

National News

FBI targets only a third of drug trade

The Federal Bureau of Investigation fails to investigate nearly two-thirds of the major drug-trafficking organizations which it has identified as operating in the United States, FBI director Judge William Sessions admitted Nov. 10.

Of the roughly 450 major dope-running organizations identified by the FBI, Sessions said, "We're able with the resources we presently have to attack only about 35 to 40% of them."

Speaking to a select group of invited reporters, Sessions complained that the new anti-drug bill passed by Congress in October, and expected to be signed into law before Nov. 18, will provide less than half of what the Bureau requested in new funding, and will add only "5 to 10%" to the Bureau's drug-fighting capabilities. As a result, Sessions said, a large number of major drug organizations, especially Asian-based heroin-smuggling groups, will not receive adequate scrutiny.

Over the past few years, the FBI, encouraged by congressional pressure, has put increasing resources into investigations of so-called white collar crime. Often, in the cases of Abscam and Brilab, and similar cases, the Bureau has gone out of its way to create crime. The FBI has similarly invested significant resources in persecuting a prime mover of the war on drugs, Lyndon LaRouche.

Sessions' comments gave no indication of a shift in FBI priorities to stopping drugs.

'Shrinkgate' led to Dukakis defeat

Post-election analysis has identified the issues surrounding Michael Dukakis's mental health, issues which were raised by political forces associated with Lyndon LaRouche, as the primary factor in Dukakis's defeat.

A recent issue of *Newsweek* magazine's

election analysis says that Dukakis never recovered from the "unsubstantiated" story which originated with LaRouche, that Dukakis was mentally unfit. A *Newsweek* graph of Dukakis's standing in the polls over the past five months showed the Aug. 2-5 "Shrinkgate" period as precipitating his subsequent huge decline.

Susan Estrich, Dukakis's campaign manager, similarly blamed defeat on the mental health rumor in a Nov. 12 *New York Times* interview. "We had a candidate who just wasn't known," she said. "There was nothing backing up the poll numbers. That's why a rumor about his mental health could take you down eight points."

The *Times* added, "In retrospect, the unsubstantiated rumor that Mr. Dukakis has once undergone treatment for depression . . . was perhaps the first clear sign of how vulnerable the Dukakis candidacy was. Mr. Dukakis categorically denied the rumors, and produced his physician to back him up, but the damage was done. 'Dukakis Not Crazy—More At 11,' is the way Ms. Estrich framed the episode. Mr. Dukakis's lead evaporated throughout the month of August."

Israel lobby taking political heat

The American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a leading element of the Israel lobby in the United States, is coming under scrutiny for its involvement in U.S. political campaigns, activity which it has consistently denied.

A front-page exposé in the Nov. 14 *Washington Post* virtually accused AIPAC of lying about its activity, reporting, "Internal AIPAC documents made available to the *Post* show that the group's top political operative was actively involved with pro-Israel PACs [political action committees] trying to help raise money for seven candidates in the 1986 races."

The *Post* cited a memo from AIPAC's deputy political director, Elizabeth A. Schroyer, dated five weeks before the Nov. 9, 1986 elections, urging an assistant to call

several pro-Israel PACs and get them to make donations for five specific Senate candidates including Christopher Bond (R-Mo.), W. Henson Moore (R-La.), John Evans (D-Id.), Thomas Daschle (D-S.D.), and Harry Reid (D-Nev.). Notes in the margin indicated the calls were made, and Federal Election Commission records show that in some cases, PACs made additional contributions to the chosen candidates.

Another of the growing allegations against AIPAC involved charges by a 1986 third party candidate running against Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), who said he was offered financial support by AIPAC regional director Murray Wood, in an effort to take votes from Cranston's main opponent, Rep. Ed Zschau (R).

"The internal documents also may raise questions about whether Schroyer's efforts to direct the contributions of pro-Israel PACs means that AIPAC has been making prohibited 'in-kind' corporate contributions, or acting as an unregistered political committee," the *Post* said.

After two days of meetings with lawyers, AIPAC issued a terse statement, "We will not be drawn into a fiesta of speculation based on isolated and anecdotal material stolen from our files."

Effort to declare AIDS communicable defeated

An effort by prominent New York medical organizations to have the AIDS virus listed as a communicable disease has been rejected by the New York State Supreme Court.

Judge F. Warren Travers stated that Health Commissioner David Axelrod has the discretion to decide whether AIDS should be so designated.

The State Society of Surgeons, Orthopedic Surgeons, Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Medical Society of the State of New York, petitioned the court for AIDS to be categorized as communicable. The groups argued that the mandatory testing and tracking of the disease that would occur if the disease were declared commu-

nicable and sexually transmitted, are necessary to control the spread of AIDS. They also argued that such measures were necessary to allow health professionals to protect themselves against infection.

New York State law provides that a doctor who reasonably suspects that a patient has a disease which is listed as communicable, has the right to test the patient without his or her consent.

Bill to reduce 'greenhouse' gas

A bill, H.R. 5460, introduced by Rep. Claudine Schneider (R-R.I.) and 30 cosponsors, blames industrialization and population growth for the so-called global warming or "greenhouse effect," and seeks to drastically lower economic activity and living standards to reduce the emissions supposedly responsible for producing disastrous weather changes.

The bill seeks severe environmental constraints and penalties against "polluting" industries. "All government energy subsidies (including tax incentives, budget line-items, and off-budget programs)" will be reviewed periodically "in order to determine if such subsidies are consistent with achieving reductions in carbon dioxide emissions as soon . . . as is feasible."

The bill also calls upon the Agency for International Development to stop lending money to the Third World for polluting projects (industries), and instead encourage renewable resources and appropriate technologies including solar energy. "Curbing world population growth will be critical to achieving the goals of this act."

Sen. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) opened the Sept. 20 hearings of the Senate Energy Committee with a similar genocidal outlook, declaring, "How do you convince newly developed countries to forego economic and industrial expansion that developed nations already enjoy in the interests of a future global environment threat?"

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) intends to hold a hearing Dec. 5 in the Senate Agricul-

ture Committee which will similarly claim that it has been development, rather than the actual lack of nuclear, fusion, and other advanced technologies, that is causing the high rate of emissions.

One interesting note was sounded by William Martin, an energy adviser to George Bush, who said that a priority of the Bush administration will be to call an international conference to see if the greenhouse effect exists. "What worries us is that we are going to go for the policy before we go for the science," he said Nov. 9.

Missouri court rejects starvation of patient

The Missouri Supreme Court refused to grant the family of brain-damaged Nancy Cruzon the right to starve her to death, finding no legal basis for allowing their request. The judges stated that they considered the matter, but in such matters, they have chosen to "err on the side of life."

Elsewhere, however, life has not been so well respected. Despite broad international pressures directed against Rhode Island Governor DiPrete, he has refused to appeal a Rhode Island court decision condemning a 49-year-old disabled patient, Marcia Gray, to death by starvation.

When a lawsuit demanding the right to kill her was brought by her family, Judge Francis Boyle granted the murder request, basing his decision on the Supreme Court's 1973 "right to privacy" *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which legalized abortion in the United States. Boyle, nevertheless, claims to be a "pro-life" judge, by which he apparently means he is against abortion, although killing unwanted patients is fine with him. He even called this a "federal constitutional right" of the patient!

Because Governor DiPrete, despite denunciations of him by his own attorney general, refused to appeal the ruling—Marcia Gray was a patient at a state-run hospital—Mrs. Gray has now been moved to another hospital and her feeding tubes have been removed.

Briefly

● **SEN.-ELECT** Charles Robb (D-Va.) and Sen. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) said that the Democratic Party will have to move to the political center, and show more consideration toward the South if it is ever to regain credibility among the electorate. Johnston is reportedly leading in a race with Sens. Daniel Inouye (D-Hi.) and George Mitchell (D-Me.) to replace Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.) as Senate Majority Leader.

● **POLITICIZATION** of food assistance has appeared in Minnesota, where a program called Food Share, which has W.R. Grace on its board, has replaced the normal food assistance program. Poor people can receive \$35 worth of food for \$15 and two hours of community service. In Mexico, Food Share requirements are fulfilled by the poor attending "family planning" educationals.

● **THE JUSTICE** Department announced the end of its probe of allegations that former Criminal Division head William Weld had smoked marijuana and lied about it under oath, just as speculation increased that Weld is a likely Massachusetts GOP gubernatorial candidate. The allegations against Weld by Boston U.S. Attorney Frank McNamara, allegedly followed solicitation of "dirt" on Weld by then Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns.

● **THE AGRICULTURE** Department is proposing to cut its inspections of meat-processing plants in half over four years, for an estimated annual savings of \$27 million. The proposed change is based upon a 1985 National Academy of Sciences recommendation that statistical sampling should replace visual inspections.

● **THE CIA** has gotten a proposal from the Soviet KGB, according to *U.S. News and World Report*, that the two intelligence agencies' spymasters should meet regularly.