

Pentagon raid sparks fear and anger

by Leo F. Scanlon

In the 24 hours which followed the June 23 circulation of over 3,500 copies of *EIR*'s supplement on the Pentagon raid, reaction against the KGB-style tactics of the Justice Department began to surface in Washington. Numerous industry officials told *EIR*, "You people have been through this, and you have been vindicated; you are in position to lead a fight." Another observer reacted with disgust at the FBI-run spectacle: "They did this to Beggs, and he was acquitted; they did it to LaRouche, and he was acquitted. . . . This has got to stop."

By June 24, the *Wall Street Journal* took aim at the unconstitutional actions of the Justice Department with a series of editorials. "Whatever else transpires, two laws have indeed been broken. . . . Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e) makes it a crime to divulge material gathered in a grand jury investigation. The wiretap law makes it illegal for prosecutors to leak the conversations. The allegations already made by unnamed sources . . . are more than illegal. They also raise doubts about the entire investigation. . . . There is a method in the leaks, of course. If prosecutor Henry Hudson or his minions are following the new tradition of strategic leaking, the idea is to sully individuals badly enough that they rat on others or cop pleas."

That, of course, is exactly what Hudson has been doing. A widening circle of congressional offices and defense consultants has been implicated in press stories which lack even a single allegation of criminal wrongdoing. With the exception of one search warrant released in St. Louis, the entire structure of legal argument behind the investigation remains under judicial seal, and Justice Department officials have explained that this is necessary in order to pressure targeted individuals and companies to "cooperate." Justice Department officials are bragging to the media that they are playing tapes of conversations and alleged "bribes" in order to terrorize the victims into implicating others.

Said the *Journal*, "So, in the name of discovering defense procurement fraud, we are supposed to accept the idea of placing a vast wiretapping network, approved only by a federal judge, on the U.S. government's highest, most sensitive defense officials. We don't accept that.

"We do not accept that a considered judgment about this

country's defense has to simply stand aside for such an Orwellian fraud dragnet. . . . By now, when we hear the murky allegation of 'fraud,' we reach for our copy of the U.S. Criminal Code. What exactly is the crime supposed to be?"

It was not long before the anti-defense mob in Congress got very specific about what they considered the "crime" to be. Les Aspin (D-Wisc.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, recommended that the Pentagon consider a temporary freeze on awarding any contracts that have come under suspicion. Indicating that he was in possession of evidence leaked to selected congressmen, but withheld from the Pentagon, Aspin said the inquiry involves as many as 85 contracts, worth billions of dollars. The impact of this will be to grind the entire procurement process to a halt.

Right on cue, the Government Accounting Office declassified a report which attacked the top secret "black programs" of the Pentagon, which, it alleged, are secret so that budgetary fraud can be covered up!

Not surprisingly, Caspar Weinberger has emerged as a prime target of the smear artists in Congress and the media. The attacks on Weinberger were accompanied by indictments of Egyptian officials and their American confederates, on charges of arms smuggling. Insiders point out that this is designed to dismantle the delicate alliances Weinberger had built to check State Department sellout excesses in the Middle East.

Ironically, the media excesses began to make the FBI's dirty tricks specialist in charge of the smear campaign, Oliver "Buck Revell," so nervous that he gave an interview to the *Washington Times* June 29, in which he asked the media to stop making an "idol" out of U.S. Attorney Henry Hudson! Hudson, for his part, submitted a legal argument to the federal court in New York saying he had evidence of "destruction of documents" by targets of the investigation, and therefore the investigation must remain under court seal. The artifice was generally seen for what it is—a lie calculated to produce lurid headlines.

In one instance of capitulation to the inquisition, Robert Costello, undersecretary for acquisition, recanted a memo he had written to Secretary Carlucci, in response to a February raid on the Emerson Electric factory in St. Louis by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. The memo stated, "To send 19 DCIS agents, one customs agent, and several Missouri state troopers directly to the plant appears to me to be an unwarranted show of force." The investigator in the case, according to the judge reviewing the warrant, included "false statements" and "significant inaccuracies" in his affidavit! Costello had suggested that such raids should be subject to "an appropriate level of review, and or approval."

Accused of "cover-up" and "smelling bad" by congressmen, Mr. Costello announced, "I can change my mind," and joined the ranks of those charged by the *Wall Street Journal* with abdicating their political responsibilities in an era characterized by "criminalizing of policy disputes."