

# National News

## Thornburgh hack heads Rostenkowski case

Eric Holder, the U.S. Attorney who indicted Rep. Dan Rostenkowski on May 31, spent the first 12 years of his 18-year career in the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section (PIS), working on Abscam (FBI sting operations against targeted public officials) and related prosecutions. He was later appointed to a judgeship by the Reagan-Bush administration.

Immediately after getting his law degree from Columbia University in 1976, he joined PIS, which had just been created by Richard Thornburgh, then head of the DOJ Criminal Division, and later Bush's corrupt Attorney General. Holder was a member of the prosecution team against former Rep. John W. Jenrette (D-S.C.), in the Abscam bribery probe. He was also one of the DOJ attorneys who were responsible for moving the Abscam cases against Sen. Harrison Williams and others from New Jersey to Brooklyn, New York so that they would be tried before a flagrantly biased pro-government judge, George Pratt.

In 1990, PIS reported that a total of 1,176 indictments were handed up against public officials nationwide; 1,084, or 92% of the cases have ended in convictions, and dozens of the others still remain open.

Republican Lyn Nofziger, whose own conviction in the Wedtech scandal was overturned by the Supreme Court, defended Rostenkowski in a June 1 commentary in the *Washington Times*. "Well, the fact is that the news media have already tried and convicted him. . . . Guilt, in the eyes of most persons, becomes a fact if the news media carry a series of negative stories about a public figure, be it Rostenkowski, President Clinton or Lyn Nofziger," he wrote.

## Bevel addresses NAACP chapter on Cairo '94

The Rev. James Bevel, former vice presidential running mate of Lyndon LaRouche in 1992, addressed a meeting sponsored by the Flint, Michigan chapter of the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on May 21, on "The United Nations' New World Order: What Does It Hold for the Children of God?" He was introduced by E. Hill DeLoney, president of the Flint chapter to an audience comprised of Catholic priests, Muslims, and Methodist and Baptist ministers and community activists.

Bevel also addressed a "Pastor to Pastor" meeting for ministers and their guests. Here he was able to discuss how to prevent the malthusian United Nations from holding its evil conference on world population in Cairo, and how to preserve the family as the primary institution of society. Recounting his own history with the civil rights movement as a lieutenant of Martin Luther King, Bevel recounted his organizing of the 1963 Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama as well as the 1965 Selma Right to Vote Movement.

When asked about his affiliation with LaRouche, and his decision to run for vice president when LaRouche was imprisoned, Bevel's response had a profound effect on his listeners: As a young man, he said, his father had instructed him that if he ever found a wise man pursuing a just cause, he should drop absolutely everything and follow him. He had done this with Dr. Martin Luther King, and he had found Lyndon LaRouche to be such a man.

## FCC reviews Murdoch television purchase

Media mogul Rupert Murdoch's 1985 acquisition of six big-city television stations is being reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), according to the June 2 *Washington Post*. With new information about the purchase emerging, the government is investigating whether the purchase violated federal laws prohibiting foreign ownership of U.S. broadcasting properties. If so, it could have multibillion-dollar consequences for Murdoch and his company involved in the deal, News Corp. Ltd.

The original complaint had been brought by a division of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which contended that the

current ownership is illegal and has served to squeeze out members of minority groups who want to buy stations to be part of the Fox television network, which was formed on the basis of the 1985 purchase.

Murdoch had become a naturalized American citizen during 1985 before the deal was finalized, and said that he and his American lieutenant Barry Diller would control the six stations. Murdoch's application, though, did not make explicit that Murdoch's Australian-based News Corp. Ltd. was to supply virtually all the money used to complete the purchase. The Murdoch/Diller portion amounted to 0.0013% of the total equity capital, while Murdoch's attorneys only recently acknowledged that more than 99% of equity capital came from the News Corp.

## Mississippi to open segregation agency files

On May 31, U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour, Jr. gave the state of Mississippi one year to prepare the documents of the Sovereignty Commission, a pro-segregationist state agency that had existed from 1956-77, according to Associated Press. The agency had harassed and spied on citizens involved in the civil rights movement. It is said to have files on some 250 groups and 10,000 individuals, which lawmakers at first tried to have destroyed, until barred by a judge. Then the files were ordered sealed until 2027. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) led the fight to have the documents released.

Victims of the Sovereignty Commission can agree to release the files, request that identifying characteristics be deleted, ask that the entire file be sealed, or add more information to the dossiers.

The Sovereignty Commission employed a network of informers and agents to spread propaganda, infiltrate civil rights groups, and keep police informed of people deemed subversive. Some documents have leaked out already. Among them, in 1964, the commission planted a story in the state's largest black newspaper that claimed that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was linked to the Communist Party. Some files revealed in 1989 showed that the commission helped

Byron De La Beckwith's defense by screening potential jurors before his second trial in the 1963 assassination of civil rights activist Medgar Evers, leading to his eventual conviction in February 1994.

## DOJ report: prison population exploding

The Justice Department released its annual report on June 1, which says the number of inmates in state and federal prisons totalled 948,881, an almost threefold increase in both male and female inmates since 1980, when the figure was 329,821. The average annual increase over the 14-year period has been 8.5%. Last year alone, there were average weekly increases of 1,250 prisoners.

Missing from the report are those across the nation incarcerated in jails, which house inmates sentenced to terms of less than one year. Mid-year statistics for 1992 estimate jail populations at 444,584. Mid-year 1991 populations were said to be 426,479 and the mid-year prison population was 823,414, giving a total of almost 1,250,000—by far the highest known rate of incarceration in the world.

At the end of last year, state prisons were estimated to be operating at between 18-29% above capacities, while the federal system was estimated to be 36% over capacity. The report stressed that inmate overcrowding and rising costs of incarceration have forced a number of states to begin housing prisoners in local jails or other facilities.

## Brit daily gloats over Americans' gambling

The London *Guardian* in a June 3 article from New Orleans, gloated over the rising gambling rage in the United States. Headlined "America Tries To Turn the Tables on Poverty," author Jonathan Freedland wrote: "Gambling is back. . . . Barred for nearly a century from legal gambling almost nowhere but in the desert of Las Vegas or by the seaside of Atlantic City, suddenly

Americans can bet in every corner of the union.

"In downtown New Orleans, construction workers are building what will be the largest casino in the world, a vast billion-dollar complex with room enough for thousands of chancers at a time. And already it faces national competition.

"Every state except Hawaii and Utah has changed the law to allow some form of gambling, whether on river boats, at casinos on autonomous Indian reservations, or in a state lottery. Suddenly Americans are gambling away \$30 billion a year, more than six times what they spend on cinema tickets. More than 500,000 jobs have been created.

"But there is no greater symbol of gambling's renaissance than the blossoming of its national home, Las Vegas. The oasis in the Nevada desert is now the fastest-growing city in America."

## Bob Woodward writes new book on Clinton

*Washington Post* assistant managing editor Bob Woodward has written a new book, *The Agenda: Inside the Clinton White House*, joining the growing list of authors writing books on the subject. However, unlike most of the others, which are neo-conservative diatribes, Woodward's is not aimed at destroying the presidency as such.

According to excerpts in the June 5 *Washington Post*, the book tries to portray Clinton as a puppet of Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, claiming that Greenspan has been "a senior adviser, almost a teacher to Clinton."

Robert Rubin, chairman of Clinton's National Economic Council, said the President "relates to Alan Greenspan the same way he relates" to other policy experts, by hearing their views and then making his own decisions," according to an Associated Press report. "There was no question about where the buck stops and who was making the decisions," Rubin said.

The *Post* explained that because "nearly all the interviews were conducted on 'deep background,' the [more than 250] sources who provided most of [the] information are not identified."

## Briefly

● **NATIONAL URBAN** League President John Jacobs called for an end to the death penalty in an editorial in the June 2 issue of the *Los Angeles Sentinel*. Jacobs wrote: "The most serious of penalties remains trapped in a web of racial prejudice and irrational arbitrariness, and current trends can only make the problem far worse. . . . When the government kills in revenge, it lowers itself to the status of the criminal and undermines its moral authority."

● **190 HOUSE MEMBERS** favor bills that curtail illegal immigrants' access to welfare, according to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of June 5. The bill is sponsored by David McCurdy (D-Okla.), and would deny federal welfare payments to illegal immigrants. It has 30 co-sponsors and allegedly 190 House supporters.

● **THE ENVIRONMENTALIST** Union of Concerned Scientists has written a 50-page document for the National Religious Project to disseminate among religious groups. Although titled "Renewing the Face of the Earth," it has three different versions for Catholics, Protestants, and Jews. It draws heavily on scare campaigns about global warming and ozone depletion from Greenpeace.

● **STANFORD UNIVERSITY** professors have voted to restore "F" as a failing grade, which they abolished more than 20 years ago. On the home campus of the politically correct movement, the faculty senate voted 37-3 on June 2 to restore the failing grade and to tighten up the university's liberal grading and enrollment policies.

● **LOS ANGELES** students protested the school districts recognition of Gay and Lesbian Pride month by staying home. According to media reports, San Fernando Valley public schools reported increased absentee rates of up to 30% on June 1 when parents kept their children home in protest. A district-wide protest was organized by Parents and Students United in the San Fernando Valley.