

Nebraska grand jury protects child abuse

by an EIR Investigative Team

On July 24, the Douglas County, Nebraska grand jury investigating charges of a nationwide child abuse ring tied to the failed Franklin Federal Credit Union in Omaha (see *EIR*, July 27, 1990, p. 56), returned its findings. After reviewing extensive evidence of pedophilia compiled by the state legislature's Franklin investigating committee, including 21 hours of videotaped testimony of abuse victims which named a number of the state's most influential figures, the grand jury found that "there is no doubt, after reviewing all relevant evidence, that the story of sexual abuse, drugs, prostitution, and judicial bribery presented in the legislative videotapes is a carefully crafted hoax scripted by a person or persons with considerable knowledge of the people and institutions of Omaha."

Given that the evidence presented on the tapes by four victim-witnesses was detailed, mutually corroborating, and deemed "highly credible" by law enforcement authorities, the only "carefully crafted hoax" in this affair is the grand jury itself.

That is apparently the view of the state's citizenry: More than 90% of the calls into radio station KFAB the day after were "violently critical" of the grand jury's findings, while a TV channel 7 poll showed that, of some 3,000 Nebraskans interviewed, 2,659 were found to be "not satisfied" with it either.

Charges of coverup resound

"Coverup!" rang out in the halls of the state legislature and in letters to the editor in the state's press before the grand jury was selected, as soon as the name of chief prosecutor Judge Samuel Van Pelt was announced. Van Pelt, sometimes referred to as the "rent-a-judge," attained notoriety for his 1984 coverup of the assassination of Kairo, Nebraska political activist and farmer Arthur Kirk by a Nebraska State Police SWAT squad.

The SWAT team surrounded Kirk's farm after a notice for a civil suit was served on him by Norwest Bank. They skinned his cat alive, so the howling would draw him from his house. When he ventured out, they mowed him down in cold blood and left him to bleed to death in the yard. The SWAT team claimed Kirk had fired first; no tests were done to see if he had fired at all—an unthinkable "oversight" in

standard police procedure. Yet, Van Pelt found that the police had acted correctly.

Franklin committee under fire

Van Pelt was chosen as prosecutor by Nebraska's pedophile-saturated establishment to discredit and destroy the work of the state Senate's Franklin investigating committee, chaired by Sen. Loran Schmit. Insiders were therefore not surprised when Van Pelt's grand jury virtually ignored the committee's massive evidence of child abuse and labeled Schmit as "politically irresponsible."

Van Pelt's grand jury attacked Schmit's committee for operating "largely from a political and personal motivational base" with "several hidden agendas"; attacked the committee's chief investigator, Gary Caradori, for ostensibly whipping up scandals "to gain professionally and personally from the outcome"; and instead *indicted the Franklin committee's two chief witnesses*, 21-year-old Alisha Owen and 22-year-old Paul Bonacci, on multiple felony counts of perjury.

The figure on whom Van Pelt's grand jury spent the most effort to discredit was Franklin legislative committee chief investigator Gary Caradori, who died in a mysterious plane crash on July 17, and who was therefore, as Senator Schmit pointed out, not around to defend himself against the charges.

Van Pelt took the point in the coverup, but investigators are currently looking at the curious roles of at least two others. Jury foreman Michael Flanagan has, for the last 27 years, worked at Union Pacific Railroad; some of Union Pacific's top executives are rumored to have surfaced at the Franklin investigation as pedophiles.

Perhaps coincidentally, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who has been dogged for years by rumors of his involvement in molesting young boys at New York's Carlyle Hotel, is also on Union Pacific's board of directors.

Another name which surfaced repeatedly in the tapes was that of Robert Sigler, Douglas County Assistant Attorney, who has insisted that those prominent figures recently indicted on child abuse charges, such as blueblood financier Alan Baer and Omaha *World-Herald* columnist Peter Citron, have no connection whatsoever to Franklin Credit Union.

Astoundingly, though Van Pelt's grand jury was allegedly investigating the Franklin scandal, it never even called Larry King, the kingpin of Franklin, to the stand.

Van Pelt's grand jury indicted only one prominent figure, Alan Baer, whose pedophilia was too flagrant to ignore. It dismissed numerous allegations against Omaha *World-Herald* publisher Harold Anderson. One such was the diary entry of victim-witness Paul Bonacci for April 20, 1983: "Went to a party, did it with a man who cut my leg, tied me up with rope and handcuffs, it hurt a lot and I won't do it with him again." His abuser, said Bonacci, was Harold Anderson, and the incident took place at Alan Baer's apartment.