

National News

Military must not ignore 'rule of law'

"National security must be based on national values. Their clear expression is still found in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the amendments," stated Lt. Gen. DeWitt Smith in a speech to army cadets last April. The speech was reported July 5 by the *Washington Times*. It was replete with attacks on the lawless nature of what Sen. David Boren (D-Okla.) has called the "secret government" behind the Iran-Contra affair.

"The timeless wisdom and eloquence of an earlier day still inspire and guide us," said General Smith. "Our roots were good and strong, and they have strengthened over the years. National security in a free society involves us all. It is a child of many parents; it is everyone's business; it is not too arcane for everyday citizens or the sole business of a security elite.

"When it comes to the national defense, we need strong military forces, trained and motivated military people, thoughtful and responsible leaders and the best equipment. But we also know that the 'threats' to our security are not simply military. Stability, world order, peace, and freedom are equally endangered by such threats as: hunger, disease, and unemployment, and lack of housing."

The speech attacks, by allusion, the pragmatic, lawless conception that characterizes Oliver North's "Project Democracy" backers. "Ideally our defense and foreign policies should reflect the best values of our society. . . . Recent events remind us that as one progresses upward in the military, it is important to guard against the heady temptation of power." He listed a series of crimes "that are intolerable and largely unforgivable in public servants of a free society." Among them: "Lying. Forgetting loyalty to an oath and a Constitution. Ignoring the rule of law in favor of the rule of men. Runaway egos. Using unacceptable means to achieve ends which may or may not be acceptable. Involving the military in partisan politics and meddling in foreign poli-

cy. . . . We must set our compass on fundamental, unchanging objectives. Based on them, we can adapt to momentary circumstances."

HHS proposes new nursing home rules

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is proposing a sweeping revision of federal rules for nursing homes. The new rules would require thousands of nursing homes to hire additional personnel and provide large amounts of additional training to them.

A confidential draft of the proposal, reported in the July 5 *New York Times*, reveals that the department's estimate is that it would cost nursing homes a total of \$100 million to comply with the proposals. The proposal is now under review at the Office of Management and the Budget.

A 1986 study by the Institute of Medicine found that patients received "shockingly deficient" care in many nursing homes that received federal funds. The government commissioned the institute study after a political furor developed in 1982 and 1983 over administration proposals to relax or repeal many federal rules that govern services in nursing homes.

Fitzwater flees question on Order 12333

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater literally fled the podium July 6 to avoid answering a question from *EIR*'s Nick Benton. The question concerned an exposé in the *Miami Herald* on the "secret government" behind Lt. Col. Oliver North's activities.

Benton, author of *EIR*'s regular "Eye on Washington" column, asked Fitzwater to comment on the *Herald*'s claims, and specifically on Executive Orders 12333 and 12334, signed by President Reagan in 1981, and now established by *EIR* to be the "legal"

basis on which the private networks of the "secret government" took over U.S. intelligence functions (see *Feature* pp. 24-32).

When asked to confirm the existence of the two Executive Orders, which Benton read out, Fitzwater bolted from the stage to the shock of all present. "It's time to go hear the President" speak to a Kiwanis Club convention, he mumbled.

"But what about the answer to the question?" yelled a reporter from the back. "No comment," Fitzwater mumbled, heading toward the exit with his back to the room. It was observed by veteran reporters there that he didn't want to say even so much as "No comment," for fear that it would trigger other questions before he could leave.

Nancy wants 'gay' on AIDS panel

Nancy Reagan is pressing her husband to heed demands by the self-appointed spokesmen of the lower sexual classes that a homosexual be appointed to the presidential advisory commission on AIDS.

The July 6 *New York Post* reports that "resentful administration officials" say they may have no choice but to yield, now that Mrs. Reagan has made up her mind.

"Nancy Reagan has said her husband will look bad if no gay is appointed," the *Post* quotes one administration official.

"Mrs. Reagan is just a tigress," he lamented. "When she gets her teeth into something, she just doesn't let go."

Committee opens Contra drug probe

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime voted July 8 to subpoena three Miami-based federal prosecutors, as part of an investigation into whether Reagan administration officials supported illegal smuggling of drugs and guns to benefit the Nicaraguan Contras.