



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

October 15, 1997

1. **CHD IN IDAHO FALLS:** CHD Research Analyst Robert Crawford spoke Oct. 5 in Idaho Falls, Idaho with Communities Against Hate director Michelle Lefkowitz and A.J. Lewis, the former president of the Idaho Falls NAACP. The meeting was hosted by the Idaho Falls Regional Council of Ministries and St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Crawford spoke on the Christian Identity movement and the Christian Right and the importance of a strong response to hate groups by Christian churches. Lewis spoke on his experience of racism in Idaho Falls, while CAH's Lefkowitz gave an overview of the white supremacist movement. About 85 people attended the meeting held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

The problem of organized racism in Idaho Falls was highlighted when racists placed hate literature on cars parked outside the meeting. The literature was distributed by Faith & Folk, an Idaho Falls affiliate of the St. Maries, Idaho-based 14 Word Press. 14 Word Press is headed by Katja Lane, the wife of former Order member David Lane, who often writes for the group's publication. Following the event, Crawford, Lefkowitz and several members of the United Methodist Church were interviewed by the Idaho Falls Post-Register.

2. **CHD IN EASTERN WASHINGTON:** CHD Research Analyst Robert Crawford spoke on the Christian Right men's movement Promise Keepers at a training hosted by the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment for the Upper Columbia Human Rights Task Force in Colville, Washington on Oct. 11. The day long training and retreat was directed by NWCAMH's Eric Ward and brought together human rights activists from Stevens County.

3. **ANTI-IMMIGRANT EFFORT IN SIERRA CLUB:** Ohio-based activist Alan B. Kuper is heading up an effort to press Sierra Club members to approve an anti-immigrant plank next spring. Kuper is encouraging supporters of his position to form "Population-Environment Study Groups" in their organizations and promoting material from Zero Population Growth, Roy Beck and the Center for Immigration Studies. The campaign is being conducted under the auspices of the Sierra Referendum Campaign (718 DeSoto Dr.; Palo Alto, CA 94303). Bill Hill is the treasurer. Archie McGregor, described as the former Dean of Students at Queens College, is also involved. Alan Kuper: 2265 Delaware Dr.; Cleveland Hts, OH 44106; (216) 229-2413.

4. **NICHOLS JURY SELECTION UNDERWAY:** Jury selection in the trial of accused Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols is underway in Denver, Colorado. The case is shaping up to be quite different from that of Timothy McVeigh. Judge Richard Matsch has reportedly been strict in allowing prosecutors and defense attorneys to dismiss jurors for cause. As a result, for instance, prosecutors appeared forced to use one of their peremptory strikes against a juror who initially stated that she opposed the death penalty outright – jurors can be dismissed for cause [without using a peremptory strike] in federal capital cases if they will not consider the death penalty. Nichols' lead attorney, Michael Tigar, also appears to be more astute than Stephen Jones, the lead attorney for McVeigh (Washington Post, Oct. 15).

The testimony of Michael and Lori Fortier, which proved damaging to McVeigh, will likely be quite different in Nichol's case. Unlike with McVeigh, the Fortiers claim never to have heard Nichols discuss the bombing; their testimony will also likely include a description of McVeigh's complaint that Nichols wanted to back out of bombing the Murrah building. The government claims that Nichols purchased 2 tons of ammonium nitrate, a charge which could be contradicted by the Fortiers' testimony that McVeigh joked about Nichols' unwillingness to purchase more than a couple bags of ammonium nitrate at a time (Denver Post, Oct. 15).

Federal conspiracy laws are central to the case. Under federal law, once a person has been part of a

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conspiracy, they are not exonerated simply by backing out. According to Andrew Cohen, a Denver-area defense attorney, "In order to withdraw [from a conspiracy], you have to say 'I am leaving this conspiracy. I don't want to have anything to do with it. I am not going to do an illegal act,'" Craig Truman, another Denver defense attorney added, "And then, there's a body of law that says ... you have to call the authorities and say 'McVeigh is going to bomb the federal building'" (Denver Post, Sept. 21).

5. LIBERTY LOBBY ON OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING: Just in time for the trial of Terry Nichols, the Liberty Lobby has spun a new conspiracy yarn about the Oklahoma City bombing. In an attempt to distance itself from Timothy McVeigh, the Liberty Lobby is claiming that the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) "knew what McVeigh was doing" and were "even manipulating him for its own insidious purposes." "Somebody involved in the bombing," according to the Lobby's Michael Collins Piper, "was trying to entangle Liberty Lobby in the conspiracy...we believe that somebody is the ADL... We believe this is in retaliation for Liberty Lobby being the one constant voice crying out against ADL manipulation of U.S. foreign policy" (Spotlight, Oct. 6).

The Liberty Lobby is also peddling Jerry Longspaugh's Cover-up In Oklahoma!, a video claiming that "More than one bomb exploded in Oklahoma City – and several undetonated explosives were also recovered inside." Ben Partin, who claims to be a retired Air Force General, is interviewed on the video, bolstering the multiple-bomb claim. Longspaugh: 7501-A, Trail Ridge Ct., Fort Worth, TX 76179.

6. PROMISE KEEPERS MARCH ON WASHINGTON: According to various press reports, between 480,000 and 700,000 people attended the Oct. 4 Stand in the Gap rally sponsored by Promise Keepers in Washington D.C. D.C. Metro logged 725,909 rides by midnight Saturday, making the event the fourth busiest for the rail train, behind Clinton's 1993 inauguration, the 1995 Million Man March, and the 1991 Desert Storm parade.

Promise Keepers leaders have announced new goals and restructuring plans for the organization. McCartney announced a restructuring plan under which PK would be funded through corporate and individual donations rather than through fees at the stadium events which have become a PK trademark. PK announced that it plans to continue the stadium events at smaller venues free of charge. Since 1990, these events have brought in about \$129 million for the group, though attendance at them has been down throughout 1997. PK also announced plans to expand overseas, establishing operations in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This international mission has reportedly become the sole project of PK president Randy Phillips. McCartney also announced that the group hopes to sponsor gatherings at state capitals in all 50 states in the year 2000.

McCartney's flavor for shepherding was on display when he told attendees, "We propose that every man returns home and submits to the authority of a local shepherd... You have to say to your pastor, 'How high, how far and how much?'" Shepherding refers to the controversial movement in which individuals submit to the strong authority of a religious leader. McCartney himself was "discipled" in the 1970s (Washington Post, Oct. 5, Oct. 6, Oct. 11).

Falling attendance at PK stadium events has also led to PK downsizing, according to Charisma (Sept.) magazine. Charisma reports that the drop in revenues due to poor attendance has led the group to close offices, relocate others to home-based operations, and cut its work force by 25-30%.

Promise Keepers has announced plans to hold ministers' meetings in Portland, OR at the Bible Temple Church March 10, 1998 and at the Denver, CO Convention Center January 22. Additional 1998 ministers' meetings are slated for Philadelphia, PA; San Diego, CA; Nashville, TN; Charlotte, NC; Dallas, TX; Saint Petersburg, FL; and Indianapolis, IN.

7. DUKE WINS GOP POST: Louisiana neo-Nazi David Duke regained a foothold in that state's Republican Party when he was unanimously elected chairman of the Republican Executive Committee in St. Tammany Parish. The vote of 15-0 in favor of Duke drew condemnation from Jeff Crouere, executive director of the Louisiana GOP. Said Crouere, "I consider the St. Tammany a renegade group. David Duke is someone who is outside the mainstream of the Republican Party."

Duke has regained his GOP post by pushing the bounds of the 1996 GOP platform which criticized affirmative action, assailed welfare and called for overturning portions of the 14th Amendment in an attack on immigrant rights. In The David Duke Report (Issue 36) he responds to state GOP criticism:

"The current state and national leadership of the Republican Party is truly the renegade group because