

National News

Haig designate visits Colombia and Venezuela

Thomas Enders, Alexander Haig's as yet unconfirmed Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, has recently traveled to Colombia and Venezuela, reportedly to "get to know" senior members of both governments and "orient himself" on the problems of the region.

There are signs, however, that Enders' trip may be aimed at cementing a U.S. alliance with Venezuela—a policy backed by Haig—and pressuring Colombia to join in the Secretary of State's military plans for bolstering "regional security."

Although President Reagan has indicated that he wants to work closely with Mexico to resolve problems in the Caribbean/Central American region, Haig is publicly organizing for a closer relationship with Venezuela's Social Christian government. Two weeks ago he met at length with Venezuelan Interior Minister Montes de Oca in Washington, and he reportedly stressed Venezuela's role in guaranteeing regional security against "Cuban subversion." The sale of F-16 jets to Venezuela—now under consideration by the Reagan administration—is also thought to be strongly backed by Haig.

Court backs Justice's RICO interpretation

The United States Supreme Court on June 15 endorsed the Justice Department's interpretation of the Racketeering and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statutes. The Court decided by a margin of 8 to 1 to overturn the standards previously set for RICO by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and upheld the DOJ's wider-ranging interpretation.

The First Circuit had ruled that the target of RICO as discussed and voted by Congress was the "investment" of

criminal revenues in legitimate business, e.g. the laundering of narcotics monies. The Justice Department argued that RICO be applied not only to legitimate business affected by criminal organizations, but to those organizations themselves, giving the Court the impression that RICO would be used to bust up the drug-smuggling business itself.

The Supreme Court has apparently learned nothing from the Abscam cases. Under the First Circuit's rule, RICO is quite sufficient to nab the drug trade's money laundering capacity, which the DOJ has studiously avoided. The First Circuit rule was, however, insufficient for purposes of proceeding from frame-up convictions of labor leaders to prosecution of their entire unions, pension funds, and allies in business and politics. The Supreme Court has now pushed the door wider for just such operations.

Transit collapse triggers huge fare hikes

New Yorkers will be slapped with a 75 cent subway fare July 3, a 25 percent hike from the present 60 cents, and the fare may hit \$1.00 in October. Boston's fare may rise to 75 cents this summer, while in Philadelphia, a boost to 70-75 cents could include termination of the half-price student fare. Cleveland wants to hike its fare to \$1 by next year. Chicago, with an 80 cent fare, may beat that timetable.

The increases are the result of skyrocketing budget deficits in urban mass transportation systems throughout the nation. Years of economic decline have prevented expansion and modernization of transit systems; routine maintenance has been cut so severely that operating costs are veering out of control.

High interest rates have driven operating costs and debt-service charges far beyond stagnant fare-box revenue, while budget cuts decrease transit subsidies.

In Chicago, a legislative impasse on additional funding mechanisms threatens to shut down the regional transportation system. New York's Governor Hugh Carey has placed New York City's

transit system under the virtual control of an advisory panel comprised of the same people who ran the original Big MAC in the city's 1975 fiscal crisis, including Felix Rohatyn.

California liberal raises rents

Nancy Pelosi, the California Democratic Party chairman and the only woman chair of a major state, grabbed headlines this month following a complaint brought by tenants in an apartment building bought by Pelosi and her husband Paul, the president of Financial Leasing Services. The tenants complained to the San Francisco rent board that the increases of 100-150 percent imposed by the Pelosis are illegal. The standard rent increase in the city is 7 percent a year.

Many of the tenants are senior citizens. They had paid \$200-250 a month before the Pelosis bought the building and are now to pay \$500.

To prevent the story from reaching the press, the Pelosis promised tenants "who can't hack it" \$500 to move. Mr. Pelosi, however, also warned tenants that if a complaint was filed, he would withdraw the offer, according to the *San Francisco Examiner*.

Pelosi is the daughter of former Baltimore Mayor Thomas d'Alesandro, Jr.

Watt sends anti-mining environmentalists packing

Secretary of the Interior James Watt announced last week go-ahead for a long-planned reorganization of the department's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) which will cut back environmentalist pockets in the Denver and Kansas City OSM regional offices and shift personnel to OSM state "oversight" offices in the coal-mining states, despite a last-minute attack on the plan by Denver's Demo-

cratic Representative, Pat Schroeder. Schroeder and House Budget Committee Chairman Sidney Yates had inserted language in the lengthy budget from the Budget Interior Subcommittee prohibiting use of 1982 funds for transfer of the Denver regional office to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Caspar, Wyoming. At a hearing of the Government Operations Committee in Denver, they claimed that transfer of the office would "cost more than the savings" and cause "punitive hardships" to employees. The Watt plan has been in the works since the 1977 Surface Mining Act provided "state primacy" for enforcement of environmental policies.

The Interior Department said that agreements have already been reached with the key coal mining states of North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, and that review of the policy by the National Federation of Federal Employees had already occurred.

Surgeon General nomination stalled

Dr. C. Everett Koop, a world-renowned surgeon with the Philadelphia Childrens Hospital and national prolife spokesman, again had his nomination for Surgeon General placed "in limbo," according to Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), chairman of a House-Senate Conference Committee, after House conferees defeated a special rule to waive the 64-year-old age limit for the Surgeon General post.

Koop, who is 64 this year, will continue pro tem as assistant secretary of health, where he oversees the Center for Disease Control at Atlanta. Hatch, however, said he expects measures to be introduced to remove the obstacles to Dr. Koop's confirmation. Although liberal media painted the doctor simply as an opponent of nonmedical abortions, he is a sophisticated opponent of neo-Malthusian doctrines of population control such as euthanasia, death-with-dignity for the elderly, gay liberation movements, por-

nographic "sex-education" and other policies he believes are eroding the Hippocratic code of the medical profession and leading America to a policy of "eliminating useless eaters."

Appeal issued for Haig to resign

"A resignation from the cabinet by Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig at this time would go a long way in restoring the seriously endangered stability of the Reagan administration," announced *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Democratic Policy Committee on June 16, pointing to Haig's "instrumental role in assisting the formation of the criminal association known as the P-2 Lodge since at least 1969, when he was Henry Kissinger's subordinate."

The NDPC statement asserts: "The controlling financial-political entity behind the P-2 Lodge was the Trilateral Commission and the banking syndicate known as the Inter-Alpha Group, which is connected with David Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank. The secretary of state has been associated with the P-2 Lodge continuously from its inception; not only via his ongoing political association with Henry Kissinger, now the executive director of the Trilateral Commission and member of the International Advisory Board of Chase Manhattan; not only by Mr. Haig's own recent membership on the Advisory Board of Chase Manhattan; but also now, during his service as Secretary of State, by means of his ongoing relationship with Undersecretary James Buckley.

"Buckley's presence at the State Department represents the most salient presence of organized crime within the DOS . . . [as] a channel of influence for the notorious East Side Conservative Club of New York, which is connected with P-2 Lodge figures in Italy and also counts among its prominent members organized crime-linked attorney Roy M. Cohn."

Briefly

● **JAMES EDWARDS** surprised attendees at the June 15 Paris meeting of the 21-nation International Energy Agency by opposing the IEA's traditional call for more belt-tightening on energy consumption. The U.S. energy secretary also called on delegates to make a stronger commitment to nuclear power.

● **FRANK HAIG, S.J.**, chairman of the physics department at Baltimore's Loyola College, believes that the "nation-state is obsolete" and should be replaced by a "planetary culture" based on what he calls "international television programming." In an interview forthcoming in *Campaigner* magazine, the secretary of state's brother reveals that he is a member of L-5 and the Planetary Society, groups that promulgate a science-fiction approach to space exploration and seek to make contact with extraterrestrial beings. Alexander Haig recently headed Loyola College's fundraising drive at his brother's request.

● **PRINCE CHARLES**, through the Rank Corporation, an Eagle Star Insurance subsidiary run by the royal family, controls a slice of New York's 42nd Street pornography district. It is not known whether Charles visited this piece of family property during his recent 24-hour stay in the city.

● **GALE VAN HOY**, president of the Houston-Gulf Coast Building Trades, has released a study correlating the hiring policies of non-union contractors with drastic increases in crime in communities where their projects are under way. The 1975-80 study focuses on Brown & Root Company, a sponsor of the right-to-work lobby.

● **ROBERT KENNEDY, JR.**, son of the late senator, told a rally of California environmentalists, "I wish personally I could get the Israeli Air Force to do to the El Diablo nuclear plant what they did to the Iraqi nuclear reactor."