

## Eye on Washington by Nicholas Benton

### Does a coy smile tell you anything?

Attorney General Edwin Meese III is a no-nonsense guy not taken to levity, especially when confronted by the infamous jackals of the Washington, D.C. press corps.

This fact makes all the more significant the "knowing smile" he produced at his June 10 press conference when *EIR* asked him whether the four New York banks fined last month for failure to report over \$1.3 billion in cash transactions are still being investigated to determine whether the transactions were drug-related.

When first asked, Meese replied, "It is not our policy to comment on investigations until we have results." *EIR* followed up, "Then this means that there is an investigation?" Meese let slip his only smile of the entire press conference at that point, saying, "I can neither confirm nor deny that there is an investigation."

Ed Meese has such a friendly smile. You know, the kind that would make any director of Chase Manhattan, Manufacturers Hanover, Irving Trust, or Chemical Bank break out in a cold sweat.

The press conference was called to announce a new flank in the War on Drugs—administration-sponsored legislation to make deadly "designer drugs" illegal, a bill which Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.) will introduce.

"Designer drugs" are developed by altering one or two molecules of an

existing, illegal drug (such as heroin) to elude classification as "illegal." Many of these drugs have proven to be extremely dangerous. One, a form of synthetic heroin known as MPPP, causes an irreversible Parkinson's Disease syndrome in its users, characterized by a general slowness of movements and speech, muscle rigidity, resting tremors, and a mask-like, expressionless face.

Meese announced that the Drug Enforcement Administration was invoking its emergency powers to temporarily ban both MPPP and another, related drug called PEPAP, pending the passage of the new legislation.

The move is the latest in a series of steps over the last month to escalate the War on Drugs, which Meese, in his American Bar Association address on June 9, affirmed is "all out" on "both supply and demand," and "both national and international in scope." His bill to make bank laundering of drug money illegal is currently in the committee hearing stage, and last month, Assistant Treasury Secretary John Walker confirmed that, in addition to the fines against the four New York banks named above, the list of banks officially under investigation has now grown from 40 to over 140.

Meese clarified the administration policy on the role of the military in the War on Drugs, in response to another *EIR* question.

He said he had met with Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger to work out the policy, which is designed to put more teeth into the War on Drugs while not unduly diverting the military from its proper national-security function.

Meese stated that while the military should assist the drug fight with its radar, AWACs, and observation capabilities—including pursuit observation of aircraft and ship interception of small boats—the military

should not get involved in making arrests, conducting investigations, or undertaking actual law enforcement functions.

### Supreme Court called on carpet

On June 9, Meese launched a blockbuster attack on the Supreme Court in a speech to the American Bar Association.

"In my opinion, a drift back toward the radical egalitarianism and expansive civil libertarianism of the Warren Court would once again be a threat to the notion of limited but energetic government," he said, quoting Alexander Hamilton's *78th Federalist Paper* and former Supreme Court Justice John Marshall to counterpose the notion of "a Jurisprudence of Original Intent, by seeking to judge policies in light of principles, rather than remold principles in light of policies."

In the case of recent Court decisions on matters of religion, he noted that the constitutionally guaranteed separation of church and state's "purpose was to prohibit religious tyranny, not to undermine religion generally."

Notably, on this matter, however, he did not criticize the Court's refusal to hear the Rev. Sun Myung Moon case in 1983.

That case became a *cause célèbre* of a crazy-quilt of cults and KGB assets like the ACLU and National Council of Churches, as well as the Mormons, the Freeman Institute, Clare Boothe Luce, and Rep. Mervyn Dymally (of Jonestown fame), all of whom were petitioners in the Moon case to the Supreme Court on behalf of "religious freedom," as a full-page ad in the July 11 *Washington Post* pointed out. The fact that Meese ignored this case in his remarks was significant.