

National News

Thornburgh betrays ambitions, says Post

Relations between Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and the U.S. Congress are deteriorating because of Thornburgh's antics which betray his political ambitions, according to the Jan. 6 *Washington Post*.

The *Post* describes antics including his refusal to appear on panels with other cabinet members because they are thought to be of lower rank, his high-handed approach to the reorganization of local prosecutors' offices, usually done in consultation with the Senate, and his refusal to appear on talk shows with National Drug Policy Director William Bennett.

Thornburgh, already chastised for using Department of Justice computers to develop contributor and mailing lists for his political activities, has an inner circle, the *Post* said, who are "preoccupied with the Attorney General's image to a degree unusual even in Washington." The *Post* blames this crew for the near total secrecy which has shrouded DoJ activities and earned Thornburgh a reputation as a "control freak."

An administration official contrasted Thornburgh to former Attorney General Edwin Meese who "had no political agenda for himself. Because Dick Thornburgh views himself as seeking higher office and because the people he brought with him helped him seek high office in the state of Pennsylvania, things are viewed through the lens: How will this affect Dick Thornburgh when George Bush is no longer President?"

LaRouche campaign ads subjected to DoJ review

Political radio advertisements sponsored by "LaRouche for Justice," the campaign committee for Lyndon LaRouche's bid for Congress from the 10th district of Virginia, were delayed in airing by "all news" radio WTOP in Washington, D.C., because the station first wanted to get approval from the Department

of Justice. The ads finally aired Jan. 5 and 8.

On Jan. 3 the station blocked the ads from airing. WTOP policy is to offer a candidate's opponent a chance to air an "opposing view." Instead of calling the incumbent, Rep. Frank Wolf (R), a WTOP spokesman admitted they have determined the Department of Justice is the opponent of the LaRouche campaign.

A WTOP salesperson said they received word on Jan. 4 that the DoJ did not want to respond to the LaRouche ads, which read:

"Announcer: Federal Judge Bostetter recently ruled that the government committed 'constructive fraud' when it shut down three organizations associated with Lyndon LaRouche. A national newspaper and magazine, protected under the First Amendment, were shut down for more than two years, and given an economic death sentence.

"More recently, a Virginia judge sentenced LaRouche fundraiser Michael Billington to 77 years for raising \$76,000 of *political loans*. Billington and LaRouche have both been denied bond pending appeal. President Bush refuses to release thousands of classified documents which could exonerate LaRouche. The FBI, alone, refuses to release some 4700 pages of documents.

"Hasn't the vendetta against LaRouche and his associates gone far enough? In the interest of justice, Bush must declassify the LaRouche files."

Hospitals facing emergency room crises

New York City hospitals face an alarming emergency room crisis as admission rates climb. On one day in the first week of January, over 890 patients waited for hospital beds in the city's emergency rooms and hallways. On another day, 639 patients waited in public and private hospitals.

Emergency room physicians say it is typical to have an increase in admissions after the holidays, because of flu outbreaks and because people put off treatment until after the holiday, but, this winter's surge has broken all records—and there is no flu

epidemic to blame it on—yet.

State Health Department officials say that 900 new beds have been opened since last winter's emergency room crisis, but, although there is an increase in nurses available, Lincoln Hospital has yet been unable to use its new unit of 99 beds because it lacks the necessary staff. To free up emergency room staff, some hospitals have extended their walk-in clinic hours to handle all non-emergency problems, but critics say hundreds more beds and nurses are needed.

One new method to cut down the number of patients waiting for beds was instituted by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which runs the city's ambulance system. No hospital is allowed to refuse a patient, nor are they allowed to ask that ambulances divert new patients to a hospital with beds available. They can, however, request EMS to transfer a patient. EMS has averaged a record 3,116 calls a day, when the normal for a holiday season is 2,300 per day. This means that the EMS crew waits about 7-8 hours to transfer one patient from an ambulance stretcher to a bed.

Judge strikes ban on Operation Rescue demos

U.S. District Judge Oliver Gasch struck down an ordinance which had banned the demonstrations by the anti-abortion Operation Rescue group, by reversing a ban enforced Nov. 14, 1989 against "intimidating" people within 100 feet of clinics that perform abortions.

Gasch called the ban "too vague . . . to pass constitutional muster. It goes too far and prohibits other speech that is constitutionally protected." He added that the 100-foot zone included sidewalks which he said were "a traditional public forum" for free speech.

Operation Rescue planned a series of protests outside of abortion clinics in the Washington, D.C. area as part of its D.C. Project. Judge Gasch said that local governments have a right to ban conduct that physically interferes with patients' access to the clinic or public safety, but that there are

already laws that deal with that, like those dealing with trespassing or blocking the public sidewalk.

Space Shuttle Columbia starts 10-day mission

The Space Shuttle orbiter Columbia was launched Jan. 9 to begin the second-longest Shuttle mission in the program's nine-year history. It is the ninth flight for the Columbia, and the 33rd in the Shuttle program. NASA has a record number of 10 flights planned for this year.

The five-man crew deployed the Navy Syncom communications satellite, and on Jan. 12 the astronauts rendezvoused with the Long Duration Exposure Facility. LDEF has 57 experiments on board which have been exposed to the space environment for more than five years.

Kennedy Space Center launch director Bob Sieck said after the launch that the one-month delay in launching the current Shuttle mission, which was due to modifications to the launch pad, should not delay the other nine flights NASA has scheduled for 1990, including the long-awaited launch of the Hubble Space Telescope in the spring.

Sieck stated that the main constraint on the number of Shuttle missions that can fly each year is the time it takes to work on the orbiter after it returns from a mission, or the turnaround time. With only three orbiters, NASA cannot increase the current flight schedule.

When the Shuttle program was started, there were to be five orbiters. Only four were built, and it will be more than another year before the Challenger replacement orbiter, Endeavor, joins the Shuttle fleet.

FDIC forms legal hit squad

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has formed an "Untouchables" legal hit squad, composed of former criminal prosecutors, to track down suspected S&L fraud and seek

monetary restitution, the *Wall Street Journal* reported Jan. 8.

The unit was formed because borrowers and thrift executives "need to get the message that they're going to be eating off a metal tray when they commit fraud," said Howard Feinstein, who heads the Washington-based unit.

The unit will assist in pre-indictment investigations and will press for stiffer sentences, including prison time, and restitution under the Victim and Witness Protection Act. The unit is asking judges to add restitution to sentences already handed down. "We're talking about an unparalleled national bank fraud scandal here," Feinstein said.

"Think of them as the 'Untouchables' of the S&L industry," the *Journal* said.

Bush manipulating what we see, columnist says

"In a certain way, Bush has gone beyond manipulating how we see things, to manipulating what we see," David Hoffman charged in a *Washington Post* commentary entitled "Zip My Lips: Bush's Secret Conduct of U.S. Policy," on Jan. 7.

One example Hoffman gives is events surrounding the recent coup attempt in the Philippines. The chronology of events prepared by the administration began with Corazon Aquino's call for help and Bush's positive response. But it omitted a previous communication from the administration indicating to the Philippines government which request the United States was ready to accept.

"Bush's need for secrecy is more than just a concern that he reap the maximum public-relations advantage," Hoffman said. "It is central to his thinking. This desire for control is woven into the fabric of his everyday life. Although he often comes across in public as casual and free-wheeling, in private Bush is intensely calculating about the people and information around him, even at a dinner party. Friends often marvel at how he delights in launching what amount to little covert missions and intelligence operations for his own edification."

Briefly

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** signed a proclamation for "Earth Day" on Jan. 3, beneath a portrait of Teddy Roosevelt on a bucking horse. EPA head William Reilly and a granddaddy of the environmental movement, Gaylord Nelson, attended the ceremony. In greeting Nelson, Bush asked if he should genuflect.

● **THE TWELFTH MEETING** of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. joint committee on cooperation for environmental protection convened at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington Jan. 9, chaired by EPA Administrator William Reilly and First Deputy Chairman of the U.S.S.R. State Committee for Nature Protection Valentin Sokolovsky.

● **LAROCHE ASSOCIATES** won a victory Jan. 5 in the ongoing PANIC (AIDS ballot initiative) case against Bruce Kilber when the California appeals court in Los Angeles upheld the right to discovery for the defendants.

● **JEB BUSH**, the President's son, is sponsoring the Florida fundraiser for Violeta Chamorro, the Contra operative who is a presidential candidate in Nicaragua and who is now touring the U.S. to raise funds.

● **RADIO MOSCOW** featured George Bush's effusive praise for Mikhail Gorbachov and perestroika on Jan. 3, reporting that in an interview with *Reader's Digest* Bush said he "wants restructuring to succeed," and that Gorbachov is an "attractive and popular political figure."

● **STANLEY ADAMS, JR.**, the former chairman of Lamar Savings who was forced out by FSLIC and FHLBB regulators in 1985, announced for the Democratic Party nomination for governor of Texas on Jan. 2. Adams said he is "outraged at the unconscionable manner that the economy of this state has been systematically pillaged and looted for the benefit of the Eastern Establishment banking dictatorship."