

# Roskens 'sleaze factor' at U.S. AID could be bad news for Bush campaign

by an EIR Investigative Team

Dr. Ronald W. Roskens, head of the U.S. State Department Agency for International Development (AID), is the subject of a scandal in which he is being charged with violating federal laws and ethics codes, according to the Oct. 6 *Washington Post*. A report prepared by AID Inspector General Herbert Beckington dated April 5 and leaked to the *Post*, charges Roskens with accepting thousands of dollars in payments from "different organizations in compensation of his and his wife's travel expenses" while Roskens was on official government travel. He also took money for a private trip from a company "from which Roskens had agreed to divest himself as a condition of his presidential appointment."

The inspector general concluded that the money accepted by Roskens was a clear conflict of interest and violated federal law against earning non-government income. But on Sept. 4, after reviewing the charges, the Department of Justice (DoJ) informed Beckington that it had decided not to prosecute—giving no explanation for its decision. The White House is reviewing the case.

Congressional investigators are already looking into the allegations. Should they scratch below the surface, they will find that this is not the first time Roskens has been touched by scandal. Although President Bush promised that he would not tolerate even the appearance of impropriety in his administration, Congress should not be surprised if the White House threatens to start "breaking legs" in Roskens's defense.

## Friend of Bush

It is not just that Roskens is a personal friend of the President—although he is. As we shall indicate below, an unimpeded investigation into Roskens could expose the link between Bush's little-publicized birth control mania—much of which is carried out through the State Department's AID in the Third World—and the sexual depravity rampant in U.S. political and intelligence elites. Any such scandal could shatter the illusions of Bush's conservative base, many of whom still accept the President's claims to being "pro-life," "anti-drug," and an American patriot. It should also make anyone who thinks of the propaganda about Bush being the "education President," deeply queasy.

Roskens left his home state of Nebraska for the nation's

capital in early 1990 enmeshed in controversy. He had been fired suddenly as president of the University of Nebraska, in a secret meeting of the state Board of Regents in July 1989. No public explanation was given for his removal. Yet within weeks, the White House offered Roskens the high-profile job in Washington. The administration knew about the controversy in Nebraska, but Roskens passed an FBI background check, and was confirmed to head AID.

The FBI appears to have overlooked a Feb. 19, 1990 investigative report by the late Gary Caradori, an investigator for the "Franklin Committee" of the Nebraska Senate and an ex-state trooper. He wrote, "I was informed that Roskens [sic] was terminated by the state because of sexual activities reported to the Regents and verified by them. Mr. Roskens [sic] was reported to have had young men at his residence for sexual encounters. As part of the separation from the state, he had to move out of the state-owned house because of the liability to the state if some of this sexual behavior was 'illegal.'" Caradori died in a suspicious airplane crash last year.

## Suit seeks truth on firing

The Omaha office of Associated Press regularly identifies Roskens as follows: "the former president of the University of Nebraska who was fired without public explanation by the NU Board of Regents." A lawsuit was filed against the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to force a full explanation of why Roskens was fired. The suit was brought by Dan Meyer of Lincoln. His attorney is John DeCamp, a former Republican state senator.

The attorney representing the Board of Regents, Terry Wittler, said, "The regents met in closed session to discuss personnel matters and avoid needless injury to Roskens's reputation," according to the Jan. 24, 1991 *Lincoln Journal Star*. The "open meetings law" of the state of Nebraska says that a public body, such as the Board of Regents, which is popularly elected, may hold a closed session if it is "clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting." Roskens demanded no such public meeting.

Board of Regents chairman Nancy Hoch tried to work

out a "friendly" agreement with Roskens but he turned it down. Regent Robert Allen told the press that Roskens thought the board couldn't fire him because of his strong support in the state legislature. Yet, in a 7-1 vote in a closed session on July 31, 1989, Roskens was fired. According to Regent Allen, the two attorneys for the board had told the regents that Roskens had placed a provision in his buyout contract which prohibited any disclosures. Regent Hoch told the media as late as December 1990 that lawyers were still advising her to keep quiet about the firing. "That is not to say the board wouldn't like to comment, but we had been told we should not comment on it," she told the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

### **'No fiscal or moral questions'**

In an April 24, 1990 article in the *Omaha World Herald* entitled "Praise Flows as Roskens Is Sworn in as AID Chief," made up mostly of paeans from President Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle, and Secretary of State James Baker, the firing is mentioned in an odd fashion. The *World Herald* reported, "Roskens was removed as president of the University of Nebraska last year by the Board of Regents in a closed meeting. After the meeting, the board would say only that its decision did not involve fiscal or moral questions."

Had someone made such an accusation? According to sources in Nebraska politics and at the university, rumors circulated alleging that Roskens engaged in indiscretions with male minors while president of the university. Although his supporters claim he was ousted over his struggle for administrative control of the university against an overly intrusive Board of Regents, the rumor has gained currency and has yet to be put to rest.

There is no independent confirmation of the accusations against Roskens. But similar charges against other prominent Nebraskans have persisted as fallout from a Nebraska State Senate investigation into a sex and money scandal that continues to rock the Midwestern state.

The scandal originated with the collapse of the minority-oriented Franklin Community Credit Union in Omaha, directed by Lawrence E. King, Jr., a black former Republican Party influential and Reagan-Bush campaign activist. King became the subject of the Nebraska Senate's investigation conducted by the specially created "Franklin Committee" to probe charges of embezzlement.

### **Satanism and child abuse**

In November 1988, King's offices were raided by the FBI and \$40 million was discovered missing. Within weeks, the Nebraska Senate, which initially opened an inquiry to find out where the money had gone, instead found itself questioning young adults who said they had been child prostitutes. Social workers and state child-care administrators accused King of running a child prostitution ring.

King is now serving a 15-year federal prison sentence for

defrauding the Omaha-based credit union. But the magazines *Avvenimenti* of Italy and *Pronto* of Spain, among others, have charged that King's crimes were more serious: that he ran a national child prostitution ring that serviced the political and business elite of both Republican and Democratic parties. Child victims of King's operations charged him with participating in at least one satanic ritual murder of a child several years ago. The *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *National Law Journal* covered the full range of accusations when the story broke in November 1988. King's money machinations were also linked to the Iran-Contra affair, and some say King provided the CIA with information garnered from his alleged activities as a "pimp" for the high and mighty.

*Pronto*, the Barcelona-based, largest circulation weekly in Spain with 4.5 million readers, reported in its Aug. 3 and Aug. 10 issues that the Lawrence E. King child-prostitution scandal "appears to directly implicate politicians of the state of Nebraska and Washington, D.C. who are very close to the White House and George Bush himself."

The weekly stated that Roy Stephens, a private investigator who has worked on the case and heads the Missing Youth Foundation, "says there is reason to believe that the CIA is directly implicated," and that the "FBI refuses to help in the investigation and has sabotaged any efforts" to get to the bottom of the story. Stephens says that "Paul Bonacci directly accused President Bush of being implicated" in the affair when he testified before the Franklin Committee. Bonacci, who had been one of the child prostitutes, is identified by leading child-abuse experts as a well-informed, credible witness.

### **Roskens knew Lawrence King**

The unsavory Lawrence King was no stranger to Roskens. Both were part of the Republican Party elite in the Cornhusker State. According to the Sept. 7, 1988 *Metropolitan*, a weekly newspaper, "King is an adviser to the UNO Chancellor's advisory committee." Roskens was chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) until 1977, when he was promoted to head the entire university system, and moved to the capital of Lincoln.

Sources also allege that Roskens played a role in securing investments during the 1980s into King's credit union. While president of the university, Roskens sat on the board of directors of the Enron Corp., now a Houston-based oil firm which was originally headquartered in Omaha. In 1986, the Enron Foundation, the oil company's corporate philanthropic arm, bought \$200,000 in certificates of deposit from Lawrence King's credit union.

The company identified in the AID inspector general's report as having paid for Roskens's travel, "from which Dr. Roskens had agreed to divest himself as a condition of his presidential appointment," is none other than the *Enron Corp.*, according to Cable News Network.

Roskens was also a friend and political associate of Har-

old Andersen, publisher of the *Omaha World Herald*, the leading state daily, an early booster of Lawrence King's career. Andersen led fundraising drives on behalf of King's credit union. He was also accused of being a sexual abuser of children during the State Senate investigation.

In 1987, Roskens was vice chairman of a special task force on which Harold Andersen also served, which had been set up by Gov. Kay Orr to secure the move of U.S. West Airlines headquarters to Nebraska, according to a June 23, 1987 article in the *Lincoln Journal Star*. Andersen's Washington connection is his friend and political associate Robert Keith Gray, a long-standing Republican Party public relations consultant—who managed some of the public diplomacy during the Iran-Contra scandal.

### **The Bush insiders**

Given the cloud under which Roskens left Nebraska, it might seem odd that he was quickly boosted into a top foreign-policy post in Washington. The key seems to have been a circle of Bush "insiders." "Prominent Republican Dick Herman, more than anyone else is credited by Ronald Roskens with helping him win a top federal job after he was fired as president of the University of Nebraska," reported the *Sunday WorldHerald* on May 6, 1990. The article reported that "Herman said he and his wife, Peg, have known Bush and his wife Barbara, more than 20 years since the time when Bush was chairman of the Republican Party." It was Herman who introduced Roskens to Bush.

"I ran his [Bush's] ad hoc committee when he ran for vice president under President Ford," Herman told the *World Herald*. Herman, a Nebraska native who is an influential fundraiser for the Republican National Committee, owns a beer distributing company in Los Angeles. "I saw the President a couple of times, and we talked about Roskens," Herman said.

When Bush was elected President in 1988, Roskens was one of only seven university presidents who were called in by Bush to work on his "education strategy."

### **Ties to the intelligence community**

Evidence suggests that Roskens has also maintained a relationship with the U.S. intelligence community. In the early 1970s, he was a consultant to the Office of Emergency Preparedness, the precursor to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He played a central role in quelling public outrage in the aftermath of the killing of anti-war students by the Ohio National Guard at Kent State University, where he was then executive vice president.

Roskens has a reputation as an international affairs specialist because of his activism in creating ground-breaking academic exchange programs. He set up the largest academic exchange program with Afghanistan in the U.S. in the 1980s. The University of Nebraska and Kabul University had a "sister" relationship. All U.S.-based Afghan operations were, of

course, run by intelligence outfits at the time. During the same period, he set up an extensive overseas college program for many U.S. Air Force bases in Europe. In 1972, Roskens was one of the first to establish academic exchange programs with the Soviet Union—in those days carefully coordinated by the State Department and the CIA.

Roskens was on President Bush's short list to be U.S. ambassador to communist China. He has visited China nine times since the mid-1970s.

### **Roskens and population control**

AID is often accused of being a front for CIA operations in the Third World, and Roskens's background has not helped in dispelling the charge. The full horror of what the CIA's notion of "national security" means concretely came out several months ago, when Brazil's health minister accused AID and several U.S.-based private organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, of "genocide." The minister stated that millions of Brazilian women had been involuntarily sterilized through AID "birth control" programs.

Roskens is himself an advocate of population control, according to Joe Seacrest, the chief editor for the *Lincoln Journal Star*, who offered Roskens his home in Omaha as a temporary residence, after Roskens was kicked out of his university home prior to his move to Washington. Moreover, Roskens has reaped the largesse of the largest private funder of population control advocacy groups in the U.S., Omaha resident Warren Buffett, chairman of Salomon Brothers and the second richest American (see *EIR*, Oct. 4, 1991). The Buffett Foundation gave \$51,000 to the University of Nebraska in 1988, while Roskens was president.

In January 1990, Roskens pushed the "family planning" line during a whirlwind tour of seven African nations with Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan. Roskens reported that by the year 2000, there would be more than 10 million children on the African continent infected with the AIDS virus. Pressed by the media to articulate solutions, Roskens was evasive, but did say, according to a *Lincoln Journal Star* article on Feb. 3, 1991, that one of the major problems he saw affecting the continent was population growth. He said that most of the families he saw in Africa had 7-8 children, and at that rate, the population will double within 20 years, he warned. He commented that AID spends more than \$200 million a year on "family planning."

Some students of the Freemasonry believe that homosexual deviance and the correlated obsession with birth control go back to the Gnostic belief structures of the Freemasons and their antecedents in the medieval European "Buggers." It is therefore interesting that Roskens is playing a central role in masonic outreach to Russia and eastern Europe. Roskens lists in his *Who's Who* entry, "King Ak Sar Ben LXXXVI, 1980." Ak Sar Ben (Nebraska spelled backwards) is the elite masonic organization of Nebraska, which crowns a "king" at an annual ball.