

Editorial

Naturally, the culprits in the Congress exonerated themselves

The Congress's official report on the Iran/Contra affair omitted reference to nearly everyone but a carefully selected handful of scapegoats. Naturally, no mention was made of the involvement of the Congress's own creature, the National Endowment for Democracy, in the affair.

So far, the entire investigation has been a Roman Circus, complete with a score of "Lions 21, Christians 0." Naturally, in the old days, with the Emperor Nero keeping score, the Christians were bound to lose. So far, the Congress seems on the way to matching Nero's record on that point.

On the home front, Ollie North was gently scapegoated, but his key FBI accomplice, the other Ollie, "Buck" Revell, appears to have escaped the Congress's attention. The fact that U.S. covert aid to Khomeini was continuously ongoing under two successive Presidents, Carter and Reagan, seems to have been overlooked. Those members of Congress who depend largely upon AIPAC-steered funding of their careers, were astonishingly uninterested in the fact that Israeli gun-runners have been at the center of the traffic in U.S. weapons to Khomeini from the beginning—until Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced this had been called to a halt.

Even "Honest, Gee Gosh, Ollie" North was not really in much danger of being grilled seriously before the Congress. There he was, in a spanking Marine lieutenant colonel's uniform, the Hollywood TV image of a misguided patriot, patriotically protecting what he called the "second channel" into the Khomeiniacs. Gee whiz, fellas! What d'ye know? Those Soviet connections our brave Ollie was meeting in Hamburg, West Germany just seemed to slip by! Hey, what about those Soviet weapons-shipments to the Contras being arranged through channels in Hamburg and Geneva? What about that string of mysterious Irangate-linked deaths, including those of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, Roberto Calvi, and, most recently, Uwe Barschel, since the 1985 raid on the Malmö offices of Karl Erik Schmitz?

That whole joint congressional committee, during all those days, never once put on camera a hard question about the "Project Democracy" little old Ollie North had listed in the table of organization of his Iran/Contra-gate conspiracy! Shall we suppose that no congressional member of that joint committee had studied the Tower

Commission Report? Or, shall we suppose that this little omission had something to do with the fact that Project Democracy is the operations arm of the National Endowment for Democracy, an official bipartisan arm of the Congress?

Is the cover-up of Irangate going to stick? Or, are there other forces at play which might overrule the scorekeepers of the Roman circus we have witnessed in the public side of the investigation thus far? A Democratic presidential candidate recently issued an open letter to the patriots of Colombia, and repeated the theme of that Colombia letter as part of his report to some leading citizens of Catania, Sicily on Nov. 21. We think that higher powers than the Congress are going to step in and give the last word.

There are powerful circles inside and outside the U.S. government who seem to have set themselves up as gods of Olympos. They imagine that because they control government, finance, and the major news media, as the mythical gods of Olympos did, that they can get by with almost anything, if they just put their mind to it, and use enough muscle to slap down anyone who cries "Swindle!"

But, as we have seen, President Reagan can cry, "Sixty months of unbroken prosperity," as much as he wishes, but the biggest financial crash in history can not be stopped by Reagan administration rhetoric. Sooner or later, every group which sets itself up as new gods of Olympos is brought crashing down by its own deeds. In October 1982, President Reagan decided to support the New York bankers' proposal to create a financial bubble; five years later, that bubble began crashing down. As this financial crash becomes a tidal wave, and sweeps away many famous banks and brokerage houses during the coming weeks and early months of 1988, many other things will be swept aside, too.

A lot of things about this administration, and the past two sessions of the Congress are going to come under harsh examination by an irate American public. Many suppressed truths are going to rise up and take harsh vengeance on those who are found culpable of suppressing them. The truth about Irangate and Contragate is one of those things which will soon return to haunt those who tried to bury the evidence.