

# National News

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## White House orders review of aircraft

The White House ordered a "top-to-bottom" safety review of all executive support aircraft, the day after a Marine Corps CH-46 operating in support of a Presidential campaign trip in Florida flipped over and burned at the Orlando Executive Airport. The accident follows by only 20 days the crash of an Air Force C-130 transport in Wyoming, which killed all eight persons aboard, who were also doing support functions for the President. Also, simultaneously with the Orlando incident, another Marine Corps Presidential support helicopter made an emergency landing in a field south of Orlando, because of a failure indication in its hydraulic system.

While the safety review covers only military aircraft that are used in support of travel by the President and cabinet officers, the military services have also been experiencing a rash of aircraft accidents this year.

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## Pennsylvania lawmakers demand Bush drug probe

Pennsylvania State Rep. Harold James, chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus (PLBC), has joined a number of elected officials across the nation who are concerned with media accounts that the Central Intelligence Agency has been involved in the illegal drug trade in the United States.

At a news Sept. 11 conference in Philadelphia, James expressed his outrage at the allegations, and, along with the PLBC, called for a vigorous Congressional investigation and urged the U.S. Justice Department to look into reports that the CIA and its operatives have been trafficking drugs and weapons since the 1980s.

The *San Jose Mercury News* published a series of articles last month that alleged that the U.S. government allowed the sale of weapons and illegal drugs to African-Amer-

ican communities on the West Coast.

"As a retired undercover Philadelphia police officer who worked on narcotics cases," said James, "I know we can better impact the flow of drugs if we stop drugs from coming into this country, arrest those at the top levels of control and punish the white-collar dealers who try to keep their hands clean while they run the entire operation. On this occasion, we must not allow anyone to use the pretext of national security to accomplish another cover-up.

"We need an investigation that goes right to the top, that gets the people responsible for the devastation," James said.

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## Governor Ridge commits new crimes

In his next step beyond eliminating health services for the indigent, Pennsylvania's Gov. Tom Ridge announced on Sept. 4 that state health service centers in Berks, Butler, and Dauphin counties will be turned over to private contractors for at least one year, as part of a pilot project. The centers are vital to fighting infectious disease outbreaks. They work to immunize children and test people for tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases.

According to a report in the Sept. 5 *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Ridge had wanted to privatize all 60 state health centers, but the legislature resisted, out of "concern that profit-conscious contractors might scale back services."

Acting Secretary of Health Daniel F. Hoffman said that 22 public health nurses and clerks would be laid off as a result.

The project is scheduled to begin on Nov. 1. By December 1997, the Ridge administration will submit a report to the legislature, which will then decide whether to put all centers under private contract.

As he continues his campaign against living standards, Ridge also plans to pour generous funds into stadiums where people will be encouraged to drown their misery in mindless sports orgies. According to the same issue of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*,

Ridge has proposed to sell off the state's liquor monopoly, and to use the proceeds—estimated at \$600 million to \$1 billion by Ridge—to build major-league sports stadiums throughout the state.

Ed Cloonan, president of the Independent State Store Union, which represents clerks and managers in the liquor stores, said Ridge was proposing selling a major state asset "to buy luxury boxes for millionaires and corporations."

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## Reward offered for assassins of Alex Odeh

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Arab-American Anti-discrimination Committee (ADC) held a joint press conference on Aug. 27, offering a reward for the arrest of assassins of ADC regional head Alex Odeh in 1985. The timing of the announcement suggests possible moves against the networks also involved in bringing the current Israeli government to power.

The 1993 raids upon California Anti-Defamation League (ADL) offices revealed that ADL infiltration and dirty tricks specialist Roy Bullock was spying on Odeh and frequently visited his office, in the days before the booby trap bomb murder. Washington ADL anti-LaRouche case officer Mira Lansky Boland and New York City's Irwin Suall both threatened to quit the ADL, unless Bullock were fully defended against the investigation into his sales of police documents to foreign governments.

At the same time as Odeh was receiving threats prior to his murder, ADL-backed extremist Mordechai Levy was making telephone death threats against Lyndon LaRouche. Congressional hearings documented that, at the exact same time, Levy was threatening the New York City ADC representative.

The Odeh assassination team was sent to the United States from Kiryat Arba, Israel by Meir Kahane, and was based in a network of Jewish Defense League-connected private detective offices, in part set up by ADL-Cult Awareness Network operative Galen

Kelly. Kelly used members of the Lubavitcher sect for his kidnappings, included his attempted kidnapping of LaRouche associate Louis du Pont Smith.

The assassins of Yitzhak Rabin came out of this same milieu, and, Lubavitcher Rabbi Hecht personally authorized the right to kill a Jew who gives away the land of Israel.

Meanwhile, a lawsuit against the ADL for its illegal spying, was settled out of court on Sept. 3. The ADL has agreed to submit to an injunction restraining it from obtaining information from state employees or officers who are forbidden by law to disclose such information.

Other legal action, however, is still pending against the ADL by others among the hundreds of groups and individuals known to have been victimized by ADL spying. One suit, also filed in 1993, by former U.S. Rep. Paul N. McCloskey, involves a half-dozen LaRouche associates from California among its plaintiffs. That suit is still in the discovery phase.

## Senator calls on Clinton to renew Nigeria ties

Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.), who recently returned from a visit to Nigeria, brought back a letter to President Clinton from Nigerian President Sani Abacha, at Abacha's request. But according to the *Washington Informer*, the administration (presumably the State Department) did not deliver the letter. Not only that, but the State Department and elements in the Democratic National Committee have attacked Senator Moseley-Braun for her visit.

The *Informer* quotes Senator Moseley-Braun: "When I met the President in Chicago recently, he indicated that he has not received the letter. I'm expected to meet with him shortly, and I will ask him about it again."

In Abacha's Aug. 12 letter, which is quoted by the newspaper, the Nigerian head of state wrote that it is "important that contacts be restored between officials [of the United States and Nigeria] at the highest lev-

els" and that "we are disappointed that Nigeria remains decertified by the U.S. government" as regards its anti-drug efforts.

But Moseley-Braun's visit has drawn the ire of elements of the Democratic Party that are under the sway of British geopolitical operations against Africa's most populous country. The *Informer* quotes an unnamed Democratic National Committee staffer: "The senator had no business going to a country that is at odds with ours. And she did so without the knowledge of her staff and she did it just before the Democratic National Convention."

## Slave labor policies pushed in prisons

An article in the Sept. 4 *Philadelphia Inquirer* promotes bills introduced for next year's session in both houses of the Pennsylvania legislature, to reopen the issue of allowing private companies to run factories in Pennsylvania's prisons. Similar bills were defeated in the 1995-96 session. According to the article, the state AFL-CIO has withdrawn its opposition to the bills, after amendments were added requiring a committee, including labor representatives, to study whether any such enterprise would displace regular workers.

Meanwhile, nationally, a bill was introduced this year by U.S. Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) that would permit private companies to pay inmate workers less than the minimum wage. Gwyn Smith-Ingley, executive director of the national Correctional Industries Association, is quoted that the advantages of employing prisoners include: no health insurance to provide, security guards come free-of-charge, and firms are often given a lower lease rate on prison space.

Like the Justice Department's recent report adulating private prison labor, the *Inquirer* notes that firms are beginning to move business out of foreign countries, and are reopening them in U.S. prisons, where the costs of transportation are much lower, there are no import or export tariffs, and "it helps sales if products are made in America."

**JACK KEVORKIAN'S** chief aide, lawyer Geoffrey Fieger, will be given a red-carpet welcome in Britain at the Royal Society of Medicine this November. His trip is sponsored by the British Voluntary Euthanasia Society, "which regards him and Kevoorkian as heroes," reported the Sept. 1 London *Sunday Express*.

**THE FIREFIGHTERS UNION** has earmarked nearly \$250,000 for an initiative to combat privatization of the nation's fire and emergency medical services. Firefighters President Alfred Whitehead told a national union convention that for-profit corporations in this field are an emerging threat to the living standards, economic security, and professionalism of firefighters—not to mention those whom they protect.

**JOHN HINCKLEY**, the would-be assassin of President Ronald Reagan, claims he is now cured of his mental illness, and is therefore requesting week-end leave from the hospital where he has undergone treatment since his conviction. The hospital is within walking distance of the White House.

**A MISSILE** flew near an American Airlines 757 aircraft on Aug. 29, according to the plane's pilot. The jet was flying over Wallops Island, Virginia, and was flying twice as high as TWA 800 when the latter exploded on July 17. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the report.

**HOOVER DAM**, which tamed the Colorado River, celebrated its 60th birthday on Sept. 8. Once known as Boulder Dam, the giant project was designed to make cheap electricity available to develop the western United States. The structure is so large that it had to be interlaced with ice to set the concrete, which otherwise would have taken 100 years.