

National News

Quayle's arrogance stuns East Europeans

The attitude of the Bush administration toward Eastern Europe was revealed by Jim Hoagland in the June 15 *International Herald Tribune*. He describes how "the awesomely arrogant advance team of Vice President Dan Quayle" acted during his recent visit to Czechoslovakia:

"The Quayle team, acting in his name although not necessarily with his approval, wrangled bitterly with local officials who refused to dig up the cobblestones in the middle of [the city of] Bardejov's centuries-old town square, so that Mr. Quayle could be photographed planting two trees there. The Americans also pressed the mayor to order 5,000 school children to turn out on a rainy day to wave U.S. flags. (About 1,000 did show up.)

"'We used to have to do such things when the Russians were here,' one official said. 'Not now.'

"Security during the Vice President's speech in the town's church would be 'run like a concentration camp,' one Quayle press aide vowed to a shocked Bardejov volunteer group. The following day Mr. Havel and two visiting dignitaries, the President of Hungary and the prime minister of Poland, had to enter the church and take seats 20 minutes before Mr. Quayle appeared because of the 'concentration camp' security arrangements."

Hoagland wrote that Czechoslovakia's current sensitive strategic situation obliged President Vaclav Havel to accommodate to such outrageous behavior, to the effect that he is "again a political prisoner."

DoJ clogs federal courts, judges complain

The Department of Justice's "war on drugs" is clogging the federal courts with irrelevant prosecutions of petty traffickers, according to federal judges who are fed up with the process.

The use of federal courts to prosecute low-level drug pushers has ignited a feud between U.S. Attorney Jay Stephens and the judges of the District of Columbia District Court. The conflict erupted at a recent judicial conference, where Stephens accused the judges of opposing the DoJ policy because of laziness. Stephens has been funneling hundreds of petty drug cases into the federal court to take advantage of stiff mandatory sentences. Since the Congress passed legislation to enact this procedure, the number of drug prosecutions in federal courts has jumped 300%, but drug trafficking and use continue to rise.

Stephens is in fact running the DoJ's flagship challenge to those federal judges who believe that the federal courts have a role to play in protecting the Constitution. The complaints come at a time when the DoJ and U.S. Supreme Court are arguing that there isn't time or money to review life and death issues in *habeas corpus* and other criminal law proceedings, and when constitutional issues in civil law, including Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) procedures and prisoner civil rights suits, are being side-tracked.

Sumner, LaRouche score 'victory' parades

William Graham Sumner, a professor from Yale, attacked the jingoism of the "victory" parades after the Persian Gulf war, in a commentary in the June 9 *Washington Post*. Entitled "Lovely Little Wars," Sumner attacks George Bush's idol Teddy Roosevelt in order to put the extravaganza into focus.

"The war with Spain was precipitated upon us headlong, without reflection or deliberation. . . . Whenever a voice was raised in behalf of deliberation and the recognized maxims of statesmanship, it was howled down in a storm of vituperation and cant. . . . Within a year it has become almost a doctrine with us that patriotism requires that we should hold our tongues. . . .

"Now, what will hasten the day when our present advantage will wear out and when we shall come down to the conditions of the older and densely populated nations?

The answer is: war, debt, taxation, diplomacy, a grand governmental system, pomp, glory, a big army and navy, lavish expenditures, political jobbery—in a word, imperialism. . . .

"My patriotism is of the kind which is outraged by the notion that the United States never was a great nation until in a petty three months' campaign it knocked to pieces a poor, decrepit, bankrupt old state like Spain. To hold such an opinion as that is to abandon all American standards, to put shame and scorn on all that our ancestors tried to build up here, and to go over to the standards of which Spain is a representative."

Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche said June 11 that "what we see in the enthusiasm for the war and the parades, is not patriotism. It is a quality of emotion very close to those who cheer for a local team, which may be a team of the most disgusting, drug-using, multi-sexual polymorphously perverse degenerates you ever saw. . . . But nonetheless, the population, particularly the sports-minded, will turn out with great enthusiasm in support of that team. And that is a pure act of vanity."

New Thornburgh conflict of interest

A new scandal surrounding Attorney General Richard Thornburgh involves his commission of one of his famous "seven deadly sins" of white collar crime.

According to a June 8 Scripps Howard News Service story, Thornburgh owns stock in a company that has capitalized on a Department of Justice (DoJ) study to muscle in on the police body armor market held almost exclusively by DuPont.

Thornburgh's financial disclosure forms show that in 1986 he bought about \$5,400 in Allied Signal, Inc. The company makes Spectra Shield, a fiber used in the manufacture of about 10% of the body armor worn by police officers nationwide.

In 1987, the Justice Department released a controversial study showing that vests constructed of Kevlar, manufactured by DuPont, failed to stop high-powered bullets in more than half its tests. That prompt-

ed the DOJ to issue a stiffer voluntary safety standard, which has been under debate ever since.

Allied Signal reports that since the new safety standard was adopted in 1987, it has gained a stronger foothold in the market.

Thornburgh's spokesman said that although the stock is not in trust, Thornburgh has never had to recuse himself from a decision involving the body-armor question, and so there "is no conflict of interest."

Judge rebukes Thornburgh ethics violations

The Department of Justice (DoJ) policy of exempting prosecutors from rules of professional conduct was scored by U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel of San Francisco in early June. She said that the policy, initiated by Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, is making "a mockery of the court's constitutionally granted powers."

For two years, the DoJ has authorized prosecutors to ignore American Bar Association and court-sanctioned rules which bar contact with a defendant (or opponent, in civil cases) by an opposing attorney, unless the defendant's attorney is present. The practice gives prosecutors wide latitude to make end-runs around defense attorneys, especially in trials with multiple defendants, where one can be played against another.

Patel ruled that the practice relied on "a faulty and tortured reading of existing authority" which undermines the criminal justice system by ignoring rules governing attorney conduct.

Prescott Bush aided firm tied to mob

George Bush's brother Prescott Bush aided a firm tied to the Japanese mob, according to Kyodo news service June 7.

Three years ago, Prescott Bush helped arrange the purchase of Asset Management, International Financing and Settlement Ltd. of New York, by West Tsusho, according

to papers filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 1989. Prescott Bush, described by the Japanese press as a senior adviser to Asset Management, had guaranteed that half of a \$5 million investment by West Tsusho would be recouped within five years or he would make up the difference.

West Tsusho is an arm of a company controlled by Susumu Ishii. Japanese police say Ishii headed one of the three largest mob syndicates in Japan before retiring last October. SEC filings show that the Japanese company agreed to pay Prescott Bush a \$250,000 annual retainer.

The Japanese government is also said to be investigating a separate deal in which Prescott Bush recommended that an official of West Tsusho invest in a Houston-based computer software firm, Quantum Access, Inc. The investment may have violated Japan's foreign exchange regulations.

Morgenthau says London key in BCCI probe

New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau is complaining that the Bank of England is obstructing his investigation of the Bank of Commerce and Credit International (BCCI), according to the London *Independent* June 11.

Morgenthau's probe of drug money laundering by BCCI is one of several ongoing investigations, including ones by the U.S. Federal Reserve, the U.S. Department of Justice, and by Congress. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), heading the Senate probe, is calling the BCCI case "the biggest financial scandal involving an individual institution ever."

Morgenthau said that London is key to the investigation, since BCCI did most of its international activities either out of London or via offshore banking centers like the Cayman Islands that fall under Bank of England purview. "We've asked for help, but we've gotten no cooperation whatsoever," he said.

At least \$4 billion is also missing from BCCI accounts in which Third World central banks had deposited money.

Briefly

● **OLIVER NORTH**, whose conviction for lying to Congress during the Iran-Contra scandal was overturned, will be backed by pro-Israel Christian fundamentalists in a bid for a U.S. Senate seat, according to Ed McAteer, head of the Religious Roundtable.

● **'HATEMONGERS'** are running public access television programs in 24 of the country's 100 largest markets, the Anti-Defamation League claims in a new report. ADL national director Abe Foxman attacks the Federal Communications Commission Policy Act of 1984, which requires that free time be made available to the public.

● **JEFFREY ZAUN**, the Navy lieutenant whose bruised face was shown on Iraqi TV, told the *Lahontan Valley News* and *Fallon Eagle Standard* of Nevada that "I don't ever want to kill anybody again. This country didn't get to see the cost of the war. I did. . . . People think, 'Hey we went in there and just kicked ass,' but they didn't see the Iraqi mothers get killed." Zaun later amplified his remarks, saying, "We did what we had to do."

● **MASSACHUSETTS'** House of Representatives voted June 11 to abolish the elected Boston School Committee, and establish in its place a school board appointed by the mayor.

● **GEORGE BUSH** addressed the graduating class of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena June 14. Several graduates protested the appearance by pinning stalks of broccoli to their gowns, the *Washington Post* reported.

● **WASHINGTON, D.C.** Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon wants the City Council to tear up the capital's civil service laws so she can fire 1,500 city employees, in the start of a new austerity crackdown. She is targeting the seniority rules, so that she can fire higher-paid employees.