

# National News

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## D'Amato to resume Whitewater hearings

Over the stated objections of Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, the Senate special Whitewater committee will resume hearings later this month, covering areas previously excluded from the congressional inquiry, the *Washington Times* reported on Oct. 3.

Starr had identified a number of areas in which he feared that public hearings might jeopardize his criminal prosecutions, including matters regarding Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, the Whitewater Development Corp., matters related to the Resolution Trust Corp., Capital Management Services, and the Perry County Bank (in connection with Bill Clinton's 1990 Arkansas gubernatorial campaign). Trials of Gov. Jim Guy Tucker and James and Susan McDougal were scheduled to commence on Oct. 10, although it was anticipated they would be postponed.

The resumption of the hearings was announced in a letter to Starr signed by Senators Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.). White House spokesman Mark Fabiani said that the administration was "anxious" for full hearings to begin, because "the facts will show the vague and ever-shifting Whitewater allegations have no merit at all."

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## California DAs seek to change law on juries

The California District Attorneys Association will begin gathering signatures at the end of October to place a measure on the ballot, to change the rules of criminal trials. If passed by the voters, the state constitution would be amended to allow a criminal conviction by only 10 jurors out of a 12-person jury. The CDAA is also pushing for passage of the amendment by the state legislature, along with other features of a proposed "Public Safety Protection Act of 1996." The proponents cite a 71% public approval rat-

ing for the measure in a recent Mervin Field poll.

The district attorneys, acting under the name "Citizens for a Safer California," state in a promotional brochure: "Current . . . law . . . allows one or two aberrant and/or biased jurors to 'hang' a jury and prevent clearly guilty criminals from being held accountable for their conduct. Hung juries exact a terrible toll on crime victims and their survivors."

The DAs cite England, and the states of Oregon and Louisiana, as the models for allowing non-unanimous criminal jury verdicts, and the approval of the U.S. Supreme Court for the measure's constitutionality.

Other measures proposed include greatly lengthening the time of supervised parole; terrorizing parolees with the threat of reimprisonment for up to eight years, even for "hanging around with the wrong people"; and the elimination of costly "in person" parole hearings—inmates could only watch their accusers on two-way television.

A spokesman for the district attorneys, asked by EIRNS why the United States has such a huge proportion of people in prison, said that over the past several decades, the prisons have been made so pleasant, that people simply do not mind going to jail. Citing the California prisons as "kinder and gentler," he said, "There are conjugal visits, cable TVs, weight-training."

An official of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, contacted at the MADD state headquarters, told EIRNS that she agreed with the district attorneys. "For people like you and me, it may not be so nice, but for people, you know, from other circumstances, it's three squares [three meals each day], and so on—not bad."

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## Rumors of a deal to free spy Pollard

The *Jerusalem Report* claims in its Oct. 19 cover story that during the recent Washington gathering to sign the Mideast peace accords, President Clinton hinted that he might be willing to grant clemency to convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, if certain conditions are met.

The comment by the President came in response to the latest request from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for Pollard's release, according to the magazine. Pollard comes up for possible parole for the first time on Nov. 21, the tenth anniversary of his arrest. Earlier requests by Rabin to Clinton for clemency were rejected, after the Department of Justice and the U.S. intelligence community voiced their unanimous opposition to Pollard's release. This time, however, Rabin linked the request to Israel's own plans to release a large number of Palestinians from jail. In that context, the magazine claims that the President might override objections.

According to the *Jerusalem Report*, one of the main things that would be required for President Clinton to act favorably on Pollard's clemency plea (following an anticipated rejection by the parole board of an early release) would be for Pollard to express remorse.

The magazine reports that Pollard's family is orchestrating a political effort aimed at: getting Jewish organizations to pressure Clinton, in order to convince him that the Pollard case is an election issue; getting the Christian Coalition to pressure Republican lawmakers into backing the release, to minimize the partisan backlash against Clinton; and arranging an interview with Pollard by *New Yorker* magazine reporter David Remnick, in which the spy will "confess his contrition." Ralph Reed, the executive director of the Christian Coalition, has reportedly launched a petition drive among GOP lawmakers supporting Pollard's release.

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## Will NYC schools be put under state control?

New York State Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver (D) on Oct. 2 declared that the New York City public school system is in such a state of crisis, that "for the first time" he would be willing to consider radical changes in structure for the city's school board. According to a report in the *New York Times* on Oct. 3, Silver warned that if a consensus were not reached between Mayor

Rudolph Giuliani and Board of Education President Carol Gresser, then the State Education Department might need to seize control of the city school system.

Silver announced that a meeting had been set up among top state, city, school board, and union officials to plot out the new structure. Mayor Giuliani was noncommittal about his invitation to the meeting, saying he had to find out more about it, while belittling Silver's "partisan" state takeover threat.

Among the proposals under consideration is one which would transfer power over the schools to the mayor. Mayor Giuliani asked the state legislature last February to give mayors of large cities "the right to appropriate money to individual schools and school programs." Democrats, who still control the Assembly, want schools insulated from New York City's main political structure.

Giuliani has made no secret of wanting control of the board, which currently includes only two mayoral appointees, with the other five members being borough presidents.

## Exhibitions feature American art, history

The J.P. Morgan Library in New York City has opened a huge exhibition of American documents and works of art from the pre-Civil War era, entitled "From Jackson to Lincoln: Democracy and Dissent." The show, which runs from Sept. 14, 1995 until Jan. 7, 1996, is the largest on an American theme at the Morgan Library since the 1976 Bicentennial celebrations.

The exhibit presents the issues that faced the nation from the end of the first era of the Republic, when Andrew Jackson's Presidency overturned many of the intentions of the Founding Fathers, down through the crisis of slavery which erupted in the Civil War.

In addition, two major exhibitions dedicated to American art have opened at museums in New York and Washington, D.C. The foremost painter in colonial America is seen in an exhibition (Sept. 26, 1995-Jan.

7, 1996) at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, "John Singleton Copley in America," which includes his famous images of patriots like John Hancock and Paul Revere, as well as other members of the merchant aristocracy of Boston and New York before the American Revolution. "John Singleton Copley in England" is appearing in Washington at the National Gallery of Art.

A very different sort of American artist is Winslow Homer, whose paintings and watercolors are the subject of a comprehensive exhibition also in Washington at the National Gallery (Oct. 15, 1995-Jan. 28, 1996). Homer's maturity as an artist began with the Civil War, and as the greatest American painter of the 19th century, he succeeded in fashioning a uniquely American idiom celebrating the values of freedom which the war was fought to defend.

## Earth First! calls for Halloween terrorism

*Earth First! Journal*, the magazine of the terrorist group Earth First!, calls for animal rights activists and "revolutionaries" to join them in an international week of terrorist actions starting on All Hallows Eve (Halloween, Oct. 31). The call comes in the September-October issue, in the form of an announcement by the Earth Liberation Front. ELF was created by the British chapter of Earth First! three years ago, to carry out direct terrorist actions.

The article states: "The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) has again called for the annual Earth Night, this most *hallowed* of occasions, the time when all the *little people* come out. . . . We are putting out a call for unity, asking all those from the animal liberation, Earth liberation, anti-fascist, union/worker, feminist, and revolutionary groups to take the opportunity to act against those who are oppressing and destroying the Earth.

"No matter what the targets—vivisection labs, road building, bad company work practices, the nuclear industry, logging companies, race hate groups, biotechnology, etc.—let's use the week together and triple the damage."

## Briefly

● **ONE-THIRD** of all African-American men in their 20s were in prison or otherwise supervised by the criminal justice system as of 1994, according to a study by the Sentencing Project, the Oct. 5 *Washington Post* reported. This proportion had risen from about one in four in 1989.

● **NATION OF ISLAM** spokesman Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad announced on Oct. 3 that a breakthrough in AIDS treatment had been achieved at the Abundant Life Clinic in Washington, D.C., where he is medical director. An HIV-positive patient now repeatedly tests HIV-negative following therapy developed at the Kenyan Research Institute.

● **TEXAS** on Oct. 4 executed the 100th person since the death penalty was reinstated in 1982. Harold Joe Lane, 50, was killed by lethal injection. He had been convicted of killing a 17-year-old store cashier and robbing the store of \$3,300. Lane went to his death saying, "I have everlasting peace with my God."

● **CALIFORNIA** is debating a new anti-immigration resolution, according to the *Orange County Register* of Sept. 28. It was put forward by Ron Prince, the sponsor of Proposition 187, which was voted up last November and which denies key public services to illegal immigrants. Prince is campaigning for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would deny U.S. citizenship to illegal immigrants, and ban multilingual ballots and bilingual education.

● **PAT BUCHANAN**, a GOP Presidential candidate, wants to disallow candidates for the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives from receiving campaign contributions from anywhere but their home state or home district. The plan would sabotage the concept of members of Congress as federal office-holders, constitutionally required to represent the interests of the country as a whole.