

National News

Are Feds closing in on Washington mayor?

Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, whose political machine stems from the heyday of the "poverty pimps" during the 1960s and 1970s, told a press conference May 27 that he believes he is not the subject of a federal probe, although two of his assistants have been indicted and eight have resigned during investigations by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney for the District, Joseph di Genova.

David E. Rivers, Barry's close friend and the head of Human Services, appears to have been "stung" by federal investigators from whom he received gifts in exchange for city contracts. The agents were informed by one company that Rivers demanded kickbacks for a contract, and the FBI thereupon set up its own dummy company to bid on city contracts.

Barry himself was implicated in a drug conviction case against a city worker and personal intimate, Karen Johnson; another of Barry's female associates was recently found dead of a drug overdose in the apartment of Barry associate and city contractor John Clyburn. Clyburn is involved in other city-contract charges; and three other associates are accused in kickbacks-for-contract cases.

VA patients may be tested for AIDS

The Reagan administration is considering a plan to test all Veterans Administration hospital patients for AIDS, reported the *Washington Times* May 27. The *Times* quotes a senior official saying the President could begin the testing in VA hospitals "with the stroke of a pen. They're already taking blood from patients."

The official added, "You've got to let the people taking care of patients know if they're infected," noting reports of casual

contact infections in three hospital workers.

The proposal for AIDS testing in VA hospitals is part of a larger package that was expected to spark fierce debate at a Cabinet-level Domestic Policy Council meeting May 27, according to *Times* sources. The protesting faction is led by Secretary of Education William Bennett, advocating mandatory AIDS tests for convicted criminals, aliens entering the United States, couples seeking marriage licenses, and hospital patients, while the anti-testing faction, led by Surgeon General Everett Koop, opposes mandatory testing, period.

TV networks feature euthanasia propaganda

CBS television targeted doctors and modern medical technology as monsters in its Sunday Night Movie May 24. "Baby Girl Scott" pits doctors who "play God" against two parents whose child was born three months premature and with multiple disabilities.

The film is done from the standpoint of parents who want their child disconnected from a life-saving respirator. Each scene of the infant's intensive care unit is presented with impending-doom sound effects reminiscent of Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory. The mad scientists are, of course, neonatologists, who battle all odds to save the child. They are accused of experimenting with human beings, and are asked: "Are you trying to prolong life, just to prove you can do it?"

ABC television, on the other hand, invited its views to commit suicide in "When the Time Comes," the network's Memorial Day broadcast. The film was done in collaboration with the Hemlock Society, advocates of "assisted suicide."

The film is clearly designed to break down viewers' opposition. A young woman with cancer reads about "assisted suicide in 'a women's magazine,'" and then pleads, first, with her unwilling husband, then a best friend, to help her kill herself "when the time comes"—before she gets hooked up to a machine and becomes "not human."

All the "facts" in the movie came from

the Hemlock Society, which was referred to in the film repeatedly as "an organization in L.A. that says it is okay to do it. Lots of people do it. They will even send you a list of what drugs to take and where to get them."

The friend decides to "help" after looking into an intensive care ward and seeing a comatose patient with shaved head, filled with tubes, and surrounded by shrill beeps, pulsating monitors, and bizarre sounds—all heightened dramatically for persuasive effect.

Call for radars based in space

A call for space-based radar systems has been issued by Gen. John Piotrowski, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Space Command. In an interview at his headquarters May 23, Piotrowski said: "The goal is to track all aircraft from all potential aggressor nations and know where they are at all times. There's absolutely no question about it: The least expensive way of maintaining surveillance is from space. It's cheaper, and it's ubiquitous; it's always there."

He estimated a surveillance network of 12-15 radar satellites would cost between \$6 billion and \$10 billion.

Piotrowski said the Soviets have deployed two types of satellites to watch the Persian Gulf. One is the EORSAT (electronic ocean reconnaissance satellite) and the other RORSAT (radar ocean reconnaissance satellite).

Piotrowski also said the Soviets' ASATs have the capability of destroying U.S. satellites within hours. "They could poke our eyes out," he said, "and at the same time their satellites would have free rein in targeting our ships." They could then attack them from over the horizon with land-based, 1,600-mile-range cruise missiles. "It's clearly evident to us that we would be giving the Soviets a free ride in space in terms of targeting our forces."

One of Piotrowski's nightmares is that the Russians would knock out U.S. satellites