

National News

D.C. 'suddenly' faces AIDS emergency

"To operate as if AIDS is a gay white disease is to risk suicide," said Washington, D.C. health commissioner Dr. Reed Tuckson at the Aug. 6-7 AIDS conference held in Atlanta by the Centers for Disease Control and the Health and Human Services Department.

Tuckson said Washington was a good case study of a city suddenly confronted with a costly and deadly AIDS epidemic it cannot afford. "We have 100,000 people without medical insurance," Tuckson said Aug. 6.

"Last year, our hospitals had to absorb over \$100 million in bad debt. We have more black males in jail than in college. We have a large IV drug community, and many sexually active adolescents. . . .

"There is simply not enough money in D.C. to take care of this disease—not next year, not five years from now. The federal government has got to enlarge its concept of responsibility. It's not just research dollars we need—although we need research money."

Tower calls Congress probe 'political theater'

Tower Commission chairman John Tower, speaking at a breakfast meeting with reporters, commented on the Iran-Contra congressional investigation: "I would classify the whole thing as political theater. Nothing really new came out."

Tower, the former senator from Texas and chief arms negotiator in Geneva, headed the commission initially appointed by President Reagan to look into the Iran-Contra funds diversion last January. It produced its report in April, revealing some details of Oliver North's shenanigans while covering up what Sen. David Boren would later refer to as a "secret government," of which North et al.'s operations were only a small part.

Tower also said the public would have been better served had the congressional

hearings been held in private.

He added, "I don't think the Congress came out looking as good as they thought they might." The hearings backfired because "Ollie North became a hero, public support for the Contras was enhanced, and no smoking gun was found."

ABA: Make permanent independent counsel law

A recommendation that the U.S. law be made permanent authorizing appointment of independent counsels to investigate high-ranking government officials was made by the criminal justice section of the American Bar Association Aug. 11.

The recommendation was announced at the ABA's annual convention in San Francisco Aug. 11.

Currently, the independent counsel is appointed under an authorization expiring every five years. Supporters of the recommendation said the importance of the statute to perceptions of fairness has been proved and should "not have to be revisited every five years."

The proposal also endorses the constitutionality of the law, saying: "Our studies convince us that, despite the recent highly publicized attacks on the constitutionality of this law, the independent counsel provisions . . . are fully consistent with the letter and the spirit of the Constitution."

AIDS 'science city' becomes campaign issue

A congressional candidate in Connecticut has proposed the building of a "science city" to be inhabited by AIDS-infected persons and researchers as a way of conducting a "War Against AIDS."

Nicholas Tarzia is a "LaRouche Democrat," running on the independent "War Against AIDS" ticket, for the seat vacated by Stewart McKinney, who died of AIDS. He has proposed that the \$350 million state budget surplus be used to construct a "sci-

ence city" to treat AIDS patients with the most advanced technologies while researching a cure.

On Aug. 11, Tarzia held press conferences in Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford, Connecticut to reiterate his call for Connecticut Gov. William O'Neill to declare a state of emergency on AIDS. Tarzia also made public his proposal for the governor to spend the \$350 million state surplus on building an AIDS research city called "Constitution City."

Said Tarzia, "This science city could be centrally located in the state and should offer state medical and technological industries contracts to establish research centers there. Connecticut has many high-technology and medical firms which can fulfill these contracts and do groundbreaking research into optical biophysics"—the field of science which studies the electromagnetic properties of living tissue. He counterposed this approach to the "cost-cutting euthanasia approach" now prevalent.

Tarzia was quoted in many Connecticut papers, as well as WNBC radio in nearby New York City, saying: "Many in government are saying we cannot afford to spend such enormous amounts of money, and some in the medical and insurance fields are promoting hospices, living wills, and legalizing suicide. We must not become a nation of murderers."

Navy Seal Team under investigation

Seal Team Six, the Navy's secret hostage rescue team, is under investigation for financial misconduct, reported the *Washington Post* Aug. 11. So far, one former member of the team has been indicted, and two others have pleaded guilty to a court-martial on theft charges.

Investigators are examining "a roomful" of records dealing with expenditures in the millions of dollars since the classified counterterrorism team was formed in 1980.

Seal Team Six is said to have been sent to Grenada during the 1983 U.S. invasion, and also to have been dispatched to the Middle East during the *Achille Lauro* hijacking

in 1985. Some team members are said to have been in Beirut as part of the search team for CIA station chief William Buckley, who was killed by an Iranian-backed terrorist group.

The investigation began in late 1985. Questions being considered by investigators concern the rules under which such secret groups may operate, and their accountability.

The Seal Team investigation mirrors the investigation into the Army's hostage rescue team, Delta Force. "You can't create special units and then, in a fit of exasperation, let them run on their own. That's the services' attitude," the *Post* quotes a Pentagon official familiar with the units. "Without leadership anything can go wrong and the least of the reasons is venality. There are questions of accountability all the way up the line."

Seal Team Six intelligence specialist Chuck Voyles and his assistant, Christopher Angel, pleaded guilty in separate Navy courts-martial last year of stealing \$2,650 and \$1,435, respectively, by filing phony vouchers. Richard

tain, was the first commander of Seal Team Six when it was set up in 1980. He is a defendant in a federal suit by the Navy, but has not been charged with any misconduct.

House members back 'supercollider'

More than 200 members of the House of Representatives have introduced legislation to authorize the multibillion-dollar superconducting supercollider, including leaders of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, the *New York Times* reported Aug. 10.

"It's the biggest public works project in the history of the United States," said Robert Roe, the panel's chairman. The New Jersey Democrat also said that more than 30 states are vying to win the basic physics research facility for superconducting technology, which advocates say will provide new insights into the nature of matter, leading to breakthroughs in medicine and energy.

The supercollider would whirl beams of

protons around a 52-mile near-circular tunnel and smash them into each other with an energy 20 times the maximum now possible.

Fusion breakthroughs reported by Livermore

Nuclear fusion researchers report that Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has scored a major advance toward harnessing laser pellet fusion for electric power production and rocket propulsion. At the same time, scientists at San Diego's GA, Inc., working on the U.S.-Japan Doublet III tokamak, report that they have experimentally achieved the confinement efficiencies needed for magnetic fusion power reactors.

A tokamak is the Russian acronym for the donut-shaped magnetic plasma device that has produced the best results to date in the effort to fuse the nuclei of hydrogen atoms to provide energy, by the same process occurring in the Sun. The tokamak uses a magnetic field to confine the extremely hot, ionized gas called plasma. In laser pellet approaches to fusion, technically called inertial confinement fusion, a laser beam is used to implode a pellet of fuel.

The Livermore laser fusion breakthrough came on their Nova laser system which achieved a 30-fold radial compression of fusion fuel pellets. The previous record was 5 to 10 radial compression. This is nearly 75% of what is needed for the high gain, net energy-producing laser fusion pellets needed for electric power production and rocket propulsion. (Gain is a technical term, signifying the ratio of energy output to energy input.)

Researchers at GA, Inc. working on the Doublet III tokamak report achieving high temperature plasma betas in excess of 6% for the first time. Plasma beta measures the efficiency by which the magnetic field insulates and confines hydrogen fusion fuel plasmas—a hot ionized gas, (i.e., a gas whose atoms have been stripped of their electrons by intense heating). Plasma betas of 6% are the projected minimum efficiency needed to realize economical power plants based on the tokamak approach.

Briefly

● **STEPHEN TROTT** of the U.S. Justice Department is seeking to indict Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega on trumped up narcotics charges. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Trott called a meeting July 16 to "pull together what we had on him to see if it was prosecutable," sources in the Drug Enforcement Administration report. The DEA is said to oppose the move.

● **A REPORTER** for the *Washington Post* has died of AIDS, the newspaper has reported. Bernhardt G. Mingia died on July 17. He worked as an editorial aide at the *Post*; he was the third person in the company to die of AIDS, the first in the newsroom.

● **ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI'S** argument that the U.S. Persian Gulf deployment is a testament to U.S. weakness, and that Washington should try to deter Iran through threats of retaliation, rather than action, is "ridiculous," Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger declared in a television interview Aug. 9.

● **THE NEW JERSEY** Catholic Conference of Bishops on Aug. 5 issued a strongly worded seven-page pastoral statement denouncing the "evils" and "blatant immorality" of pornography.

● **JUDGE ROBERT BORK** "has a slightly better-than-even chance of being confirmed" in his appointment to the Supreme Court, said presidential candidate Sen. Joe Biden, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in a taped Aug. 11 interview with a reporter from the *San Diego Union*. Said Biden, "I don't know whether or not the nomination can be stopped."

● **HEROIN ADDICTS** in New Jersey's Hudson County are giving up their syringes and turning to drugs that can be snorted or smoked, according to the *Dispatch* newspaper, citing staff members of the county's drug treatment clinic.