

Purge at Meese Justice Dept.: Will Bush survive?

by Joseph Brewda

The abrupt forced resignations of two top officials in the U.S. Justice Department on March 29 have raised new questions as to whether the presidential candidacy of Vice President George Bush will survive. The ousted officials, Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns, and Assistant Attorney General William F. Weld, the director of the department's criminal division, reportedly left after losing a faction fight to force Attorney General Edwin Meese to resign. Several other Weld-Burns senior allies have recently left or may soon be leaving the department.

The department has already experienced the biggest purge and mass exodus of senior personnel since then Attorney General Elliot Richardson, a mentor of Weld, exited during the middle of Watergate.

The most significant feature of the purge of the Weld faction is that that faction has been essential to protecting George Bush within the Reagan administration, and otherwise covering up for the most atrocious policies of the department. Without Weld's clique, in fact, it is inconceivable that the Vice President could have been protected from devastating disclosures on his leading role in the Iran-Contra arms sales. The expulsion of Weld may mean the Vice President can no longer be protected.

The recent gutting of the leadership of the department has been spectacular. Burns and Weld, the second and fourth ranking officials in the DoJ, respectively, unexpectedly announced their resignations on March 29. In an amusing display of venomous rage, Weld announced that his sudden resignation would be effective by 5:00 p.m. that day. Their factional ally, Associate Attorney General Stephen Trott, the third ranking DoJ official, had departed the previous day, following an appointment to the California bench. Four other officers also left with Burns and Weld, including two Assistant Deputy Attorney Generals, and an Acting Deputy Assis-

tant Attorney General.

According to various reports, numerous other high officials tied to the Weld-Burns clique may soon be leaving. These include Solicitor General Charles Fried, the fourth ranking official in the department's table of organization, and Michael Shaheen, the director of the Criminal Division's misnamed Office of Public Integrity. Civil Division director Richard Willard, a Bush appointee and former partner of James Baker III's law firm, quietly left in February.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mark Richard, the key "dirty tricks" and cover-up specialist of the entire network, left on "sabbatical" to Harvard last January.

Bluff and bluster

Immediately after their resignations, Weld and Burns put out the word that they, and their faction, left because they had failed to oust Attorney General Meese, allegedly due to their embarrassment over his legal troubles. Meese is the subject of an investigation by specially appointed independent counsel James McKay over his curious dealings with the Bronx defense contractor Wedtech. Wedtech officer and Meese's personal attorney, E. Robert Wallach, has been indicted for conspiracy to bribe federal officials to secure Wedtech federal contracts.

In an exclusive interview with the *New York Times'* Fox Butterfield on March 31, the sanctimonious Weld blustered that if he were prosecuting the Wedtech case, he would have had to "seriously consider indicting Meese," based on the evidence in hand. Weld and Burns visited White House counselor Howard Baker one day prior to their departure, demanding Meese's resignation, and left, they claimed, because they did not want to be "tainted."

On cue, the *Christian Science Monitor*, which has editorially endorsed Bush, called for Meese's immediate resig-

nation. Other Eastern Establishment press moaned that the "sleazy" Meese has disgraced the department, and caused such demoralization that even the graffiti in the executive's bathrooms scream "Meese-resign!"

In response to these calls for his ouster, and the mass resignation, Meese has firmly stated he saw "no reason" to step down from his post.

The real slime

While the Meese Justice Department is perhaps the most corrupt in U.S. history, most critics completely misevaluate the reasons for the current sad state of department. True, Edwin Meese is a greedy in-fighter, perhaps better suited to be a small town sheriff, where his corruption would have less devastating, international repercussions.

Meese's dealings with Wedtech, for example, which have been previously exposed in *EIR*, betray a manipulable personality who views his post as primarily a means to enrich himself. That, and protecting his long time crony Ronald Reagan from prosecution, is all that the Attorney General apparently cares about.

As a result of Meese's narrow concerns, he has allowed "high-class" criminals like Burns and Weld to set the department's agenda. Their agenda has been to protect the Wall Street banks from prosecution for drug money laundering, crush any opponents to the treasonous New Yalta deals which the Reagan administration has been negotiating with Moscow since the 1986 Reykjavik summit, and get the unelectable George Bush elected through crushing his opponents.

Through the influence of the Weld clique, the DoJ has become a KGB-style gestapo, and, in fact, overt cooperation between the U.S. Justice Department and the Soviet KGB has been massively upgraded under Weld.

Consider William Floyd Weld.

Although a descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Weld typifies all that is rotten about the Eastern Establishment. In the 19th century the Weld family became rich through running opium to China. The family has continued in financing the dope trade. Weld's wife, Susan Roosevelt Weld, is the granddaughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, one of the most treasonous individuals in U.S. history, whose family has also been historically tied to opium.

In 1985, Weld, then U.S. Attorney in Boston, announced he reached a plea bargain with the Bank of Boston, which had been caught laundering \$1.2 billion in illicit funds in 1,660 separate transactions. Weld reduced the indictment to one count, and fined the bank a mere \$500,000, less than even the interest earned on the laundered cash.

It was not merely that Weld's family fortune is tied to the Bank of Boston criminal network that led Weld to protect the institution. The Bank was not just laundering dope funds. The Bank was also collaborating with U.S. intelligence in laundering funds for the arms smuggling deals later made

famous by the Iran-Contra affair.

As a reward for protecting this Iran-Contra funding network, Vice President Bush and then White House Chief of Staff Don Regan, installed the young thug at the Criminal Division. Both Bush and Regan's families are financially tied to Weld's. Since his appointment, Weld has consistently acted to protect Bush. Evidence available to this news service indicates that he has:

- Suppressed investigations which linked the Contras to cocaine trafficking. In two separate instances, Weld, and Stephen Trott, personally intervened to block an investigation into the connection of the Bush-linked Southern Air Transport with cocaine and arms smuggling to the Contras and Iran. Weld's effort to cover up the circumstances of a SAT-owned cargo plane crash over Nicaragua on Oct. 5, 1986 failed. This failure ultimately led to the Iran-Contra affair.

- Suppressed a 1986 investigation into illicit financial transactions at the U.S. embassy in Switzerland by Ambassador Faith Whittlesey, one of George Bush's Iran-Contra operatives.

- Organized the political frameup of Lyndon LaRouche and several LaRouche associates for obstruction of justice. The attack on LaRouche had been publicly ordered by Soviet publications, and covertly demanded by Soviet representatives in the United States, as a part of their requirement to secure a New Yalta deal. The covert side of the operation against LaRouche was shopped in under specific national security provisions of Executive Order 12333, which were drafted by Bush appointee Richard Willard, the former civil division director. Rumor has it that Weld had been promised the post of Attorney General in a George Bush administration.

Similarly, Weld ally, Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns, has hardly been a paragon of patriotism.

A career civil attorney with no government experience, Burns was parachuted into the department in 1985 at the behest of Jeremiah Milbank, a blue-blood relative of the family which created the elite Wall Street law firm, Milbank, Tweed. From the standpoint of aristocratic families like the Milbanks and Welds, the Jewish Burns has excellent qualifications. His law firm has long represented Sterling National Bank, the premier money-laundering institution of the New York garment center. Sterling was not only caught laundering the millions of funds which deceased Italian con-man Michele Sindona looted from the Vatican. It is the bank of the Meyer Lansky syndicate's main political arm, the Anti-Defamation League.

Moreover, Burns is a leading board member of Detroit gangster Max Fisher's National Jewish Coalition of the Republican National Committee, which has functioned as George Bush's official liaison to the Jewish wing of organized crime. The NJC's founding treasurer was Wall Street con-man Ivan Boesky, until his recent incarceration for stock market fraud.