

National News

NASA postpones Centaur launch

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced shortly after the Delta rocket explosion on May 3 that it is postponing "for approximately four weeks" the launch of an Atlas Centaur rocket, whose engines are similar in design to the Delta rocket that failed, and is made by the same company, Rocketdyne.

"The delay will provide time to review the manufacture, handling, transportation, and assembly history of the Atlas Centaur vehicle and its spacecraft to insure that all items critical to a successful launch have been thoroughly analyzed prior to a commitment to launch," a NASA spokesman said.

Only three Atlas Centaurs are left in NASA's inventory, along with three Deltas. The Shuttle, Delta, and Titan programs are all grounded for accident investigations and, with the temporary grounding of the Atlas Centaur, the United States has no major satellite launchers on flight-ready status.

The Atlas Centaur's payload is to be an Air Force-Navy communications satellite built by TRW called FleetSatCom F-6.

Stevenson begins independent campaign

Vowing to make Jane Spigel a "household word," Adlai Stevenson formally kicked off his Illinois campaign as an "independent" candidate for governor, even though courts have not yet determined the legality of such a candidacy, and announced his two new running mates: Du Page County board member Jane Spigel for secretary of state and Cook County Associate Judge Michael Howlett, Jr. for the lieutenant-governor slot.

Stevenson recently withdrew from the Democratic ticket to avoid running on the

same slate with followers of Lyndon H. LaRouche, the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) candidates Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart, who won the Democratic primary nominations for lieutenant governor and secretary of state, respectively.

Howlett is the son of popular former Illinois secretary of state Michael Howlett, who won four statewide elections by wide margins. Spigel is the only survivor of four Democrats elected to the DuPage County board in 1974 in the aftermath of Watergate. She is described by colleagues as "not a mainstream Democrat," as someone who "works for herself."

Acknowledging that he had "lost some ground" since the LaRouche/NDPC victories, Stevenson said that it "won't happen again." The outcome of Stevenson's lawsuit to change Illinois electoral laws and to extend the filing deadline to August is still in doubt, but a ruling on the suit is expected in mid-May.

Gary Hart positioning as 'front runner'

Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), liberal Democrat-cum-conservative, is clearly positioning himself to be the "Democratic front-runner" for the 1986 presidential nomination. In addition to his new book on military reform, which has gotten reams of publicity in the major press, he will be giving a series of speeches on strategic policy at Georgetown University throughout the month of May.

Also, his think-tank, the Center for a New Democracy, is awash with various projects and seminars, ranging from one on military reform, to one on international trade, and includes a series of upcoming seminars on the "New American Community," the first of which will take place in Detroit on May 19. Speakers will include, among others, Robert Lawrence of the Brookings Institution and Barry Bluestone and Stanley

Friedman of the United Auto Workers.

Hart is also being promoted by Paul Weyrich, the Benedictine-linked founder of the American "New Right," claiming that Senator Hart is the only candidate on the scene capable of reflecting the deep desire of the blue-collar electorate for a resurrection of fundamental Judeo-Christian values.

Weyrich made this bizarre claim in a *Washington Post* commentary May 4, in which he attacked free-market economics, criticized the "new right" social agenda for being too shallow, and asserted that the person who can buck the established party bureaucracy and revive "cultural conservatism" will win the presidency in 1988. Weyrich was clearly attempting to think up an alternative to Lyndon LaRouche.

Weyrich points to an article by William Lind as proof of his contention. Hart's major aide on military issues, and co-author of Hart's new book promoting "military reform," Lind is an avowed monarchist, who claims that the German classic poet and historian Friedrich Schiller, who championed the American Revolution, was a precursor to the proto-Nazi philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche.

Teller and Bundy on Russian ABM efforts

At a conference on high technology and war sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences on May 8, American physicist Edward Teller and former National Security Council head McGeorge Bundy polarized a group of leading scientists and political scholars.

"The Soviets have been working on this [strategic defense] system for at least 20 years," Teller said. "To assume that we are necessarily ahead is unjustified, and, in my opinion, completely wrong."

McGeorge Bundy, unofficially known as the "head" of the Eastern Establishment and currently a professor at New York University, countered that U.S. technology was

ahead in many areas including computers, radar, propulsion, electro-optical systems, guidance systems, and software. "Fearing the Soviets obsessively is something we've done before and we should not do it in this case," Bundy said.

Bundy did concede that the Soviets had built an anti-ballistic missile system to protect Moscow, but added, "I know of no one who thinks that's impenetrable."

Leading liberal media under investigation

The *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Washington Times*, and *Time* magazine may be the first news media to be prosecuted under a 1950 statute prohibiting disclosure of classified information.

CIA Director William Casey told the *Washington Post* that he discussed the possibility of criminal prosecution with Deputy Attorney-General D. Lowell Jensen at a Justice Department meeting on May 2. Casey cited the *Post* and *Newsweek* for reporting on U.S. intercepts of messages between the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin and Libyan authorities in Tripoli. He did not specify the stories that led him to consider prosecution of the other three.

The administration is planning to invoke section 798 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, the "Comint statute," which prohibits the publishing of classified information about U.S. communications intelligence activities dealing with ciphers and codes. The 1950 law prohibits "knowingly and willfully" disclosing classified information about "communications intelligence activities of the U.S. or any foreign government."

The maximum penalty is 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Casey also warned the *Washington Post* not to publish a story they were currently working on.

In a related story, the Richard Burt file may well be reopened as the Reagan administration considers the prosecution of news organizations that have leaked classified information derived from U.S. communica-

tions intelligence activities. Prior to his appointment as U.S. ambassador to West Germany, Burt was a reporter for the *New York Times* and leaked extensive details about a highly classified operational intelligence satellite system.

Burt's disclosure clearly violated the Comint statute, but Secretary of State George Schultz defended Burt by saying that the government official who leaked the information was at fault—not Burt.

Anti-terrorist head ties M-19 to narcotics

Robert Oakley, U.S. head of counter-terrorism for the State Department, testifying at hearings on terrorism before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 6, stated that the United States now has irrefutable proof that the M-19 terrorists who stormed the Judicial Palace in Bogota, Colombia last November were paid to do so by the cocaine traffickers, and that the escalation of terrorism in Colombia is completely a function of cocaine-traffickers' anger over extraditions to the United States.

This is the first time that a U.S. official has claimed to have proof that narco-traffickers were behind the storming of the Palace, which claimed over 100 lives, and is flatly contradictory of the claims of FBI Director William Webster that there is no connection between terrorism and narco-trafficking.

In response to a question from Sen. Richard G.

"We discovered, after the fact, very solid evidence that the people who carried out the attack against the Palace of Justice were paid \$5 million by one of the chief narcotics groups down there for the precise purpose of destroying the legal records and intimidating the judges so that there wouldn't be any more extradition."

He added that this is "one example of where you get the peculiar combination of narcotics trafficking, terrorism and extradition."

● **ARMAND HAMMER**, the billionaire oil man, was asked at his 88th birthday party his opinion of the Libyan bombing by the United States. The octogenarian replied: "I won't know until I'm in Russia on May 15."

● **THE JUSTICE** Department has found no foundation for charges that large numbers of Nicaraguan rebels and private American supporters were involved in gunrunning and drug trafficking, department officials said on May 6. A senior official, who asked not to be identified, said agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had conducted interviews in several states and Costa Rica and had been unable to verify the allegations.

● **CRIMINAL CHARGES** will not be filed against Geraldine Ferraro and her husband, John Zaccaro, the Justice Department concluded in early May after a lengthy investigation. Department spokesman John Russell said: "We have closed the case as far as taking any criminal action. But it's being referred to our civil division for them to take a look at it. . . . I don't know what they'll decide."

● **CONGRESSMAN** William E. Dannemeyer's United Families Foundation has sent out a direct-mail questionnaire titled "AIDS Awareness Project," using mailing lists purchased for the purpose, according to an aide. The flyer asks various questions about how AIDS victims should be handled, and is accompanied by a fund-raising pitch, saying the results of the survey will be released to the public, Congress, etc. The flyer concludes: "AIDS could become the deadliest disease in the history of mankind. So please return your survey today with a generous contribution of whatever you can afford."