no one can foresee. Thus, sidewalks should remain available for speakers whose access to the public's ear and pursestring would otherwise be incomplete. . . ."

"Kokinda and Pearl . . . had available literature warning of an economic 'blow-out,' calling for an end to the 'AIDS cover-up,' and discussing the problems of drug abuse in government. Theirs was classic political speech pursued peacefully in a place that traditionally has been held open for expressive activities and is clearly within those areas of public property that may be considered, generally without further inquiry, to be public forum."

The Court concluded that the regulation "acts only to suppress speech. It prohibits all solicitation anywhere on postal property. It sweeps an entire category of expressive activity off a public forum solely in the interest of administrative convenience. . . . No thought was given to accommodating these speakers, only to removing them. For the foregoing reasons, their judgments of conviction are reversed."

● **LEE ATWATER**, chairman of the Republican National Committee, was presented a guitar by Ron Woods, guitarist for the satanic Rolling Stones rock group, during the inaugural celebrations. Atwater, Bush's former campaign manager and a former rhythm and blues musician, vowed to cherish the guitar always.

● **JESSE JACKSON** met with U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh on Jan. 26 and was asked for his recommendations on who should head the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "For the first time in eight years, the lights have been turned back on in the Justice Department," Jackson said.

● **PRESIDENT BUSH**, in his first message to the troops while visiting naval ships in Norfolk, Va. on Jan. 31, joined the attack on the military. Bush said he will seek "tighter controls and higher standards in weapons procurement" and to "wring the last drop of waste and mismanagement out of the way we buy our weapons."

● **LANE KIRKLAND**, AFL-CIO chairman, complained on Jan. 25 that President Bush has refused to extend the life of the National Economic Commission beyond March 1, thereby eliminating its role in the imposition of austerity on the United States. Kirkland doubted that the NEC would issue a report.

● **THE WAR ON DRUGS** took a further setback in an interview with the *New York Times*, in which President Bush said that because of the budget deficit it may be too expensive to try to cut drugs off at the source or as they come into the United States. In his Jan. 27 press conference, Bush modified this, saying he will have to see what resources the administration has to throw into the war.