

National News

Law enforcement to be war on drugs focus

William Bennett, the Bush administration's National Drug Director, in a May 7 appearance on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," said that the first phase of the war on drugs will focus on law enforcement, rather than education and rehabilitation.

The elements of the expanded plan, which Bennett said would be implemented "within days or weeks," include the reassignment of military judges and prosecutors to the circuit of the Washington, D.C. Superior Court to help with the backlog of drug-related crime cases now stalled in the courts; the expansion of federal prison space to allow the incarceration of more convicted drug felons; and experimentation with heavy fines and boot camp-style sentencing for casual drug users and first offenders to create stronger incentives for them to give up drugs.

Prosecution urged in Linares child-killing

A coalition of pro-life groups urged the Chicago State Attorney on May 8 to continue to investigate the Linares child-killing, after enormous pressure was brought to stop Cook County State's Attorney Cecil Partee from his announced intention to investigate the case as first-degree murder.

The national media is making a hero out of Rudy Linares, the 23-year-old Chicago man who, on April 26, held nurses at Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital at gunpoint while he removed his son from life-support and held him until he died. The 15-month-old child, Samuel Linares, choked on a balloon last summer, cutting off oxygen to the brain. Since then, the child has been on a respirator, and was labeled "in a persistent vegetative state," a deliberately vague term that does not mean "terminal."

Already one judge has reportedly said privately that he intends "to stop this thing as quickly as possible," referring to the mur-

der investigation. But Partee explained, "The thing that makes the law work for us, that makes people respect us, is that our posture is consistent. We have a life taken here."

The Club of Life and several other pro-life groups offered "full support regarding the investigation into the murder of the infant, Samuel Linares. The events and news coverage surrounding this case are rapidly building into a national drumroll to excuse outright murder as a 'right.'

"We condemn those who seek to replace the moral foundation of our country with situation 'ethics' and who would reduce our constitutional law to one based on popular opinion.

"We call upon you to uphold our nation's original commitment to the principle of the inviolability of all human life—especially for those deemed 'unworthy of life' by today's standards," their statement read.

Bush defense plan \$100 billion short

The General Accounting Office has concluded that President Bush's already shrunken five-year defense plan is still at least \$100 billion short of the funds needed to carry it out, according to press accounts on May 10.

The GAO is expected to make this point when the Senate Armed Services Committee meets to explore whether the Bush defense blueprint calls for acquiring more weapons than the budget can afford.

About half the \$100 billion arises from what the GAO claims are unrealistic figures projected on inflation. The Pentagon priced its acquisition at a figure of 1.7% through 1994. Most of the rest of the \$100 billion shortfall stems from the combined services blueprints costing more than the downsized Bush defense budget provides.

Defense Secretary Richard Cheney has strongly defended the Pentagon budget against charges by Rep. Andy Ireland (R-Fla.) that it is underfunded for the five-year period. "Andy doesn't know what he's talking about," Cheney said earlier this year. Ireland then commissioned the GAO study.

Illinois lawmakers get three anti-Satanism bills

Three pieces of anti-Satanism legislation have now been introduced into the Illinois state legislature.

Rep. Robert Regan, the sponsor of the bills, said one of the bills would establish "inducement to commit suicide" as a crime. Regan pointed out that had cult leader Jim Jones carried out murders of the character of the Jonestown massacre and survived, he could not be prosecuted under current Illinois state law. Two teenagers have committed suicide as part of Satanic pacts in his district recently.

Two other bills sponsored by Representative Regan would increase the penalties for crimes that are performed in the context of ritualistic activity. Regan said that he drafted his legislation after sponsoring forums on the problem with hundreds of law enforcement officials. He expects the legislation to pass the House easily, based on the Criminal Law Committee support for the legislation, but thinks that Senate passage may be more difficult to secure.

Bush backs conference on 'Greenhouse' hoax

President Bush committed the United States to backing an international conference on the environment after meeting with Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said May 10.

Calling a conference and sponsoring a treaty on global warming, however, are considered two separate issues, the White House made clear.

A faction of Congress, William K. Reilly, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray, and Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environment Fred Bernthal, have been lobbying aggressively for this treaty, according to the May 10 *Washington Post*. They have been

pressing Bush to use the meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), starting May 15 in Geneva, to demand a global treaty to severely limit the emission of so-called greenhouse gases.

The drive to impose a global ecological treaty was set back in early May when White House Chief of Staff John Sununu rejected the move as premature and in need of further cost analysis.

The U.S. delegation to the IPCC meeting in Geneva, which will be led by Bernthal, "has been instructed to discuss the possibility of a convention and support further study, but not to endorse it. 'We were told not to cross that line,' said one official," the *Post* reported.

The *Post* said, "The instructions 'frustrated' Reilly and other proponents of a convention, according to a knowledgeable source. They fear that Washington will lose the initiative to other nations, even though the EPA has done the cutting-edge work on the causes and effects of global warming and is more advanced in developing solutions for dealing with it."

Magellan starts new era of space science

For the first time since 1978, the United States has launched an unmanned spacecraft to another planet, *Magellan*, which began its 15-month journey to Venus after being deployed from the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* on May 4.

After it is checked out in Earth orbit, *Magellan* will fire an Air Force upper stage to send it off toward the Sun. At times of optimal launch, it would only take a spacecraft four months to go from the Earth to Venus. But in order to launch both *Magellan* and the *Galileo* probe to Jupiter during this year, it was determined to have *Galileo* first spend four months going to Venus, where it will get a boost from the planet's gravitational field, and then head toward the outer Solar System.

Venus is an intriguing planet, similar in size and distance from the Sun as Earth, but with a searing surface temperature of over 900°F. It takes 243 Earth-days for Venus to

rotate once on its axis (the length of its "day"), and it rotates in a retrograde direction. *Magellan's* sophisticated radar will map about 90% of the planet's surface and "see" any features that are at least 300 feet in size. It will gather a larger amount and more detailed data about Venus than all previous spacecraft combined.

Anti-abortion groups face Gestapo tactics

An account of the breakup of an anti-abortion demonstration published in *Rescue News Brief*, on events which occurred March 11, 1989 at an abortion clinic in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, gives an alarming picture of the Gestapo-type tactics being used against demonstrators.

After 124 people were arrested, "Brutality started on the bus. . . . People were billy-clubbed, kicked and punched. Police dragged women on the bus by pulling up shirts and bras over their heads, exposing them in doing so." Police "removed their ID badges" and refused to be identified.

Demonstrators were denied food for 30 hours. Men were taken to a mental hospital, and the women to county jail, where "there was foul language, obscenities, and threats of putting woman rescuers in rooms with male prisoners to be sodomized and raped. Women's noses were pulled and twisted to force them to walk. They were then forcibly stripped by both male and female guards, dragged, kicked, and punched. Female rescuers were fondled, verbally abused, and threatened continually." One demonstrator with asthma was harassed for 15 minutes before given oxygen. Another woman was tortured by the warden, who pulled her fingers back near to the breaking point.

The attorney for the rescuers was denied access to all demonstrators. They were released with the warning, "Next time, you'll be here a lot longer and it will be more than just a display of bodies."

"The city, county, and state governments involved have totally denied that any wrongdoing has taken place," according to the *Rescue News Brief*.

Briefly

● **DWAYNE ANDREAS**, of the Archer Daniels Midland grain cartel firm, writes in the Russians' *International Affairs* journal that the U.S. must "couple the Soviet economy with the world economy" to "have the U.S.S.R. share this burden," meaning Third World debt.

● **DAVID ABSHIRE**, close friend of Henry Kissinger, is the forgotten man in the Iran-Contra affair. Who else would have been responsible for the fact that documents that turned up during the Oliver North trial were never turned over to the Iran-Contra congressional committees? Abshire was hired by President Reagan to handle the scandal.

● **HENRY CATTO**, the new U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, told a British television interviewer the night of May 2, "Of course there is," when asked, "Is there really a special relationship?" between the United States and Great Britain. Asked if the American relationship to Britain were like American relations with Japan or West Germany, Catto answered, "Absolutely not."

● **WILLIAM WEBSTER**, director of the CIA, professes loyalty to the old southern Confederacy, a senior European intelligence officer reports. Privately, Webster is wont to express the wish that "we" had won the Civil War, instead of the North. He points favorably to such phenomena as statues of military men in Richmond, Virginia that point in a northward direction.

● **WILLIAM FERGUSON**, a 27-year-old sales representative from Boston, Massachusetts who has been on a hunger strike to protest the imprisonment of Lyndon LaRouche, received prominent coverage in the *Black American* newspaper in New York May 8. Ferguson discussed LaRouche's "Food for Peace" initiative, and his activity to halt genocidal policies toward minorities.