



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

April 15, 1998

1. DAVID IRVING TOURS NORTHWEST: British Holocaust denier David Irving spoke to a crowd of about 40 people at the Shoreline Center near Seattle on April 12. The event was hosted by Doyal Gudgel of Seattle and Heinze Koppe of Vancouver, British Columbia. Washington state Ku Klux Klan leader Kim Badynski performed security duty at the meeting while literature distributed at the meeting included the *World Church of the Creator*, *The Nationalist Times*, and Heinz Koppe's *Insight Newsletter*. Irving focused his presentation on the bombing of Dresden near the end of World War II and efforts to ban his speeches.

On April 13 Irving appeared at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. Some 275 people were on hand for the speech, including about 20 vocal supporters of Irving and another 50 students who occasionally applauded during the talk. The remainder of the audience voiced opposition to Irving. The event was organized by Justin Ried, a W.S.U. student who operates a Student Revisionist Resource Site on the web, and David Stennett, a leader of the Gig Harbor-based Euro-American Student Union. Irving spoke largely about the Holocaust, arguing that eyewitnesses of the Holocaust are probably in need of psychiatric evaluation; that Hitler gave no order to carry out mass killings of Jews; and that the term final solution may have referred to plans to relocate Jews to Madagascar. Protests were held both at and away from the site of Irving's speech.

2. CHRISTIAN RIGHT LEADERS POSTURE DEFIANCE OF GOP: In the wake of Focus on the Family leader James Dobson's threat to abandon the Republican Party, a number of Christian Right leaders have joined the tirade against the party. On March 2 Free Congress Foundation leader Paul Weyrich held a meeting of disgruntled religious warriors in his D.C. office. Among those attending were representatives of Concerned Women for American, the Christian Coalition, Lou Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition, the Eagle Forum and Focus on the Family. While the group discussed abandoning the GOP, proponents of forming a third party for the Christian Right were reportedly outnumbered by advocates of continuing to agitate within party. According to Weyrich, the meeting was called at the behest of Mike Valerio, an onetime board member of WEEI news radio in Boston.

Attendees nonetheless aimed harsh words at Republican Party leadership. Offensively likening the religious right to southern blacks before the civil rights movement, Weyrich told the *Washington Post* (March 27) that party leadership "keeps treating the cultural conservatives as people who belong in the back of the bus, it has caused great resentment." Eagle Forum head Phyllis Schlafely told reporters that "What we see is Clinton, Gingrich and Lott appear to be together on most issues," describing those in the March meeting as "grassroots versus establishment." Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, declared that "The go-along, get-along strategy is dead... No more engagement. We want a wedding [with the GOP], we want a ceremony, we want a consummation of the marriage."

The group reportedly laid plans to form an "independent political force" to unify the Christian Right behind one presidential candidate in the upcoming election and to locate state and local candidates to carry the movement's banner into office. Those at the meeting reportedly rejected giving their nod to potential presidential hopefuls such as California Gov. Pete Wilson and Texas Gov. George W. Bush; potential candidates with more favorable reviews included Sen. John Ashcroft (R-MO) and billionaire Malcolm "Steve" Forbes.

The growing split between Christian Right cadres and Republican Party leadership plus the leadership change at the Christian Coalition could push the movement's powerhouses into closer unity on major political decisions. Christian Coalition staffers claim they still receive mail expressing anger at the groups' 1996 support for Bob Dole. Donald Hoedel, current Christian Coalition president and onetime Dobson staffer, told reporters that "Both [CC executive director] Randy [Tate] and I have a great reluctance to repeat what was done in 1996." The group also suffered a drop in donations from \$26.2 million to \$17 million between 1996 and 1997, laid off one-fifth of its staff,

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and folded its projects, the Catholic Alliance and the Samaritan Project. Family Research Council leader Gary Bauer commented that "We [FRC and the Christian Coalition] are working more closely together than I ever was willing to work with the previous leadership" (*New York Times*, March 23; *Weyrich Insider*, March 27). For his part, Bauer has made public his willingness to run for president in 2000. Bauer told the Associated Press (March 29) that he was headed toward "at least setting up a [presidential] exploratory committee."

3. CRASWELL OFFICIALLY LEAVES GOP FOR TAXPAYERS AFFILIATE: Echoing the conflict raging at the national level, longtime Republican Party and Christian Right leader Ellen Craswell officially broke with the GOP in late March, joining the U.S. Taxpayer Party's Washington state affiliate, the American Heritage Party. Craswell's official departure came March 25 at a rally held at the state capitol in Olympia. In a March 20 letter circulated by the Taxpayers' Party, Craswell responded to fears that supporting the American Heritage Party could divide conservative voters and elect more Democrats:

"Let me address the concern of splitting the conservative vote... They [the American Heritage Party] will work to elect candidates who are both fiscally and socially conservative and who will be held accountable to the party's platform. They expect to endorse such candidates regardless of their political party, and they will not recruit a candidate to run against an incumbent in another party who is already upholding the Biblical principle of government..."

Unlike the posturing at the national level, Craswell's move already shows signs of chipping at the foundations of GOP support by Christian Right supporters. Columbia County Commissioner Don Jackson recently left the Not concerned about splitting the party, Simpson boasted that, "maybe we can't win an election... But we can sure split the vote," stating that he would rather hand elections to Democrats than to Republicans who betray movement principles.

Cathy Mickels, president of the state's Eagle Forum chapter, echoed the discontent with party leaders that is resonating around the country: "Either our party means something or it doesn't. If people can't defend the ideology of our party, I don't believe we deserve to be in the majority. You don't sell out your principles for politics."

4. IMMIGRATION AWARENESS WEEK SCHEDULE: Among the featured speakers at the April 22-25 Immigration Awareness Week, a lobbying effort being organized by grassroots anti-immigrant activists and national think tanks, are Rep. Lamar Smith and former Colorado Governor and FAIR board member Richard Lamm.

A recent schedule of the event distributed by the California-based Voice of Citizens Together also highlights the central role played in the lobbying drive by the Alliance to Stabilize America's Population (ASAP), a coalition of anti-immigrant and environmental groups spearheaded by Population-Environment Balance. ASAP will hold a special meeting April 22 for signatories to its call for an immigration moratorium and denying 14th Amendment citizenship rights to the children of undocumented immigrants. ASAP will again hold a meeting at the Little Café in Arlington, Virginia on April 25.

The anti-immigrant lobby U.S. Border Control will sponsor a luncheon at the Rayburn House Office Building at noon on April 23; FAIR will sponsor an "Activist Strategy Discussion" and dinner on April 24 at the Quality Hotel in Arlington; and the National Grassroots Alliance will hold a 10:30 press conference on Capitol Hill on April 24.

5. NICHOLS MAY TALK IN PLEA BARGAIN: NBC's Nightly News reported April 13 that convicted Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols may trade information on the bombing in return for a lesser sentence. U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch last month announced that he was considering a life sentence for Nichols unless "Mr. Nichols comes forward with answers [about the bombing]." Prosecutors are seeking a life sentence for the far right activist, while defense attorneys are arguing that the sentence should be less than five years. Oklahoma District Attorney Robert Macy, preparing to try Nichols and Timothy McVeigh on separate state charges, told reporters that he would consider pursuing a sentence less than the death penalty if Nichols could provide "evidence that could be used to bring charges against those individuals" involved in the bombing (Reuters, April 14).

6. POPULIST PARTY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE: In their Summer 1998 newsletter, the Populist Party of Washington State expresses a vision of an American future in keeping with its Klan and neo-Nazi leadership:

"Perhaps what we need in America today is biblical slavery. This would surely bring about a civil war from the armies of parasites, criminals and slackers. They will be defeated. An exodus of aliens will then depart knowing the day of the free lunch is over. A peaceful airlift operation will be organized for honorable Asians and African returnees with reparations and assistance for resettlement to their homelands.

Opposition will not be tolerated. All jews [sic] will be expelled...The Congressional hearings started by Senator Joseph McCarthy will be reactivated to investigate un-American activities. This will be followed by treason trials on federal, state and county levels...Those that remain in America that refuse to bow their knee to the King...or have committed crimes demanding restitution will be integrated into a new form of institutionalized slavery.”

7. IDENTITY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON: The Eatonville, Washington-based Promised Land Ministries will host a Christian Identity conference in southwest Washington August 12-16. Currently scheduled speakers for the 1998 Northwest Family Retreat include America's Promise figure Alan Campbell of Ireland, Everett Ramsey [Siliven] of Missouri, Richard Kelly Hoskins of Virginia and Scott Priebe of Wyoming. Promised Land Ministries: P.O. Box 1511; Eatonville, WA 98328.

8. KEHOE FAMILY'S SORDID SAGA CONTINUES: Kirby Kehoe, the father of Cheyne and Chevie Kehoe, has been charged with four new weapons violations. In addition to a previous firearms charge, Kehoe was indicted with two counts of possessing unregistered firearms, one count of possessing a machine gun, and one count of transporting firearms while under indictment. Kehoe was arrested March 7 in Stevens County in eastern Washington, for violating an agreement with a federal judge that he not leave his hometown of Yaak, Montana.

Meanwhile, federal officials announced in late March that Kirby and son Chevie Kehoe supplied weapons to members of the Aryan Republican Army, a neo-Nazi group linked to some 22 robberies across the midwest between 1994 and 1996. Among those who reportedly received weapons from the Kehoes are Kevin McCarthy, Mark Thomas, and Michael Brescia. The Kehoe clan reportedly met members of the Aryan Republican Army while visiting Robert Millar's Elohim City compound in Oklahoma.

Following in their father's footsteps, Cheyne is in prison for his role in a February 1997 shoot-out with Ohio law officers. Chevie, meanwhile, is awaiting trial with co-defendants Faron Lovelace and Danny Lee [Graham] on racketeering charges. Kehoe and Lee are also charged with the 1996 murder of an Arkansas gun dealer and his family. The two could face the death penalty for the murder. The racketeering charges stem from alleged plans to set up a polygamous white republic through a series of murders, robberies and kidnappings (AP, April 9, March 26, March 21, March 20; *Spokesman Review*, March 22).

8. FIVE CONVICTED IN FIRST FREEMAN TRIAL: Five associates of the infamous Montana "Freemen" were convicted in late March for their role in the 81-day standoff between the white supremacists and federal agents. The jury convicted Steven Hance, 48, his sons, James E., 25, and John R., 21, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Jon B. Nelson, 42, of Marion, Kansas, of hindering the FBI from arresting federal fugitives. Elwin J. Ward, 57, of Murray Utah was convicted of making a false claim to the government by sending a bogus Freeman check to the I.R.S. for double his tax liability, and requesting a refund. Edwin Clark, the former owner of the property on which the stand-off occurred, was acquitted. Clark's attorney had argued that Clark had only turned to the Freeman out of desperation over losing his farm.

Far right attempts to intimidate the judge and jury were evident throughout the trial. At the close of the trial, Judge John C. Coughnour announced that during jury deliberation Freeman "arrest warrants" had been issued to him and one defense attorney. The "warrants" were signed by Steven Hance, LeRoy Schwietzer, James Hance and Rodney Skurdal. One charged the judge with "misprision of felony, subornation of perjury, contempt of court, sedition and treason;" another charged defense attorney Lisa Swanson with "the prohibition against titles of nobility guaranteed in the Constitution" -Freeman-speak for the belief that lawyers have no standing as citizens under the Constitution. Both were "ordered" to appear before the Freeman "justices." Earlier in the trial, Judge Coughnour questioned jurors after several reported concerns that someone had been following inappropriately close to them both inside and outside the courtroom (AP, March 31, March 25; *Billings Gazette*, March 31).

9. NEW ANTI-IMMIGRANT GROUPS FORM: California activist James Wainscoat has formed Government. Response to Immigration Nonsense Going On (GRINGO): PO Box 1960; Freedom, CA 93927.

Dudley Gibson is the contact for Immigration Reform Advocates of Arizona (IRAA): (602)214-6881 (fax); dudleyandsherol@msn.com.

10. EXODUS NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE: Exodus North America, the Seattle-based group that specializes in "converting" homosexuals to heterosexuality, will hold a conference June 27-July 2 in Seattle, Washington. Speakers will include Jeffrey Satinover, Dan Allender, and Les & Leslie Parrot. The group

is also hosting upcoming conferences in Kentucky, Minnesota, Hawaii and California. Exodus North America: PO Box 77652; Seattle, WA 98177; (206) 784-7799.

11. JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY IN NORTHWEST: John Birch Society spokesperson William Norman Grigg will speak in Centralia, Washington on April 20; Yakima, Washington on April 21; Portland Oregon on April 22; and in Boise, Idaho on April 27. JBS: (920) 749-3780.

The far right group will also hold a Robert Welch University Youth Camp August 2-8 at the Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp in Leavenworth, Washington. Contact: Robert Chipp, (360) 893-3859.

12. PETE PETERS ON THE ROAD: Colorado Identity leader Pete Peters will hold the Scriptures for America "Conference in the East" April 24-26 in Charleston, West Virginia. Scheduled speakers include Richard Hoskins of Virginia, Earl Jones of New Mexico, Scott Priebe of Wyoming and Tom Strassell of Ohio. Scriptures for America: (307) 742-7582.

13. OPERATION RESCUE LEADER GOES TO JAIL: Operation Rescue director Flip Benham was sentenced to one year in prison for trespass in connection to an anti-choice rally held at a Virginia high school last year. Students at E.C. Glass Highschool in Lynchburg testified that demonstrators blocked their path both inside and outside the school while police officers stated that Benham and the group of 150 Liberty University students refused to leave school grounds when asked. Like Benham, Liberty University student organizer John Reyes, was also sentenced to one year in prison. The two will be given six months off their sentence if they maintain good behavior. Jeff Brown, another Liberty student, was convicted of trespass and sentenced to six months with all but 15 days suspended.

14. NWCAMH ANNOUNCES 1998 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS: The Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment will host its 12th annual conference Oct. 16-18 in Eugene/Springfield, Oregon. Titled "A Vision of Freedom...Organizing for Justice in the Northwest," the conference will feature keynote speeches by longtime civil rights leader Myrlie Evers-Williams; Dr. Lance Hill, Director of the Southern Institute for Research and Education; and Delores Huerta, Secretary/Treasurer of the United Farm Workers of America. The conference will also feature 36 workshops related to fighting hate crimes and organized bigotry. Those interested in attending or volunteering can contact the Northwest Coalition at 206-233-9136.

15. WESTERN STATES CENTER ACTIVIST TRAINING: The Western States Center will host its Community Strategic Training Initiative (CSTI) July 30-August 2 at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. The CSTI focuses on training activists to build community-based organizations dedicated to creating a society free from racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. This year's event will include special tracks for youth, experienced organizers and non-profit administrators as well as training on grassroots fundraising. Contact Darlene and the Western States Center: (503) 228-8866; or dalrene@wscpdx.org.

••• 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. •••