

# National News

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## Pentagon nominee has technology experience

In nominating Deputy Secretary of Defense William Perry to become defense secretary, President Bill Clinton said, "He has the right skills and management experience for the job. He has the right vision for the job. He's a real pro."

Sources have told *EIR* that Perry, the former director under Jimmy Carter of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which is well-known for spinning off such civilian applications as "packet switching networks" in telecommunications, had more recently played a major role in developing stealth technology.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Perry has tried to preserve the capabilities of the defense industrial sector to manufacture advanced weapons as well as to meet present and anticipated needs. Although he believes that the defense sector must drastically shrink, he supports subsidization for parts of the defense industry, such as producers of nuclear submarines, tanks, and fighter jets, which have no civilian application. He wants what he calls "dual use" industries, such as semiconductors, communications, and advanced materials, to orient toward the commercial sector, while maintaining their military capabilities.

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## Drug epidemic rising again among youth

A University of Michigan team found that abuse of illegal drugs, as well as a new epidemic of legal inhalants, is on the rise again among U.S. youth. The study covered 50,000 youth, as part of a project funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The head of the program stated: "We have the unenviable role of informing the country that drug use is making a comeback, that the epidemic is re-emerging." The study found a sharp jump in marijuana and LSD use starting in the 8th grade and reaching its height

in the 12th grade. Other substances being abused include prescription stimulants like Dexadrine and Ritalin, and inhaling ("sniffing") legal household products like glue and paint thinner.

Marijuana use among 8th graders has increased twice as fast as in 1992, and there is a special increase in high school topped by drug use among seniors. The study showed a 4% increase in marijuana use by seniors to 26%, as opposed to 21.9% in 1992. And, 6.8% of seniors were found to be using the hallucinogen LSD, up from 5.6% in 1992, which is near the 7.2% peak in 1975. This jump in use of marijuana follows 14 years of decline.

At a press conference where the results of the study were announced, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala stated, "Young people need to hear frequent and consistent messages about drug use. . . . A steady drumbeat. . . . Drugs are illegal—and will stay illegal." The comment was interpreted as a rebuttal of suggestions by Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders, to study whether legalizing drugs might reduce crime and violence.

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## Child sex abuse ring exposed in Minnesota

Nebraska attorney John W. DeCamp and Lyndon LaRouche associate Lewis du Pont Smith gave a press conference on Feb. 2 in St. Paul, Minnesota to expose the connection of a child sex abuse case in Jordan, Minn. to a nationwide kidnapping and prostitution operation run out of Omaha, Nebraska. DeCamp, a former Nebraska state senator and author of the book *The Franklin Coverup: Child Abuse, Satanism and Murder in Nebraska*, is the attorney for two of the victim-witnesses in Nebraska, Alisha Owen and Paul Bonacci.

DeCamp was a central figure in events surrounding the Nebraska State Senate investigation of the Franklin Community Federal Credit Union of Omaha, which was closed by federal authorities in 1988. Franklin's chairman, Republican Party influential Lawrence King, soon came under investigation for running a national child prostitution

network involving high-level figures. Victims of the network, including Bonacci and Owen, provided massive evidence of drug-running and satanic ritual murder of children, and Bonacci also testified to his forced involvement with a child prostitution and pornography ring operating out of Jordan. Bonacci independently identified some of the same suspects charged in 1983-84 by Scott County Attorney Kathleen Morris. Minnesota Attorney General Skip Humphrey dropped all prosecution of these cases.

On a radio program in Minnesota on Jan. 28, DeCamp revealed that he had viewed videotapes seized by police investigating the Minnesota ring, and said that the tapes confirm the involvement of high-level figures in the child prostitution ring.

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## Proposed law will not benefit Earl Washington

Draft legislation in Virginia that was prompted by the near-execution of death row inmate Earl Washington will not allow him to now prove his innocence in court, according to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* of Jan. 27. Virginia Del. Clifton A. Woodrum, who was key in drafting legislation to allow death-row inmates to be able to introduce new evidence more than 21 days after sentencing, does not plan to change the proposed legislation to allow Earl Washington to benefit from it after his sentence was commuted.

On Jan. 14, just before leaving office, Gov. Doug Wilder commuted Washington's death sentence, because evidence makes clear that he is innocent, but gave him a life sentence instead, assuming that legislation would retroactively allow him to introduce that new evidence.

Now Washington is caught in exactly the bind his attorneys feared: Although his case forced the spotlight on the 21-day law, he has no recourse to introduce new evidence because he is no longer on death row.

Woodrum (D-Roanoke) said that in drafting the new bill, "I do not intend to serve as some kind of stand-in for Mr.

Washington's lawyer." Robert Hall, Washington's lawyer, said, "If the legislature isn't quick to amend it, then Earl will just plain drop out of sight."

## Committee formed to defeat Oliver North

According to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* of Jan. 27, a political action committee will make defeating Oliver North's bid to be the Republican candidate to unseat Sen. Chuck Robb (D-Va.) its highest priority. The PAC, called "Clean Up Congress," is led by a Republican, Woody Holton, son of former Virginia Gov. Linwood Holton (R).

The Arlington-based group attacked North's veracity and record in the Iran-Contra affair and endorsed rival GOP candidate James Miller III for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate.

The *Times-Dispatch* also reported that Virginia's senior senator, John Warner (R), came close to calling on North not to run, in a CNN interview. He said, "So far as we know, no one in the history of the United States Senate—since 1789—has ever sat in this chamber that was convicted of a felony." North was convicted of lying to Congress, although his conviction was overturned on the basis that the prosecution was tainted by his immunized congressional testimony.

LaRouche associate Nancy Spannaus is the best known of Robb's Democratic opponents, since she ran last year for governor. The LaRouche movement exposed both the dirty Iran and Contra operations long before the scandals broke.

## Church women protest pagan conference

Outraged women members of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches are inundating their clergy with letters protesting the churches' sponsorship of a pagan conference in Minneapolis last November. At that time more than 2,000 people, mostly wom-

en, gathered to "Celebrate and Re-Imagine the Divine." The conference was sponsored by the World Council of Churches and several major U.S. denominations, including United Methodists and Presbyterians. The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reports that they got an unusually high volume of letters protesting their coverage of the event, called to "celebrate new and renewed understandings and expressions of Christianity."

The angered women are demanding that women on national denominational staffs who attended the conference be dismissed and that the churches apologize to their members for sponsoring a conference which is creating a new theology based on pagan rituals.

## Superintendent promotes privatized D.C. schools

Washington, D.C. Public Schools Superintendent Franklin L. Smith is lobbying local legislators for implementation of a reform plan that would fundamentally alter the conception and functioning of public education in the city's schools starting this fall, according to the Jan. 27 issue of the *Washington Post*. Smith promoted school privatization one day earlier before a Senate subcommittee hearing and will address the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development conference to be held in Chicago in March.

"A private company," he was quoted in the *Post*, "can pump money into schools more quickly by allocating resources more efficiently and avoiding the slow-moving bureaucracy." Ten to 15 of the capital's 165 schools are initially proposed to be run privately, most likely by Education Alternatives, Inc., which has also experimented with the notion of "enterprise" schools, each having power to manage its own budget, define its education program, decide how to spend money and contract for private services. Smith wants 50 of these initially as his plan envisions an ever-diminishing central administration whereby every school would eventually be granted the ability to buy any service without going through district administration.

## Briefly

● **A HEMLOCK SOCIETY** front, the flag-ship of the euthanasia lobby, is suing Washington State to overturn the law banning so-called assisted suicide. The group "Compassion in Dying" is trying to circumvent the fact that its 1991 ballot initiative to allow physicians to kill patients was voted down, by having the courts enact euthanasia through a ruling.

● **HERB BRIN**, a 30-year ADL operative and publisher for the *Heritage Southwest Jewish Press*, defended his quoting of William Safire's attack against the nomination of Adm. Bobby Inman as secretary of defense only days before Inman withdrew. Brin's column came after an advertiser cancelled his ads and denounced Brin's attack on Inman and defense of Israeli false-flag spy Jonathan Pollard.

● **FBI DIRECTOR** Louis Freeh announced on Jan. 27 that the Bureau will move 600 special agents from supervisory and administrative slots to field positions in the war against crime, according to UPI. Freeh made the announcement with Attorney General Janet Reno. "We want a field-driven operation," he said. "For too many years FBI headquarters has been top-heavy with supervisors."

● **THE DEPARTMENT** of Health and Human Services announced a pilot "workfare" program for Florida on Jan. 27. The plan will put a two-year cap on Aid to Families with Dependent Children, after which recipients must find jobs. The plan, "Family Transition Program," will be tried in Escambia County (Pensacola) and Alachua County (Gainesville).

● **NINE LAROCHE** Democrats announced their plans to run in the Missouri primaries on Jan. 28. "Our candidacies are part of a powerful drive to make sure that the Clinton administration has the courage to reverse this 'free trade' de-industrialization at home and abroad," the slate's statement read. Headed by U.S. Senate candidate Nick Clement, the slate is fielding six congressional candidates and two for state assembly.