



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

January 15, 1998

1. NICHOLS RECEIVES MIXED VERDICT: On Dec. 23 the jury in the case of Terry Nichols handed down a mixed verdict, finding Nichols guilty of conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction, but not guilty of actually using it. The jury also found Nichols not guilty of first or second degree murder in the deaths of eight federal law officers killed in the bombing. Instead they found him guilty of manslaughter, a charge that is defined as "the unlawful killing of a human being without malice." On Jan. 7 the jury was dismissed by Judge Richard Matsch after informing him the day before that they were deadlocked on a sentence. The deadlock assured that Nichols will not face the death penalty — which could have been given for the conspiracy verdict — and placed the sentencing decision in the hands of Judge Matsch, who is barred from applying the death penalty (*New York Times*, Dec. 24, 1997; *Denver Post*, Jan. 8).

The verdict appears to have been a compromise between those jurors convinced of Nichols' guilt and those dissatisfied with elements of the government's case against the far rightist. The defense's strong portrayal of Nichols as a family man may also have influenced the jury. Jury forewoman Niki Deutchman acknowledged that all jurors agreed "that he knew he was assisting in some kind of a plan that was going to involve probably death and mass destruction" but that "there were a number of people who felt very strongly that Terry Nichols was very involved and there were a certain number of people who felt very strongly that Terry Nichols was only involved in a very minor way." Juror Christy Seib, one of those convinced of Nichols guilty, told the *Denver Post* (Jan. 8) that "Circumstantial evidence is still evidence... [and] seven months of coincidences is a lot for one person," referring to evidence presented by the defense of Nichols' close involvement up to the bombing with convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh.

Matsch will sentence Nichols sometime after a Feb. 9 date set for both sides in the case to present motions on sentencing. Oklahoma County District Attorney Bob Macy has announced plans to try both Nichols and McVeigh in state court and claims that he will seek the death penalty if they are convicted (*Denver Post*, Jan. 8).

2. ANTI-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INITIATIVE HEADED TO LEGISLATURE: Initiative 200, which would end affirmative action in government contracting and school admissions in Washington state, may be headed to the legislature. John Carlson, chair of the pro-200 effort, announced Jan. 2. that his group had turned in 284,862 signatures to the Secretary of State. 179,248 valid signatures are needed to send the initiative to the legislature which would then have three options: pass the measure into law; adopt an alternative to the initiative and send it before the voters in November; or send the measure directly to a November vote. If passed into law, Gov. Gary Locke, who opposes the initiative, would not be allowed to veto it.

Carlson, head of the Washington Institute for Policy Studies, told reporters that his next step is to lobby the legislature. The measure has strong GOP support. The state GOP, led by pro-I-200 party chair Dale Foreman, mailed a letter to 32,000 party members urging them to sign the initiative. The measure also has the support of House speaker Clyde Ballard (R-Eastern Wenatchee) and Senate Majority Leader Dan McDonald (R-Bellevue). Ballard reports confidence that the measure will pass in the House where the GOP holds a 57-41 majority. Though the GOP holds just a 26-23 majority in the Senate, McDonald claims that he can find bipartisan support for the initiative.

But some in the GOP envision a potential backlash. Former Washington Governor Dan Evans told the *Seattle Times* (Dec. 22) that "I think it [I-200] will rebound drastically against Republicans...It doesn't require a broad initiative that divides people in ways detrimental to the party. It adds to the gender gap and expands the already existing ethnic gap." Voters recently voted down an anti-affirmative action measure in Houston, Texas and a Florida effort is reported to have stalled due to a lack of support.

No! 200, the group of civil rights supporters that have formed to fight the initiative, have announced plans for a campaign to place the Initiative on the ballot should it pass in the legislature. The group is also considering launching a pro-affirmative action initiative for the November ballot (*Seattle P-I*, Jan. 3; *Seattle Times*, Jan. 3).

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3. FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Gary Bauer's Family Research Council has weighed in on affirmative action. An article in the Dec. 1997 *Washington Watch* discusses anti-affirmative action legislation by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Rep. Charles Canady (R-FL) and concludes that "When we count, select, and reward by race, color and sex, we inevitably divide by race, color and sex" (p.3).

4. INSTAURATION ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Bemoaning that "few privately owned or corporate business have been affected" by recent federal court attacks on affirmative action, Wilmot Robertson's *Instauration* offered its views on affirmative action in the December 1997 issue:

"The only way affirmative action could really be eradicated in urban America would be to install a military dictatorship or to organize a secret society that would severely punish government officials who deliberately violate anti-affirmative action laws, rules and regulations.

Majority members who want to recapture all their lost country should understand that the only way to win the U.S. back is to first establish an ethnostate and proceed from this racial bastion to the Reconquista" (p. 20).

5. EFFIGY-HANGING PATRIOT SUES STATE: Lawrence Carver, a Eugene, Oregon Christian Patriot who hung a Black state official in effigy on the Capitol steps twice in April and June of 1997 (see *Northwest Update* May 1; June 15) is now suing Oregon state for \$2.7 million. Carver created a crudely racist doll to represent Kay Toran, the director of the Oregon State Services to Children and Families Department, and, ostensibly, to protest the agency's "kidnapping of children." During a rally featuring the effigy held April 28, numerous Oregon state representatives confronted Carver and his associates. Carver claims his hand was injured when state officials took down the effigy. His suit charges the defendants with conspiracy to interfere with his First Amendment rights and with violating Oregon's intimidation and assault laws. The second effigy hanging, which took place at a June 3 rally, featured an array of Oregon Christian patriots including Oregon Observer publisher Ed Snook and Paul deParrie, publisher of the pro-murder anti-abortion magazine the *Life Advocate* (*Salem Statesman-Journal*, Dec. 2).

6. HORIUCHI TRIAL MOVED TO FEDERAL COURT: A U.S. District Court judge ruled Jan. 12 that Lon Horiuchi, the FBI sharpshooter charged with involuntary manslaughter for shooting white supremacist Vicki Weaver during a 1992 standoff, will be tried in federal court instead of state court. Judge Edward Lodge ruled that Horiuchi's trial should take place in federal court as he was on the job as a federal agent when he shot and killed Weaver. Horiuchi was charged by the Boundary County, Idaho prosecutor (Reuters, Jan 12).

7. CHEYNE KEHOE CONVICTED: Washington racist Cheyne Kehoe was convicted Jan. 12 of four of the five charges brought against him for his role in a Feb. 1997 shootout with Ohio law officers. Kehoe was convicted of the felonious assault of officer Harold Harker, felonious assault and attempted murder of deputy sheriff Robert Gates and of carrying a concealed weapon. Kehoe was acquitted of attempting to murder Harker. Kehoe could face up to 27 1/2 years in prison. Kehoe's brother Chevie faces similar charges for his role in the 1996 shootout, murder charges in the 1996 deaths of an Arkansas gun dealer and his family, and charges of plotting the overthrow of the U.S. government in order to create an Aryan Republic (*Columbus Dispatch*, Jan. 13).

8. WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE STUDENT HARASSED & ASSAULTED: Federal investigators are trying to determine who made several threatening phone calls, sent hate mail, and harassed a Warner Pacific College student in Portland, Oregon. The African-American female student had been attempting to establish a Black Cultural Affairs Committee on campus. The student received racially and sexually derogatory letters through the campus mail and was grabbed and assaulted at a convenience store near the campus. The mother of the young woman has criticized the school for not having done enough. The pattern of harassment began in mid-October and continued through late November (*Skanner*, Nov. 19).

9. PUBLICATION COMBINES WISE USE, ANTI-GAY: Sue Forde, former publisher of the *Citizen's News*, is now producing *Citizen Review*, a publication combining property rights themes with Christian Right bigotry. Alongside articles by Okanogan County Citizens Coalition leader John Andrist, and articles opposing the U.N. global warming treaty are anti-gay missives by the Pacific Justice Institute and Washington state legislator Val Stevens. A Pacific Justice Institute article refers to Washington's recently failed gay/lesbian rights initiative (677) as "a direct attack upon the religious freedoms and conscience of such organizations [religious book stores, private schools, religious daycare, etc.] throughout the state of Washington." *Citizen Review* also runs ads for Washington Christian Right figure Dean Issacson's Cominus Publishing, the far right *Idaho Observer* and the video *Waco: The Rules of*

Engagement. Citizen Review is being distributed in Bellingham, Washington by Seattle neo-Nazi Harry Schmidt. *Citizen Review*: P.O. Box 3157; Sequim, WA 98382.

10. KIRK LYONS WAVES THE (CONFEDERATE) FLAG: Kirk Lyons, longtime ambulance chaser of the racist movement, has formed a new legal organization dedicated to defending "Southern heritage" and the confederate flag. Lyons writes, "As a Southerner, you live in a region which has witnessed many of this country's most shameful episodes of ethnic cleansing of Southern heritage and the Confederate flag...Now the SOUTHERN LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER is leading the way in becoming the ACLU for Southern Heritage." With a new office in Black Mountain, North Carolina, Lyon's claims, "We already have 50 attorneys affiliated in 11 Southern States. Attorneys affiliated with the Council of Conservative Citizens and the League of the South actively cooperate with our efforts." Lyons claims involvement in pro-Confederate flag cases in Mississippi, Texas and Tennessee. SLRC:PO Box 1411; Black Mountain, NC 28711; www.cheta.net/SLRC.

11. EXODUS INTERNATIONAL IN B.C.: Exodus International director Bob Davies will speak March 6-7 at in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada on "The Church and Homosexuality." Davies' appearance is sponsored by Another Chance Ministries (604-434-9404). Exodus International, a Seattle-based Christian Right group specializing in "converting" gay men and lesbians to straightness, has also announced 1998 appearances in California, Texas, Washington D.C., Florida and Hawaii (*Exodus North America Update*, Dec. 1997).

12. CHRISTIAN RIGHT CONFERENCE IN COLORADO: The Christian Right group Summit Ministries will hold a "worldview weekend" conference March 27-29 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The group also has meetings scheduled in Indianapolis Feb. 27-28 and in Traverse City, MI March 21-22. The group also has plans to hold a series of "summer seminars" from May to September 1998.

13. MITTLEMAN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER TARGET OF SWASTIKAS: Someone spray-painted swastikas and the initials "SWP" on a car and on the pavement parking lot of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland Dec. 10. "SWP" is often an acronym for "supreme white pride" or "supreme white power" as used in the white supremacist movement. Portland Police have no leads or suspects (*Oregonian* Dec. 12).

14. ANTI-ABORTION PROPOSALS TO CONFRONT IDAHO LEGISLATURE: Nancy Bloomer, executive director of the Idaho Christian Coalition, says her group will propose legislation aimed at requiring minors to get their parent's permission before having an abortion. Other anti-abortion proposals likely to face Idaho's legislature when this session convenes include a bill that would ban partial-birth abortions called for by State Sen. Stan Hawkins (R-Ucon) and a third that would rewrite Idaho's abortion code as proposed by the Idaho Family Forum (*Idaho Statesman*, Dec. 2).

15. GEORGE "THE DRAGON SLAYER" HANSEN BACK IN THE NEWS: George Hansen, the Idaho Congressman convicted of bank fraud and released from prison in March 1996 was featured in a full-page, highly favorable article in the *Idaho State Journal* (Dec. 14). Hansen claims his activist group, the U.S. Citizens Human Rights Commission has placed 800 billboards and bus signs throughout the United States calling for an investigation into the death of federal prisoner Kenneth Trentadue, who was found hanging from an air vent in an isolation cell in 1995. Hansen's group charges Attorney General Janet Reno with a cover-up in the case. Convicted of bank fraud in 1993, Hansen was a major figure in the Christian Patriot movement during his seven terms as a Congressman. He was also an early pioneer in patriot check kiting and bank fraud schemes, reportedly taking loans from as many as 180 people for more than \$16 million—and promising big returns he couldn't make good on—before being caught. His book, *To Harass Our People: The IRS and Government Abuse of Power*, continues to be a favorite on Patriot bookshelves.

16. SOBRAN AT POPULIST PARTY MEETING: Ultra-conservative columnist Joseph Sobran and Virginia Council of Conservative Citizens leader Michael Masters highlighted the annual conference of the American Nationalist Union – formerly the Populist Party – according to the group's tabloid, *The Nationalist Times*. The ANU claims that 140 people attended the event held in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Other speakers included anti-Semite Eustace Mullins, New Jersey Identity figure John Kucek, and longtime Illinois Populist Party leader John Justice. In the article, the ANU attacks Floyd Cochran, the former Aryan Nations leader turned anti-racist activist: "A low-life revolutionary communist named Floyd Cochran crawled out from under his rock to try to rally his fellow Reds."

CHD would like to applaud Floyd and other Pennsylvania human rights activists for making Wassal's national soiree less than welcome in Philadelphia (*The Nationalist Times*, Nov./Dec. 1997).

17. LE PEN CONVICTED FOR HOLOCAUST DENIAL: French neo-fascist leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was convicted in December of violating a 1990 French law making it a crime to deny the Holocaust. The charge, which stems from a civil suit filed by nine French civil rights groups, came from Le Pen's dismissal of the Nazi gas chambers as but a "detail of history." Le Pen, the leader of the Front National, was fined in 1987 for using nearly identical words. Le Pen was ordered by the court to pay 300,000 francs (\$50,000) to publish the ruling in a dozen French newspapers. While pushing a biography of himself by German neo-fascist leader Franz Schoenhuber, Le Pen stated, "If you take a book of 2,000 pages on this war [WW II], the concentration camps fill two pages and the gas chambers take up 10 to 12 lines. That's what you call a detail" (*International Herald Tribune*, Dec. 27, 1997).

18. ANTI-CHOICE...ANTI-MUSLIM: The October issue of the militant anti-choice newsletter, *Voices for the Unborn*, declares that, "Right now the fastest growing religious group in the world are the MOSLEMS. What an irony! We Christians, who have Jesus Christ – "THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE" – are denying life to millions and millions of souls...and the unenlightened MOSLEMS will be outnumbering us... When will we wake up this sleeping giant of BIRTH CONTROL? When it is too late – and we are living in a Moslem-dominated world where we may not be allowed to practice our Christianity?" [Emphasis in original].

••• 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. •••