



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

January 15, 1997

1. PETERS & TROCHMANN TO HIGHLIGHT SPOKANE SURVIVAL EXPO: Identity leader Pete Peters and Militia of Montana founder John Trochmann are slated to appear February 1 & 2 at the "Self-Sufficiency & Preparedness Expo '97" to be held at the Convention Center in Spokane, Washington. The expo is being sponsored by the Oregon-based Pro-mo Media which is headed by Grants Pass figure Rick Smith. The expo is similar to the Preparedness Expos which have appeared around the region since 1991. The event will feature booths with information and products related to emergency and disaster, food and water storage, self-defense and protection, military surplus, alternative energy, home education and financial privacy -- topics of interest to both far right activists and a broader spectrum of the general public. Joining Peters and Trochmann are Aryan Nations ally Chris Temple, Jim Kellog of Sheepecote Ministries, Ken Royce, publisher of the Boston T. Party, Ted Wright of the Hand of Man Survival Ministries and Bob Bowden, who will speak on "emergency preparedness." Other speakers include Terry Dorlan, Dan Junker, Bea Lydecker, Scott Pedersen, Lee Tavenner, Mike Oehler, and Phillip Hoag.

2. OCA CONTINUES TO ATTACK CONSERVATIVES: The January 1997 issue of The Oregon Alliance, the official newsletter of the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), continues to chronicle the many splits the OCA has had with other conservatives. In a cover article titled "The Dumbing-Down of the Pro-Life Movement," written by Chairman Lon Mabon, the OCA names names; Mabon writes: "The last election cycle proves my point perfectly. I have never witnessed the degree of wholesale abandonment of moral principle than that which occurred in Oregon.... For two presidential elections, Marilyn Shannon has been putting pro-abortion individuals on her pro-life slate of Republican delegates to the national convention.... In the Republican reorganizational meetings held in November of 1996, you could see this 'pro-life backsliding'.... In Washington County a group led by Bruce Starr joined with the Berkman [former Oregon GOP chair Craig Berkman] pro-abortion wing in an attempt to defeat a 100% pro-life slate. In Multnomah County Bill Stallings and Jim Worthington led a group that joined forces with and actually nominated Chuck Martin who is head of the 'Mainstream Republicans' whose stated goal--now get this--is to defeat the 'Religious Right's' pro-life/pro-family agenda." Mabon then claims that conservative Christian Republicans joined forces with mainstream and moderate GOP members in many Oregon counties in an attempt to defeat the "pro-life/pro-family" slate. He does not mention that these "slates" were viewed within the Oregon GOP as vehicles for OCA power, which was the primary reason for the unlikely alliances against them.

3. RACIST SKINHEAD PLEADS GUILTY TO STABBING: Adam Richard Nelson of Salem, Oregon has plead guilty to charges of assault and intimidation in connection with the stabbing of a 20-year-old man, Steven Roberts, in February 1996. Roberts was approached by Nelson outside a store and asked "Are you proud of your race?" When Roberts answered, "No," he was immediately attacked. Nelson stabbed him twice, twisting the knife in Roberts' back, then slashed his face, causing a cut that required 16 stitches to close. Nelson will be sentenced in late January to a minimum of 6 ½ years in prison for the attack. Nelson, who weighs 265 lbs, was wearing Doc Marten boots and a bomber jacket at the time of the assault. He also sported Confederate flag buttons and Northern European flag and SS patches. Nelson was affiliated with the Salem-based skinhead group Aryan Pride (Salem Statesman-Journal, January 9).

4. LANDERS BEGINS TRIAL IN NORTH CAROLINA: Russell Dean Landers, one of the "Freemen" arrested in Montana, began his trial in U.S. District Court in Raleigh, North Carolina on Jan. 13. He, along with James Vincent Wells, of Zebulon, NC, face charges including fraud and intimidating federal agents.

According to documents filed by prosecutors, Landers met Wells in 1995. Wells, 58, was a target of a widespread federal investigation into illegal tobacco sales. Federal officials suspected that he led a ring that sold tons

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of tobacco on the black market, garnering as much as \$10 million in illicit profits. The two formed a common law court in Macon County, NC, where they signed "summons" for two IRS agents. In December 1995 Wells and Landers reportedly traveled to Montana to attend classes taught by the Freemen. In January 1996, Wells returned to North Carolina with at least 17 of the fake checks he received from the Freemen, including a \$1.9 million check to pay tax liens that the IRS had assessed him as a result of the black-market tobacco investigation.

Prosecutors also contend that Wells persuaded Prajesh Patel, a former business associate and owner of a Raleigh travel agency, to deposit two checks totaling \$628,000 in his agency account at Central Carolina Bank, then refund the money to Wells. Patel pleaded guilty to the felony charge of "conspiracy to structure financial transactions" and is expected to testify on behalf of the government. According to prosecutors, the money was to be used to finance a murder plot, outfitting an armed convoy to kidnap two Montana officials and bring them back to the Freemen for hanging.

During trial preliminaries, Landers regurgitated Christian Patriot arguments about the gold fringe on the courtroom's American flag indicating that it is an "admiralty" court. After his trial in North Carolina Landers will be returned to Montana to face trial, where he has been indicted in connection with his role in the Freemen standoff (AP, Jan. 13).

5. PETE PETERS HITS THE ROAD: Identity leader Pete Peters is scheduled to speak at the following events in 1997: the Scriptures for America (SFA) Conference in the Orlando, FL area - Jan 24-26; the Self-Sufficiency and Preparedness Expo at the Spokane Convention Center - Feb. 1-2; SFA conference near Sonora, CA - Mar. 21-23; "Super-Conference" in Branson, Missouri hosted by Pastor Everett Ramsey - Apr. 25-27; SFA Rocky Mountain Family Bible Camp near Golden, CO. - June 28-July 3; SFA Fall Camp near Waupaca, WI - Sept. 3-7 or 10-14.

6. OKLAHOMA COMMON LAW COURT ACTIVISTS PLEAD GUILTY: On Jan. 6, the day their trial was to begin, United Sovereigns of America leader Wayne Gunwall of Ponca City, OK along with Kenny and Colleen Moore of Bartlesville pleaded guilty to conspiring to avoid paying income taxes, penalties and interest by intimidating and harassing employees of the U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service.

Dan Meador, also of Ponca City, a contributing editor to the United Sovereigns' publication The 50 States Constitutional, began his trial on January 8 on charges of obstructing justice by illegally filing a pleading on behalf of Gunwall and the Moores (Daily Oklahoman, Jan. 8).

7. NFL CHARITIES GIVES MONEY TO WASHINGTON FAMILY COUNCIL: According to the Washington Citizen (Jan.), the Washington Family Council received a \$10,000 grant from National Football League Charities. The grant was specifically targeted to enhance the stature of the Washington Family Council. As NFL Charities commissioner Paul Tagliabue stated, "we are hopeful that this grant will prove effective in attracting additional funding from other organizations."

8. CHRISTIAN COALITION OF WASHINGTON ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: The Christian Coalition of Washington (CCW) has released a report of CCW members' most important "family related issues" for the 1997 Washington State Legislature. The report, given to all Washington State Legislators, includes the top ten priorities: "1. ban on partial birth abortion, 2. define marriage as between one man and one woman; prohibit same sex 'marriage,' 3. parents' rights legislation, 4. parental notification of abortion for minors, 5. replace outcome-based education with basic academic standards, 6. legislation protecting children from pornography, 7. eliminate sex education in grades K-6, 8. welfare reform including increased accountability and privatization, 9. restructure state department of social and health services, 10. reduce property taxes, limit future increases."

9. LE PEN MAKES BID FOR FRENCH WORKING CLASS: Taking up issues that it has largely ignored for many years, Jean-Marie Le Pen's neo-fascist Front National (FN) is increasing its efforts to gain support from the French working class. The opportunity for Le Pen's move follows the decline in strength of Force Ouvriere, the Gaullist (conservative) wing of French organized labor. While the French far right has had little success in attracting broad working class backing since the end of World War II, Le Pen is hoping to reach out to working people through the formation of bogus trade union structures, such as the FN-Police, FN-Prisons and the FN RATP (Paris transport workers). In December 1996 the FN also established a national center, the Fraternite Francaise, designed to reach out to the poorest sectors of French society. The FN is using Fraternite Francaise to boost its policy of "French people first," a policy aimed at denying rights to homeless and poverty stricken immigrants. The FN's working class

strategy takes place at a time when the organization is increasingly absorbing other fascist sectarian organizations. In 1996 the FN's student organization, *Renouveau Etudiante*, absorbed its campus rival; the FN also recently made peace with a bitter rival, the *Nouvelle Resistance*, which had long attacked the FN as a "servant of the system" (*Searchlight*, January 1997).

10. DONOR ATTACKS GOP: In the January 1997 issue of the *Chalcedon Report*, the flagship publication of the Christian Reconstructionist movement, Colonel V. Donor attacks the Republican party and urges the Christian Right to break with it. Donor, a longtime Republican strategist and one of the architects of the Christian Right, first sets out the basic split between Christian Right activists like Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition who are seeking a "place at the table" of political power and those who want to take over the party. Both, Donor argues, are impractical. "Besides the fact that our Biblical world view is, in fact, metaphysically antithetical to true-blue Republican individualism, there remains the profoundly simple but normally ignored (by us) equation that political parties stay in business by winning elections--not by publicly posturing on potentially alienating issues" (p.19).

Donor quotes Christian author David Barron to the effect that: "... if the evangelicals should lose their foothold within the Republican party or if the abortion battle should swing against them with an aura of irreversible finality, a larger number of conservative Christians will begin to think more seriously about overt forms of social protest and resistance. If that should occur, the Reconstructionists will be waiting for them with open arms" (p.21).

Donor's three part article is available in book form from The Samaritan Group, 12215 University Blvd., Suite 130, Orlando, Florida 32817, (707) 528-8000.

11. LIFE ADVOCATE ON THE WEB: The flagship publication of the militant wing of the anti-abortion movement, *Life Advocate*, is now available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.spiritone.com/~lifeadv>.

12. FLORIDA SUPREME COURT REJECTS HILL'S APPEAL: Almost two years after receiving a death sentence for the murders of Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard James Barrett outside of the Ladies Center abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida, the Florida Supreme Court denied Paul Hill's final state-level appeal on November 27. In Hill's original trial he attempted to act as his own counsel and to argue a "necessity" defense--that he was forced to kill Britton and Barrett in order "to save the lives of unborn children." This argument was rejected on the grounds that because abortion is legal, no harm could have been prevented by Hill's action. Following the same logic as the lower court, the Florida Supreme Court rejected Hill's appeal as put forward by his attorneys, Michel Hirsh and Roger Frechette. An article titled "Justifiable Homicide?" by Paul deParrie in the January 1997 issue of *Life Advocate* magazine reviews the Hill case, stating: "Many in the movement refused to condemn abortionist-shooter, Paul Hill, and some suggested that his actions were morally justified" (p.16). To justify this point of view, deParrie quotes fellow Advocates for Life activist Cathey Ramey at length, following her analysis of the biblical justification for actions such as Hill's. She states: "Not only ought the courts to protect the rights of unborn persons, but, as in the case of those who have forcefully attempted to prevent their deaths in the first place, we ought not to condemn those who have acted to protect their innocent lives with the type of defensive measures we would find acceptable if it were our own innocent lives being suddenly placed in jeopardy" (p.16).

13. AMERICA'S PROMISE LOSES CONFERENCE SITE: Christian Identity "minister" Dave Barley was forced to call off the annual America's Promise conference when the conference site director canceled the group's reservation due to his disagreement with Identity doctrine. Barley reports the cancellation in the December 1996 issue of the *America's Promise Newsletter*, writing: "Fellow end-time Israelites: Once again, we have been cut off by a Judeo-Christian church camp. We had a verbal agreement with the Reverend Joe Donaldson regarding our 1997 Christian Israel Family Retreat; however, he is now claiming that because he disagrees with us doctrinally, his facility is no longer available..." Barley reprints the cancellation letter from Rev. Donaldson, Executive Director of the Riverview Camp and Conference Center near Spokane, Washington. It states in part: "Since rental of our facilities to your group would imply endorsement of your doctrinal statement Riverview's facilities will not be made available to your church for rental."

14. VANCOUVER, WA CHURCH WELCOMES GAYS AND LESBIANS: The East Vancouver United Methodist Church at 5701 MacArthur Blvd., has become only the fourth United Methodist Church in Washington to openly welcome gays and lesbians. Rev. Hazel Anne Burnett, pastor at East Vancouver, told the *Vancouver Columbian*, "We're affirming boldly and publicly that the gospel of Jesus Christ calls upon the church to open its doors to all persons." The open-door policy, now included in the church's mission statement, was approved at a year-end

church business meeting by a vote of 40 to 27 after two years of study and debate on the issue. Although the issue is contentious, the church has lost only about ten of its 400 plus members since the debate began. Critique from the religious right came quickly however. "It's a false church," Steve Colcord, former director of the Clark County Chapter of the Citizens Alliance of Washington, told the Columbian. "They've compromised their beliefs, they've compromised the Bible, and they've compromised the word of God" (Vancouver Columbian, January 6).

15. RACIST, ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT NORTHWEST:

- Kamiah, Idaho—The mother of a Kamiah High School sophomore plans to file a lawsuit against the school district for an alleged assault against her son by a basketball coach. Tony Snyder, a teacher and coach at the school, was suspended in early December following the incident. The incident has further inflamed charges of racism in the community, as the young sophomore allegedly attacked is Indian and Snyder is white (Lewiston Tribune, Dec. 17).
- Merlin, Oregon—Angie Johnson, an African-American student attending North Valley High School refuses to attend school following a string of racist incidents in the predominantly rural Southern Oregon district. A male student wrote racial slurs on his hand in one of Angie's classes, school athletes made racial slurs after an athletic match, and a white supremacist flyer was left on her car. The school district recently sponsored diversity meetings in response to the incidents, but Ms. Johnson continues to be home-schooled.
- Coeur d'Alene, Idaho—A Baptist minister who had displayed a Menorah in his window for Hanukkah had a car tire slashed and a swastika scratched in the car's paint. Reverend Chris Barber, of Coeur d'Alene, says his anti-racist sermons have elicited hate mail in the past.
- Manhattan, Washington—A white woman and her 14-year-old African-American son have been the targets of racist graffiti and vandalism since they moved to King County in September. Her stairwells, house, and cars have been spraypainted with racist slogans.

16. FOREST SERVICE WORKERS SUE FOR DISCRIMINATION: Sidney Clark, president of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Coalition of Minority Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the parent agency of the Forest Service, recently announced that his group "is serving notice that the plantation-style management that has long been practiced by Forest Service officials is over." Clark estimated that 40 to 50 past and present employees in Region 6 (Oregon and Washington) would file a joint complaint against the Forest Service seeking millions of dollars in damages due to discrimination and a pattern of reprisal and retaliation (The Skanner, December 24).

17. WCOTC IN WASHINGTON: The January issue of The Struggle, the newsletter the World Church of the Creator (WCOTC), lists a new contact in Washington. The new WCOTC address in Washington is P.O. Box 2295, Sumas, WA 98295. Additional WCOTC contacts were added in Cortland, NY, Salt Lake City, UT, Austin TX, Evansville, IN and Chicago, IL. This brings the number of contacts to 17 in addition to 5 regional branches of the WCOTC. The WCOTC has also established a new web page. The URL is <http://www.creator.org/>. The Baltimore WCOTC chapter has a web page at http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~quinton/b_wcotc.html.

18. FAMILY IN TOUCH ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE ACTION WORKSHOPS: Ellen Craswell's Family in Touch newsletter invites everyone to attend Legislative Action Workshops every Monday during the legislative session. The workshops meet from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Tumwater Evangelical Free Church, 2425 Black Lk. Blvd. SW, Tumwater, WA.

••• 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. •••