

drug banks continues, and of Panama, which is under the combined fire of the State Department, the U.S. Congress, and others. It is no accident that the opposition forces in Panama have attacked Panamanian Defense Forces chief General Noriega for having lifted bank secrecy to assist "Operation Pisces" investigations into drug traffickers' bank accounts.

In Honduras, the widely sought drug trafficker and murderer Juan Ramón Matta Ballesteros, linked to Colombia's Medellín Cartel, "escaped" from a Colombian jail in November 1986, and today spends his days in Honduras handing out 100-lempira notes and making investments like any other respectable businessman.

In Venezuela, whose President Jaime Lusinchi proposed that the United Nations declare the drug trade a "crime against humanity," not a single important drug trafficker is currently behind bars, since seven Colombian cocaine traffickers linked to Pablo Escobar, were released from a Caracas jail a few weeks ago by a corrupt judge. Venezuela's anti-drug Justice Minister José Manzo González had responded to the incident by warning of the growth of a "parallel state" of drug traffickers, which could become impossible to control. He later released a memorandum to the President, outlining 500 similar cases of judicial corruption by the drug trade.

In Bolivia, abandoned to its fate, the drug trade continues to reign.

Despite the anti-drug efforts of certain sectors of the Mexican government—although the financial aspect of the drug trade has never been touched—the mafia has dared to move from bribery to assassination. On Sept. 20 of this year, the drug mafia murdered Federal Judge Pedro Villafuerte Gallegos, who had sentenced "marijuana czar" Pedro Díaz Parada to 40 years in prison. He escaped jail just two days before the assassination. Villafuerte Gallegos is the only Mexican judge to have been assassinated in the past 50 years.

We could, unfortunately, go on. It is enough to point out the case of Carlos Lehder's pending trial in Jacksonville, Florida, which his lawyers are seeking to annul with the argument that the extradition treaty which enabling his transfer to the United States has been overturned. His lawyers also argue that the jury being chosen for the Lehder trial is necessarily biased—because its members are against drugs!

The press is contributing more than its share. Both the *Miami Herald* and the Spanish-language *El Diario La Prensa* in New York have recently run series on the Lehder case, presenting the confessed drug trafficker and terrorist as a "Robin Hood" and "philosopher."

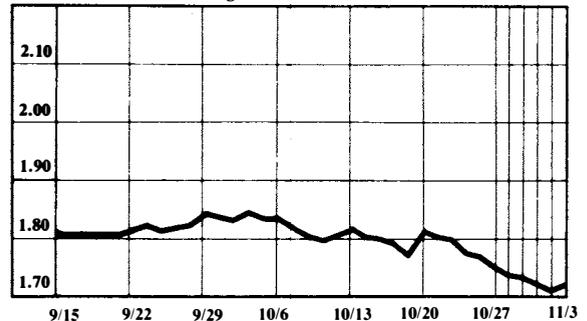
One question

One question stands out. Since Vice President George Bush is the nominal chief of the U.S. war on drugs, with the presumed obligation to observe this developing crisis situation, why hasn't he explained to the American people why his war on drugs has collapsed?

Currency Rates

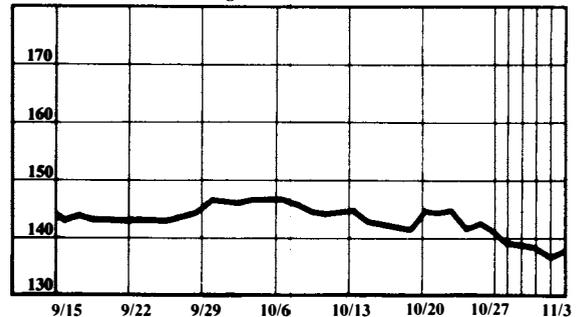
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



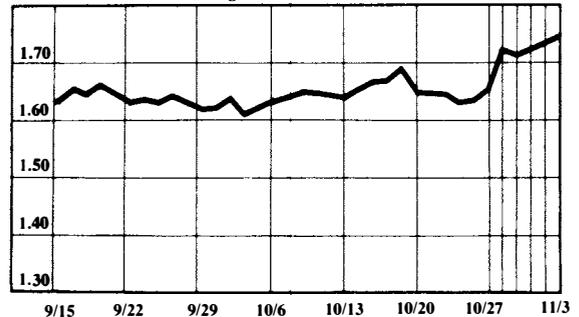
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

