



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

January 1, 1997

1. FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR CHD CONTINUES STRONG: The following foundations have made generous contributions to the work of the Coalition for Human Dignity: Nathan Cummings Foundation (\$35,000), Bydale Foundation (\$10,000), Streisand Foundation (\$7,500), Threshold Foundation (\$14,000), Philanthropic Collaborative, Inc. (\$2,000), A Territory Resource (\$1,000), C.S. Fund (\$15,000), New World Foundation (\$20,000), MacKenzie River Gathering Foundation (\$7,500), Boehm Foundation (\$5,000), and the List Foundation (\$10,000). In all, \$177,500 in grants was provided CHD during 1996. The work of Coalition staff, board and volunteers would not have been possible without the strong and consistent support of all our foundation partners. Thanks!

2. CHD ADDRESSES MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF JUDGES: Nearly 90 state and federal judges attended the workshop conducted by CHD staffer Devin Burghart entitled "Guns & Gavel: Common Law Courts and Militias" at the Minnesota Annual Conference of Judges in Bloomington. The 2 ½ hour long workshop on Dec. 11 outlined the contours of the Christian Patriot wing of the white supremacist movement and the threat posed by Common Law Courts and militias around the country. The workshop had the largest attendance of the conference.

3. THREE PLEAD GUILTY IN WASHINGTON STATE MILITIA PIPE-BOMB CASE: Three of the eleven defendants in the federal pipe-bomb conspiracy trial involving Washington State Militia and common law court activists from Western Washington plead guilty on Dec. 5. Richard Frank Burton Jr., 38; his wife, Caitlin Hansen, 36; and Theodore R. Carter, 38, all of Bellingham, entered guilty pleas before U.S. District Judge John Coughenour, according to Kate Greenquist, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney. Burton plead guilty to one count of conspiracy, two counts of possession of destructive devices, and one count of persuading another to withhold or destroy evidence. Hansen plead guilty to one count of obstruction of justice related to helping her husband destroy and conceal evidence. Carter plead guilty to conspiracy. The three are to be sentenced March 21. Trial for the others begins Jan 13 (Associated Press, Jan. 6).

4. WE THE PEOPLE ACTIVISTS CONVICTED: Seven of eleven defendants were convicted on 44 counts of conspiracy, mail fraud, money laundering, and criminal forfeiture in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa in Cedar Rapids. All eleven defendants were members of We The People, a patriot group based in Colorado and Iowa. The group maintained that the entire banking system is illegal, and asked followers to pay \$300 each to be eligible for multi-million dollar payments of "damages" to be issued in new currency. Several members had links with the Montana Freeman.

The eight convicted individuals are: Quentin E. Hildebrand, Joseph A. Mentlick, Jr., David I. Gardemann, Kenneth L. Praklio, Allen K. Zurcher, Larry A. Webb, and Joan M. Webb. Of the remaining four defendants, one plead guilty to lesser charges, Mervin D. Hague; Scott E. Hildebrand, the ringleader of the group, was severed from the case due to health problems. His case will be tried later. The two remaining defendants, Sandra K. Hildebrand, Scott's wife, and Donald W. Borgmann were given "directed verdicts of acquittal," by the judge, Mark W. Bennett, who ruled that government prosecutors had failed to present sufficient evidence linking them to the scheme. The eleven defendants had been charged with bilking 6,832 people in 49 states and two Canadian provinces of more than \$2 million dollars.

5. HAWAII RULING ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: On Dec. 3 Judge Kevin Chang ruled that Hawaii's government had failed to show that the state had any "compelling interest" in denying gay and lesbian couples the right to marry. The ruling follows a 1993 decision by the Hawaii state Supreme Court which stated that denial of

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marriage licenses to same-sex couples violated the state constitution. The case was sent back to a lower court to give the state a chance to demonstrate a compelling interest in forbidding same-sex marriage. The long anticipated decision—which is being appealed back to Hawaii's Supreme Court—prompted the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act last summer which leaves the matter of recognizing, or refusing to recognize, same-sex marriages to each state (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 4; Yakima Herald-Republic, December 16; Oregonian, December 19).

6. NATIONALIST TIMES ON MILITIAS: According to the Nationalist Times, (November 1996), the principle organ of the American Nationalist Union, the militia movement is in dire straits, but could emerge from the “current onslaught” of government repression stronger. The unsigned editorial appears in a longer section entitled “Intelligence Report.” “Burdened by the same tendencies toward media theatrics and bestowing Very Important Titles upon themselves that have afflicted much of the right for many years, the militias have proved to be easy pickings for the feds to infiltrate and entrap... The militias should be made up for the most part of local cells, who go about their training and other business quietly and efficiently. The current spree of arrests—and a conviction of the militiamen arrested in Georgia earlier this year—will drive the hobbyists and Hollywood types out and the militia movement will be the better for it in the long run...”

7. LIBERTY LOBBY, CARTO SLAMMED FOR \$9 MILLION: Veteran anti-Semite Willis Carto was ordered to pay a competing holocaust denial group \$2.65 million, while the organization Carto heads up, the Liberty Lobby, was ordered to pay \$6.43 million. The decision was made by a Superior Court of California this past November, and represents a significant set back for Carto in his bid to destroy the Institute for Historical Review (IHR), an organization previously under his control. The December 2 edition of the Spotlight adds, “the judgment was the result of a suit filed in July, 1994 against Carto, Liberty Lobby and other defendants for alleged conversion of assets left by Jean Farrel to the care of Carto... [The judge] decided that Carto had no right to direct funds to Liberty Lobby and should have given it instead to the Institute for Historical Review (IHR).”

Carto has been locked in court battles with the directors of the IHR since 1993 when a group of former Carto allies split from the aging fascist. Mark Lane acted as attorney for Liberty Lobby.

8. MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMON LAW COURT IN SESSION: The October 4, 11, and 18 editions of the Daily Journal of Commerce (Portland) carried a declaration from the Multnomah County Common Law Court which read in part: “We the People of Multnomah County are of the belief that the Common Law has been derived from the Laws of Ancient Israel as restored by Jesus Christ and preserved by the Anglo/Saxon Common Law prior to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066... However, we have concluded that our Multnomah County Common Law Court should have no religious or racial/ethnic qualification prior to allowing the People to participate in or have access to the superior mechanisms for administering Justice to be found within this Court.”

Common law “officials” apparently had to deliberate as to whether the court should have a “racial/ethnic qualification.”

9. YAKIMA COUNTY MILITIA UNIT 419: A candidate round-up held in Ellensburg, Washington during October, 1996 featured a table by the Yakima County Militia. The gathering was sponsored by the Coalition of Washington Counties, whose officials told the Ellensburg Daily Record (October 10) they had no ties to the militia and that the event was open to all organizations. Butch Razey, a self-proclaimed “major” in the militia's Unit 419, claimed his group has 20 active and 22 inactive members.

10. WASHINGTON INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES HOSTS CALIFORNIA PROP 209 ADVOCATE: Ward Connerly, a member of the University of California Board of Regents and the point person for California's anti-Affirmative Action Proposition 209 spoke at the September 30 annual dinner of the Washington Institute for Policy Studies. (Washington Journal, Oct. 10).

11. MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES ISSUES DECLARATION: On October 29 an Assembly of Representatives of the Montana Association of Churches released a “Declaration on Distortions of the Christian Gospel” aimed at affirming diversity and repudiating the false teachings of a subculture with “roots in nativism, anti-Semitism and Christian apocalypticism.” The declaration goes on to state, “At critical moments in history Christian churches have taken a clear stand for the Gospel by professing allegiance to Jesus Christ and denouncing uses of the Bible which sow suspicion, hatred, and injustice. We believe the present time to be such a critical moment.”

“...we repudiate the teachings of those who use the Bible and the historic name of “Christian” to justify teachings

of supremacy based on race, gender, or ethnic background.”

Contact: Susan DeCamp, Montana Association of Churches, Andrew Square, Suite G, 100 24th St. West, Billings, MT 59102. (406) 656-9779.

12. GROUP QUESTIONS SEARCH FOR GAY GENE: A full page article in the December 15 Seattle Times/Post-Intelligencer calls into question efforts to find a genetic basis for homosexuality. The article titled “The Gay Gene: Whatever homosexuality’s cause, genetics group says debate isn’t worth having” by Professor Phillip L. Bereano of the Council for Responsible Genetics. Bereano argues that the quest for a gene that causes homosexuality is at best misguided and at worst a cause for alarm. The article states in part:

“Some argue that a genetic component to sexual orientation will reduce discrimination. Yet, in our society, people are subject to discrimination on the basis of differences in biology (sex, skin color) and culture (ethnicity, religion)... Rather than seeking a biology-based defense against discrimination, it would be more productive to try to understand why some people find it useful to attribute genetic causes to behaviors as varied as criminality, alcoholism and sexual orientation.”

“The history of discrimination against other groups, such as people of color or women, makes it clear that a biological basis for distinctness has not prevented racism or sexism. On the contrary, biological arguments have frequently been used to bolster discrimination. American slavery was rationalized on biological grounds, as was the Nazi extermination of the Jews.”

The Council for Responsible Genetics is a nonprofit group whose mission is to inform the public about the social consequences of genetic technologies. It can be reached at 5 Upland Road, Suite 3, Cambridge, MA 02140, (617) 868-0870.

13. OCA CIRCULATES NEW ANTI-ABORTION PETITION: The Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) began circulating petitions to place a new anti-abortion initiative on the 1998 general election ballot. Petitions were mailed to OCA members and supporters in December with the ballot title: “Amends Constitution: Bans Second, Third Trimester Abortions With One Exception; Permits Lawsuits.” Chief petitioners for the initiative are Lon Mabon, Phillip Ramsdell and Louis J. Beres, Executive Director of the Oregon Christian Coalition. The OCA tried and failed to gather the requisite signatures to place a similar measure on the 1996 ballot.

14. OREGON CHRISTIAN COALITION WEIGHS IMPACT: According to the January/February issue of the Oregon Christian Coalition supplement to the Christian Coalition’s Christian American magazine, the state chapter distributed over 600,000 of its voter guides before the November election. It reports that “Republicans have retained control of the Oregon House with a razor thin margin—31-29! This despite the fact that unions, such as the Oregon Education Association, targeted nearly a dozen Oregon Republican legislators for defeat and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in independent campaign expenditures to defeat them. The Republicans will also retain control of the Senate with a 20-10 margin.” New county chapters are reported in Clatsop, Deschutes, Grant, Lane, Lincoln, Tillamook, Umatilla and Yamhill Counties.

15. DAVID BARTON SCHEDULES OREGON EVENTS: David Barton, founder and director of the Aledo, Texas-based Wallbuilders organization has scheduled appearances in Portland on April 19-20 and Hillsboro on April 18. Barton is known as an “intellectual” of the Christian Right, providing historical scholarship that supposedly supports the idea of America as a “Christian nation.” Contact: Wallbuilders at (817) 441-6044.

16. ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED AT UNIVERSITY OF OREGON: On November 29 anti-Semitic literature was left in several areas on the University of Oregon Campus. A leaflet, entitled “The Definitive Poetic Prophecy Against Jewish Racist Superiority” by the “Anointed Truth Uttering Holy Inspired Revolutionary Poet Brother of Freedom Lovers and Destroyer of Tyrants: Joe C. Justus, of Free Speech Press, Eugene, Oregon,” was placed in newspaper drop boxes around campus.

17. SPOKANE NEO-NAZI SKINHEAD HELD IN MURDER OF ARKANSAS GUN DEALER: Sean Michael Haines, a Spokane neo-Nazi skinhead has been arrested in South Dakota and will be questioned about the 1995 assassination-style murders of William Mueller, an Arkansas gun-dealer and “patriot,” Mueller’s wife and her daughter. Haines was picked up Dec. 10 at a freeway rest stop near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is reported to have had in his possession an assault rifle stolen from Mueller. The three victims were all bound, handcuffed and shot in the head. Their bodies were dumped into a bayou.

Haines, 19, had been the leader of the Inland Empire-based "Blood and Honor" neo-Nazi skinhead group, whose members have been linked to distribution of racist literature in Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint. Four other "Blood and Honor" members are currently incarcerated for firing a handgun at three men outside a Cheney pizza parlor in March 1996. Haines, along with Aryan Nations staff Gerald Gruedal and Tim Bishop led a group of neo-Nazi skinheads in protest of a presentation made by Bill Wassmuth in Sandpoint on June 16, 1995. During the protest, Haines referred to himself as "Aryan Youth Coordinator" (Spokesman Review, Dec. 12).

18. "OUR ONE SUPREME COURT" ACTIVISTS CONVICTED IN MISSOURI: On Dec. 12, a jury in Troy, Missouri convicted 15 members of "Our One Supreme Court" of tampering with a judicial official. The defendants were charged after they helped file a \$10.8 million bogus lien against Lincoln County Associate Circuit Judge Patrick Flynn in an attempt to force him to drop a speeding case.

The jury recommended that Andrew J. Cella and Raymond L. Rees, of Montgomery City; Floyd Heubner of Quincy, Ill; Dorsett and Gwynlyn Gant of Mexico; Donald R. Schaefer of Rhineland, Mo.; Donald L. Shaffer of Mendon, Ill.; Mike Peek of Wright City; Ima D. Conklin of Lake Lotawana, Mo.; Roger A. Peek of Moscow Mills; Donald L. Young of Rushville, Ill.; Roman N. Hasleg Jr. of Leslie; and James P. Ransdell of Troy; each receive two years in prison for their involvement. The jury also recommended a seven year sentence for the leaders, Clifford Hobbs of Auxvasse, Mo., and Dennis Logan of St. Peters. A sentencing date has not yet been set (Post-Dispatch, Dec. 13).

19. RACIALLY MOTIVATED ASSAULT IN SPOKANE: An African-American man was beaten and knifed outside a grocery store in Spokane on Dec. 30. Five or six white men attacked the 40 year-old victim after he left the store. One of the men called the victim a racial name and several of the others began kicking, beating and slashing him with a knife, according to police. Police are investigating the incident as a possible hate crime. The incident would bring the hate crime count in Spokane to 10 in 1996, up from seven the previous year (Spokesman-Review, Dec. 31).

20. WASHINGTON FAMILY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEW THREE-YEAR INITIATIVE: In the wake of returning home from campaigning for his father, Washington Family Council executive director Jeff Kemp has announced a new three-year initiative to "put family first in Washington state." Goals for the new project include: launching the "marriage movement," helping equip business leaders across the state with "family friendly policies, attitudes and practices in the workplace," and promoting "family friendly government." Kemp promised more details in coming months (Washington Family Council mailing, Nov. 22).

21. CALIFORNIA "FREEMAN" CONVICTED OF ASSAULT, WEAPONS CHARGES: John Patrick McGuire, a California common law court activist and associate of the Montana Freeman, was convicted by a Sonoma County, California jury on Dec. 27 of assaulting a police officer in 1980 and illegal possession of a firearm. McGuire faces a six year prison sentence as a result of the conviction. He will be sentenced in February. After sentencing, he will be sent to Montana where he faces federal bank fraud charges. It appears, however, that the charge accusing McGuire of threatening two Sonoma County judges will be dropped, as two separate juries have deadlocked in the past three months (Associated Press, Dec. 28).

22. OREGON GOV. DECLINES TO ENDORSE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE MONTH: In 1996 Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber signed a proclamation declaring April to be Christian Heritage Month. However the Attorney General's Office has since decided that the Christian Heritage declaration may well be unconstitutional and Kitzhaber has declined to renew his endorsement in 1997. In the January/February 1997 issue of the Oregon Christian Coalition's newsletter, Faith Gabrielson, author of the declaration, writes:

"This proclamation is miraculous for some obvious reasons. Oregon is one of the top two states, when it comes to the number of people who don't go to church. We are also one of the most liberal states (some people refer to us as the 'Arm-pit of America,' due to the liberal's stance taken on abortion, homosexuality, pornography, etc.). We also have one of the most liberal Governors... he has had no problem signing a proclamation in 1995, and now in October 1996 declaring Gay and Lesbian History Month. But, he isn't willing to sign a proclamation for 1997 Christian Heritage Month."

••• The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to 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. •••