

Focus shifts to Bush role in Contra-cocaine scandal

by Ronald Kokinda

The release of the *EIR Special Report*, "Would a President Bob Dole Prosecute Drug Super-Kingpin George Bush?" at a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 18, has emboldened many elected officials to get to the bottom of the Contra-cocaine operations which brought massive amounts of cocaine into U.S. cities during the 1980s. It has also begun, increasingly, to shift the focus of the inquiry onto George Bush, who oversaw the "secret government" apparatus which ran the Contra-cocaine operations.

Several officials have begun to target Bush in close races crucial to a Democratic recapture of the U.S. Congress. In Massachusetts, State Senator Dianne Wilkerson has been naming Bush, in media and campaign appearances. In Quincy on Oct. 5, at a Clinton campaign rally with First Lady Hillary Clinton and Sens. John Kerry and Edward Kennedy on the podium, Wilkerson told 5,000 people that Bush and North were the ones running the Contras, and that William Weld (who is in a tight race for the U.S. Senate seat held by Kerry) had helped to sabotage the investigation of Kerry's Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee, from his position in the Department of Justice.

In Phoenix, Arizona on Oct. 7, María Elena Milton, a LaRouche Democrat challenging Gingrichite John Shadegg in the 4th Congressional District, greeted Bush, who was in town for the 50th anniversary celebration of Best Western motels, with a 16-foot-high banner which read, "Jail George Bush, Grand Old Pusher of the Republican Party." Her press conference received extensive coverage, including nationally on CNN. One viewer reported that CNN said it had gotten a "No comment" from Bush, when he was asked about the charges.

In Alabama, the charges against Bush, aired at an FDR-PAC political action committee-sponsored press conference,

were the lead item on the CBS TV evening news in Montgomery on Oct. 8. "We know that Bush was in charge of the Contra operation, and that the Contras were running drugs. We want to know what [Gingrichite Republican candidate for U.S. Senate Jefferson] Sessions knows about this," a spokesman was quoted. The reporter commented that Sessions was not in town to answer the charges.

The Los Angeles resolution

On Oct. 8, the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, by a vote of 100-0, approved a "Resolution to support an investigation of the activities of U.S. intelligence agencies and the role of former President George Bush in drug running into Los Angeles." It is similar to resolutions being submitted to city councils throughout the country. It reads:

"WHEREAS, the *San Jose Mercury News* has, in a three-part investigative series, documented the role of the U.S. intelligence agencies in financing covert operations through the sale of drugs, specifically crack cocaine into neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles to finance Iran-Contra operations, turning Los Angeles into the 'crack' capital of the world; and

"WHEREAS, these alleged activities were under the aegis of then Vice President George Bush in his capacity as National Security Director, and that the Kerry Committee documented these horrible activities in 1987 when Kerry Committee investigator Jack Blum testified to the Congress on Feb. 11, 1987, that the Contras moved drugs 'not by the bag, but by the ton, by the cargo plane load,' and

"WHEREAS, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and the Los Angeles City Council have called for Congressional and other investigations into the role of the CIA and other agencies in these operations;

"BE IT RESOLVED, That the Los Angeles County Demo-

cratic Central Committee endorses the call by Congresswoman Waters, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, the Los Angeles City Council, and others for their stand against such a hideous violation of trust, and demands that the role of then Vice President George Bush, and all those under his aegis, also be investigated.”

Rep. Juanita Millinder McDonald (D-Calif.) thanked the committee for their passage of the resolution, and stressed the importance of elected officials taking a stand on the issue. She said that hearings will be convened on Oct. 19 in Los Angeles on this subject.

Meetings on Bush’s crimes are being held across the country. In Washington, D.C., for example, over 100 people attended a “Citizens’ Court” hearing at a church on Capitol Hill on Oct. 8, in which over a dozen witnesses detailed the impact of Bush’s crimes on their families and neighborhoods.

New documents released

On Oct. 8, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) released records which she had obtained from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, including an affidavit for a search warrant by a Los Angeles County narcotics officer which was executed in October 1986—which was first published in the *San Jose Mercury News* and which the department initially denied that it had. The affidavit makes clear that federal and local law enforcement agencies knew that a drug ring operated by Danilo Blandón was selling large amounts of cocaine, “mainly to blacks living in the South-Central Los Angeles area” in the mid-1980s; that the Blandón cocaine-distributing organization consisted of over 100 people who were “either Nicaraguan and/or sympathizers to the Contra movement,” and that Blandón was a founder of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (the main Contra organization, known as the FDN); and that “the money and arms generated by this organization comes thru the sales of cocaine.”

In response, Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block called a press conference to deny that his office had evidence that the CIA or any other U.S. government agency was involved in drug dealing in Los Angeles. However, although his office had evidence that the Blandón ring was moving hundreds of kilos of cocaine into black neighborhoods, and despite the seizure of cocaine, scales, cutting agents, drug ledgers, and assault weapons in the raids, *no charges* were filed against any of the Nicaraguan Contra supporters arrested, the Oct. 8 *San Jose Mercury News* reported.

Sheriff Block also denied the report by his detectives that the CIA had removed evidence from his office two days after the raid. He said that documents seized in the raid were destroyed in 1987, and, within days of the raid, the rest of the evidence, including drug ledgers, notebooks, weapons, business records, and even a cocaine preparation kit, were returned to the suspected drug dealers!

Despite all this, Block, possibly prompted by the fact that Waters showed up at his press conference, said that “if the

CIA or any other agency of the government is or was in fact involved in the distribution of illicit drugs, they they should be dealt with in the same manner that anyone who would stoop so low as to distribute that poison through our communities. Certainly we have no interest in protecting them.”

Meanwhile, calls for an investigation of U.S. government involvement in the Contra-cocaine operation are multiplying. On Oct. 2, Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) called for the creation of a Senate select committee to investigate charges linking the CIA to drug running by the Nicaraguan Contras. And on Oct. 4, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) urged the Senate Intelligence and Judiciary committees to hold joint hearings. However, the danger all along has been that the focus of an investigation would be on the CIA, a dry hole in which records probably don’t exist, leaving the higher-level command structure, headed by Bush, untouched.

It’s going to take a fight

Lyndon LaRouche, in a radio interview with “EIR Talks” on Oct. 9, reemphasized Bush’s responsibility. “Now, what you had, was a private organization which sometimes covered itself by calling itself CIA, but it wasn’t CIA,” LaRouche said. “It was under the Joint Chiefs of Staff. That’s where it was located. But it was not *run* by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It was run personally by Vice President George Bush. And, we have, and we’ve published, the paper trail that shows *exactly*, in terms of Executive Orders, what the trail is, from George Bush all the way down to the command structure of this crack cocaine epidemic in the United States. That’s a fact.

“And, of course, there’s going to be a big fight, to try to prevent” an investigation of Bush, LaRouche said. “George Bush has a lot of people involved with him in this dirty money, he’s involved in oil deals and other deals now, dirty money. His sons have got dirty money from Kuwait and so forth. . . . There’s an attempt to cover it up.

“If the United States does not have the guts to pull George Bush into an investigation, and not allow a cover-up like that which the Republicans organized to protect George Bush back when the Kerry Committee report was submitted; if we don’t do something like that, we can just say, ‘Don’t complain about anything, buddy, because it’s all your own fault. If you won’t destroy George Bush, with the evidence in hand to do so, then you really don’t care about yourself, your country, and go and stop your whining. You just make us sick.’

“You have to get rough on this one. People can not be allowed to have any quibbles, any Baby Boomer quibbles, about this question. George Bush is guilty. The evidence is in hand, there’s no lack of evidence. It’s one of the strongest cases that could be presented to any court, and, unless we pursue that track, and get rid of the George Bush apparatus in our national life, we’re not going to have a country. And, if you don’t get rid of George Bush, don’t complain to me or anybody else about your suffering. I’m not interested. If you won’t fight to save your life, why should I?”