

Editorial

Root out the secret government!

Some four months ago, in April 1987, *EIR* published its groundbreaking *Special Report*, "Project Democracy: The parallel government behind the Iran-Contra affair." In that report, we documented the existence of, not a single illegal operation on the part of Oliver North and his friends, but an entire "secret government" conducting broad strategic operations from Asia to South America to the Middle East, of which North's publicized indiscretions were but a small, included part.

We subsequently established that the authority under which "secret government" operations were being carried out, with the full resources of the official U.S. government at their disposal, was Executive Order 12333 and companion EOs, with or without the knowledge of the President who stupidly signed those orders.

We asserted that the task now facing the nation, with the nation's very survival hanging in the balance, was to root out and destroy this "secret government," before it destroyed the best allies of the United States around the world, in the service of an imagined deal with the Kremlin leadership.

Now, after seemingly interminable weeks of testimony, the congressional Iran-Contra hearings have finally heard, from Oliver North's lips, that he was involved in the planning of a wide range of covert operations outside normal government channels—prompting one senator to exclaim that this constituted revelation of a "secret government within our government." And, they also heard, from Oliver North's lips, during the same week of testimony, the phrase "Executive Order 12333."

Sen. William Cohen rightly called this "perhaps the most serious revelation to have taken place during the course of these proceedings."

Now, the hearings become interesting. A lot of trees could begin to fall. All of them, in fact. Will the Congress of the United States now start facing the real issue, the "secret government" issue?

Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress and their respective party leaderships, including members of the Iran-Contra committees themselves, have some dirty laundry to wash in connection with the revealed "secret government" and its "legal" foundation in EO 12333. Panel member Sen. Sam Nunn, among others, is up to his eyeballs in the "secret government" mess. He can take a fair share of the credit for the abominable EO 12333 being drafted and signed. The leaderships of the Democratic and Republican parties jointly occupy positions at the National Endowment for Democracy. The National Endowment for Democracy has a covert arm, a covert arm used by the "secret government" for its dirty operations, namely, the "Project Democracy" repeatedly referred to by North in his private memos.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, chairing the hearings, immediately interrupted North's testimony when the phrase "Executive Order 12333" was uttered. The panel thereupon went into executive session—that is, secret.

12333 has indeed become a magic number. Neither the *New York Times* nor the *Washington Post*, in their transcripts of the hearings, even mentioned the incident involving EO 12333. And the *Manchester Union Leader*, in its coverage of a press conference by *EIR* founder and presidential candidate LaRouche, reported on his statements concerning EO 12333 in this way: "an intelligence operation run under Executive Order *****."

The question now is, does the Congress of the United States have the guts to face squarely the task *EIR* defined for it four months ago, a task the Tower Commission proved itself unwilling to face? Does the Congress of the United States have the guts to face the real issue in the Iran-Contra affair? Does the Congress of the United States have the guts to expose, root out, and destroy the "secret government"?

This it must do, although, in doing so, all the trees in the forest will fall. Let the real "Iran-Contra probe" begin.