

National News

NASA scientists promote Mars mission

Three hundred scientists gathered in Boulder, Colorado on July 23-26 for the third annual "Case for Mars" conference, to discuss the scientific requirements for a manned Mars mission, and the need for a national political mandate for the effort.

Conference chairman Tom Paine, who headed up the President's National Commission on Space, declared in his opening address that the main reason that man should go to Mars is "the prospect of the limitless growth potential of mankind . . . opening an unlimited frontier that will eliminate malthusian limits to human aspirations."

NASA administrator James Fletcher enthusiastically endorsed the report of the National Commission on Space, issued one year ago, which called for a manned Mars mission.

"People could very easily be en route to Mars in the second decade of the next century," Fletcher stated. Because so much needs to be done before that can happen, "We must begin now to define such a mission, and to define the technologies that will be required for its success." Other spokesmen from the space agency stressed the fact that the new Office of Exploration that Dr. Fletcher has established, will be evaluating these long-term planning goals for the U.S. space program.

Hart wins ruling on campaign funds

A federal judge has ruled that nearly \$30,000 in contributions seized at a Hollywood fundraiser for Gary Hart cannot be used to pay off his 1984 campaign debts, AP reported on July 21. District Judge James M. Ideman in Los Angeles said the funds must be returned to Hart's 1988 campaign committee, and that it would be unjust to use the money raised by one group to pay off the debts of another.

The decision was a victory for Hart and his supporters, who had argued that the two campaign committees were separate organizations. The money was seized April 15 by federal marshals, after suit was filed by a creditor.

Hart withdrew from the presidential race on May 8.

Nofziger indictment puts Meese on notice

Former White House adviser Lyn Nofziger, a close associate of President Reagan, was indicted on six counts of violating federal ethics law on July 14. He was charged with lobbying the administration on behalf of Wedtech Corp., Fairchild Industries, and a maritime union.

The indictment stems from an investigation by Special Prosecutor James McKay, who is also investigating U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, in connection with the Wedtech case. Wedtech, which had paid Nofziger lavish fees, had allegedly secured no-bid defense contracts with the government through the intervention of Meese.

Nofziger responded to the charges in a written statement which charged that prosecutor McKay "and his large staff of lawyers, FBI agents, and IRS investigators have systematically ruined my good name, my business, and my finances. . . . This action comes at the expense of justice and fair play. . . . I am innocent of any deliberate violation of the law, and if the independent counsel wants my scalp, he will have to get it the old-fashioned way."

According to informed sources, the Nofziger indictment and the threat to indict Meese are intended to prepare the way for removing Meese as attorney general. Meese is already in trouble as a result of Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh's investigation of the Justice Department's role in covering up the Iran-Contra scandal. Nofziger was on a lavish retainer from Carl "Spitz" Channell, who recently pleaded guilty to tax evasion in connection with laundering NSC funds to the Contras.

Cover-up continues on Executive Order 12333

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater reacted as though he had seen a ghost, when *EIR's* White House correspondent Nicholas F. Benton asked him at the July 20 press briefing what he could say about the nature or contents of Executive Order 12333. Fitzwater sputtered that he would say nothing on matters dealing with covert operations.

As *EIR* has reported in recent issues, the order, signed by the President on Dec. 4, 1981, gave the green light for actions by the "secret government" that are now being exposed in congressional hearings, as well as for "dirty tricks" against political opponents of that faction of the intelligence community known as "the bankers' CIA."

In related news, Michael Ratner, the legal director for the Center for Constitutional Rights, raised the issue of EO 12333 in a letter to the editor published in the *New York Times* on July 19. Ratner says its "surprising" that none of the members of the congressional Irangate committees brought EO 12333 to the attention of the witnesses, given that it identifies the National Security Council as the "highest executive branch entity" providing direction and guidance on all intelligence and counterintelligence activities.

In view of this, he writes, "it is disingenuous to argue that the NSC is not, in the language of the Boland Amendment, an 'agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities.' "

Rangel: 'no evidence' against Contra leaders

Three research institutes—the Christic Institute, the National Security Archives, and the International Center for Development, presented six hours of testimony to the House Select Committee on Narcotics on July 21, concerning links between the Contras and

drug trafficking. But committee chairman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) announced that "none of the witnesses gave any evidence that would show the Contra leadership was involved in drug smuggling."

The House Crime Subcommittee is now taking over the case, and will receive the reams of testimony obtained by Rangel's panel since it began its inquiry in June 1986. The information will also be forwarded to the Judiciary Committee, which will consider whether or not to hold further hearings.

The key question the crime panel will face, according to a report in the *Washington Post*, is whether U.S. government officials deliberately ignored drug dealing by individuals who supplied the Contras. "There were flights going down with goods and guns, and there were flights coming back with drugs," said Rep. James Traficante (D-Ohio). "I don't know how it could occur without someone in this country knowing what's going on."

Greenspan grilled on past economic blunders

Don't ask Alan Greenspan, the new Federal Reserve chairman, if you want to find out what's going on with the U.S. economy. That's the message Senate Banking Committee chief William Proxmire delivered during his questioning of Greenspan July 22.

Proxmire: "When you were chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers during the Ford administration, the Council had a dismal [forecasting] . . . record. I have here a study . . . which you headed; you were wrong by the biggest margin of any in the 11 years '76 through '86. . . . Then we come to the Treasury bill rate . . . there you broke all records for the entire period in errors. . . . Then we come to your forecast on inflation . . . there, again, you broke all records. . . . Your estimates on unemployment . . . were way off in those areas."

Greenspan: ". . . I will explain to you, as best I can, the imminent sense of failure of my mission. . . . I feel sorry for me."

During the years Greenspan was so wrong, *EIR's Quarterly Economic Report* had an unmatched record of forecasting accuracy on the real U.S. economy.

Superior Court rules against du Pont Smith

The Pennsylvania Superior Court in Philadelphia has affirmed a lower court decision, ruling political activist Lewis du Pont Smith "mentally incompetent" to manage his estate. The ruling, issued on July 21, confers on the associate of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, the status of a virtual political prisoner in his own country.

The lower court had ruled to strip away Smith's right to vote, to marry, and to manage his financial affairs, because of the opposition of his family to his political views. Smith is an heir to the du Pont family fortune.

The appellate court entirely avoided the constitutional questions in the case, by claiming that such questions can only be considered in Pennsylvania upon notice to the attorney general.

Smith said that he planned to appeal the new ruling "as soon as possible." His avenue of appeal would be the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

The decision, he said, "makes a mockery of the U.S. Constitution. It's the kind of court that is found all over the U.S.S.R., where political dissidents are routinely convicted and sent off to Gulags," under the guise of being "mentally incompetent."

He warned, "The United States is turning into George Orwell's *1984*."

Smith added that he has received information indicating that it was Edgar Bronfman, who has recently taken over the DuPont Company, who "prompted my family to take the actions against me starting in November 1985, and who prompted the more recent actions by my alcoholic father to nullify my marriage."

He said that his father and Bronfman share an "obsessive" hatred of the political views of Lyndon LaRouche.

Briefly

● **PRESIDENT REAGAN** called former NASA administrator James Beggs on July 22, to apologize for his indictment by the Justice Department two years ago, saying that the recently dropped suit should never have been brought.

● **SEN. DANIEL MOYNIHAN** will introduce a sweeping welfare revision bill to force parents of dependent children into low-wage jobs, or face loss of their welfare benefits. The bill would require mothers of children three years or older to take workfare jobs.

● **ELLIOTT ABRAMS** was forced to testify under oath on July 21 before the House Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee, where he was called upon to discuss loans to the Chilean government. Rep. Bruce Morrison (D-Conn.) cited Abrams's lies to Congress in the Iran-Contra affair, adding that without an oath, "we have no legal assurance that he feels compelled to respond accurately, truthfully, and fully."

● **SEN. ALBERT GORE**, during his first presidential campaign swing through New Hampshire, met with environmentalists and pledged to reopen investigations into the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

● **ABRAHAM FOXMAN** was named national director of the drug mob's Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith on July 20, succeeding Nathan Perlmutter, who died the week before. Foxman, who was born in Poland in 1940, had been associate national director. He joined the ADL in 1965.

● **OLIVER NORTH'S** "second channel" to the Iranian mullahs is still operating, according to highly placed sources in the Iranian opposition. This channel is being used to continue contact with elements of the Khomeini regime centered around Speaker of Parliament Rafsanjani.