

National News

Is Ohio Dem chairman linked to Warner scam?

Ohio Democratic Party chairman James Ruvolo is the latest party bigwig to come under fire for links to the banking scandal which precipitated the March 6 collapse of Marvin Warner's Home State Savings and Loan. Tom Kindness, a Republican U.S. Representative from Ohio, has charged that Toledo's city manager—who arranged for that city to pour millions of dollars into Warner's ESM Government Securities money-laundering operation during the early 1980s—is a close associate of Ruvolo. Kindness also claims that Ruvolo is a close associate of Warner.

And, according to sources, the threads that lead from Warner to Ohio Democratic Party officials are densely woven. Gov. Richard Celeste "is paranoid about his friendship with Marvin Warner. He is closer to Warner than paint on a wall and he can't deny it," former Ohio Gov. James Rhodes has charged.

Rhodes said officials in his administration had alerted their successors about Home State's investments with Fort Lauderdale's ESM Government Securities in 1982, but that the Celeste administration failed to act forcefully enough to stop the investments. "Under Celeste, Home State was allowed to triple its investments with ESM," Rhodes said.

Meanwhile, investigations into Warner's drug connections have gotten more interesting. A U.S. government official involved in combatting the drug trade reports that Warner's ComBanks, based out of Winter Park, Florida, was the bank that laundered financial transactions that brought 4 million pounds of marijuana into the United States during the 1975-81 period. ComBanks was cracked down on in 1982 during the government's "Operation Groper" against drug traffickers. Back in Ohio, a Republican legislator has received authorization to appropriate \$500,000 to investigate Warner's ties to drug money-laundering interests.

The court-appointed receiver for ESM told the House Energy and Commerce sub-

committee on April 2 that Warner's banks became a "cash cow" for ESM, effectively "abandoning Home State" to divert enormous sums of money to ESM to keep it afloat. He described the activities of ESM as "the most abusive corporate raping that I have ever seen," and that his just-issued report documents "the magnitude and grossness of their acts."

Euthanasia 'damages' case overturned

The Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled March 14 that the widow of Earle N. Spring is not entitled to \$1.2 million in damages from the Geriatric Authority of Holyoke for its refusal to kill her husband in 1980 by removing him from kidney dialysis. The decision reversed an earlier lower court ruling, which argued that by continuing to administer treatment to the patient instead of murdering him by pulling the plug, medical officials were guilty of "invasion of privacy."

Then presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche took up Earle Spring's cause after the dialysis patient told a LaRouche campaign representative that he wanted to live. In its ruling the state supreme court found that the Geriatric Authority of Holyoke was not liable under the law because the law doesn't apply to it.

Robert Spring, Earle's son, denounced the decision, making the remarkable statement that it leaves the elderly "prey to people who want to take advantage of them for their own purposes."

Fraud charged against General Dynamics

Senators Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) and William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) have published a new report alleging that General Dynamics, the nation's largest defense contractor, has committed fraud in its dealings with the U.S. Navy. This is the second time in eight days that a major U.S. defense contractor has been mentioned in connection

with fraud allegations.

On March 26, General Electric, the nation's fourth-largest contractor, was indicted by a Philadelphia grand jury on 108 counts of fraud.

According to latest available statistics, General Dynamics held \$6.8 billion in U.S. government contracts in 1983.

Notably, the lawmakers—and news media—promoting the defense-contractor "watergating" spree coincide with those opposed to administration levels of defense spending, and in particular, the President's Strategic Defense Initiative.

U.S. Bishops rewriting *Genesis*?

"The *Book of Genesis* does not in reality have a notion of dominion over nature distinct from stewardship and preservation of the earth's resources, and to think that it does is a misinterpretation based on an incorrect translation from the original Hebrew," says a Jesuit theologian who advises the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference's Pastoral Letter on the Economy task force.

"The language has been badly abused," he continued. "In reality, the *Book of Genesis* is strong on ecological preservation and on the idea of man being rooted in the earth, and is against the concept of unrestrained human ingenuity."

According to sources, release of the final draft of the Bishops' pastoral letter has suddenly been "postponed." The sources say the U.S. Bishops had already begun to receive substantial political flack for the letter.

NATO ambassador backs Nunn plan

U.S. Ambassador to NATO David Abshire applauded the "Nunn Amendment" for having successfully pushed NATO's European members into a "much needed increase" in their conventional defense spending. The amendment, authored by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), calls for the withdrawal of U.S.

troops from Western Europe.

Abshire, who made his comments at a Georgetown University event honoring NATO General Secretary Lord Peter Carington, co-founded the Grand Strategy Forum with Henry Kissinger. The Forum is now headed by Nunn.

Tipsy gets chance to replenish Vodka stock

House Majority Leader Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) is leading a delegation of U.S. congressmen to Moscow in mid-April. O'Neill's visit will be an "exchange" trip for the mid-March visit to the United States by Soviet Politburo member Vladimir Shcherbitskii and 30 other Soviet officials.

Staffers in O'Neill's office claim they "don't know yet" exactly when he'll be leaving, and plead ignorance of his itinerary. Washington insiders speculate that a special vodka taste-testing party has been planned.

Kissinger sees little hope in Mideast

At a New York dinner honoring *Holocaust* author Elie Wiesel on April 2, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said the chances of peace in the Middle East are small and that Israelis must withstand pressure to settle for an inadequate peace agreement.

"There cannot be a strong Israel without a strong United States," he said. "Peace must have a content and it is not just a process."

More than 1,300 people, including at least 40 survivors of the Holocaust, crowded a Waldorf-Astoria ballroom to hear his remarks. Kissinger called on the citizens of both countries—particularly "Jews, Jewish intellectuals, and some Jewish leaders"—to stop dwelling on minor problems for fear of diluting national self-confidence.

"It is a fundamental necessity to protect the faith," he said. "What worries one most are not the practical problems—economic, political, and even security," Kissinger said. "What worries one is the possibility that this

self-confidence and faith may be weakened by incidents and recent history."

But, he said, "a people that has survived thousands of years, a state that has survived decades, cannot fail if it remains true to itself." "Israel must wait to be recognized," he said, adding that "20 centuries of solitude has taught her to wait."

Buckley calls for drug legalization

Columnist William F. Buckley, Jr. gave his most explicit endorsement yet to legalizing dangerous drugs, in a nationally syndicated column published the first week of April. Appearing under such headlines as "Time to Legalize Dope" and "Legalize Dope," acknowledged pot-smoker Buckley presented classical British "free-trade" arguments to defend the dope pushers.

Noting the enormous amount of drug use in the United States and the difficulties in cracking down on the dope trade, Buckley wrote that the drug problem would not exist except for the extensive "market" and the high price. Exactly the same "argument" was used by British East India Company officials in the 19th century to justify opium trafficking in India and China.

"The one thing that could be done, overnight," to deal with this problem, he asserted, "is to legalize the stuff."

"It is hardly a novel suggestion to legalize dope," he continued. "Shrewd observers of the scene have recommended it for years. I am on record as having opposed it in the matter of heroin. The accumulated evidence draws me away from my own opposition, on the purely empirical grounds that what we have now is a drug problem plus a crime problem plus a problem of a huge export of capital to the dope-producing countries."

The "dramatic alternative" to be considered by Congress, Buckley asserted, is "legalization."

He concluded: "Ours is a free society in which oodles of people kill themselves with tobacco and booze. Some will do it with coke and heroin. But we should count in the lives saved by having the deadly stuff available at the same price as rat poison."

Briefly

● **HENRY KISSINGER** should be a prime choice for appointment by the Reagan administration as a special mediator in the Middle East, Jimmy Carter said on April 2. Carter made his statements during a breakfast meeting with reporters in Washington.

● **COLUMBUS RADIO** stations have been giving extensive coverage to former congressional candidate Don Scott's pledge to clean the drug-trafficking elements out of the state Democratic Party. Scott gave a press conference on April 2 in Columbus on Gov. Celeste's close relationship with drug-banker Marvin Warner, responsible for the state's savings-and-loan crisis last month.

● **A FEDERAL JUDGE** in Boston has imposed fines totalling \$40,000 a day against four organizations associated with former presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, *EIR*'s founder, despite the fact that the organizations being penalized have never been legally served with any legal papers nor notified about the court proceedings. William Weld, U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, who covered up for Bank of Boston money-laundering linked to his own family's White Weld firm, requested the fines.

● **NUTRITION** is not what it once was in America. Based on approximately 2,000 responses to the "Poverty in America" census being conducted by the Schiller Institute, nearly 25% of respondees who reported that they *do* have an adequate diet also reported that they do not eat meat daily.

● **TRADE WAR** and how to best conduct it against Japan is the subject of a report now being prepared for Sen. Charles Danforth (D-Mo.), the dogfood magnate, by the "conservative" American Enterprise Institute. The report, by AEI's senior economists, will focus on the "advantages" of levying import surcharges on Japanese goods.