

Gustavo Cisneros

Going from bus ticket collectors to billionaires over the last four decades, the Cisneros family has become synonymous in Venezuela with the interests of the Rockefeller family and Henry Kissinger. Before the January 1994 blowout of



their Banco Latino financial empire, the family had come to dominate Venezuela's news media and entertainment industry, and had holdings in food, banking, and minerals.

The Cisneros family was at the center of the so-called "Twelve Apostles," the inner circle which advised the presidencies of Carlos Andrés Pérez. The Cisneroses were notorious for destroying their adversaries through mafia-style tactics run through their media monopoly and their corruption of the judiciary.

In July 1984, the Venezuelan magazine *Resúmen* reported that Oswaldo Cisneros, Gustavo's cousin, was up to his neck in dope-money laundering in Florida. Subsequent *EIR* investigations, included in the 1985 edition of the book *Dope, Inc.*, found the Cisneros family to be linked closely to known international money-laundering interests: the Royal Bank of Canada, Florida dope banking circles, the drug-legalizers of Friedrich von Hayek's Mont Pelerin Society, etc.

Less than one week after the Spanish-language edition of *Dope, Inc.* hit Caracas, Gustavo Cisneros got a court order banning its circulation in Venezuela, and his police agents raided *EIR*'s offices. Every leading official involved in the police raid has since been jailed or charged with drug or corruption charges. The overkill deployed by the Cisneros led the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to upgrade its watch on the Cisneros family, *EIR* subsequently learned.

In September 1991, the Venezuelan daily *El Globo* reported that a congressional committee had found that the Cisneros organization owned a Miami-based company, Celere, Inc., which was under investigation by the DEA for cocaine trafficking. In 1994, Venezuelan columnist Andrés Galdo and former Venezuelan anti-drug official Thor Halvorssen charged that Banco Latino was a major money-launderer for the Colombian cartels.

Clinton broke Bush's deals with drug cartel

by Jeffrey Steinberg

When William Clinton was first inaugurated President, the drug lobby in the United States prepared to move the campaign for legalization into a new phase. During the Bush years, the Drug Policy Foundation and other pro-dope fronts had successfully hammered away at the administration's draconian, but thoroughly unsuccessful and hypocritical "war on drugs." The propaganda effort to discredit even the notion of a Bush war on drugs was greatly abetted by the fact that Bush's Attorney General, Richard Thornburgh, had surrounded himself with longtime aides who themselves would be prosecuted and convicted of trafficking cocaine, leading ultimately to Thornburgh's own "early retirement." One of the aides, Henry Barr, was serving as Attorney General Thornburgh's liaison to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) at the time he was indicted by federal prosecutors in Pennsylvania on cocaine-trafficking charges!

Thornburgh's drug taint was minor-league when compared to President Bush's own notorious track record of dealings with Colombian and Mideast dope traffickers during the Reagan administration, when, as vice president, he was the head of covert operations at the White House. When, in December 1989, Bush sent thousands of American troops into Panama to overthrow the Noriega government (ostensibly because of the general's links to drug traffickers), he handpicked the successor regime of President Guillermo Endara, which was comprised almost entirely of well-known front-men for the Cali Cartel, including Endara himself—a fact even the Bush-loving *Wall Street Journal* eventually conceded on its front page.

Bush's nar-contras

At the point in 1985 when George Bush reached the zenith of his power over American secret intelligence operations, he was personally responsible for trashing any last prospect of the Reagan administration embarking on a serious war on drugs effort.

Two events that year epitomized this policy shift: the February kidnapping and torture murder of DEA agent Enrique Camarena by Mexican-based drug-cartel figures, and the late-1985 White House decision that "you can't fight communist guerillas and drug traffickers at the same time."

Evidence later surfaced that Camarena's murder took place at a drug-cartel ranch that was also being used by the Bush-Oliver North team to train Contra guerrillas. The decision to "fight commies, not narcos," signaled an outright