



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

November 1, 1996

1. **CHD HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:** CHD's Seattle and Portland offices will close December 17 and reopen December 30. The November 15 and December 1 issues of the Northwest Update will be published according to schedule. The December 15 issue will be held over until the new year.

CHD executive director Jonathan Mozzochi will be on an extended vacation November 15-December 30, 1996. Funding and administrative matters should be directed to Robert Crawford in the Seattle office (206) 233-9775.

2. **CHD AT NWC ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** The Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment (NWC) convened their annual conference October 18-20 at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. The conference was widely regarded as a success, and CHD staffers and board members were pleased to contribute to an enjoyable three days.

CHD board member Leonard Zeskind was the recipient of the Northwest Coalition's prestigious Bayard Rustin Award Saturday evening. Hundreds of area human rights activists paid tribute to Zeskind, who also led a packed workshop entitled, "The Expanding Circle: Mainstreaming of White Supremacy." CHD electronic publications editor Devin Burghart presented a paper on common law courts for the Second Annual NWC Symposium, entitled, "The Second Civil War: States' Rights and the Power of the County." CHD executive director Jonathan Mozzochi, CHD field director Cecilia Kalaw, (together with R.L. Taylor of the Westcoast CHD) and CHD consultant Daniel Levitas all led well-attended workshops.

Keynote presentations for the conference were delivered by Dr. Robert Jeffrey, Sr. of Seattle, Lee Mun Wah, director and producer of the film, "The Color of Fear" and Southern Poverty Law Center chief counsel Morris Dees.

3. **CHD AT NATIONAL ASSOC. OF STATE JUDICIAL EDUCATORS CONFERENCE:** CHD board chair Pat McGuire and CHD staffer Devin Burghart conducted a day-long workshop for the National Association of State Judicial Educators annual conference. At the Oct. 12-15 conference held in Orlando, Florida, McGuire and Burghart addressed 24 judicial educators from across the country on the topic, "Guns & Gavel: Common Law Courts, Militias and White Supremacy."

4. **CHRISTIAN COALITION BLASTED FOR RACIST GUIDE:** After drawing fire for producing a pamphlet which depicted a fictitious white candidate as pro-Christian conservative and a fictitious black candidate as anti-Christian conservative, Christian Coalition executive director Ralph Reed was forced to make a public apology to the NAACP and other African-American organizations. The pamphlet in question was mailed to Christian Coalition supporters as part of a packet offering churches the opportunity to purchase bulk orders. The mailing included a cover letter insuring ministers that the voter guide had been "thoroughly reviewed" to insure that they did not violate I.R.S. regulations. Despite the "thorough review" Reed told reporters that the racist pamphlet was prepared by an unnamed private company and approved by a low level Christian Coalition employee after viewing a poor quality fax in which the race of the candidates was not easily discernible. The pamphlet depicted the black candidate, "Joe Sample," as supporting "abortion on demand," opposing parental choice in education, and supporting "homosexual adoption of children," in addition to opposing other Christian Coalition positions.

Reed assured reporters that "It was wrong. It should not have happened. I was personally offended by the characterization of an African-American candidate in this way... I have zero tolerance for political race-baiting of any kind, no matter how subtle." Despite Reed's attempt at apology, civil rights leaders remained skeptical. Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, told the New York Times, "I think it's outrageous. It obviously is intended to send a not-so-subtle message about the coalition's attitude towards black candidates, which I think is troubling." National Urban League President Hugh Price was quoted as saying, "It really

calls into question the credibility of the overtures that the Christian Coalition made to the black community after the church burnings. I recall people being skeptical of those overtures and how genuine they were. An incident like this affirms that skepticism" (New York Times, October 12).

5. SPOKANE BOMBING/ROBBERY UPDATE: Robert Berry, Charles Barbee and Jay Merrill, the three charged in connection to the Spokane Valley bombings and bank robberies, were ordered to be held without bail by US Magistrate Cynthia Imbrogno until a grand jury convenes sometime in November. In making the decision, Imbrogno agreed with prosecutors that the group's ties to far right organizations made them a danger to the community and a threat to flee if released on bail (Spokesman Review, October 17).

Another man, Ron Glaese of Sandpoint, was questioned by the FBI October 21 in connection with the case. Glaese had been sought by federal officials since October 11 when agents served a search warrant on his home. According to court records, agents found explosive devices at Glaese's cabin. Glaese told reporters that he had been informed by the FBI that he is not a suspect in the case, though he acknowledges knowing the three men charged in the case. Glaese told reporters that "As far as I'm concerned, these guys are average people in a lot of ways. They have friends, lots of friends, and I'm one of them" (Spokesman Review, October 24).

6. CHRISTIAN RIGHT VS. OREGON EDUCATION PLAN: The Tupelo, Mississippi-based American Family Association and the National Legal Foundation of Virginia Beach, Virginia have filed a civil suit in federal court on behalf of families in Beaverton and Cottage Grove, Oregon seeking to have the state's education reform plan thrown out. The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Eugene, names 25 defendants including state school Superintendent Norma Paulus, the state Board of Education, and Beaverton School Superintendent Yvonne Katz. The Oregon plan, created in 1991, has been controversial from the beginning, drawing fire from the Christian Right and other conservatives as a version of "Outcome-based Education." American Family Association Law Center senior trial attorney Stephen Crampton told the Oregonian "What you really have here is nothing less than a mind-control undertaking. It's slavery of the mind" (September 17).

7. RIGHT WAY LAW SEMINAR: The weekend of October 25 - 27 some 65 "common law" activists gathered at Portland's Clinton Street Theater to hear representatives from the Ohio-based Right Way LAW organization. Seminar attendees paid \$120 each (\$150 at the door) to hear Christian Patriot legal theorist Rick Schramm explain his ideas for "bringing the banking system to a halt" by demanding the return of promissory notes which have been repaid. The event was hosted by the Multnomah County Jural Association and its primary organizer Charles Stewart. The Right Way speakers emphasized do it yourself legal techniques Patriots can use in the courtroom as opposed to so-called "common law" remedies and Schramm urged militia supporters not to show up to Right Way events wearing camouflage. At the same time he predicted the "collapse of the entire system" in the next few months from the activities of Right Way activists. Along with model affidavits and pro se legal forms, Right Way was also selling Jack McLamb's Operation Vampire Killer 2000. Available at the registration desk was the Boring, Oregon-based Christian Patriot Association's 1996 Catalogue, a mail order source for anti-Semitic, conspiracy theorist, racist and Christian Identity literature.

8. ASATRU FOLK WANT GENETIC TESTING FOR SKELETON: The Nevada City, California-based Asatru Folk Assembly has made the claim that a 9,300 year old skeleton found on the banks of the Columbia River near Kennewick, Washington may be a European. Under the 1990 Native American Grave Protection Act the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers intends to turn the skeleton over to the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, but the Asatru Assembly has argued through its attorney, Michael T. Clinton, that "we would like genetic testing to be done to see if this individual is more closely related to Europeans than to Native Americans" (Oregonian, October 26).

Michael T. Clinton is familiar to longtime CHD associates as the attorney who organized a Portland appearance of international Holocaust denier David Irving in 1992, and a "Viking Days Celebration" in nearby Clark County (WA) in 1993.

9. GRITZ PLANS AIRSTRIP FOR ALMOST HEAVEN: In addition to 120 acres owned by Jack McLamb, far right leader James "Bo" Gritz now has four separate "Covenant Communities" underway in central Idaho: Almost Heaven, Shenandoah, Woodland Reflections and Flying Elk. According to Gritz the latter is viewed as the future site of "an airport extension to our Almost Heaven Covenant Community." The space for Flying Elk was donated by a local farmer, according to Gritz.

Despite Gritz's current legal problems (he's been charged with kidnapping; See Northwest Update Oct. 15,

1996), the former Green Beret remains committed to the idea of running candidates for sheriff. In his October Center for Action newsletter Gritz laments the electoral loss of former Graham County, Arizona Sheriff Richard Mack and tells followers:

“MY ADVICE IS TO FORGET ABOUT EVERY ELECTED OFFICE EXCEPT SHERIFF. The Sheriff is your personal vanguard against government abuse. Find, support, and elect a candidate who knows the duty and power of the office, and has the courage to carry it out! Graham County Arizona’s loss may well be another’s [sic] gain. Sheriff Mack, you and your family are welcome to join Jack McLamb and myself in Almost Heaven, Idaho!”

In his most recent newsletter Gritz also dredges up the anti-Semitic canard that Jews were responsible for Christ’s death and implies that because of this Jews are being punished with a variety of diseases. In an article titled “Are You a Genetic Jew” Gritz lists a number of diseases common to people of Jewish descent—i.e., Tay-Sachs, Gaucher, etc. He then asks the rhetorical question:

“Could it be that as desired by those who demanded the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, as recorded in Matthew 27:25: “Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children,” true Jews are still reaping the bitter harvest of bad blood even today - even unto the 50th generation!?”

10. BLUMENFELD IN PENNSYLVANIA: Boise, Idaho-based Christian Reconstructionist Samuel Blumenfeld will address the annual meeting of the National Reform Association in Beaver Falls, PA on Friday, November 8. The meeting is at 7:00 PM at Geneva College. Andrew Sandlin, the editor of the Reconstructionist journal Chalcedon Report is the president of the National Reform Association. Blumenfeld is a regular contributor to the publication. Contact: Bill Gould; (412) 243-4471; or at wwgould@aol.com

11. CHRISTIAN COALITION GRADES NORTHWEST LEGISLATORS: The 1996 Christian Coalition Congressional Scorecard shows a number of northwest legislators in excellent standing with the organization. The Scorecard grades legislators on how closely their vote approximates the Christian Coalition position on a variety of positions ranging from opposing abortion across the board, to blocking welfare payments to single mothers to balancing the budget. Northwest legislators receiving a 100% rating include Idaho Representatives Chenoweth and Crapo, Oregon Representative Cooley and Washington Representatives Smith, Hastings, Nethercutt and Tate. Oregon Representative Bunn received an 85% while Washington Representative Metcalf scored 92%—Bunn for failing to back a bill cutting the National Endowment for the Arts budget by \$10 million and failing to punish single mothers sufficiently by stopping cash benefits if a welfare recipient has a child while on welfare; Metcalf for supporting a law prohibiting states from denying Medicaid funds for abortions.

Idaho US Senators Craig and Kempthorne received 100% ratings as did Montana Senator Burns. Washington Senator Gorton received a 73% rating for, among other votes, supporting the allowance of welfare recipients benefits if they have a child while on welfare.

12. WASHINGTON CHRISTIAN COALITION OFFICIALS IN CRASWELL CAMPAIGN: The Christian Coalition of Washington state has announced the goal of distributing one million voter guides to churches and Christian businesses around the state. The group also plans to mount what it is calling “the largest pro-family Get-Out-The Vote effort ever attempted by a nonpartisan organization by adding one dozen new Phone Tree Plus location (sic) around the state.” Despite their public face as a nonpartisan organization the group gives a decidedly partisan assessment of the current US presidential and Washington state gubernatorial campaigns:

“The ultra-liberal media and doomsayers are gleefully claiming that the conservative revolution and pro-family movement are on our deathbeds, only awaiting final rites on November 5, 1996. They trumpet that the presidential race is essentially over. Here at home we are told that the Republican nominee for Governor does not have a chance because she is a ‘conservative Christian’—apparently something akin to a Middle East terrorist.

We have news for the liberal political establishment and the prophets of doom; **conservative Christians and pro-family citizens are NOT INTIMIDATED!**” [emphasis in original].

In addition to this veiled support for Christian Right candidate Ellen Craswell, a number of Christian Coalition officials and supporters serve in an official capacity in the Craswell campaign. Christian Coalition Douglas County leader Mike Weitzel is a legislative district leader for the Craswell campaign in the 12th district (E. Wenatchee, Okanogan). The following Christian Coalition supporters also serve as Craswell legislative directors: Sandy Swanson (14th legislative district; Yakima, Selah), Bernie and Jan Walton (1st legislative district; Bothell, Kirkland), Paul and Jonna Petry (34th, 36th, 37th and 46th districts Seattle, Renton, Burien) and Carol Miller (39th district; Snohomish, Arlington) In addition Dennis DeFries, the Christian Coalition’s leader in Thurston County is an executive committee member, along with Craswell, of the Christian Right fund-raising organization IMPAC.

13. LAROUCHE ON TV: Neo-fascist leader Lyndon LaRouche can be seen on television in the northwest at the following stations and times:

- Idaho— Channel 37 (check reader-board)
- Oregon— Portland: Tuesdays at 6 PM on Ch. 27; Thursdays at 3 PM on Ch. 33
- Wash.— King County: Thursdays at 10:30 AM on Ch. 29
- Snohomish County: Ch. 29 (call Viacom cable for times)
- Spokane: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM on Cox Ch. 25
- Tri-Cities: Mondays at 11:30 AM on Ch. 13; Wednesdays at 6:00 PM on Ch. 13; and Thursdays at 8:30 PM on Ch. 13.
- Colorado— Denver: Saturdays at 1:00 PM on DCTV Ch. 57

14. HUMAN LIFE IN KING COUNTY: The Kent/Renton and Auburn/Federal Way affiliates of Human Life of Washington are combining their efforts to create a South King County Human Life chapter. The new affiliate will encompass, in addition to their previous areas, SeaTac, Normandy Park, Des Moines and Tukwila. The group will hold its first consolidated meeting Thursday, November 14 at the Auburn High School Faculty Room in Auburn. The meeting is slated from 7:30-9:00 PM. Contact: Carolyn Sturtz; (206) 735-5541.

15. MILITIA OF MONTANA SEEKING INFO ON COPS: The Noxon, Montana-based Militia of Montana is soliciting information from supporters about police efforts to counter right wing terrorist activity. The MOM information request came in response to the recent hiring of an antiterrorism program coordinator by the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department. According to the Militia of Montana, their attention was drawn to an application for a criminal justice grant sent to Idaho's Department of Law Enforcement. The application contained references to MOM, the United Citizens for Justice and the Americans for Constitutional Government. MOM concludes their request by stating that "Loyal Americans need to know who their local 'Thought Police Officer' is."

16. COLORADO CREATIONISM SEMINAR: The Institute for Creation Research will sponsor a "Case for Creation" seminar November 8-9 in Parker, CO at the Faith Baptist Church. ICR spokesman Duane Gish is slated to appear at the event. Faith Baptist Church: 11150 Hilltop Road; (303) 841-2273.

17. UPOW ATTACKS TRIBAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY: As part of their strategy to attack a recent federal court ruling upholding the shellfishing rights of Northwest Washington Indian Nations, the Redmond, Washington-based anti-Indian group United Property Owners of Washington (UPOW) is mounting an effort to end Tribal Sovereign Immunity in civil cases. Sovereign immunity refers to the right of Tribal Courts to decide civil matters in Indian Country. As UPOW states,

"We're asking that sovereign immunity be ended for all Indian Tribes who receive federal funds... Passage of this badly needed and long overdue legislation would make Tribes subject to the jurisdiction orders, and decrees of the appropriate state court or federal district court for requests of injunctive relief, damages, or other remedies."

UPOW is urging supporters to contact the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs and is circulating support letters from Eugene O. Pearson of Gig Harbor, WA (2702 Moorelands Ave. NW), Tom and Veona Woody of Bremerton, WA (23890 NW Old Holly Hill RD), Lester and Betty Krueger of Belfair (E 14241 Hwy 106) and Herb and Sherry DeBoer of Bainbridge Island (3490 PT. White Dr. NE). As with most UPOW activities, the call for an end to sovereign immunity represents a broad attack on Indian rights extending beyond the immediate realm of the legal case.

UPOW is also coaching beachfront property owners on responding to the federal court ruling upholding Indian shellfishing rights. UPOW's advice includes (1) arguing that the shellfish land is "staked" or "cultivated" by stressing any improvements including adding gravel to or removing predators from an area (Indian Nations are denied access to staked or cultivated land under the ruling); (2) marking areas allegedly staked or cultivated with "No Trespassing" signs; (3) photographing or videotaping Indian people gathering shellfish on "staked" or "cultivated" land and sending the video/photos to UPOW; (4) responding to tribal notification of intent to harvest by registered mail.

••• The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to chdpx@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. •••