

DoJ's 'Pentagate' is just beginning

by Leo Scanlon

The full scope of the FBI's ongoing terror campaign against the U.S. defense establishment was underlined by Henry Hudson, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, who announced that the Department of Justice (DoJ) investigation of "corruption in defense procurement" is not expected to produce any indictments before the end of the year. In other words, the investigation is an open-ended attack on the defense community. Hudson made the remarks during several grandstand appearances at the end of June, wherein he briefed congressional and administration officials on the "investigation."

The Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* wasted no time in applauding the KGB-style actions of the FBI against the Pentagon. Washington correspondent A. Blinov wrote on June 19, "The illegal operation facilitated the peculiar union between military bureaucracy and business elements: Very often leading Pentagon positions were filled by former corporation leaders." The newspaper particularly scored Pentagon funding for advanced weapons systems in secretly funded, or "black" programs. After all, the elimination of these high-technology programs is a top priority for the Soviets.

The political nature of the Justice Department's investigation, and the underhanded role of its author William Weld, former head of the DoJ's Criminal Division, were identified in an Aug. 11, 1987 letter from former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to Attorney General Ed Meese, protesting the testimony Weld had delivered to Congress that summer. According to a report in the *Washington Post* on June 23, Weinberger said that Weld's "statement that military officials overlook infractions of defense contractors . . . [was] most objectionable" and a "disservice to the administration, to the Department of Defense, and to the many men and women involved in Defense acquisition. I am sure you will agree Ed, that our departments should not try to point fingers and lay blame on each other as Assistant Attorney General Weld's statement appears to do, particularly in a public forum."

Unbeknownst to Weinberger, Weld was already planning his spectacular attack on the Pentagon. Law enforcement sources told the *Washington Post* that the investigation, which Weld was conducting at the time the letter was written, was concealed from Weinberger and Meese at the urging of Henry Hudson—allegedly because of fear of leaks.

Yet it turns out that Weld and his cronies have much to fear themselves from any truthful investigation: It is now reported that Weld's mentor and co-conspirator in the Justice Department, former Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns, was at that time pushing to secure a seat on the federal bench for his "former" law partner, Stuart Summit, while the firm was paying Burns nearly \$1 million! Burns and Weld were both forced to resign from the Justice Department on March 29 of this year, following a failed power play against Meese.

Permanent investigations

With Hudson's revelation that he will be "investigating" until after the general election, the planned outline of the DoJ scheme is coming into view. The raid is only the beginning of the terrorization of defense contractors being planned by the DoJ. Press reports claim that several of the individuals first named in the probe have begun to cooperate with the prosecutors, by implicating others. The small circle of consultants tied to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Melvyn Paisley, and the interlocked companies they are associated with, are important only because they allow the investigation to proceed to the defense community at large, as well as to the Congress, through the political action committees they controlled.

The investigation itself is being coordinated by a vast apparatus of bureaucrats that was created for exactly such operations. An important step in making such witchhunts possible, was the 1981-82 consolidation of the inspectors general (IGs) of the various Executive branch agencies into the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE), an organization which is mandated to achieve 27,000 successful prosecutions and 10,000 administrative sanctions against individuals and firms doing business with the government by the end of 1988!

Each IG's office coordinates up to several hundred investigators, who are primarily assigned to review financial practices and guard against fraudulent practices within their departments. Since their consolidation into the PCIE, the IG staffs have been brought into the web of political police practices directed by the FBI's Oliver "Buck" Revell, who chairs the Investigation/Law Enforcement Committee of the PCIE. Revell's position mirrors the coordinating role he played in the dirty-tricks branch of the Iran-Contra networks.

According to June Brown, IG of the Department of Defense, the largest investigation prior to the current one is ongoing in Los Angeles, under the code name "DEFCON" (Defense Contractor). The DEFCON investigation is being used as a training school for investigators from around the country. It has resulted in 50 indictments or prosecutions since 1985. The present investigation will dwarf this in scope, and will consolidate the principle of open-ended, unrestricted investigations that are permitted by the "Webster Guidelines" governing the FBI. These guidelines are manifestly unconstitutional, and will be exposed in future articles.