

National News

Senate panel subpoenas North's diaries

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as part of its investigation of international drug smuggling, has subpoenaed Lt. Col. Oliver North's diaries, by a vote of 16-1. The subpoena calls for North and his lawyer, Brendan Sullivan, to turn over 2,848 pages of handwritten diary notes covering the period from September 1984 through the date of North's dismissal from the National Security Council in November 1986.

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) told the committee, "I'm not asserting that there's a smoking gun or something hidden or that some of the redactions are not appropriate. My assertion is that given what has already been declassified, I don't know how we can proceed with our investigation without being able to see all of it."

Seventy-four pages of North's notes were released April 26, but large references preceding and following references to drugs, the DEA, the Customs Service, CIA agents, and Manuel Noriega were systematically blacked out, according to the April 27 *Baltimore Sun*.

It is widely known that the Nicaraguan Contras were running drugs into the United States with the support of the supply apparatus for which scapegoat North worked.

Use drug violence to push legalization

After Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke proposed a national debate on drug legalization before the Washington Conference of Mayors April 25, he was immediately supported on national television by the liberal proponents of drug legalization, Milton Friedman and William F. Buckley, Jr.

Friedman, as part of his "free enterprise" commitments, has proposed the legalization of all drugs, including heroin. Buckley has bragged of smoking marijuana on his yacht

outside the 12-mile limit.

Schmoke's line was that drugs should be dealt with as an affliction, not a law enforcement problem, and that drugs are the same today as liquor was during Prohibition.

EIR had projected that the current wave of publicity about drug violence would be seized upon by legalizers as an opportunity to push their program.

Taking a somewhat different view, Attorney General Edwin Meese told the police policy board of the Conference of Mayors one day later, "I would like to see the day where every person arrested is subjected to a urine test" for drugs.

Meese later told reporters that the testing of arrested persons "is part of our user accountability strategy," the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Meanwhile, the mayors and police chiefs at the conference attacked the Reagan administration's war on drugs—headed by George Bush—as totally ineffective.

Ford estate meeting a 'private Bilderberg'

"A private Bilderberg" is how one European insider characterized a meeting planned for June 20-24 at Gerry Ford's estate in Vail, Colorado. The elite meeting is to be sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute.

Scheduled participants include Helmut Schmidt, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Henry Kissinger, Paul Volcker, and many more.

"As usual, it will discuss the all-embracing global issues. You name it, they'll be there," the European source said.

One area of focus will be U.S. economic and financial policy in the period leading into the next American administration.

Meese fills Justice Department posts

Attorney General Edwin Meese temporarily filled five recently vacated posts in the Jus-

tice Department April 25, and announced that Francis Keating will take over Stephen Trott's post as associate attorney general by early May. Keating will take over the post on an acting basis until confirmed by the Senate, said Justice Department spokesman Patrick Korten.

Meese named Grace Mastalli and C.H. Albright as assistants in the associate attorney general's office and Justice Department aides James Byrnes, John Howard, and Thomas Christina were named to fill three vacancies in the office of former Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns.

Mastalli has been working in the executive office of U.S. attorneys, and Albright has been a special assistant to Assistant Attorney General John Bolton, who heads up the civil division.

Burns resigned, along with Criminal Division head William Weld, ostensibly because of their distaste for working under the "corrupt" Meese. However, rumors persist that their effort to force Meese out was a power play on behalf of George Bush that failed, and that the two may face indictment on obstruction of justice charges relating to an investigation into Burns himself for illegal tax-shelter schemes.

In the meantime, Weld, scion of a Boston Brahmin opium-running family, has joined the prominent Boston law firm of Hall and Dorr. He will start May 1 in the firm's Washington office, according to a report in the *Washington Times*. In September, he will move to firm's Boston office as a senior partner. According to the report, Weld plans to specialize in defending white-collar criminals.

Cost cuts killing hospital patients

A study printed by the *New England Journal of Medicine* on April 28 shows that medical cost-cutting has been killing patients.

The study is based on data collected in 1983-84. The data shows that patients who are admitted to hospitals in states where hospital costs are strictly regulated, or where

cost competition is high, are more likely to die.

"Many doctors are complaining that . . . they are practicing at near-malpractice conditions now," the head of the Doctor's Council of New York, Donald C. Meyer, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Even the *Journal*, long an apologist for the scaling back of health care demanded by the large insurance firms, had to admit, "If anything, the situation may have worsened since the study's data were collected."

Congress tables troop withdrawal amendments

Two amendments have been tabled in the Congress proposing that U.S. troops be withdrawn from Europe, if the Europeans do not contribute more to their own defense, the *Sunday Times* of London's Stephen Milligan reported from Washington.

One amendment, by Rep. John Bryant of Texas, proposes that 90,000 troops be pulled out during the next three years, while a second, by Rep. Tommy Robinson of Arkansas, would withdraw all American troops within five years.

"Another 50 congressmen are eager to table amendments in the same vein," said Milligan, who quotes Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.), head of a "NATO burden-sharing" subcommittee, saying, "We are sitting on a volcano." Schroeder's subcommittee will produce a report in June whose "tone . . . will be highly critical of Europe and Japan."

Milligan also reports that U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary William Taft will be touring European capitals in May, "to discuss how America's bill for NATO could be cut." The Pentagon and State Department have set up a joint working group, chaired by Taft, on the issue.

The "first priority" of the next U.S. President will be "to reduce the budget deficit, which will put the defense budget under pressure. . . . To achieve real savings, cuts may have to be made abroad. If whole divisions were disbanded, the savings could

be significant."

Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci recently amazed Manfred Wörner, his West German counterpart, by saying that he regarded this issue as the most pressing problem he faced.

Former U.S. Defense Department official Richard Perle presented "strong evidence" to the Schroeder-led subcommittee showing that "the allies are not pulling their weight." According to Perle, the United States is spending 6.9% of GNP on defense, compared with 3.2% by West Germany, 2.2% by Canada, and only 1% by Japan. Perle also insists that statistics on cost-sharing were "fiddled" to make Europe's contribution appear larger than it actually was. Perle also attacked the Japanese, labeling their policy "chronic freeloading," and characterizing the level of aid Japan offers poorer allies as "scandalous."

Judge threatens to dismiss North case

District Judge Gerhard Gesell, presiding over the Irangate trial of Lt. Col. Oliver North, former National Security Adviser Adm. John Poindexter, Albert Hakim, and Lt. Gen. Richard Secord, has stated that he may be forced to throw out the case if the government does not produce classified documents that may be needed by the defense.

Gesell said April 27 that the blame for withholding key classified materials "lies with the attorney general and the White House."

"I want to find out promptly what is taking place and what is going to take place," he said, contending that he may be forced to dismiss all charges if the materials were not forthcoming.

Gesell pinpointed and interdepartmental task force as the administration group having control over hundreds of thousands of secret documents that may be needed in the case, and said the group had created a serious obstacle to the trial through its "intentional withholding of documents necessary to the defense."

Briefly

● **MARLIN FITZWATER**, White House press spokesman, sent an official apology via the U.S. embassy in Copenhagen to the Danish government on April 23, for his "Danish means breakfast to me" statement.

● **THE SUPREME COURT** is now hearing arguments on the constitutionality of the independent prosecutor law. Only Chief Justice William Rehnquist, and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Antonin Scalia expressed any skepticism as to the constitutionality of the statute during an April 27 hearing, according to a *Baltimore Sun* report. In a suit against the law by the U.S. Justice Department, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia in January ruled it constitutional.

● **PAMELA HARRIMAN**, widow of Randolph Churchill and Averell Harriman, and Democratic Party patroness, gave the Samuel D. Berger Memorial Lecture at Georgetown University April 27. Characterized as the only Washington hostess with a foreign policy of her own, she wore a short, tight-fitting black silk cocktail dress, and her coiffure was dubbed a "Washington power helmet" style.

● **NASA** is pushing back the launch date of the Space Shuttle. Space Transportation System director Arnold Aldrich said April 26, "We're down probably 10 days on the projected Aug. 4 launch date."

● **GERARD SMITH**, former U.S. arms negotiator, in an exclusive *EIR* interview April 26, said that efforts by Senators Sam Nunn and Robert Byrd to delay the INF treaty over the issue of "futuristic weapons" is "simply an effort on their part to assert legislative clout over the executive branch, and nothing more." He did not expect it to delay ratification until May's Reagan-Gorbachov summit.