

Budd Dwyer's blood is on Richard Thornburgh's hands

by Steve Komm and Jeff Steinberg

For the past year, a videotape has been circulating within the West Coast satanist scene, which purports to be a trilogy of occult filmmaker Kenneth Anger's greatest hits, including "Lucifer Rising," a literal video enactment of Aleister Crowley's black mass. At the end, the video abruptly shifts to live news film footage of a press conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on Jan. 22, 1987, at which State Treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, the victim of a political frameup ordered by then-Governor Richard Thornburgh, took his own life in front of the press corps.

It is likely that the Dwyer suicide footage is included in the Anger video because the specter of an honest, respected political figure committing suicide before an audience of assembled media hounds is some kind of insiders' "joke" among certain satanic circles.

The Anger video segment blacked out the content of what Budd Dwyer told the assembled press that morning. Below are excerpts from the written text of that last statement. In a future issue, *EIR* will document the frameup that led to Budd Dwyer's tragic suicide:

"At long last I can speak out. I wanted to do this during the early stages of the CTA [Computer Technology Associates, the California company accused of having bribed Dwyer and other state officials to obtain lucrative contracts—ed.]

until the investigation was over. Then I was indicted and again wanted to speak out and was advised to wait until I was acquitted. But our legal system was orchestrated so that it did not work in my case and now more than ever my conscience dictates that I must speak out. . . .

"Our current legal system has let me down and cries out for reform so that other innocent people do not have to go through what my family and I have been through and will go through for the rest of their lives. . . .

"I started my professional career as a school teacher but a significant event occurred in my life in 1963 when I was selected as western Crawford County's Community Ambassador to Poland. Living under a Communist government made me realize for the first time the full extent of the freedoms and opportunities we have here in the United States. I resolved that I would work to preserve and improve our system and that is why I entered politics in 1964. . . .

"I was able to be elected Treasurer because the political system that was our forefathers' goal 210 years ago has developed and matured and continues to improve whereby virtually every election has a wider cross-section of society elected to public office. . . .

U.S. gulag justice

"But I am here in this situation today because the . . . citizens of the United States have, instead of a justice system, a legal system that is very similar to the legal systems in nations around the world that our national leaders are fond of criticizing for denying human rights, legal process, and justice.

"I stand before you today as an absolute example that in 1987, in the United States of America our legal system can be used for political persecution and that innocent people are found guilty. . . . I had been very naïve. I had been raised to believe that if I obeyed the law and was a good citizen that I would never become entangled with our legal system.

"Then in February of 1984, another significant event occurred in my life. In conformity with Pennsylvania law, I refused to pay the travel voucher for Mrs. Dick Thornburgh's trip to Europe and Governor Thornburgh told Bob Asher and others that he would 'get Dwyer.' Thanks to you, the media, Governor Thornburgh has a very positive image but if his staff had ever let you get close to him you would have found a short temper and a vicious, vindictive personality. Governor Thornburgh's resolve to get me increased when 'Ginnygate' was followed by 'chauffeurgate' in March, April, and May of 1984 which was properly brought to my attention by reporter Wally Roche of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Then our recent governor began referring to me as 'the Fat F—k,' which can be attested to by several people. . . .

"And then the CTA investigation by the U.S. Attorney fell into their laps and they had the vehicle, that if steered skillfully would really 'get me.' As a Thornburgh friend and cabinet member said to his then-press secretary, '. . . the Fat F—k is going to get it now.'

"My major criticism of you and your colleagues in the Pennsylvania news media in regard to CTA has been your failure through fear, intimidation . . . to expose the close connection between Governor Thornburgh and Acting U.S.

Attorney James 'Jimmy' West. It is a matter of public record that West's first job after his judicial clerkship was to be hired by then-U.S. Attorney Dick Thornburgh as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Pennsylvania in August of 1974. It is also public information that West's second job was to be hired by then-Governor Thornburgh as a Pennsylvania Deputy Attorney General on April 2, 1979.

"Then after President Reagan took office in 1981, the Thornburgh group tried to take over the U.S. Attorney's office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania by having another two-time Thornburgh appointee, Henry Barr, appointed as U.S. Attorney. However, Barr was not recommended by the Merit Selection Committee and David Dart Queen was nominated and confirmed as U.S. Attorney.

"But Assistant U.S. Attorneys do not have to go through the Merit Selection Committee Process and in July of 1982, the Thornburgh group succeeded in having none other than James 'Jimmy' West named First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. . . .

"When Queen departed for Washington in January of 1985, James 'Jimmy' West was named as the Acting U.S. Attorney by a 4-2 vote of the Federal Judges in the Middle District and Governor Thornburgh had his lackey in charge of the CTA investigation, and as we now know, my fate was sealed. . . .

"The position of U.S. Attorney, even on an 'Acting' basis, is one of the most powerful in our government. . . . The quality of the 'Justice' system in each of the 94 Federal Districts depends upon the honesty, objectivity, integrity, and personal goals and interests of the U.S. Attorney. . . .

"If evidence can't be developed it is fabricated by using the currently legal techniques of lies, deals, leaks, threats, immunity, harassment, rumors, abusing the plea bargain process and virtually every other technique used in authoritarian nations with the possible exception of physical torture. . . .

"In our case, the Acting U.S. Attorney, James West, went to the very limits of our very dubious laws to fabricate evidence and manipulate the trial arrangements so that he would have a biased 'House Judge' and a jury that was not familiar with accounting practices, state-of-the-art investment techniques, the value of computer software, and the political and governmental process, in other words, a jury, that was not composed of our peers.

"Regardless of their reason, our jury made a horrible mistake. They destroyed my 22-year career in public service and my life, and did indescribable damage to my family and many others. The jury delivered the final blow to what many have described as the greatest miscarriage of justice they have ever known. . . .

Thornburgh discredits our system of justice

"The bottom line is that Governor Thornburgh, Acting U.S. Attorney James West, FBI Agents Donald Jordan and Ronald Brinkley, who 'worked' the case, Judge Malcolm

Muir and the jury have together totally discredited the American legal system in the hearts and minds of thousands of people who know that I am innocent. . . .

"Generally most people and specifically most elected officials do not like dealing with unpopular or unpleasant issues. They prefer to ignore problems that need to be addressed unless public pressure demands solution. Then, like water, they take the course of least resistance. I regret that many times during my legislative career I was an example of, rather than an exception to that principle. Of course if I had followed that principle as Treasurer and paid Ginny Thornburgh's European travel voucher and let the State Police continue to haul the Thornburgh graduate student to Massachusetts and the Thornburgh prep school student to Connecticut we wouldn't be here today. . . .

"I realize that you are news reporters and that I am just another piece of meat to you. But I hope that something that I've revealed today penetrates through the cynicism and callousness that is the stereotype of your profession and that some of you will help because it is the media that creates the public pressure to address the unpopular issues. . . .

"Judge Muir has already told the press that he felt 'invigorated' when we were found guilty and that he plans to imprison me as a 'deterrent' to other public officials. But it wouldn't be a deterrent because every public official who knows me knows that I am innocent. It wouldn't be a legitimate punishment because I've done nothing wrong. Since I'm a victim of political persecution my prison would simply be an American gulag. . . .

'Please tell my story'

"I've repeatedly said that I'm not going to resign as State Treasurer. After many hours of thought and meditation I've made a decision that should not be an example to anyone else because it is unique to my situation. Last May I told you that after the trial, I would give you the story of the decade. To those of you who are shallow the events of this morning will be that story. But to those of you with depth and concern the real story will be what I hope and pray results from this morning—in the coming months and years—the development of a true justice system here in the United States. I'm going to die in office in an effort to ' . . . see if the shameful facts, spread out in all their shame, will not burn through our civic shamelessness and set fire to American pride.' Please tell my story . . . in every newspaper and magazine in the U.S. . . . Please make sure that the sacrifice of my life is not in vain."

At which point, Budd Dwyer took out a loaded revolver and took his life. Eighteen months later, Richard Thornburgh was sworn in as U.S. Attorney General. Today, James West is awaiting confirmation as the U.S. Attorney in Harrisburg. He, along with Thornburgh, was recently forced to recuse himself from an ongoing federal grand jury in which Henry Barr is being probed for cocaine use and trafficking.