

Schumer sets stage for attack on Clinton

by Our Special Correspondent

The U.S. Congress missed a second opportunity to investigate the genuine terrorist threat against the United States on July 11, when Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N. Y.) held a rump hearing entitled "America Under the Gun: The Militia Movement and Hate Groups in America." Setting the tone for the dog-and-pony show that followed, Schumer opened the hearing with a derisive attack on Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), who had held a hearing in June that featured "testimony" from a half-dozen militia activists. Both Schumer and Specter are tightly wound into the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, and the staged fight between the two has all the earmarks of an orchestrated diversion from the real issues on the table: the British efforts to fuel a string of secessionist revolts against the U.S. Constitution, and the hideous corruption inside the permanent career bureaucracy in the Department of Justice and other federal agencies.

Schumer staged his hearing in order to showcase the activities of the ADL and its paid retainers, and, secondarily, to promote the influence of a radical environmentalist clique which is active within the ranks of federal land management agencies. The ultimate purpose of this charade is to draw partisan lines around any investigation into corrupt networks within the Department of Justice, so that any question about the actions of federal officials can be interpreted as an attack on the federal government as a whole.

The first group of speakers to address the panel was composed of officials from several rural counties where the anti-government rhetoric of the secessionist grouplets has escalated into violence against local officials. Karen Matthews, a county recorder from Stanislaus County, California, testified under FBI protection because she has been the victim of a beating at the hands of a so-called "militia" activist imported from Oregon. In fact, her assailant turned out to have a criminal record of convictions on gun and drug charges in California. A federal land management law enforcement officer testifying in the second panel, also implied that there is an overlap between the thuggery of the white supremacist movement and the established networks of druggrowers and smugglers who began to dominate regions of the national park system during the 1980s.

These tidbits of reality were otherwise overshadowed by a mass of prevarications and dissimulations by other

witnesses, who attempted to imply that such criminal networks are indistinguishable from rural and farm activists concerned with the collapse of the American economy, the loss of skilled jobs, and the onslaught on insane environmentalism. The net result in recent years has been to drive many honest people in the Western states into the arms of British-inspired secessionist countergangs.

The low point

The low point of Schumer's show came as Jeff DeBonis, an environmental activist with ties to the terrorist Earth First! networks and director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), launched a calumny directed at western state legislators, whom he accused of misusing their offices to thwart the enforcement of environmental regulations. Under questioning away from TV cameras, DeBonis admitted that his remarks were inflammatory speculations. His source of information is David Helvarg, an investigator who works for Greenpeace and is a member of Earth First!, a self-professed terrorist organization.

PEER is a mouthpiece for a network of Earth First!-connected environmental activists which has penetrated the federal land management bureaucracy and enforcement arms.

DeBonis's deliberate lying was only the prelude to the final panel, in which Schumer presented an array of representatives of ADL front groups, who read from different portions of the ADL's self-serving exposé of the militia movement. The lineup began with Tom Halpern, acting director of the Fact Finding Division of the Anti-Defamation League; Ken Stern of the American Jewish Committee; and longtime ADL operative Dan Levitas, who runs a network of ADL-spawned "human rights" organizations. Constituting the rest of the panel were Ken Toole, from the Montana Human Rights Network; Bill Wassmuth, from the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment; Jonathan Mozzichi, from the Coalition for Human Dignity in Portland, Oregon; and Loretta Ross, from the ADL-controlled Center for Democratic Renewal.

What the panel didn't hear

Ironically, one of the panelists, Rick Eaton of the Los Angeles Simon Wiesenthal Center, was a 1993 target of ADL dirty tricks run through a League informant inside the White Aryan Resistance (WAR). The ADL's Roy Bullock, who was the subject of a San Francisco Police Department probe into illegal spying and theft of confidential government data, was paying a convicted felon to infiltrate and operate as a provocateur inside WAR. One of the ADL-controlled operations by the informant, code-named "Scumbag," was to solicit a violent attack against Eaton, who was considered a "rival" of the ADL. Needless to say, Eaton's nearly fatal experience at the hands of the ADL was not mentioned during the hearings.