

National News

Babbitt makes religious attack on U.S. farmers

According to Kathleen Marquardt, of Putting People First, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt spouted pagan Earth worship against U.S. farmers in a recent address to the Humane Society of the United States. "I grew up in a rural tradition which," the former Arizona governor said, "which, for all of its strengths, was uniquely thoughtless in the treatment of animals and to the extent to which the human spirit and human compassion is a factor in our relationship with the rest of Creation."

He continued: "Ultimately there isn't a chance of persuading people, civilizations, and countries to take biodiversity seriously unless they first understand, from the depths of the human spirit, the need to relate to Creation, to be sensitive to the realities of suffering and mistreatment, and to have a larger, holistic, spiritual view of what Creation is about." Babbitt concluded: "We must protect those laws and at the same time start to think even more broadly about how we preserve space on this planet. The problem is a land-use planning issue, an environmental issue, and a spiritual issue."

Pentagon announces new strategic doctrine

As part of a 10-month study of the U.S. nuclear force, the Pentagon is abandoning the posture of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) for a new strategy of Mutual Assured Safety, Defense Secretary William Perry announced on Sept. 22. Perry said the new strategy was to "lead" in making weapons safer, and "hedge" against the failure of reform in Moscow. "By leading, I mean providing a leadership for further and continuing reductions in nuclear weapons so that we could get the benefits of the savings that would be achieved by that," Perry said, adding: "But at the same time we also want to hedge—hedge against a reversal of reform in Russia, a return to an authoritative

military regime hostile to the United States and still armed with 25,000 nuclear weapons."

Nuclear force reductions include:

- Reducing the number of nuclear-missile submarines from 18 to 14, fitting all the submarines with D-5 missiles, and keeping two strategic submarine bases, at Kings Bay, Georgia and Bangor, Washington.

- Cutting the B-52 bomber force by 28 aircraft to 66; eliminating the B-1 as a nuclear bomber and producing no more than 20 B-2 bombers for nuclear missions.

- Maintaining three wings of Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles with a total of 450 to 500 missiles with single warheads.

- Tactical nuclear weapons capabilities will be maintained by a fleet of F-15 and F-16 jets, but nuclear arms and the capability to use them will be eliminated for all Navy ships, except attack submarines, which will remain capable of launching nuclear Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Report blasts CIA handling of Ames spy case

The draft report by CIA Inspector General Frederick Hitz rakes the agency's leadership over the coals for failing to notice highly suspicious activity by confessed spy Aldrich Ames over a nine-year period, according to the Sept. 24 *Washington Post*. The draft report, still classified, was read by *Post* reporter Walter Pincus.

According to his front-page story, Ames handed the Soviet and, later Russian, secret services, 55 U.S. and allied secret intelligence operations over to Moscow, as well as the identities of 35 western spies. The bulk of the 400-page report blames the agency's failure to catch Ames early on, on the "almost complete indifference of senior CIA supervisors" to the devastating losses of their on-the-ground operations inside the Soviet bloc, and the need to launch a serious internal "mole hunt."

According to the Pincus account, after Ames was arrested, the FBI reviewed their files of surveillance photos of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, and found that

Ames had made a series of unauthorized visits there as far back as the mid-1980s. Immediately after each of these visits, according to bank records also obtained by the FBI recently, Ames made a large cash deposit into his accounts.

Ray continues bid for trial in King killing

The Sept. 24 issue of the *Los Angeles Times* ran a major article on the bid of James Earl Ray to be tried for the April 4, 1968 murder of Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee. Ray, who cites new evidence proving his innocence, pleaded guilty 25 years ago after being threatened with the death sentence if he insisted on a jury trial. Ray's bid has received backing from several of King's close associates.

The article cited charges by William Pepper, Ray's London-based attorney, that "there was a broad-based conspiracy to kill King," highlighting the statements of a black Memphis woman, Betty Spates, that her former white lover Lloyd Jowers was involved in the murder. The *Times* continued that Pepper "contends the plot involved the Mafia and possible FBI agents and Memphis police. He accuses the authorities of a coverup."

The article noted that the FBI had planted media stories in an attempt to ensure that King stayed at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, as well as the fact that the Memphis police security detail assigned to him had been pulled back, and various shifts in the FBI/local police detail spying on King in the days leading up to April 4.

George Bush descends on reunified Germany

Former President George Bush descended on Germany to receive full military honors on Sept. 26 in Bonn "for his role in German reunification four years ago," according to Associated Press. He is expected to meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. AP says that Germans "credit Bush with recognizing early that East and West Germany would reuni-

Briefly

fy after the collapse of eastern European communism in 1989.”

In fact, before the collapse of the Berlin Wall, Bush acted as a flunkey for Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who later boasted in her autobiography of her efforts to obstruct reunification. After the Wall fell on Nov. 9, 1989, Bush was notoriously lukewarm to reunification, and, although he visited Germany, never went to reunified Berlin as President.

He was in Berlin on Sept. 25 to deliver a speech at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Aspen Institute's Berlin branch, where he obliquely criticized President Clinton's foreign policy: "We must lead—not in a way that appears to vacillate, to stop and start . . . weak policies encourage aggressors." In his 35-minute speech, Bush regurgitated the "clash of civilizations" thesis of Harvard's Samuel Huntington, calling on western nations to support Turkey as a "modern" model for the Islamic world, in opposition to Iran's "fundamentalist" model.

New York health services amputated at the knees

Dr. Bruce Siegel, the head of New York's Health and Hospital Corporation (HHC), which oversees New York City's 11 municipally owned hospitals and many of its clinics, announced recently that he will cut the HHC's budget by one-tenth, lay off 3,000 nurses, aides, and health workers, and close down 352 hospital beds, all, he claimed in order to save money.

Siegel said he will close what he described as a \$356 million gap in HHC's \$3.6 billion budget. But what he is really doing is fulfilling the program of the insurance companies which threatened and cajoled Mayor Rudolf Giuliani into announcing that he will "privatize" the city's municipal hospitals, either by selling them outright to for-profit companies, or turning over their managements to be run on a for-profit basis. This would mean bringing in the so-called managed-care policies, administered by health maintenance organizations (HMOs). Siegel admitted as much, saying, "We have

a huge amount of staffing. Lots of very senior nurses, lots of aides, lots of techs, and that makes it difficult for us to get contracts with HMOs. They look at this staff . . . and say 'forget it.' "

In recent years, the deaths in New York City from AIDS, tuberculosis, illegal drug overdose, and hepatitis have skyrocketed in the austerity climate. Yet Siegel announced that he plans "potentially hundreds" of layoffs at Harlem Hospital, including closing many of the hospital's 732 beds. Siegel is also planning cuts at Bellevue, one of New York's largest and busiest hospitals.

Treasury probes money laundering on Wall St.

A front-page article in the Wall Street Journal on Sept. 21 revealed that the Treasury Department's Customs Service and IRS have seized over \$10 million from the accounts of Wall Street brokerages Merrill Lynch, Dean Witter, Paine Webber, Prudential, Bear Stearns, and others, charging that the funds are drug profits.

According to U.S. Customs official Bob Van Etten, head of the service's New York City office, a loophole in the 1970 Bank Secrecy Act has allowed drug traffickers to wire transfer enormous sums into accounts at the major brokerage houses and turn over handsome profits. This loophole in the act was featured prominently in *EIR's* 1978 book *Dope, Inc.* In July 1992, Treasury launched "Operation El Dorado," specifically targeting Wall Street's large brokerage houses. There are now reportedly sealed indictments in the federal courts in Manhattan and Brooklyn targeting clients of some of these brokerage houses, but officials also admit that some brokers are being targeted for racketeering violations.

A separate article cited a recent case in which two employees of American Express International bank were convicted in Brownsville, Texas of "willful blindness": they had continued to launder tens of millions of dollars from a Mexican gas station owner, after becoming aware that the money was coming from the drug cartels.

● **A SAN FRANCISCO** federal judge refused to extradite IRA member James Joseph Smyth to Northern Ireland, under a provision in the British-U.S. extradition treaty allowing a court to refuse extradition if the defendant would be "punished, detained or restricted in his personal liberty by reason of his race, religion, nationality or political opinions."

● **293 ORGANIZATIONS** appealed to the Senate not to ratify the Biodiversity Treaty, in an open letter in September. "How can the Senate possibly ratify a document that calls for the eradications of undefined 'alien species' which may include cows, horses, sheep, chickens, and virtually all livestock?" The groups signing the letter include timber, mining, farmers, cattlemen, wise use, and scientific organizations.

● **MAJOR SCIENCE** grants have been made to two large black universities in Virginia, Hampton and Norfolk State. Hampton received \$1.6 million for a three-year research project into thermonuclear fusion. Norfolk received \$10 million for a materials research lab, the largest grant in the history of the university, which will use high-technology laser spectroscopes.

● **ROBERT EVANS**, the Hollywood producer, told a *Chicago Tribune* interviewer about his "kiss and tell" book *The Kid Stays in the Picture*, that Henry Kissinger "was basically a brilliant professor, but besides that he was like a child. He was so naive, I supplied sophistication, and he took me into the White House, right into the Oval Office. We spoke every day on the phone for one full decade, from 1970 to 1980."

● **GERRY ADAMS** credited the U.S. civil rights movement and Martin Luther King with inspiring the Northern Ireland nationalists in his meeting with Rosa Parks in Detroit on Sept. 27. Parks's refusal to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in 1955, he said, "sent a message of how one person's action can start a whole mass movement."