



*In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights*

# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## ***NORTHWEST UPDATE***

**Through March 15, 1996**

1. **CHD RELEASES COMMON LAW COURT REPORT:** The Coalition for Human Dignity is proud to announce the release of its latest report, Guns & Gavels: Common Law Courts, Militias and White Supremacy. This 51 page report chronicles the growth of common law courts around the region and the country and documents the roots of these vigilante courts in racism, anti-Semitism and the pseudo-legal conceptions of the Posse Comitatus and Christian Patriotism. As detailed in Guns & Gavels, common law courts have been established in at least 30 states, including the Northwest and Mountain states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. Guns & Gavels outlines the use of threats of arrest and violence by common law court activists and documents the close relationship of these courts to militias. The report describes key national leaders of common law courts including Montana fugitives holed up in Jordan and the Oklahoma-based group the United Sovereigns of America which is linked to courts in at least 13 states.

Guns & Gavels may be purchased for \$10 from the Coalition for Human Dignity at P.O. Box 40344, Portland, OR, 97240.

2. **CHD SPONSORS COMMON LAW COURT CONFERENCE:** The Coalition for Human Dignity, in conjunction with the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment (NWCAMH), sponsored a briefing on Common Law Courts, Militias and White Supremacy on February 5th in Seattle, Washington. The meeting brought together human rights activists and concerned journalists from around the region and country to address the ongoing formation of quasi-judicial common law courts by militia leaders and white supremacists.

The meeting was facilitated by Coalition for Human Dignity Field Director Cecilia Kalaw and opened by NWCAMH executive director Bill Wassmuth and CHD Research Director Steven Gardner, who gave an overview of the use of common law courts by far right activists. CHD researchers Devin Burghart and Robert Crawford presented on common law court activity in the northwest and on other findings documented in the CHD report Guns & Gavels: Common Law Courts, Militias and White Supremacy. A special presentation on the Posse Comitatus was given by CHD Development Consultant Daniel Levitas, an expert on the far right who is presently writing a book on the Posse Comitatus.

Informative presentations on regional common law court activity were given by Ken Toole, executive director of the Montana Human Rights Network, Mary Daly of the NWCAMH's Idaho Project, Sandi Dubowski of the Planned Parenthood Clinic Defense Project, John Lunsford of the Western States Center and Michelle Lefkowitz of Communities Against Hate. Other participants included Marvin Stern of Seattle Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Rick Eaton of Simon Wiesenthal Center, Nancy Vineberg of American Jewish Committee, NWCAMH assistant director Eric Ward, Kelly Weigel of the Rural Organizing Project, independent researchers Dan Junas and Paul Armond and several concerned journalists.

3. **LARRY PRATT CO-CHAIRS BUCHANAN CAMPAIGN:** The presidential bid of ultra-conservative columnist Patrick Buchanan drew national attention days before the New Hampshire primary when it was revealed that Gun Owners of America Executive Director Larry Pratt is one of four co-chairs of Buchanan's campaign. Following a flurry of media attention Pratt took a leave of absence from the campaign, though he remains a co-chair. Buchanan offered a spirited defense of the far right leader, referring to him as a "devout Christian" and urging "gun owners of New Hampshire to stand with Larry Pratt." Despite Pratt's ties to white supremacists, Buchanan pulled off a surprise victory in New Hampshire, narrowly defeating presidential front runner Bob Dole.

CHD was cited in a feature on Larry Pratt by Jim Ridgeway in the March 5, 1996 Village Voice as well as

in articles about Pratt in the Baltimore Sun and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. CHD provided substantial information on Pratt's ties to organized white supremacists and militias. Among those ties documented in a CHD Background Brief titled Larry Pratt and the White Supremacist Movement are:

- Pratt edited the 1995 book Safeguarding Liberty: The Constitution and Citizens Militias and declared at a September 1995 Preparedness Expo in Seattle that "We work with the Militia of Montana. We get all their material." Pratt also spoke at Preparedness Expos with militia advocate Jack McLamb and Michigan militia figure Mark Koernke.

- Pratt is listed as a contributing editor of the 50 States Constitutionalist, the tabloid of the United Sovereigns of America. This Oklahoma group, which sells such anti-Semitic tracts as the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, has become the leading national advocate of vigilante common law courts. At the September 1995 Preparedness Expo in Seattle Pratt expressed his indebtedness to Eugene Schroder, a close associate of the United Sovereigns.

- Pratt spoke at the September 1995 40th Anniversary Convention of the anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby.

- Gun Owners Foundation, the charitable wing of Gun Owner's of America, donated money to the CAUSE Foundation headed by white supremacist Kirk Lyons.

- Pratt has appeared at several Identity meetings including the 1993 Jubilee conference and the infamous October 1992 "Meeting of Christian Men" in Estes Park, Colorado called by Pete Peters.

The background report Larry Pratt and the White Supremacist Movement is available from CHD for \$3 at P.O. Box 40344, Portland, OR 97240.

**4. CHD IN WASHINGTON STATE:** CHD Research Director Steven Garner spoke at the annual Academic Freedom conference sponsored by the Washington Education Association where he addressed a crowd of about 75 teachers on the sociology of the Christian Right.

CHD researcher Devin Burghart spoke at a gathering hosted by the Snohomish County Democratic Party January 22, 1996 in Everett, Washington. Burghart spoke on CHD's recent exposure of former Snohomish County Sheriff Patrick Murphy's ties to far right and militia leaders. Murphy, who ran as a Democrat, lost his bid for re-election following these revelations and his indictment on felony charges of illegally obtaining prescription drugs. About 100 people attended the meeting, including some 40 far right and militia supporters. Speaking with Burghart was Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment Executive Director Bill Wassmuth.

CHD researcher Devin Burghart presented an introduction to the white supremacist movement to college classes at Whatcom Community College, Western Washington University and Skagit Valley Community College in early February 1996.

**5. EUGENE SCHRODER TOURS NORTHWEST:** Colorado common law court leader Eugene Schroder spoke Sunday, February 25, 1996 to a crowd of about 150 people at Snohomish High School in Snohomish, Washington. Schroder was on hand to present his conspiracy theory which holds that Franklin Roosevelt overthrew the Constitution in 1933, and the country has remained under martial law ever since. Schroder is closely tied to the United Sovereigns of America, a leading force behind the formation of so-called common law courts. Schroder was hosted locally by Thom Naumann, a Snohomish county man who serves as a juror in a common law court based in King county.

Far right leaders in attendance at the event included Washington State Militia leader John Pitner, Snohomish county far rightist David Montgomery, Christian Patriot Ben Sams and Darryl Lord of the Everett-based Freedom Forum. Hard-core anti-Semite Tom Bly was also on hand wearing a t-shirt which read "Remember the murdered Weavers and Davidians."

At the event, Pitner distributed a flyer about a March 10, 1996 appearance by Militia of Montana leader John Trochmann in Fife, Washington. Other material on hand at the event decried an effort by the "Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity" to oppose Trochmann's January 14 appearance in Mt. Vernon and claimed that local people who picketed Trochmann's visit were paid \$15 per person to demonstrated and were "being used by Socialists who want a World Government based on Leninist and Marxist ideals."

About 100 people attended Schroder's February 23 appearance in Grants Pass, Oregon where Schroder denied any involvement with militias or white supremacists. Schroder told a reporter, however, that common law courts may be a legitimate method of opposing government tyranny. Schroder's appearance in Grants Pass was hosted by Dave Sibling who can be reached at 541-476-4786. Sibling was also the contact for a February 24 appearance in Medford.

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**6. MILITIA OF MONTANA IN WASHINGTON STATE:** Militia of Montana leader John Trochmann spoke to a crowd of about 350 at the Best Western Inn in Fife, Washington on March 10, 1996. Trochmann spoke with Fred Fisher of the Washington State Militia, the group hosting the event. WSM leader John Pitner introduced Fisher and Christian Patriot singer Karl Klang provided entertainment.

Fisher launched a vitriolic attack on the Coalition for Human Dignity and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as "enemies of the American people." He also compared militias with the FBI and argued that the FBI has committed greater offenses than any militia. John Trochmann gave a rambling presentation based on the Militia of Montana's latest book/video program "Enemies Foreign & Domestic."

Far right figures in attendance included Embassy of Heaven figure Glen Stoll, Teresa Sundstrom of the Liaison Group, and Christian Patriot veterinarian Donald Ellwanger. A distributor of the Populist Party/American Nationalist Union tabloid the Nationalist Times was on hand as was Rosa Lowe, the host of an upcoming appearance by Richard Mack and Jack McLamb in Bellevue, Washington.

**7. CHARLES COLLINS IN WASHINGTON STATE:** Charles Collins, the Georgia-based presidential choice of far right activists not backing the campaign of Pat Buchanan, is scheduled to appear in Tacoma, Washington, March 2, 1996. Collins will appear at the Tacoma Elks Lodge at 1965 South Union. Christian Patriot musician Carl Klang will provide entertainment. The contact for the meeting is Alice M. Bly at 14808 Larch Way in Lynnwood. She can be reached at (206) 645-3228.

Two local candidates will speak with Collins - Bob Tharp, who is running for governor, and Bill Tinsley, head of the Eagle Alliance and a candidate for the 6th district U.S. House seat. Dean Randles is the state coordinator of the Collins for President campaign. His number is 360-452-2624.

**8. JUBILEE CONFERENCE SET FOR APRIL:** The Christian Identity publication The Jubilee will hold its annual conference April 5-7, 1996 in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The theme of this year's "Jubilation" is "We Want This Country Back." Scheduled speakers include Jubilee regulars such as Aryan Nation's figure Louis Beam, Identity leader Pete Peters and Montana Identity leader Chris Temple. Randy Weaver, a movement martyr since his violent confrontation with federal agents in August 1992, is a scheduled speaker.

According to the Spotlight, Willis Carto, the head of the anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby will appear at the meeting - his appearance is described as "confirmed but pending." Patriot singer Carl Klang will provide entertainment. Anyone interested in attending may contact The Jubilee at P.O. Box 310, Midpines, CA 95345 or at (209) 742-6397). The Jubilee is also courting Michael New, the soldier convicted of disobeying a direct order for refusing to wear a United Nations uniform while serving as a peacekeeper. New has been invited, but has not confirmed.

**9. PETE PETER'S CAMP SCHEDULE:** Colorado Identity leader Pete Peter's 1996 Scriptures for America Rocky Mountain Family Bible Camp is scheduled for June 9-15 near Estes Park, Colorado. The Colorado racist also has a March 29-31 camp scheduled for Falling Waters, West Virginia and a September 26-29 camp scheduled to take place in Wisconsin.

**10. SHERIFF MACK AND JACK MCLAMB:** Far right Arizona Sheriff Richard Mack and Christian Patriot leader Jack McLamb will highlight a conference Saturday, March 30, 1996 at the Bellevue Conference Center in Bellevue, Washington. Devvy Kidd, a candidate for the U.S. House in California, will also speak as will Eric Madsen who bills himself as "Governor of Colorado republic state." The Citizens for Constitutional Law and Law Enforcement, the host of the event, can be reached at 9805 Northeast 116th St. #A220, Kirkland, WA or at phone # (206) 462-1576.

**11. LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT ICR:** Dr. John Morris, the son of Institute for Creation Research founder Henry Morris, has been named president of the El Cajon, California-based group. The younger Morris has been active with the group for years, serving as a Vice-President for Outreach Ministries, speaking regularly at the group's "Back to Genesis" seminars and appearing regularly on the ICR's daily one-minute radio broadcasts. Morris is a professor of geology at the ICR's graduate school. Morris will present his goals for the organization in upcoming issues of Acts & Facts, the ICR's monthly publication.

Founded in 1971, the ICR is the premiere national advocate of teaching creationism in public schools. ICR writers have written some 120 books and produced over 60 video cassettes on the subject in the past 15 years. ICR conducts seminars on University campuses, holds church conferences and conventions. ICR will have a

presence at a Spring Conference and at the Faith Lutheran Church in Leavenworth, Washington May 7-9, 1996. Two ICR events were scheduled for February 2-3, 1996 in Vancouver, Washington—a “Case for Creation” Seminar at the First Evangelical Church in Vancouver, Washington and a “Good Science Workshop” hosted by Pastor Steve Briner and aimed at K-6 and high school students.

**12. CHRISTIAN COALITION'S CATHOLIC STRATEGY:** The Christian Coalition has created a new organization, the Catholic Alliance, in an effort to reach out to conservative Catholics. Launched in October 1995, the Catholic Alliance “will concentrate on grassroots training and voter identification and membership” according to Alliance co-founder Gerry Giblin. According to an article in the November 1995 *Church & State*, the Catholic Alliance is an outgrowth of a 1994 trial project called the “League of Catholic Voters” which distributed voter guides and won the approval of diocesan officials in northern Virginia. Pat Robertson was a signatory to the 1994 document “Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium” which called for greater cooperation between conservative Catholics and evangelicals. An immediate precursor to the Alliance was a session titled “Forming a Catholic Evangelical Coalition” at the September 1995 Christian Coalition Road to Victory Conference.

Through the Catholic Alliance the Christian Coalition is attempting to exploit changes in voting patterns among Catholics as well as historically conservative Catholic Church positions on abortion and birth control. As the December issue of the *Christian American* points out the 1994 elections were the first time that a majority (52%) of Catholics voted Republican in congressional races. Catholic Alliance executive director Maureen Roselli, a Catholic and former activist with the National Right to Life Committee noted the group’s aim of to “get representatives elected who vote pro-life and pro-family” through building Catholic-Evangelical coalitions in areas of shared interest. The Catholic Alliance has won support from right-wing Catholics such as William Bennett and former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey.

The Christian Coalition’s attempt to recruit Catholics is opposed by many Catholic leaders. John Carr of the U.S. Catholic Conference disagreed with the Christian Coalition aim of giving Catholics a “new” place for their political aspirations. “Catholics already have a place,” he said, “It’s called the Catholic Church.” Colorado’s three Roman Catholic bishops also sent a letter to 200 Catholic priests in the state saying that “We must say as strongly as possible: the Catholic Alliance does not represent the Catholic. The Catholic Church addresses issues of morality, justice, peace, and human dignity.” The bishops wrote that while the Catholic church may agree with the Christian Coalition on some issues - such as abortion, euthanasia and pornography—“we sharply disagree on issues such as welfare reform, capital punishment and health care reform.”

**13. RIGHT WAY AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE:** The Christian Patriot group Right Way I.a.w. holds meetings the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7 pm at Charlie Mac’s at 170th and Aurora. The meeting is hosted under the auspices of the Civil Rights Task Force at P.O. Box 6543, Lynnwood, WA 98037.

**14. PROMISE KEEPERS RETURNS TO THE NORTHWEST:** Promise Keepers, the men’s movement started by Colorado Christian Right leader Bill McCartney, is returning to the Pacific Northwest. The Seattle Promise Keeper’s gathering is set for April 26-27 in the Kingdome. A second Promise Keeper’s event will be held August 2-3 at Autzen Stadium in Eugene, Oregon. The contact for the events is Marty Brazier at 206-546-7451.

**15. ROBERT WANGRUD ON COMMON LAW COURTS:** Christian Patriot leader Robert Wangrud of *Democracy v. Republic, Redress* has offered his understanding of the common law courts being organized by Christian Patriots. In the January 1996 issue of *BEHOLD!*, he writes,

“A vigilante committee can and does take the law into their own hands. A vigilante committee can set up their own court, but a court established by a vigilante committee is not a common-law court. A vigilante committee’s court, if you can call it a court, is just the committee assembling to determine if an individual, or public official is guilty of violations of his oath of office, murder, etc. If the committee decided a judge or other official was corrupt, and violated his oath of office the committee took him out to the nearest tree and hung him.

I believe the so called Common-Law courts springing up across the Nation are in reality vigilante committees. So far these committee’s have only tried to enforce their acts non violently, but that could change. The real objection I have is deceiving the people involved into believing they are a common-law court, when in truth they are involved in a vigilante committee. These people would be better off calling their group what it really is” (p.7).

**16. KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN RALLY IN WYOMING:** Thom Robb's Knights of the Ku Klux Klan sponsored an anti-Martin Luther King Jr. rally January 15, 1996 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Pro-Klan attendance at the meeting was small, with Robb before-hand estimating that 10-15 Klan leaders would be present. Though some 300 people were present they consisted largely of police, reporters and curious bystanders. Robb gave media interviews and his usual speech about government betrayal of white people. According to Robb, the only other anti-King event the Knights were set to host was in Florida.

About 1,000 people attended a pro-Martin Luther King rally previous to the Klan rally. And, following the Klan rally a group of people opposed to the Klan washed the steps of the state capitol building where the Klan members had stood.

**17. LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT CHURCH OF THE CREATOR:** Matt Hale, a longtime Illinois-based neo-Nazi, has become the latest Pontifex Maximus of the neo-Nazi Church of the Creator. Under Hale's leadership the group is now putting out a monthly newsletter titled The Struggle in a smaller and less polished format than the COTC newsletter of the Ben Klassen era. The group's new home base is P.O. Box 2002, East Peoria, IL 61611.

Hale indicates that the group is looking to reach out to recruits in Eastern Europe. Describing the point of entry for COTC in the group's newsletter Hale writes, "There is particularly great potential amongst our White Racial Comrades in Eastern Europe who may not feel comfortable with National Socialism or the swastika per se, but whom (sic) would be receptive to an all-embracing White religion like Creativity."

The group's own commitment to National Socialism and anti-Semitic violence remains the same. The COTC "Program to Overcome the Tyranny and Violence Against the White Race" reads in part,

"As the White Race [sic] becomes united, informed, and aroused, we will boycott every Jew and every aspect of Jewish influence in our society.

"We thereby intend to drive them from our society in all phases of influence and power, just as Hitler did in Germany."

At present, COTC has contacts in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, California, New York and Mississippi. Montana, however, has more COTC contact people than any other state. The contacts in Montana are Dan Hassett at P.O. Box 2231, Missoula, MT 59806; Slim Deardorff at P.O. Box 491, Superior, MT 59872; and Rudy Stanko at 1315 Allendale Rd., Laurel, MT. Stanko's phone number is 406-628-4668.

**18. CHRISTIAN COALITION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA:** The Christian Coalition has established roots in British Columbia, Canada and may play a role in elections possibly to be called for April or May. Bill Vander Zalm, a former British Columbia premier and one of the more than 20 directors of the fledgling B.C. chapter, announced that the group plans to distribute "voter guides" in churches around the province in any upcoming election. Vander Zalm notes that the group is already organized in the Okanagan, the Fraser Valley and the Lower Mainland. Vander Zalm has associated in the past with the right-wing Reform Party and the Family Coalition Party of B.C.

The B.C. chapter formed after several dozen Canadians attended the fall 1995 Christian Coalition convention in the U.S. Don Spratt, a member of Operation Rescue, leads the B.C. chapter. Other advisors to the group include Ted and Link Byfield of the right-wing Alberta Report and B.C. Report magazines, Alex Parachin, head of the Canadian branch of Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network and Jason Kenny, head of the Canadian Taxpayers Association. Jim Garrow, the Ontario-based leader of the Christian Coalition of Canada told reporters that the group will seek allies in organizations such as the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, REAL Women and the Canadian branch of James Dobson's Focus on the Family.

**19. POPULIST PARTY OF WASHINGTON STATE:** The King County chapter of the Populist Party of Washington State is holding monthly meetings at the Maple Valley Public Library in Maple Valley, Washington.

**20. PRO-LIFE GAYS AND LESBIANS IN OREGON:** The group PLAGAL, or Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians, is represented in Portland, Oregon by Michelle. She can be reached at 503-281-7069 or, by e-mail, at AKECHETA@aol.com. This Washington D.C.-based organization conducts outreach to gay and lesbian media to oppose abortion rights for women. They have participated in conferences with organizations such as Feminists for Life and the American Rights Coalition as well as with representatives of various "crisis pregnancy centers."

**21. FORMER YOUTH ACTION COALITION LEADER GETS TRAINED:** Eric Nathan, a former leader of the Whatcom county, Washington-based Youth Action Coalition, is presently in the middle of a 3 month internship for Morton Blackwell's Leadership Institute in Virginia. Blackwell is the former field director of the Christian Coalition. Nathan has been a speaker at Christian Coalition Road to Victory conferences held in Washington state.

**22. TOWARD TRADITION STAFFER MOVES TO WASHINGTON STATE:** Yarden Weidenfeld, the Director of Development of Rabbi Daniel Lapin's ultraconservative Toward Tradition, is moving from Washington D.C. to Seattle to work more closely with Lapin. Weidenfeld's new phone number is 206-236-3046.

**23. SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXECUTIVE THREATENED:** Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel announced in an interview with the Everett Herald that he was harassed and threatened for two and one-half months during the fall 1995 elections. In addition to receiving "very threatening" phone calls Drewel received information from local police departments that he was being stalked. The harassment came amidst a vitriolic public campaign against Drewel by local far right activists and militia supporters. Drewel told the Herald that during the campaign he arranged for his daughters to live outside of his Arlington-area home and received protection from volunteer sheriff's deputies. He told the Herald that "I never thought in my professional career that it would be necessary to wear a bullet-proof vest."

The revelation of Drewel's harassment was matched by the experiences of now Snohomish County Sheriff Rick Bart. During Bart's campaign against Democratic incumbent Patrick Murphy—who received support from local far right activists—Bart reported that "I got phone calls at my house.... They were going to kill me."

••• **The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to [chdpdx@aol.com](mailto:chdpdx@aol.com). Alternatively you can mail such items to the address below or call us either in Portland or Seattle at the numbers listed below. CHD Research staff rely upon such information to fill out much of the Northwest Update and we appreciate your contributions.•••**