

# Ritual abuse case shakes Nebraska

by Patricia Salisbury

The President of the Nebraska Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse has sent a letter to the entire Nebraska U.S. congressional delegation, asking that the reporting procedures for monitoring children in foster homes in the state be investigated.

This formal request comes after months of investigation of charges of child abuse, possible ritual murder, and Satanic activity involving at least one high-level figure in the Nebraska and national Republican Party, the flamboyant fundraiser Larry King. The charges have been the subject of investigation by a special committee of the state legislature, which has also heard testimony indicating that various police and social service agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Omaha Police Department, the state Attorney General's office, are involved in a coverup.

Indeed, the scandal erupting in Nebraska is apparently considered so potentially explosive, that none other than former CIA director William Colby was proposed as special counsel to a state legislative investigation. But Colby was rejected for the post, when members of the legislative committee learned that he could hardly be an impartial investigator, since he is connected through CIA networks to Max Hugel, an associate of Larry King in Washington, D.C. This was one of the first hints that the case would reach far beyond Nebraska. There were to be many others.

## Child sex abuse and murder

The issue is such a hot potato, because its central figure Larry King is known to be very well connected in both Nebraska and national power structures. King promotes his image as a poor black who has made good as a member of the Republican jet set. The scandal erupted when King was indicted for having allegedly embezzled \$38 million from a small credit union set up to serve Omaha's black community.

State legislators investigating the affair were approached by members of the state's Foster Care Review Board who told them that a dossier linking King to child abuse had been ignored by state and federal law enforcement officials. The dossier contained charges by minors in foster homes that they had been forced to go to parties sponsored by King and to perform sexual acts. Most damning was the statement of one 15-year-old girl that she had been sexually abused by

King and had witnessed the Satanic ritual murder of a boy who was planning to complain of abuse. Astonished legislators had to consider the possibility that tens of millions of dollars deposited in good faith by religious orders, among others, to help the minority community, had actually been used to fund orgies and Satanic rituals involving minors and high public officials.

King, who was vice president for finance of the National Black Republican Council, was known to play host to the cream of the Republican Party both in Nebraska and in Washington, D.C. He maintained a \$5,000 a month residence in Washington, and had hosted a \$100,000 gala at the Republican National Convention attended by 1,000 top Republican Party members. Locally, a number of prominent figures, including Harold Andersen of the *Omaha World Herald*, sat on the advisory board of Franklin Credit, the plundered institution. Andersen, who chaired a fundraising drive for a building expansion of Franklin, stated that he was not aware that the additions to the building included a bedroom in the basement.

While King was indicted on embezzlement charges, none of the law enforcement agencies involved in the matter saw fit to conduct a thorough investigation of the allegations of child abuse and Satanism. Both the FBI and the Nebraska state Attorney General indicated that they did not find the child witnesses credible. However, the police officer who did the initial investigation into the murder charges disagreed, and informed the state legislature that he had found the girl a credible witness, but that the investigation was stymied because of what he perceived to be an association between King and Omaha Police Chief Wadman. The state legislature investigation halted when the *Omaha World Herald* leaked confidential information in an editorial and undermined the credibility of State Rep. Ernie Chambers, a Democrat, who had initiated the child abuse investigation.

No one can predict where or whom the investigation will touch if it resumes at the behest of the U.S. Congress. Rumors have circulated in Omaha that King was part of the apparatus running money to the Contras. King had family ties and made frequent trips to Jamaica, which is believed to be the location of bank accounts which have been a major source of illicit Contra funding. Sources indicate that King carried briefcases full of money on these and other trips.

## Is Henry Kissinger involved?

Strangely, as ferment around the King case reached a peak in late July, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made a trip to Nebraska whose ostensible purpose was to attend a July 27 meeting of the board of directors of Union Pacific Railroad. During his trip Kissinger had lunch with the above-mentioned Harold Andersen. Does Kissinger have something at stake in this matter? The answer may only be known if the Congress finds the will to renew the investigation.