

# National News

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## Bush Inaugural Speech 'Most Megalomaniacal'

Psychiatrist Justin Frank, author of the book *Bush on the Couch: Inside the Mind of the President*, commented that President George W. Bush's Jan. 20 second inaugural speech was the "most megalomaniacal" speech he has heard by Bush—and that's saying a lot.

Frank noted that in the speech, Bush declared himself liberator of the planet, while never once mentioning Iraq or Afghanistan. However, using the word "freedom" 29 times, and "liberty" 15, Bush promised to intervene in every country where there is "tyranny"—but only if the repressed people, or "exiles," ask for it. At least the speech was short: It didn't take long to declare the United States the sole superpower.

Taken with Secretary of State-nominee Condoleezza Rice's testimony in her confirmation hearings, on "outposts of tyranny," Bush's speech was a pledge for more U.S. interventions.

In a soon-to-be-published interview with *EIR*, Dr. Frank said, "Bush's speech is quite stunning, because Bush himself feels embattled and wants to be protected by God." Frank added that Bush wants Americans to experience his anxieties as he does; the "talk of tyranny is Bush's own anxiety, and he wants the rest of the world to live in his fantasies."

"That's the way Bush deals with his anxieties," Dr. Frank said, "like he did in his inaugural speech—by oversimplifying things."

*EIR* published an interview with Dr. Frank on Aug. 20, 2004.

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## Ohio Officials Vengeful Over Election Challenge

Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell and other state officials are seeking revenge against the attorneys who fought vote suppression and election fraud in the Nov. 2 election there. The Attorney General of

Ohio, James Petro, has moved to censure the four lawyers who challenged the certification of the Nov. 2 Presidential elections, in an effort to investigate voting irregularities and disenfranchisement of voters.

Petro's filing, which could result in heavy fines, charges that the election challenge was "frivolous," and was used to "harass public officials."

Although the complaint to the Ohio Supreme Court charges that the four attorneys—Robert Fitrakis, Susan Truitt, Cliff Arnebeck, and Peter Peckarsky—presented no evidence, Arnebeck counters that it was Petro and Blackwell who stonewalled the court proceedings and refused to allow any court-ordered discovery of evidence.

The Columbus *Free Press* says Petro's action "is widely viewed as revenge for the heavy toll on the credibility of the Ohio GOP and . . . Blackwell" caused by the protests and challenge, and the success of Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Ohio) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) in forcing a debate in both houses of Congress on Jan. 6, whether Ohio Presidential electors should be certified.

The *Free Press* also reports discussion among activists of additional court actions based on violations of civil rights of African-Americans and students who were denied the right to vote on Nov. 2 for a number of reasons, the most important being a shortage of voting machines in critical precincts.

*EIR* has been advised that, under the 1965 Voting Rights Act, citizens can file civil actions to prosecute violations, if Federal prosecutors won't.

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## Harry Reid Tells Mayors Stop Bush Privatization

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) spoke to the Jan. 19 luncheon of the National Mayors conference, stressing that infrastructure investment is the cornerstone on which America is built, and that President Bush's Social Security privatization swindle must be defeated. Reid said he will reintroduce his 2001 Rebuild America Act as an American Marshall Plan to rebuild

the infrastructure of cities and states. After speaking, Reid received a LaRouche PAC pamphlet and a copy of *EIR* on Bush's Social Security heist, à la Chile, and was urged by a LaRouche Youth Movement member to work with Lyndon LaRouche in the battle to save Social Security from the privatizers.

Reid told the mayors that that battle will be a huge one, and insisted that the drastic steps (theft) proposed by Bush are totally unnecessary, because Social Security is not about to go bankrupt; rather, it is the most successful social safety-net program in the history of the world.

The same day, Reid answered the charge of House Ways and Means Committee Chair Bill Thomas (R-Calif.), that Bush's privatization plan is "a dead horse" because of partisan politics. It is dead, said Reid, "not because of partisan politics, but because it is a privatization plan based on massive benefit cuts, risky Wall Street accounts, and \$2 trillion in additional Federal debt."

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## Calif. Teachers Wage War on the Governor

A coalition of California's largest education groups, facing the loss of another \$2 billion from the amount to which they are entitled under a voter-approved funding guarantee, are meeting to map out a strategy for attacking Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger over his proposed budget cuts. Beast-man Schwarzenegger not only wants to steal more money from schools next year, but has also proposed a cap on future state spending.

"We're ready for an all-out battle, absolutely," pledged Bob Wells, executive director of the Association of California School Administrators, adding, "We can't afford to be intimidated."

Last year, educators caved in to Schwarzenegger's demand to accept \$2 billion less than they were supposed to get, with the Governor promising to restore lost funds and make no more cuts.

The education coalition is launching a media campaign aimed at voters; mobilization of legislators; and direct confrontation with Schwarzenegger.