

# National News

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## Post fears public outcry against drugs

Why have a war on drugs now that usage is in decline? asked two *Washington Post* executives, Richard Morin and Jodie Allen, writing in the newspaper's "Outlook" section June 26.

"America seems ready to go nuclear in its war on drugs, just as the tide of battle appears to be turning against drug use. . . . At a time when objective measures show that the drug problem is easing," they argued, "a new *Washington Post* survey shows that the public is ready to take harsh new measures to combat drug trafficking and use—including ones that would needlessly erode civil liberties."

They used charts from the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research to "prove" that drug use is declining and that awareness that drugs are harmful is climbing.

"The danger exists that public demands for fast results will translate into government responses that are both ineffective and needlessly intrusive into individual liberties, potentially undermining support for the long-term education, control, and prevention efforts that promise real improvement," the pair contend. "In short," they conclude, "America may be about to shoot itself in the foot in the war on drugs."

For proof that there never was a "war on drugs," see the *Feature* in this week's issue.

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## 'Glitz' prepared for Democratic convention

Glitz, not substance, will be the order of the day at the Democratic Party national convention, according to a report appearing in the *San Francisco Examiner*.

"Think of it as a four-day television commercial," the *Examiner* began its article. The convention planners are convinced that the key to getting Michael Dukakis into the White House is to appeal to viewers'

"visual senses." Therefore, they have designed a podium that looks like a "five-tiered wedding cake," complete with a 32-piece orchestra, and are lining up Hollywood stars for interviews.

Convention designers have commented that the structure of the Omni hall in Atlanta, the convention site, is advantageous because the tiered seating arrangement will make it difficult for delegates to leave their seats, thereby cutting down on the "embarrassing milling around" that often goes on during speeches.

The convention is being "produced" by the same firm that ran the Statue of Liberty reopening ceremonies and television specials at Disney World.

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## More dirt uncovered on Arnold Burns

Former Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns was in partnership with federal judicial nominee Stuart Summit in two real estate ventures and an Israeli pharmaceutical research company while actively seeking to have Summit nominated to the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, the *Washington Times* divulged June 27.

Under federal ethics law, Burns was obligated to inform the Attorney General he was a business partner with Summit and to disqualify himself from any official matter involving Summit.

Summit testified April 21 to the Senate Judiciary Committee that Burns actively recruited him in 1987 for the nomination—which he was formally given by President Reagan last fall, although the appointment has been held up in the Senate committee since that time.

The *Times* reported, "Under the Ethics in Government Act, it is a felony punishable by a two-year prison term and \$10,000 fine for a government employee to participate substantially . . . through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice in any matter in which a close relative or partner has a financial interest." "

The *Times* also revealed that Justice De-

partment officials are starting a criminal investigation, rather than a routine probe of Burns, who resigned in March in protest over Meese's ethics problems.

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## President must okay future indictments

"The Reagan administration has adopted a new policy under which Federal prosecutors must obtain the President's approval before a foreign leader can be indicted by a Federal Grand Jury," the *New York Times* disclosed June 27.

The new policy was proposed by the State Department in mid-June, when it learned that Florida was investigating the involvement of Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden Pindling in drug smuggling.

According to the *Times*, "Administration officials said the new policy was also aimed at preventing a repetition of the embarrassment they suffered in their unsuccessful effort to persuade Gen. Manuel Noriega to surrender power in Panama."

"Given the fallout from the Noriega case, you can be sure things will be handled differently next time," a Department of Justice official is quoted. "We will make sure the President is consulted before we go forward. We will not just sit back and assume the staff of the National Security Council will do that job."

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## U.S. bishops attack the SDI

U.S. Roman Catholic bishops have called the Strategic Defense Initiative "morally flawed." "We are against the deployment of SDI," said Chicago's Joseph Cardinal Bernardin June 25, while issuing a vaguely worded document authored by the ultraliberal U.S. Council of Bishops, containing the "morally flawed" formulation.

The Bishops' report stated that "the combination of the technological and the strategic evaluations of the present status of

SDI appear to us to promise serious risks and very hypothetical benefits."

The report did, however, endorse nuclear deterrence, saying that it "most likely has contributed to a more cautious posture of the two nuclear powers in world affairs," adding that in a "dangerous world of both widespread nuclear knowledge and extensive nuclear arsenals, we find condemning nuclear deterrence too drastic a solution and embracing it too simple a response."

## U.S. won't help stem arms into Mexico

The U.S. government is refusing adequate cooperation with Mexico to stem a flood of illegal arms crossing the border from the United States, and Mexican officials are upset about it, the *Boston Globe* reported June 24.

Mexico has already captured over 600 AK-47 assault rifles and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition, some bound for South America, and some for Mexico's drug gangs.

Mexican officials complain that U.S. officials have bungled investigations based on leads supplied by Mexico, and is doing nothing to inhibit the legal purchase of AK-47s in the United States.

The AK-47 is the Soviet-design rifle of choice of guerrillas and drug traffickers.

## White House: proceed with Iran-Contra case

A White House spokesman said June 24 that it wants "legal proceedings" in the Iran-Contra criminal cases to continue. The spokesman, however, did not say that it would speed declassification of secret documents needed for the trial of former White House aide Oliver L. North.

Responding to reports that U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard Gesell had asked the White House to end delays caused by review

of classified documents, White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk told reporters the White House was "on record as saying that we want to get to the bottom of the situation. . . . We've been cooperating. . . . And we've done everything possible to facilitate this."

To speed up the declassification process, Judge Gesell ordered special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh to turn over by July 1 all 150,000 pages of classified documents, without waiting for an interagency group to sift through them. Walsh had proposed such a procedure June 23.

## Another Meese affair probed

In addition to the other investigations, Attorney General Edwin Meese is now the subject of investigation by two congressional groups for possible violation of a presidential order by his frequent use of an FBI executive jet, according to *Newsday* reporter Dennis Bell.

According to documents leaked to *Newsday*, a Long Island newspaper, and interviews conducted by that paper with government sources, the probes were initiated by Rep. Glenn English (D-Okla.), chairman of the House Government Operations subcommittee on information, justice, and agriculture.

English wrote a letter to the Government Accounting Office, noting that a 1983 presidential order "prohibits the use of government aircraft when more economical commercial aircraft are available," adding that "it is not at all clear that the Attorney General's use of the aircraft conforms to federal regulations."

Meanwhile, U.S. District Court Judge Constance Baker Motley June 27 rejected a defense attempt to subpoena Meese and one of his former aides as witnesses in the Wedtech corruption trial. In rejecting the defense request, Judge Motley said that testimony by Meese and James Jenkins would be "simply cumulative" and "not relevant to anything which this jury has to decide."

## Briefly

● **JONAS SAVIMBI**, head of the Angolan resistance movement, UNITA, has received the Medgar Evers Humanitarian Award from Charles Evers, the mayor of Fayette, Mississippi. Savimbi is supported by South Africa in his fight against the Marxist government of Angola. Evers, brother of the slain civil rights leader, said, "I could care less. I feel Savimbi deserved it, and that's all that matters."

● **LAWYERS** and paralegal employees of the Department of Justice, 42 in all, have sued the department claiming that planned drug testing violates their constitutional rights. The suit was filed in federal court in Washington June 28.

● **MEIR KAHANE'S** bodyguard, Robert Manning, and his wife have reportedly been directly implicated in several murders widely known to have been carried out by Kahane's Jewish Defense League, including the 1985 killings of Arab-American Alex Odeh and Tschirim Soobzokov. Manning's wife was arrested June 28 at the Los Angeles airport, and is being held without bail in connection with a 1980 murder.

● **100,000** copies of an *EIR* Special Supplement, "FBI raids Pentagon in pro-Soviet coup," whose content served as this magazine's cover story last week, are now being sold throughout the country.

● **RADICAL** environmentalist groups have been driving nails into Douglas fir trees in Oregon, in an effort to prevent them from being logged. The nails have been found in a zig-zag pattern. When struck by a logger's chain saw, they often break and spray out like machine gun bullets. One California millworker was critically injured last year when his saw broke on a tree that had been nailed. One source told *EIR* that the Earth First "Nazi environmentalist" group is responsible.