



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

August 15, 1999

1. **CHD TALKS KVI RADIO HOST OUT OF PREPAREDNESS EXPO:** On July 30-August 1 Dan Chittock's Preparedness Expo came to Seattle, once again offering a forum for racist leaders like James "Bo" Gritz and Jack McLamb to reach out to a range of people interested in survival goods, alternative health care products and assorted food storage products. In addition to Gritz and McLamb, speakers at this year's event included former Graham county, Arizona sheriff Richard Mack, Project on Winning Economic Reform head Devvy Kidd, Free American magazine publisher Clayton Douglas, Militia of Montana leader John Trochmann, and Survival Center manager Dick Mankamyer.

CHD cause a splash in Seattle's conservative media when CHD Research Director Robert Crawford appeared July 29 and July 30 on KVI Radio, the station featuring conservative mainstays such as Rush Limbaugh and media critic Michael Medved. Crawford was invited on the show in response to a joint CHD-Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment press release distributed the week before pointing the racist and anti-Semitic tenor of Chittock's Expos.

Crawford appeared both afternoons on the Peter Weissbach show. Weissbach, a populist libertarian, had been slated to moderate an Expo panel on "Constitutional Liberties" featuring "Bo" Gritz and Richard Mack. With a decidedly hostile format, the show heated up July 29 when John Trochmann called in, only to be confronted by Crawford with his past ties to the Aryan Nations, his 1992 racist declaration of sovereignty, and his persistence in peddling white supremacist material. The second evening, Crawford appeared opposite "Bo" Gritz and Jack McLamb, battling a hostile radio host and the two well-known bigots to get across the perpetual promotion of racism by the two Christian Patriot leaders.

The highlight of the show came when Peter Weissbach dismissed the significance of a scheduled Expo speaker who promotes the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." After dismissing this evidence because he had not read the book, Michael Medved, who is Jewish, called in to warn his friend Weissbach that his words could be construed as an endorsement of the Protocols.

In the face of the two interviews, and mound of evidence faxed to Peter Weissbach by CHD, the libertarian host decided to withdraw from participation in the Expo, all the while criticizing the CHD. Weissbach did go to the Expo at which "Bo" Gritz told the 300 some attendees that the talk show host had promised to return next year with a KVI booth. CHD called Weissbach to confirm Gritz's statement, Weissbach responded that "I have not committed and I have not been asked to moderate the forum next year. If I am asked to moderate next year my answer would depend on the circumstances as they would exist at the time." As Weissbach continues to waver on the issue of racism at the Expo, he received a barrage of angry e-mail on his webpage chat line from listeners angry at his caving to alternatively, a "liberal," a "socialist," a "homosexual group," and a "snotnose." CHD will continue to monitor Weissbach's decision and apply the necessary pressure to help him do the right thing.

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2. FORMER ARYAN NATIONS SECURITY GUARD SUSPECT IN LA SHOOTINGS: Buford O'Neal Furrow, 37 most recently from Olympia, WA is in police custody as the suspect in an attack at a Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles. Furrow was a security guard at the Aryan Nations and was reported to have been married to Debbie Matthews, widow of Robert Matthews of the white supremacist group The Order. Furrow surrendered to the FBI in Las Vegas on August 11th where he reportedly told police that his attack on the North Valley Jewish Community Center was "a wake up call to America to start killing Jews."

Furrow allegedly sprayed the building that housed a children's camp at the time with 70 rounds from a submachine gun. Those injured include three boys, a teenage girl and 68 year-old woman. One boy remains in critical condition. Furrow is also a suspect in the death of a US Postal worker who was murdered near the Community Center shortly after the shooting there. Police found Furrow's van filled with guns, ammunition, and food as if he was planning for a much larger attack. In his van police also found *War Cycles. Peace Cycles*, a book by Richard Kelly Hoskins, the author of the racist book *Vigilantes of Christendom*. Furrow had reportedly tried to check himself into a mental hospital last year near Seattle but attacked two attendees with a knife. (Reuters, August 11)

3. SPOKANE GROUP GATHERS SIGNATURES FOR ANTI-GAY BALLOT: Hoping to overturn a city ordinance that protects lesbians and gays from discrimination, the group "Equal Rights, Not Special Rights" turned 5,000 signatures in to city officials on July 26th. The Spokane City Council will meet on August 30th to determine if they want put the initiative before voters in November. Speaking for the group opposing the measure, "No on Discrimination", Dean Lynch said; "We are a local group representing the community. We're raising families, holding jobs, paying taxes and we are organizing to advance and protect equal rights for all in the city of Spokane." Reverend Ron Johnson of the Indian Trail Community Church and a spokesperson for "Equal Rights Not Special Rights" claimed that if Spokane does not repeal the protections for gays and lesbians it will be saying, "we are a city that does not uphold family values and virtues." (*Spokesman Review*, July 27).

4. NAACP TO STEP UP FIGHT OVER CONFEDERATE FLAG: The NAACP is looking into who funds the campaigns of South Carolina state legislators who want to the keep the Confederate flag flying. The NAACP is compiling lists of financial contributors that are available through campaign disclosure laws but the group has not indicated how it will use this information. The NAACP has already suggested that tourists boycott South Carolina for refusing to remove the flag, now they may be seeking to expand to their boycott to companies that support these legislators. (Associated Press, August 4)

5. FEDERAL HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION: There are several bills currently under consideration that would add gender, disability and sexual orientation to Federal hate crimes statutes. In the House of Representatives it is HR 1082. In the Senate, lawmakers attached an amendment on S. 1217 that would also add gender, disability and sexual orientation to hate crime laws. For updates on the status of these bills visit Congress' web site at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

6. ARYAN NATIONS SETS MARCH FOR SEPTEMBER 4TH IN COEUR D'ALENE: Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler has filed a permit with the City of Coeur d'Alene to march down Sherman Avenue on September 4th. The Aryan Nations has already staged two events in Coeur d'Alene this summer. The first was a rally in Coeur d'Alene City Park that attracted over 100 racists. The second was much smaller march by 20 Aryans down Sherman Avenue on July 10th. Protesters blocked that march by forming a human chain across the street.

7. OREGON CITIZENS ALLIANCE PUSHES NEW ANTI-GAY INITIATIVE: Hoping it can recapture the virility it once had, the Oregon Citizens Alliance is launching a new state wide initiative to keep homosexuality out of public schools. The new measure aims to prohibit public schools from "encouraging, promoting or sanctioning" homosexuality. The group's latest initiative effort received an unexpected boost in June when the Oregon Republican Party's state central committee voted to support, in principle, the so-called "student protection act." This familiar tactic taken by the OCA seems likely to fail given that the State Legislature recently failed to pass a resolution that would have constitutionally restricted marriage to a union between a man and a woman. Laura Dellinger of Basic Rights Oregon noted that the OCA has not been able to pass any initiative it has sponsored in years. "I'll believe it when I see the signatures," Dellinger said of the OCA's comeback try. "I think Oregonians have gotten tired of them. But our organization is ready to take them on if necessary, and we believe the people of Oregon are behind us." (*Statesman Journal*, July 24, Associated Press, August 8)

8. GUN PERMIT FOR NEO-NAZI DENIED, AGAIN: Police were within their rights to deny a handgun permit for an American neo-Nazi convicted in Germany of spreading hate propaganda, a Nebraska judge ruled Friday. Lancaster County Judge Gale Pokorny upheld the permit rejection because Lauck answered "no" on the application when asked if he had been convicted "in any court" of a crime punishable by more than a year in prison. Lauck, 46, was one of the main suppliers of anti-Semitic and racist literature and Nazi paraphernalia to German fascists for two decades. He frustrated German authorities by churning out hate material from his home in Lincoln and sending it overseas. In 1995, he was arrested during a trip to Denmark, and he was later extradited to Germany. Matt LeMieux, head of the Nebraska chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said he would appeal. Lauck, describes himself as a "free speech advocate, publisher and mail-order consultant." (Associated Press, July 30)

9. NEO-NAZI MARCH IN WASHINGTON DC CALLED OFF: Only four of the predicted 300 neo-Nazis bothered to show up for a march down Pennsylvania Avenue on August 7th. The march was called by the American Nationalist Party and its founder David Wolfgang Hawke. Over 2,000 police were mobilized to handle the expected crowd of white supremacists and counter demonstrators. Washington, DC is considering suing the organizers of the march to recoup the \$1 million it cost for police and other city services to prepare for the march that wasn't. Hawke posted an email from the headquarters of the American National Party on the evening of August 7th that detailed the ANP's bankruptcy and his own resignation. He faulted the white power movement for "laziness and cowardice" and suggested his members join the Aryan Nations, National Alliance or "other white power organizations." (*Washington Post*, August 7)

••• 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 Bellingham 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. •••

