

Thornburgh slings mud to evade scandal

Living up to his reputation for police-state tactics to cover his own corruption, former U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh has filled the airwaves of Pennsylvania with reports that sound to voters as if his election opponent, U.S. Senator Harris Wofford (D-Penn.), has been indicted for "campaign finance irregularities."

Thornburgh aides have been demanding that the Department of Justice (DoJ) indict Wofford, whom he is massively outspending, for "improper fundraising." This began with a press release stating that the campaign would "file criminal charges" with Pittsburgh U.S. Attorney Tom Corbett. Corbett's wife is a member of the Republican State Committee that nominated Thornburgh as a candidate in the special election for U.S. Senate.

The misleading coverage hit the news just at the point when Wofford's campaign had publicly charged criminal acts by Thornburgh and his law firm, Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, for providing Thornburgh with illegal campaign contributions by paying him a salary for little or no work. Wofford has also hit a raw nerve by demanding disclosure of the clients of the firm, and exactly which accounts Thornburgh, as a partner, is sharing revenues from. One question Wofford's campaign has raised, is whether Thornburgh is receiving moneys from the dozen companies that retain K&L's Washington, D.C. office

to lobby the DoJ—which would be a flagrant criminal violation.

Thornburgh and K&L have played a role in mediating the relationship between the Mellon banking family interests and organized crime. For example, a Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) lawsuit was filed against K&L in 1989 for allegedly helping mobster Victor Posner loot \$30 million out of the Sharon Steel Co. on behalf of their client, MelBank, just before the Sharon, Pennsylvania company was put into bankruptcy. The looting allegedly took place in 1985-86 while Thornburgh, then governor, was sitting on his hands as the state's steel industry was dismantled. The financial "corporate takeover" empire of Meyer Lansky associate Posner was, at the time, according to the suit, one of Mellon's biggest customers.

Much of the destruction of state steel and other industries occurred while Thornburgh was governor. Thornburgh hosted two "state trade missions" to Communist China while he was governor, including one in 1980 arranged by homosexual Washington lobbyist Craig Spence. Shortly after the second mission, a close associate of Spence, former Philadelphia attorney James Gordy, played a key role in the U.S. Steel-Marathon Oil merger which resulted in the shutting down of most of Pennsylvania's steel industry, and the relocation of a large part of the machinery of U.S. Steel's Fairless, Pennsylvania works to Red China. The "trade mission" was arranged through Spence by the law firm of Thornburgh's then-state Attorney General Harvey Bartels, whose name was submitted by the Thornburgh DoJ as an appointee for a federal judgeship. —*Steve Komm*

ciuto was working as a computer technician for a Wackenhut Corp. joint venture housed at the Cabazon Indian Reservation in Indio, California. According to Wackenhut and Cabazon Joint Venture documents obtained by *EIR*, the manager of the project, which involved the development and manufacture of military equipment for the Nicaraguan Contras, was Wackenhut Vice President Robert E. Chasen. From 1977-80, Chasen had been the U.S. Commissioner of Customs.

● Lurking in the background of the Inslaw affair are recurring allegations that Earl Brian had ties to drug smugglers, and he may have resorted to dope deals in an effort to bail himself out of financial problems. In the past year, Brian's corporate empire has crumbled. He was forced to sell off his majority holdings in Financial News Network amid charges by employees that he had siphoned off of capital and had mismanaged the corporation. The other cornerstone of his portfolio, UPI, is now in bankruptcy reorganization.

One federal law enforcement source has identified Brian as having possible links to a man from Westchester County, New York, George Okon, who may have been a Brian con-

tact to organized crime. Okon has been linked by this source and one other law enforcement official to major New York City organized crime families which have been involved in large-scale heroin trafficking in the northeast United States. Brian and Okon were reportedly seen together at Boston's Logan Airport last spring. Phone records show that Danny Casolaro was probing the Brian-Okon links at the time of his death, and had made several calls to Okon's home in Peekskill, New York.

● Perhaps the single most bizarre element of the Casolaro-Inslaw story was reported in the Oct. 15 *Village Voice*. Dan Bishoff, an editor of the paper, received a phone call on Sunday, Aug. 11 from an anonymous man informing him that a reporter had died in West Virginia and that the death would be falsely labeled a suicide. At the time of the call, only the Martinsburg Police knew that Casolaro had died, and they had no idea that he was a reporter. Casolaro's family was not informed about his death until Monday, Aug. 13. Whoever made the call to Bishoff knows a great deal about the circumstances of Casolaro's death . . . and about "The Octopus" that he was stalking.