

National News

Supreme Court justice attacks Constitution

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall sharply attacked the U.S. Constitution and the Founding Fathers May 6. Marshall urged Americans not to go overboard in celebrating the bicentennial of a document that sanctioned slavery (which the Constitution did not) and denied women the right to vote.

Marshall claimed the Constitution was "defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war, and momentous social transformation to attain the system of constitutional government, and its respect for the individual freedoms and human rights, we hold as fundamental today." He added that he did not "find the wisdom, foresight, and sense of justice exhibited by the framers particularly profound."

Ignoring the republican principles underlying the document, Marshall argued that the first three words of the Preamble, "We the people," were not intended to include "the majority of America's citizens," women and blacks; that such omissions were deliberate; that "moral principles . . . for those who had them, were compromised"; he adopted the argument of revisionist historian Charles Beard, that the framers sacrificed morality to economic gain.

Opening the door wide to those, such as former Carter White House counsel Lloyd Cutler, who have argued that the Constitution should be radically amended, Marshall concluded, that the United States needs "to seek . . . a sensitive understanding of the Constitution's inherent defects, and its promising evolution through 200 years of history."

Reagan orders push for arms agreement

In a statement released by the White House May 4, President Reagan said he had directed U.S. arms negotiator Ronald Lehman to "intensify efforts" to reach an accord with the Soviet Union calling for sharp cuts in

strategic nuclear weapons. He announced that during the current round of arms talks in Geneva, the U.S. would introduce a draft treaty calling for a 50% cut in longer-range missiles within the next seven years, and a seven-year freeze on deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

"We have made great progress in START [Strategic Arms Reductions Talks]. I am firmly convinced that a START agreement is within our grasp, even this year if the Soviets are prepared to resolve the remaining outstanding issues," the President said.

But the next day, the Soviet news agency TASS accused Reagan of putting "new obstacles" in the way of arms control, adding that U.S. proposals to reduce strategic weapons on both sides effectively "rule out" an agreement.

TASS complained that "while talks will be under way on strategic offensive arms reductions, the United States will press along with full-scale preparations for deploying antiballistic missiles systems with space-based elements as early as 1994, which will rule out an agreement completely."

Soviets in U.S. to talk 'joint ventures'

The Atlantic Council-sponsored U.S.-Soviet Dialogue, which convenes in Washington May 18-20, will focus on joint U.S.-Soviet economic ventures, a spokesman for the council reported May 7. Robert Means said the Atlantic Council has recently initiated a major policy program on the "Western stake in Soviet economic reforms and *glasnost*."

The U.S. delegation to the meeting includes former West Point commandant Andrew Goodpaster, former CIA analyst Lincoln Gordon, Kissinger Associates' Brent Scowcroft, R. James Woolsey of CSIS, and Leonard Sullivan, of the Systems Planning Corp. The Soviet delegation will be headed up by Georgii Arbatov of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute in Moscow, and will include Gen. Mikhail Milshtein, Vice-Admiral Omelko of the Ministry of Defense; Mr. Shustov, deputy director of North American

Affairs for the Foreign Ministry; Mr. Skaraganev, director of the regional conflict section of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute.

No press will be allowed at the private meeting.

Young, Robb named in cocaine scandals

Atlanta Mayor Andy Young, fresh from meetings with Nicaraguan strongman Daniel Ortega, is scheduled to appear the week of May 11 before a federal grand jury investigating charges that he and his assistant, Eugene Duffy, obstructed police investigation of drug trafficking by members of his political machine. Mrs. Alice Bond, the wife of Georgia political figure Julian Bond who first brought charges against Bond and others in the Young machine to Atlanta police, said today she had reported her husband's drug activity to narcotics police 6 to 12 times before, and no investigation was undertaken.

Meanwhile, the Atlanta Police Department may be suspended from the Georgia State Intelligence Network (GSIC), as a result of charges that Young pressured Atlanta police not to investigate Mrs. Bond's drug charge. Dick Hand, the director of the Georgia Organized Crime Council which runs GSIC, said there is "concern over APD internal security."

According to allegations in a copyrighted story in the May 3 *Richmond-Times Dispatch*, former Virginia Gov. Charles Robb attended beachfront parties where cocaine was used. The charge, made by an unidentified federal official, is part of an ongoing investigation of cocaine dealings in Virginia Beach, in which two indictments were just handed down. Robb has acknowledged that he attended numerous parties and social functions, but denied ever seeing or using illegal drugs. "I'll tell you in no uncertain terms that it ain't so."

Robb, chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council, voiced concern that the rumors about his supposed association with drug users were politically motivated. *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* noted that Henry E. Hudson, the U.S. Attorney for the East-

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ern District of Virginia, is a Republican. Robb was also said to be concerned about a "runaway grand jury" in the cocaine investigation case.

'High Frontier' scorned by the Pentagon

General Danny Graham's "High Frontier" program, put forward for years as an "off-the-shelf" alternative to Reagan's and LaRouche's plans for a Strategic Defense Initiative using advanced technologies, was rejected by the U.S. Defense Department years ago as "unrealistic" and "unworkable," according to government documents.

A series of Pentagon and State Department documents written in 1982, which have been acquired by Sen. J. Bennett Johnson (D-La.), show Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's complete rejection of the "High Frontier" program for a kinetic-centered ballistic missile defense system using obsolete technologies. "It is the unanimous opinion of the Air Force technical community that the High Frontier proposals are unrealistic regarding the state of technology, cost, and schedule," stated one memo.

The Heritage Foundation, an important KGB disinformation conduit in U.S. conservative circles, has strongly supported Graham in attacks on LaRouche and Reagan. Graham has conducted a multimillion-dollar fundraising campaign on behalf of "High Frontier."

Syrian drug runner helped North, Contras

Monzer al-Kassar, a member of a Syrian drug trafficking clan, helped Oliver North to arm the Contras, the London *Observer* reported May 3. Al-Kassar has been branded a "terrorist," and has been described by U.S. intelligence sources as a member of "the largest drugs and arms dealing family in Syria," the *Observer* wrote.

Al-Kassar had reportedly arranged for

arms to go from Yugoslavia to the Contras, in a deal put together by Britain's Hall and Watts (Defense Sales) Ltd. According to U.S. reports, al-Kassar was behind a "well-documented shipment of 358 tons of Eastern bloc weaponry, bought for the Contras at a time when Congress had banned military aid" to the Contras. Al-Kassar is also reportedly the one who armed Abul Abbas, mastermind of the 1985 *Achille Lauro* cruise-ship hijacking.

The British Home Office has declared al-Kassar an "undesirable alien," because of his "conduct, character, and associations." He was refused entry to Britain last year, when he arrived in one of his three executive jets, with a Syrian diplomatic passport.

LaRouche Campaign in victory over FEC

Lyndon LaRouche's 1984 presidential primary campaign committee, The LaRouche Campaign (TLC), has won a small but important constitutional victory from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, when a three-judge panel ordered that a subpoena issued to TLC by the Federal Election Commission must be modified. TLC had challenged the FEC subpoena on grounds that its demand to reveal the names of all persons who volunteered their time to solicit campaign funds was overly broad and a violation of those volunteers' First Amendment associational rights.

The court pointed out in its decision that when First Amendment concerns come into play, deference to administrative agency investigations "is not appropriate." The opinion reads, "protection of the constitutional liberties of the target of the subpoena calls for a more exacting scrutiny of the justification offered by the agency." This determination by a federal appeals court is a significant direction that the FEC cannot be granted unfettered grand jury-like powers.

The court concluded that the FEC had not shown sufficient need for the names, since the "disclosure sought will compromise the privacy of individual political associations, and hence risk a chilling of unencumbered associational choices."

● **REP. STEWART MCKINNEY** (R-Conn.) became the first U.S. Congressman to die of AIDS. The 56-year-old McKinney, who died on May 6, reportedly contracted AIDS by receiving tainted blood during an earlier surgical procedure.

● **SEN. ERNEST HOLLINGS** (D-S.C.) threw a monkey-wrench into William Webster's confirmation as CIA director. Hollings said May 6 that he intends to hold up a final vote on Webster's appointment, because the FBI hasn't investigated vigorously enough the State Department's responsibility for the massive security failures at the U.S. embassy in Moscow.

● **SEN. BENNETT JOHNSTON** (D-La.) said May 2 that President Reagan's proposed budget is based on phony statistics and cannot reach deficit-reduction levels required by the Gramm-Rudman law. "The sad truth is, that plan is a fraud," said Johnston in the Democratic response to Reagan's weekly radio address. "It dodged the really tough decisions that have to be made to cut \$68 billion from the deficit. Instead, he used phony economic projections, such as an economic growth rate that is \$15 billion too high."

● **'WOULD JESUS Wear a Rolex on His Television Show?'** is the most requested song on radio stations in the U.S. Bible Belt, the *New York Times* reported May 2.

● **RICHARD THORNBURGH**, the former governor of Pennsylvania, in early May turned down a Reagan administration offer to head the FBI, because, like several other potential nominees, he didn't want to go through the intense scrutiny that would be required for Senate confirmation.