

# National News

## Senate debate on pro-death federal judge delayed

The U.S. Senate has postponed to Sept. 8-9 its debate on the nomination of Edward E. Carnes, who wrote Alabama's death penalty laws, to be a judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Despite the fact that Carnes was presented to the Senate on Aug. 7 by ultra-liberal Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Carnes's barbaric record emerged in a brief debate that occurred in the Senate.

Carnes has boasted that since he wrote Alabama's death penalty laws, the legislature has not changed a word. The law allows a judge to impose a death sentence, *even if the jury has voted for life imprisonment*. The sentences of one-fourth of Alabama's 117 current death row inmates were imposed by judges who overrode their juries.

Despite pursuing executions for more than 10 years, Carnes told the Senate Judiciary Committee in May, "I do not believe that capital punishment is applied in a racially discriminatory manner in Alabama or the nation." Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) pointed out in the Aug. 7 debate: "In Alabama, there is an incredible disparity—two-thirds of the state's murder victims are black, yet in death penalty cases, less than 15% of the murdered victims are black. Two-thirds of those executed in Alabama have been black . . . yet Mr. Carnes does not see it." Moreover, since 1980, only 5% of Alabama's murders involved blacks who killed whites. While more than 60% of Alabama's murder victims are black, the majority of the 117 persons on death row are blacks convicted of killing whites.

## DCI Gates must testify in Claire George trial

U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth refused to quash a subpoena on Aug. 11 for Director of Central Intelligence Robert Gates to testify as a hostile defense witness in the Iran-Contra trial of former CIA official Claire George, saying that Gates "is up

to his eyeballs in his knowledge" of the affair. "There were only two people above George, and one [Bill Casey] is dead," Judge Lamberth said. Gates was the late director Casey's number two.

CIA official George Cave testified on Aug. 11 that then-Vice President George Bush met with Israeli arms dealer Amiram Nir on July 26, 1986 to discuss details of the arms-for-hostages operations being run by Oliver North. According to Cave, North arranged the meeting between Nir and Bush, and North told Cave, "I think it's necessary to brief the vice president, because he isn't up to speed on this operation."

Claire George took the stand in his own defense on Aug. 12. During cross-examination on Aug. 13 by Craig Gillen, George was pressed about whether he lied to Congress about the identity of "Max Gomez," by attempting to mislead a Senate panel about the fact that Gomez is an alias for former CIA officer Felix Rodriguez. The question centered around lapel buttons that CIA officials were sporting asking, "Who is Maximo Gomez?"

"It was a fun item for you?" Gillen asked George. "It was a fun item for the White House," George answered. "That's where I got them"—identifying the office of Donald P. Gregg, who was at the time the national security adviser for Vice President Bush.

## D.C. death penalty proposal moving ahead

According to the office of Sen. Richard Shelby (D-Ala.), the proposal to have the citizens of Washington, D.C. vote to enact a death penalty will be taken up by a House-Senate Conference Committee in mid-September. If the provision is not killed in conference committee, it will be placed on the November ballot, unless a court challenge is successful.

Shelby's current draft legislation would give District courts the power to impose the death sentence. This will become law if Shelby's referendum gets on the ballot in November and passes. If court challenges arise, other variations are envisioned, such as giving federal courts the right to impose the death penalty in the District, or simply making the refer-

endum a preference declaration on which to piggyback later legislation.

Shelby proposed the death sentence legislation after one of his aides was murdered in the Capitol Hill area.

## N.Y. tenants' group goes after ADL, HUD

A mid-August demonstration by the Queensbridge Tenants Association before the Federal Plaza in lower Manhattan denounced the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New York Housing Authority, and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, and demanded that housing officials hire the Nation of Islam to provide security in their drug-infested housing projects. The Nation of Islam has achieved national attention for its successful unarmed security services to private housing complexes in the most violent neighborhoods in Washington, D.C.

A spokesman for the Queensbridge tenants group said residents are afraid to walk through the project to their homes. Children can't play outdoors because of the drug-related violence, including shootouts. Tenants who work at night cannot come home safely until daylight. Elderly people don't dare use the local subway stop because of thugs.

When the tenants requested that the New York City Housing Authority hire the Nation of Islam for security, the ADL intervened to prevent it, alleging that the group is "anti-Semitic"—the same lie used against the Nation of Islam in Washington.

## New trial sought in Nebraska child abuse case

Lincoln, Nebraska attorney John DeCamp filed a motion in mid-August for a new trial for Alisha Owen, a key victim-witness in the Franklin Credit Union child sex abuse case, who was sentenced to 9-15 years in prison for "perjury" for steadfastly maintaining she was abused by prominent Omahans. According to an AP wire, "DeCamp

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seeks a new trial in the lower court, citing new evidence. He enclosed sworn statements from three jurors who said they watched a segment on the case on CBS' '48 Hours,' even though acting Douglas County District Judge Raymond Case instructed them not to." The program aired the night before the jury returned its guilty verdict. "DeCamp also enclosed sworn statements" that another abuse victim, Troy Boner, whom the FBI pressured to recant his initial testimony, "lied during his trial testimony against Owen."

The FBI is said to be infuriated at DeCamp's persistence in the case, and has put out the word that they intend to "have his head on a silver platter." DeCamp has written a book about the case, *The Franklin Cover-up*, whose initial 10,000 copies sold out.

DeCamp has amassed new information, in part in response to his book, including extensive evidence that children who were abused and disappeared were kidnaped as part of a CIA/military intelligence/MK-Ultra brainwashing program known as "Project Monarch," one of whose leaders was former Franklin Credit Union chief Larry King. King is also formerly with Army Intelligence. Another "Monarch" leader is notorious Satanist Michael Aquino, formerly with Air Force Intelligence.

### Gonzalez subpoenas 'Iraqgate' documents

House Banking Committee Chairman Henry Gonzalez's office said Aug. 13 that he has issued "the first of many" subpoenas in the investigation of the Atlanta branch of Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) and its connections with Iraq. "For the first time, the committee is issuing subpoenas for documents from the Justice Department, the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the National Security Agency," Gonzalez said, because Attorney General William Barr has, since May 15, prevented the committee staff from examining any of the classified records of the government agencies.

The committee has also subpoenaed Christopher P. Drogoul, the former first vice president of BNL's Atlanta branch, to ap-

pear before the House Banking Committee on Sept. 17.

Document subpoenas have also been issued to the named agencies for information about dealings with Ljubljanska Bank, (one of whose former board members is now Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger), and document subpoenas for related material have been issued to the Comptroller of the Overseas Commodity Credit Corp. for information on First City Texas Bank, Houston, and the Gulf International Bank; to New York Banking Superintendent Derrick D. Cephas, for documents on Beobanka, Jugobanka and LBS Bank-N.Y.; and to Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan for Federal Reserve documents on the same institutions.

### Farmers send ton of milk powder to Iraqi children

Local South Dakota farmers, led by grain farmer and independent congressional candidate Ron Wieczorek, gathered at the Davison County Courthouse on Aug. 18 for a "send-off rally" of a one-ton shipment of milk powder destined for starving children in Iraq. The milk powder, manufactured at the AMPI plant in Freeman, S.D., was purchased with donations from farmers from 26 states. The "milk lift" began as a means for dairy farmers to protest phony government claims of a milk surplus. Rather than dump milk they can't sell, they are donating it, at the urging of the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq.

Forty bags of Grade A non-fat dry milk will travel to Philadelphia, from where it will be flown to Germany, compliments of Lufthansa Airlines. The shipment will then be transferred to a German military airplane under U.N. auspices. The 10,000-mile journey will end with delivery of the milk to the children's wards of hospitals in Baghdad by the Red Crescent Society.

Wieczorek told the press, "This South Dakota-produced milk powder is going to mean about 10,000 more quarts of milk for Iraqi children, who are still being starved by the U.N. embargo. We hope this will build more support to lift the embargo once and for all."

● **THE HOUSTON** *Jewish Herald-Voice* gave prominent coverage to the Texas tour of Webster Tarpley, co-author of *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography* in its Aug. 13 issue.

● **ROSS PEROT** is still "available" to run for President, a spokesman for his New York petition committee recently said. Perot plans to pay as many as 360 workers to gather the 15,000 signatures needed by Aug. 27 to qualify for the New York ballot, UPI reported Aug. 13.

● **'EAGLEBURGER** is like an overweight Kissinger without the warts," wrote the Aug. 15 issue of the Berlin daily *Tageszeitung*, is its profile of Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who is the former president of Kissinger Associates.

● **THE DEATH** sentence of a retarded African-American, Earl Washington, was upheld by federal Judge Claude Hilton on Aug. 12. The only evidence against Washington was his own incoherent confession. His appeal was based on ineffective assistance of counsel, because his trial attorney did not introduce evidence from the Virginia forensic report indicating Washington's innocence.

● **RICHARD GEPHARDT** (D-Mo.) raised and spent more money on his reelection campaign than any other member of Congress, according to the Federal Election Commission, spending \$1.6 million from 1991 through June 30. He ranked first among all House candidates, incumbents and non-incumbents, in both PAC and individual contributions, totaling \$2.6 million for that period.

● **AL GORE'S** rantings against Plato in his book *Earth in the Balance*, came out of lengthy "philosophical" discussions with eco-nut Jeremy Rifkin, according to published reports. Gore blames the Platonist tradition for creating a dualism between mind and nature, which impelled man to seek dominion over nature, rather than "stewardship."