

National News

Supreme court rejects du Pont Smith petition

The Supreme Court of the United States on June 9 found against an appeal by Lewis du Pont Smith, heir to the family fortune, who was declared mentally incompetent in 1985 solely on grounds of his financial contributions to causes associated with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

The High Court reviewed the petition of du Pont Smith for a writ of *certiorari*, a petition citing reasons why the court should hear his appeal of Chester County, Pennsylvania Judge Lawrence Wood's adjudication of mental incompetence at the request of Lewis du Pont Smith's family. The family responded with a lengthy counter-petition citing reasons why the court should not hear his appeal.

On June 9, the Supreme Court Justices denied the petition *per curiam* (i.e., without comment). Mr. Smith responded, "This puny court didn't even have the guts to hear a case of great legal importance involving a citizen's right to put his money where his mouth is, and support his political beliefs. This is a sad day for American justice.

"This decision proves the necessity of a LaRouche presidency to be supported by thousands of ordinary citizens running for elected office on all levels, and winning, which is why I am running for U.S. Congress in New Hampshire. My response is to fight like hell to build up a candidates' movement in New Hampshire to defend our Constitution and our morality against those who would attempt to legalize drugs and euthanasia."

Times says Meese should resign for appearances

The report of Special Prosecutor James McKay on Attorney General Edwin Meese, while not accusing Meese of "criminal wrongdoing," will, according to law enforcement officials, "detail several in-

stances in which Mr. Meese's conduct, although not criminal, may have violated federal ethics rules, including a 1965 Executive Order that prohibits actions that 'create the appearance of using public office for private gain,'" argued the *New York Times* June 13.

Areas McKay is "expected to cite" include the Iraqi pipeline project, Meese's ties to the Wedtech Corporation, and questionable financial dealings undertaken by Meese's financial adviser, Franklyn Chinn.

Meanwhile, former Attorney General and Boston blueblood Elliot Richardson, in a telephone interview published in the June 11 *New York Times*, ripped into Meese, saying, "I think his continuation in office is a disservice to the Department of Justice, the administration, and the party." Richardson's resignation as Attorney General during Watergate poured gasoline on the fire building around Richard Nixon.

Earlier in that day, Richardson had targeted Meese during his speech to the graduating class of the Pace University of Law in White Plains, New York. "Sensitivity to the feelings and interests of others . . . is markedly lacking in our present Attorney General," asserted Richardson. "He seems not to grasp the fact that his responsibility is to establish and observe standards transcending the minimum requirements of the law."

"We hear a lot about 'role models' nowadays," Richardson added. "For you who are about to assume the practice of law, [Meese] is an anti-role model."

Dukakis on again, off again on Jerusalem issue

Democratic presidential hopeful Michael Dukakis has gotten himself into a politically embarrassing situation as a result of contradictory statements on whether the United States should relocate its Israeli embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem—a move which would cause an uproar among Muslims and Christians because of the unique importance the city holds in their faiths.

In May, the candidate told the *Los An-*

geles Times that he favored the relocation—which brought sharp criticism from Secretary of State George Shultz. But at a meeting with reporters June 10, Dukakis tried to deny his previous statements, until reporters pointed out to him that his top foreign policy adviser, Madeleine Albright, had been telling people that Dukakis had favored relocating the embassy for the past 10 years.

Even the June 11 *Washington Post* portrayed Dukakis as "stumbling" and leaving a "confusing picture of where he stands."

Fortune magazine hails drug 'growth industry'

The June 20 issue of *Fortune* magazine amounts to an advertisement for the glories of the illegal narcotics industry. The magazine's cover features a photo of Colombian drug czar Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha. An accompanying story proclaims the drug trade "a huge, multinational commodity business with a fast-moving top management, a widespread distribution network, and price-insensitive customers."

Author Louis Kraar writes, "The illicit drug trade is probably the fastest-growing industry in the world and is unquestionably the most profitable."

He reports that in Colombia, "drug barons have built a vertically integrated industry," which has made cocaine that country's "biggest single export . . . an estimated \$4 billion a year at wholesale prices." The article quotes Colombia's Sen. Rodrigo Lloreada, "Without cocaine profits in its local economy . . . unemployment would nearly double to 25%."

A second article in the same issue by Andrew Kupfer argues that "total success" in the war on drugs is "unattainable." The United States should change its drug policy to reflect that fact, with "more flexibility toward marijuana." Under the title, "What to Do about Drugs," Kupfer insists that the "first step" in achieving an effective drug policy "is to decide that a drug-free society should not be the goal of policy."

He quotes Yale professor of psychiatry

David Musto saying that such an idea "is part of a typically American ideal about the perfectability of man." Kupfer even claims that legalization of marijuana, once "un-thinkable," could cut heroin use.

North wasn't dealing with Iranian 'moderates'

Lt. Col. Oliver North and those for whom he worked in the Iran-Contra arms sales were quite indifferent to whom they sold the arms in Iran, and were not dealing with "moderates" as the administration has claimed. That is the gist of testimony given by CIA official George Cave last year in a closed session of the congressional committees investigating the Iran-Contra affair.

The group of Iranians Oliver North was dealing with in the Iran arms sale scandal were not "moderates," but a "coalition of officials from the three political factions inside the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini," the *Washington Post* reported Cave saying. The Iranian participants in the sales included a "radical," a "very conservative" supporter of Khomeini and supporters of Parliament Speaker Rafsanjani. Of the three groups, Rafsanjani's group was considered the "balancer."

"Cave's description . . . provides the newest and most authoritative contradiction of the Reagan administration's repeated claim that it was dealing with Iranian 'moderates' during the arms-sales negotiations," noted the *Post*.

CDC decries clamor for AIDS testing measures

Spokesmen for the Centers for Disease Control and the American Foundation for AIDS Research expressed dismay over the results of an opinion survey conducted by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. It showed that a majority of Georgia citizens favor AIDS testing and restrictions to curb AIDS.

The study, which questioned over 1,000 adults and over 2,000 college students, found that 87% of the general population favor tracing sexual contacts of HIV-infected cases, 64% favor prohibiting HIV carriers from food-handling jobs, 70% would prohibit carriers from health care work, while 91% say the government is failing to curb the epidemic.

Dr. Stuart Berman, a CDC epidemiologist, and Dr. Mervyn Silverman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, a leading opponent of the just-defeated California Proposition 69, which would have mandated public health measures to stop AIDS' spread, said they were upset over the results, and insisted that public health measures would be ineffective.

Arizona ex-governor acquitted of wrongdoing

An Arizona jury has acquitted ex-Governor Evan Mecham of charges that he sought to conceal campaign loans.

Mecham, who was impeached one year after he took office, had launched an intense war on drugs in the state, and otherwise campaigned against the drug and gambling interests, typified by the Jacobs brothers, who have controlled the state.

Law enforcement sources say that most of the cocaine entering the United States comes in through Arizona.

With Mecham's impeachment, his war on drugs also came to an abrupt end.

Mecham, in an interview appearing in the June 17 bi-weekly *New Federalist* newspaper, attacked not only the drug mob that fabricated the charges against him, but the state Attorney General's office which, he said, completely dropped the war on drugs to devote itself almost exclusively to pursuing the "Get Mecham" drive.

At the conclusion of the interview, Mecham stated, "We're going to win the war. We've lost a battle [with his impeachment], but we're going to win the war. Here in Arizona, the people are aware now that we've got some big problems."

Briefly

● **DRUG KINGPINS** may be caught by using their "money trail." The federal government plans to develop computer programs that will enable anti-drug officials to trace the estimated \$100 billion being recycled into the United States as payment for illegal drugs. "If we can't get the dope coming in, we'll get the money going out," said one Justice Department official.

● **BUBONIC PLAGUE** has been found among rats in 13 West Texas counties. After years of finding only isolated individual animals infected, a "major die-off" of two species of rats, rabbits, and prairie dogs was discovered in Midland County, Texas in January 1988. "We can't kill every flea in West Texas," said a health official. "When you get right down to it, there's not a lot we can do, except warn the public that the plague is here."

● **SENATE** Majority Leader Robert Byrd urged Soviet Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov June 12 to scrap his proposal for a U.S.-Soviet flight to Mars and instead concentrate on the worldwide war on drugs. Why Byrd thought the two should be trade-offs, nobody knows.

● **SOLID ROCKET** fuel production facilities will be restored by NASA and the Defense Department in the wake of the explosion in Utah that destroyed one of only two production facilities. Under the new plan, one new facility will be built in one year, another will be reopened, and a new backup facility will be built.

● **VICE PRESIDENT** George Bush met with officials of the scandal-ridden Wedtech firm, who hoped that he would help "eliminate" competitors for lucrative Navy contracts, former Wedtech president Anthony Guariglia testified June 15 at the racketeering trial of Rep. Mario Biaggi and six others. "Was that done? Was the competition eliminated?" asked the defense lawyer. "Yes," responded Guariglia.