

National News

Justice ties Cubans to drug traffic

Attorney General William French Smith announced that the Justice Department has "significant evidence" that Cuban officials were involved in funneling drugs into the United States, in an interview in the May 4 *Washington Times*. He said he did not know if Castro were personally involved, but "we certainly have some significant evidence to show that somebody in Cuba is."

The Attorney General pointed to the recent U.S. indictments of four former Cuban officials in that connection, implying that from those investigations and indictments more evidence had become available. "If [the effort to stop drugs] can be aided by contacts with a foreign government, including Cuba, we certainly would resort to that as well," he commented, when he was asked if the United States had formally protested to Cuba.

Mondale, Kirkland unveil U.S. technological freeze

The AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Division (IUD) conference, held in Washington, D.C. on May 4, was a forum for an organizing drive to deflect the Reagan administration's commitment to the development of directed-energy defense systems, a project that would require massive investment in high-technology industry, by promoting exactly the kind of corporatist economic policies espoused by Benito Mussolini in the fascist regime in Italy.

The conference, deceptively titled "Rebuilding American Industry," was keynoted by William Winpisinger, a self-described socialist revolutionary and president of the International Association of Machinists (IAM). Winpisinger announced that "we could in fact launch a political and social revolution that could put Ronald Reagan and his right-wing political and corporate state out of business forever. . . ." Winpisinger demanded that European-style "democratic socialism" be imported to the United States in order to make it more competitive against

both Europe and Japan in industrial exports.

Winpisinger, claiming to oppose the idea of "post-industrial society," stated that "there is no smokestack industry in America we're willing to throw away. We want them all because we need them all."

The policy document distributed at the conference, a 100-page proposal titled "International Trade, Industrial Policies, and the Future of American Industry," described plans to create a Felix Rohatyn-style "industrial development bank" and "tripartite committees" of labor, management, and government for each industry. The report concludes with a section titled "Industrial Policy must Manage Technological Change" which demands procedures that will effectively sabotage technological upgrading of American industry.

"Management should be required to provide the community and workers its rationale for any proposed technological change. . . . New technology should be analyzed to determine if it increases mental stress, social isolation, or lowers health and safety conditions. Only new technology which improves the quality of working life as well as traditional productivity measures should be introduced," the report states.

Reagan demands new strategic defense

President Reagan wrote the following letter to the *Christian Science Monitor*, published on May 4. The same letter appeared in several other U.S. newspapers.

"I cannot help but believe that strategic defense holds out new hope for removing nuclear terror from our lives. With the prospect of defense against nuclear weapons comes also the prospect of negotiations not just to restrain and codify the balance of terror, but to eliminate these weapons from the face of the earth.

"I am not a scientist. No one can say how long it will take us to reach this goal. But we have solved many problems that sounded equally difficult before. Surely, the ingenuity of the American people, that creative spark which is one precious gift of freedom, can be harnessed to protect as well as to destroy.

"Meanwhile, we must continue along the course we have set: to deter aggression and provide an incentive for genuine, mutual arms reduction by rebuilding America's neglected defenses. I truly believe that if we can combine perseverance with vision, we can preserve freedom and ensure a lasting peace."

Hodel: We've lost energy leadership

"President Reagan remains fully committed" to the development and utilization of nuclear power, "as does his administration," Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel told the Atomic Industrial Forum annual conference in Washington, D.C. on May 4. However, the "lack of federal resolve in waste management," and the situation with the Clinch River Breeder Reactor demonstrated that the "federal government is not a reliable partner" in developing the nuclear industry. "We have lost our leadership in the international community," Hodel continued, pointing out that U.S. industry is "not competitive economically." This has led to a drop from a 100 percent to a 30 percent share in the world market that will soon force domestic users to "buy their fuel from some other country," Hodel stated.

The secretary had "bad news on reprocessing" to report. Despite the President's overturning the ban on reprocessing nuclear fuel 18 months ago, as of July 31 there will be no more federal money for this program. "We do not have the political support" on Capitol Hill, Hodel said.

The administration's "accelerated construction schedule" for the Clinch River breeder is being undercut, Hodel stated, because of the lack of "votes to continue CRBR in its present form."

Hodel made clear the argument for a nuclear energy plan. "I don't believe we have broken the lockstep in the relationship between energy growth and GNP," he said. "Unless we dismantle our smokestack industries, this relationship will remain."

Hodel said he believed that "this is the trend now" toward the information age, but said that he "does not think it's viable" if the U.S. is to remain a "major industrial power."

He insisted that nuclear was still economically competitive with coal, and noted that nuclear construction costs are two to three times higher because of delays. "We must make our decisions up front and stick to them," he said. "This will reduce our costs and lead to greater improvements in safety."

Judge reinstates L.A. euthanasia prosecution

Judge Robert A. Wenke ruled in favor of the L.A. District Attorney who is bringing charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder against Drs. Neil Barber and Robert Nejdil, who deprived Kaiser Permanente Hospital patient Clarence Herbert of water and nourishment after removing him from life support before he was legally dead.

Judge Wenke ruled in favor of the motion for reinstatement of the case in Los Angeles Superior Court May 5.

Judge Wenke asserted that an act that shortens life is illegal, and affirmed the distinction between being in a vegetative state, and being in an irreversible coma, which is grounds for disconnecting life support. All functions of Clarence Herbert's brain had not ceased.

Defense attorneys, in one of the most explicit statements condoning the killing of "useless eaters" that was the policy of the Nazi regime, cited changes in medical practice over the last 20 years that have created new circumstances which require the use of common law concepts such as "excusable homicide." Judge Brian Crahan [the judge who refused to prosecute the physicians for murder] saw no evidence that Herbert would be more than a "vegetable . . . not a human being. He would not have been as you and I would want our relatives to be. He would have become a burden, so that his family would come to loathe him."

Judge Wenke responded that "doctors do not have all the answers. The legislature knew this when they wrote the law. . . . Although mercy killing may have no evil intent, the law does not permit it. . . . I submit that doing a specific act that you know will end in death is sufficient to warrant a trial."

S.F. convention: Night on Bald Mountain?

The following are excerpts from a commentary which appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* May 2 written by correspondent Michael Killian:

"The Democrats have chosen San Francisco for their 1984 convention despite the fears of many that the nationally televised event will prove a little weird.

"Welcome Democrats.

"Please take note of the following. . . .

"Bedrolls—the Burmese bedrolls in this hotel are made of the finest shredded Tung nut fiber. When you roll them in the morning for storage in your room's incense cabinet, please roll them in a clockwise direction or it will bring bad luck.

"If you prefer something more substantial to sleep on, the hotel has a limited number of fakir nail beds from India. Dial 13 for housekeeping service or whistle at your bellman. He'll respond.

"Boom Boom—The absolutely marvelous Sister Boom Boom (a transvestite who ran for mayor and received 10 percent) will autograph convention programs and credentials between 5 and 7 a.m.

"Snakes—Snakes are permitted in hotel bathrooms only.

"White Whale Rally—The California Nazi Party will hold a save-the-white-whale Moby Dick book-burning rally at noon Sunday in Buena Vista park. Shuttle service will be provided from the Richard-Wagner-in-Drum look-alike contest at Candlestick Park.

"Guns—the Bay Area Marxist-Leninist Gun Club has announced it will shoot on sight any Hell's Angel carrying a firearm not made with union labor.

"The Bald Lesbians for Cranston steel drum band will perform Moussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain. . . .

"Church services—the Rev. Loon Unification Apocalypse Church will sacrifice a virgin the night of the convention ball as a symbol of Democratic unity. . . .

"Republicans—Mayor Feinstein would like to thank the Republican National Committee for its generous financial contribution to the effort to woo the Democratic convention to San Francisco."

Briefly

● **ROBERT SCHWEITZER** has been promoted by President Reagan to the rank of lieutenant general and appointed chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board, the liaison between the U.S. military and the military organizations of the Organization of American States member nations. Schweitzer had been dismissed from his post on the National Security Council by Richard Allen in October 1981 for making an "unauthorized" speech in which he warned of the growing Soviet superiority in strategic weapons (identifying land- and submarine-based missiles) and the "drift towards war."

● **SEN. DANIEL PATRICK** Moynihan, appearing at an early May meeting of the Jewish Community Relations Council in New York, launched into a diatribe against U.S. aid to Saudi Arabia, the April 28 *Jerusalem Post* reported. The Democratic senator claimed the aid threatens to provide the Saudis with a "nuclear strike force system." "The only thing that we didn't give them in this system is the [atomic] bomb, and that they're getting from Pakistan," he stated. U.S. aid to Saudi Arabia is primarily run through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' \$1.5 billion in construction projects in that country. Moynihan's interest, however, may well be in helping lay the groundwork for an Israeli preemptive strike against Saudi Arabia, modeled on the Israeli attack against the Baghdad nuclear reactor in June 1981.

● **AN IBEW** president participating in the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Division conference in Washington D.C. on May 4 was asked how he could reconcile Walter Mondale's current low-interest-rate policies with Mondale's record in the administration that appointed Paul Volcker. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers official answered, "His record could hurt him. Let's hope nobody remembers," and then chuckled and added, "There's Glenn, he doesn't have much of a record at all."