

Briefly

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 "unthinkable," 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 Meacham of charges that he sought to conceal campaign loans.

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

Meacham, 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 Meacham" drive.

At the conclusion of the interview, Meacham 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."

● **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.