

National News

'War powers group' readies police powers

White House counsel C. Boyden Gray is leading a "war powers group" in the White House, a group of lawyers who specialize in preparing the legal justification for the White House's contempt of Congress, the Constitution, and the War Powers Act, according to *Legal Times*.

The group shares "a staunch belief in presidential prerogatives, a familiarity with the national security bureaucracy, and a penchant for leaving their business behind closed doors."

The group is preparing responses to any further legal challenges by Congress to Bush's police action in the Gulf, is reviewing the military's rules of engagement, examining the government's statutory authority to reclaim property once owned by the Defense Department for wartime purposes, studying what steps can be taken in the name of maintaining internal security, and restricting press access to information about armed conflict, *Legal Times* reported.

"A lot of these powers haven't been used in 50 years. . . . It's critical to review these kinds of things in advance for their legal soundness," one lawyer said. "Once the balloon goes up," this lawyer adds ominously, "it's going to get awfully chaotic," the article concluded.

Cities back freedom in Baltics

The city councils of Boston, Massachusetts and Toronto, Canada passed resolutions on Jan. 16 in support of freedom and independence for the Baltic state of Lithuania. Similar resolutions have been introduced into state and local governments throughout North America.

The Toronto city council denounced Gorbachov's attempt to justify the military intervention and the massacre of unarmed innocent civilians as "heightening the return of Stalinism and the demise of freedom and

democracy."

It proclaimed Jan. 20 as a day of mourning in Toronto for those killed in the Vilnius massacre; supported the right of the Baltic states for full independence; called for a convening of the U.N. Security Council to stop the bloodshed and suppression of freedom in Lithuania and the other Baltic states; requested that the Medical Officer of Health meet with representatives of the Toronto Lithuanian community to find out what medical assistance can be provided; and requested the councils of the cities of Kiev and Volgograd, Toronto's sister cities, to support its positions.

Minister Farrakhan warns of global war

Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam warned that "While it may appear" that the Gulf war "is between President Saddam Hussein on one side and the united forces of 28 nations behind President Bush," this will "not be confined to the Middle East" but "will engulf the entire planet," in a Jan. 14 press conference in Washington.

"We have heard of the alleged aggression of President Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi Army and its annexation of Kuwait. But we have not heard what motivated this man to such actions, and until and unless we are ready to expose that motive and if there is a grievance at the root of that and address that grievance then we cannot bring peace between the aggrieved parties," he said.

By insisting that there will be no negotiations, Bush has "taken the position that there are no real terms for peace. . . . This is arrogance. Arrogance that afflicts those in power because of their enormous power."

Farrakhan said he personally believed that Bush has underestimated the will of the Iraqi people.

"Those who are bent on war do not realize that this means their own destruction." The United States, he said, "is a great nation. But greater nations than this have gone into the pit of Hell, because of the blindness of leadership." He called upon "the spiritual men and women of this nation" to "rise up and with our last breath call out for sanity."

Washington Post admits it lied on acid rain

The *Washington Post* confessed that it lied on the issue of acid rain, thus influencing the outcome of the Clean Air debate in Congress, in a half-page feature in its Jan. 14 Science section. The paper acknowledges it did not mention a single word of a \$500 million study that proved conclusively that the acid rain problem was an environmental hoax.

"In three volumes weighing more than five pounds, the study concluded that acid rain, while still a problem, has caused far less damage to the nation's forests and lakes than previously estimated. Yet the report was virtually ignored by the *Washington Post* and given scant attention by most other major news organizations last year, even while Congress debated and approved new acid rain controls that will cost as much as \$4 billion a year." (The actual costs are closer to \$20 billion.)

The paper excused itself with the claim that "Michael Weisskopf, the *Washington Post's* environmental reporter, said he was on vacation when the report was released."

Bush has gone mad, says German paper

George Bush thinks God chose him to be the new Messiah, according to a profile of Bush in the first 1991 issue of the German weekly *Der Spiegel*.

Over Christmas at Camp David, Bush met with Joe Hyams, who is working on the biography of George Bush. Bush told Hyams that thinking about the Gulf crisis, he has revived the memory of what happened on Sept. 2, 1944, when the bomber plane he was on was shot down by Japanese flak near the Pacific Island of Chichi Yima. Bush survived; the rest of the crew died. Forty-six years later, Bush feels, "it was like an awakening, why was my life saved, what was it God saved me for?"

Bush believes that God chose him to do

some mission, thinks that God is on his, rather than Pope John Paul II's, side in this "conflict between the Good and the Evil" in the Persian Gulf. Saddam Hussein is the personification of Evil for Bush, and that is why he insists that Iraq must be crushed to pieces, that no compromise is possible, that the Iraqis have to pass through Armageddon, the magazine reported.

AIDS carrier indicted for assault

A man has been arrested in California for allegedly infecting a woman and her baby with the AIDS virus, in a case described as the first of its kind.

The individual was indicted by a county grand jury on 15 counts of assault with a deadly weapon, one for each of the times he had had sexual intercourse with the woman, whom the prosecution has not identified. The woman charges that even after he had been diagnosed as testing positive for the HIV antibodies, he did not tell her, nor did he take any precautions. The woman became pregnant by him, and now she and her baby also test positive.

Prosecutors say that this is the first prosecution in California on assault charges for passing the AIDS virus to an unsuspecting person. It is believed that the state senate may consider a bill that would make such an offense a felony.

CIA chief's widow slams Bush's terms to Iraq

The widow of former CIA head William Casey attacked George Bush's conduct of the war against Iraq in a letter to the Jan. 14 *Washington Times*. The letter references her late husband's critique of the Roosevelt-Churchill conference at Casablanca in which, Casey charged, that conference introduced the "unconditional surrender" demand into the "vocabulary of World War II," a decision which "changed forever the character of the war and the world that

emerged afterwards."

Mrs. Casey quotes the late CIA director arguing that "many thousands and perhaps millions of casualties" could have been avoided, "in gas chambers as well as in battle, and . . . the freedom of millions of people in Eastern Europe" could have been saved if this approach had not been taken.

"This is what President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker are constantly selling to the American people regarding Iraq. I get the shivers when I think of the loss, the additional loss, of our national treasures—our fighting men.

"We can expect terrible losses if we have a war with an unconditional surrender demand," she warned.

Columnist lashes out against war censorship

Syndicated columnist Richard Reeves attacked the censorship of the press being conducted in the Gulf war, in a column in the Jan. 18 *Houston Post*. "These days, it's PNN—Pentagon Network News," read Reeves's headline. "And the press . . . has been acting as cheerleaders, with 'Hi, Mom' coverage commencing as soon as President Bush decided that precious Kuwait was our 51st state. . . .

"The Pentagon is covering its own war this time. PIOs (public information officers) are doling out transportation chits, photo opportunities, debriefing films, and monitored interviews behind the lines to desperately grateful television and print reporters in the truth deserts of Arabia and Washington. Off Grenada and in Panama, the military experimented with keeping the press under armed guard and on short rations.

"There was little complaint . . . and now the Pentagon feels confident it can impose total control and censorship on war news.

"What is becoming endangered these days, I think, is the connection between the U.S. military and democracy itself. With all-volunteer forces, a stubborn and secretive President, a reactive Congress, and now a disconnected and passive press, the Pentagon is becoming answerable only to itself."

Briefly

● **RAMSEY CLARK**, the former U.S. Attorney General, charges that George Bush wants war in the Gulf not to defend Kuwait, nor only for the oil, but "to strengthen the U.S.'s debilitated economic power compared with its competitors Japan and Germany," in an interview in the Jan. 15 Mexican daily *El Dia*.

● **GEORGE BUSH** is potentially responsible for Nuremberg crimes, London *Guardian* commentator Edward Pearce wrote Jan. 16. The main psychological force driving the war, he wrote, is Bush's rage at being called a wimp. Bush is a "feebleton rolling his pectorals," who can "plead only his vanity."

● **HENRY KISSINGER** confessed he is a blundering fool. Interviewed by TV commentators a day after the Jan. 15 deadline for use of force against Iraq, Kissinger said that he never thought Saddam Hussein would not back down.

● **BALTIC** interest organizations were "absolutely fuming" after meeting a Bush adviser Jan. 14, BBC reported. One individual described the attitude of the White House as "pathetic." They asked that the U.S. open consulates in the Baltic nations, and that fact-finding missions be immediately undertaken.

● **MILES COPELAND**, a top figure in the CIA-British intelligence "Occult Bureau" for decades and the CIA's *éminence grise* in Middle East operations, died on Jan. 14 in Britain, his adopted homeland. Copeland was recently wont to boast in the British press, that the CIA would ensure the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

● **NEW IRAN-CONTRA** material has surfaced, the Jan. 18 *Montreal Gazette* reported. Canadian Immigration authorities are to decide the fate of Antonio Motolese, a man wanted in Italy who claims he's in danger because of his work as a former undercover agent for the CIA in the Iran-Contra episode.