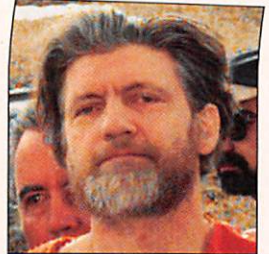


Montana Madness • Terrorism Reaction • Clinton's Line-Item License • On the Trail of John Doe #2

The New American

May 13, 1996



WHOSE EXTREMIST?

THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH

Vol. 12, No. 10

OKC: The Case for a Cover-Up



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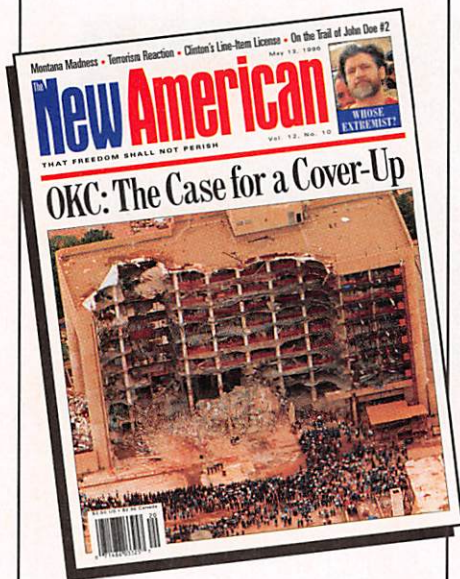
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FROM THE EDITOR

According to conventional wisdom, the Oklahoma City bombers were “right-wing” extremists with a paranoid fear of their own government. Yet their wanton act of destruction and mass murder has had exactly the opposite effect they supposedly intended. Instead of striking a deadly blow against leviathan government, the bombing has provided the impetus for additional growth in government power, ostensibly to counter future terrorist acts. The recently passed anti-terrorism bill, which transfers law enforcement powers from local authorities to the federal government, is but the latest example of the fruits of such terrorist incidents (see page 19).

But how could it have been otherwise? Terrorism is a stock tool of all would-be totalitarians, but not of genuine proponents of a strictly limited federal government. A terrorist may claim to be against government, but the lasting consequences of his violent deeds are not in the action itself, but in the reaction.

One of history’s most valuable lessons is that totalitarianism kills. Ask yourself: How many innocent victims would Hitler, Stalin, or Mao have been able to murder had they not possessed *total* government power? Yes, some government is necessary to protect freedom, but too much government will eventually result in the denial of all freedom — no matter who is entrusted with the governing powers.

The media mavens and government officials who are clamoring for more police powers for government are demonizing as the “enemy” virtually everyone to the right of the Clinton wing of the Democratic Party. In the new “politically correct” lexicon, those who warn against the centralization of police powers are marginalized as “anti-government.” Supposedly such “anti-government” zealots are responsible for creating the “climate of hate” that culminated in the Oklahoma City bombing. Many of these “anti-government” zealots are ridiculed for espousing “conspiracy theories,” even as they are portrayed as part of a vast right-wing conspiracy against government.

The Oklahoma tragedy has something of an historical parallel in Germany’s *Kristallnacht* — the “Night of the Shattered Glass.” Just as the killing of a German official by a

Jewish refugee in 1938 was seized by Hitler as a pretext for cracking down on and other “enemies of the state,” the Oklahoma City tragedy is being used as an opportunity for disparaging virtually anyone who has warned against Big Government course, if this broad-brush approach is valid, then environmentalists would have to be held accountable for creating the climate of hate that set the Unabomber in motion. But environmentalists, unlike conservatives, are not the whipping boys of the Establishment opinion cartel.

Evidence Versus Official Line

As soon as news of the bombing broke, every good American hoped that *all* the perpetrators of this “worst terrorist attack on American soil” would be caught, convicted, and punished to the full extent of the law. If the perpetrators happened to be “right-wingers,” then so be it. Yet the evidence suggests that the terrorist bombing was much more sophisticated than the official version and could not have been carried out by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols acting alone. Crucial evidence indicates, for instance, that the damage to the Murrah Building was caused not just by the truck bomb, but primarily by demolition charges placed inside the building itself. In addition, the evidence suggests not only that the trail of John Doe No. 2 and a possible Middle East connection are being ignored, but that government officials may have had prior knowledge of the bombing.



William Jasper has done a year-long investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing.

That evidence is examined herein in a series of four articles written by William F. Jasper, senior editor of THE NEW AMERICAN and author of the book *Global Tyranny ... Step by Step: The United Nations and the Emerging New World Order*. Since the bombing, Mr. Jasper, who has investigated the story from day one for this magazine, has spent many weeks in Oklahoma City and has interviewed hundreds of witnesses. He brings to this assignment a wealth of knowledge on the terrorist threat, having studied and written on that subject for almost 20 years.

During the 1970s and '80s, for instance, Mr. Jasper attended, as an undercover reporter, numerous meetings of the Communist Party USA, the Revolutionary Communist

Party, the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party, the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist, and other revolutionary, terrorist, and/or subversive groups. He also worked as a research adviser for the video documentary *No Place to Hide: The Strategy and Tactics of Terrorism*, produced by Congressman Larry McDonald's Western Goals Foundation.

At the very least, Mr. Jasper's painstaking investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing reveals that official sources are only telling part of the story and that the major media are cooperating in that cover-up. At worst, at least some of the perpetrators of this heinous crime will be allowed to get away with murder, even while millions are unfairly blamed for creating the climate for what transpired. We ask that you read Mr. Jasper's important articles and judge for yourself.



A New Step for TNA

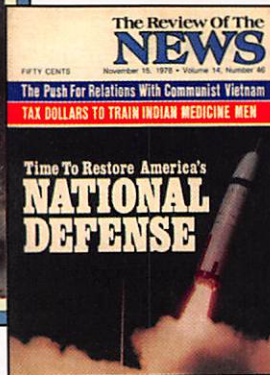
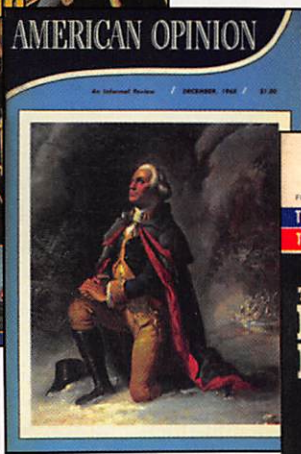
This issue of THE NEW AMERICAN is significant not only because of this important subject matter, but because it is the first to appear nationally on the newsstands and the first to feature our new cover design. For the benefit of new newsstand buyers, a few words about THE NEW AMERICAN itself seem appropriate.

The slogan line on our cover — *That freedom shall not perish* — captures the essence of our mission. Recognizing that the creation of sufficient understanding is the key to preserving freedom, we intend to increase public awareness of what is happening to this country and why, particularly in those areas where the major media have been deficient. Our editorial slant may properly be described as “conservative” in that we embrace the principles of limited government

and individual responsibility and promote strict adherence to the form of government established by the Founding Fathers in the U.S. Constitution. But we part company from most other “conservative” organs in our exposure of the conspiratorial machinations behind the decades-long drift toward more government leading to total government, and more internationalism leading to world government.

THE NEW AMERICAN is the result of a merger of two earlier publications, the monthly *American Opinion* and the weekly *The Review of the News*. But although the packaging of the message has changed, the message itself has not. *American Opinion* was an in-depth journal, designed only for the most serious students of political affairs. For the same reason that it appealed to these serious readers, it proved difficult for the less informed to digest. *The Review of the News*, on the other hand, was a news magazine intended for a broader readership, minus the in-depth articles that help to create true understanding. THE NEW AMERICAN strikes a balance between these two approaches, and as such it has characteristics of both a journal and a news magazine.

With our introduction to the newsstand market, we have taken another important step forward and have increased our ability to create widespread awareness about



important stories such as what really happened in Oklahoma City. But that growth would not have been possible without our loyal subscribers who look forward to each issue and who recommend the magazine to others — and who often even purchase extra copies of selected issues.

We are extremely grateful to them. And we are also highly appreciative of all prospective readers who are willing to give THE NEW AMERICAN a look. Based on past experience, we know that many of these “samplers” will like what they see and become subscribers themselves.

— GARY BENOIT

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Oklahoma City One Year Late

The federal government's case has left many observers wondering



AP/Wide World

After 12 months of investigation, federal agents are offering little in added evidence.

Originally scheduled to begin last summer, the trial of Oklahoma City bombing defendants Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols is still many months away. No trial date has been set, but the most optimistic dates being proposed reach into October or November. With numerous pre-trial motions and hearings already scheduled, however, the trial may not actually get underway until early 1997. By that time it may have been split into two separate trials. Although federal prosecutors want a consolidated case, defense lawyers have been pushing for separate trials for the co-defendants.

The geographical focus of the case has already shifted, along with the venue, from Oklahoma City to Denver, where U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch will preside. On March 30th, McVeigh and Nichols were moved from the medium security federal prison in El Reno near Oklahoma City to the Englewood Federal Correctional Institution near Denver, Colorado. Both men face

the death penalty if they are convicted of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building, which took the lives of 168 people and injured hundreds more.

Multiple Charges

The prosecution's case against the two former Army buddies was outlined in the indictment delivered by the federal grand jury in Oklahoma City last August. The duo are charged with 11 counts: conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, use of a weapon of mass destruction, destruction by explosive, and one count each for the murders of eight federal law enforcement officers who were among those killed in the Murrah Building blast.

Among the charges cited against McVeigh and Nichols in the indictment as evidence of their roles as primary perpetrators of the crime are the following "overt acts":

- Purchasing one ton of ammonium nitrate fertilizer in McPherson, Kansas

ent aligned delivery. the birth into the and the on September 30, 1994 unat polialias "Mike Havens," and sidingditional ton of ammonium nf-eviusing the same alias on Oct ad-18, 1994. at it

- Renting storage units in the Kansas towns of Salina, Heriue, ton, Marion, and Council Grov and in Kingman, Arizona aro-Las Vegas, Nevada, under thd aliases "Shawn Rivers," "Jon Kyle," and "Ted Parker" for thd purposes of storing fertilizer, explosives, and stolen property.

- Renting a truck under the alias "Robert Kling" for use as a "truck bomb."

- Planning the robbery of a firearms dealer in Arkansas "as a means to obtain moneys to help finance their planned act of violence"; and "causing" that robbery to take place, during which firearms, coins, ammunition, currency, and other property were stolen in November 1994.

- Stealing explosives from a storage magazine in Marion, Kansas in October 1994.

- Attempting to obtain detonation cord and racing fuel (nitromethane) in September 1994 for use in the construction of a bomb.

- Constructing "an explosive truck bomb with barrels filled with a mixture of ammonium nitrate, fuel and other explosives placed in the cargo compartment of the rental truck."

- Parking the truck bomb outside the Murrah Building and causing it to explode.

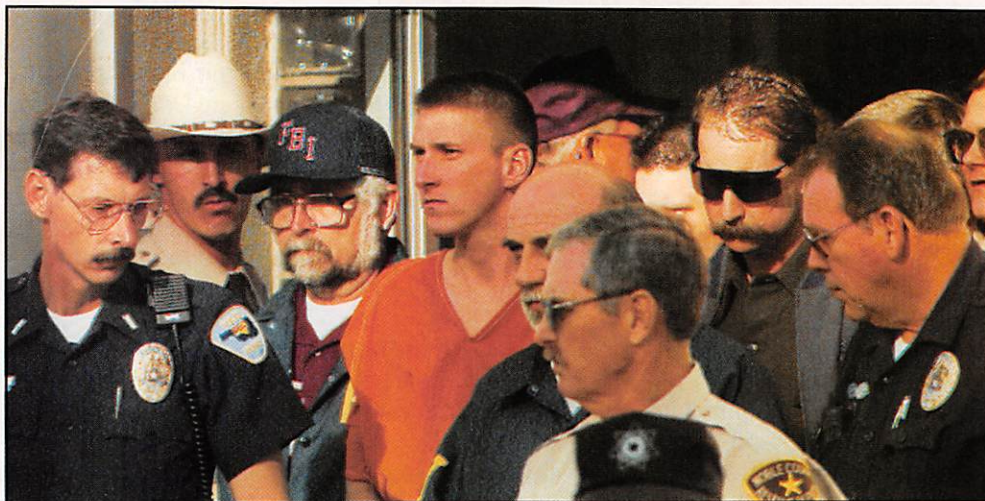
Star Witness

The government's star witness will be Michael Fortier, a friend of McVeigh and Nichols since their early Army days. Fortier, of Kingman, Arizona, met the two accused bombers during basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia in 1988 and then served with them at Ft. Riley, Kansas. After leaving the service, the men apparently maintained close ties,

with McVeigh frequently staying at Fortier's home during visits to Kingman. McVeigh was best man at Fortier's 1994 wedding in Las Vegas.

In August of last year, however, Fortier signed a plea petition under which he agreed to testify against his former buddies in exchange for reduced charges against himself and immunity for his wife, Lori Fortier. Michael Fortier agreed to plead guilty to charges involving trafficking in stolen firearms, failing to disclose prior knowledge of the bomb plot to civil authorities, and lying to federal investigators. For these charges he could face a maximum of 15 to 25 years in prison, rather than a possible death sentence if convicted as a principal participant in the terrorist bombing.

In a letter supporting his plea petition, Fortier stated: "Prior to April 1995, McVeigh told me about the plans that he and Terry Nichols had to blow up the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma." On August 8, 1995, Fortier testified for nearly four hours before the grand jury. While most of that testimony is still not publicly known, the grand jury clearly was relying on Fortier for the charge that "On or about December 16, 1994, while en route to Kansas to take possession of firearms stolen in the Arkansas robbery, McVeigh drove with Michael Fortier to the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and identified



McVeigh is the only suspect police acknowledge actually planted the truck bomb.

the building as the target."

Lori Fortier also testified on August 8th under an agreement of immunity from prosecution which guarantees that she will not be charged with any crimes. She and Jennifer McVeigh, Timothy's sister, are also expected to be important witnesses for the prosecution.

One Year Later

The federal government's investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing has been possibly the biggest criminal investigation in history, involving hundreds of investigators and costing millions of dollars. The massive pool of evidence includes thousands of photographs, hundreds of hours of videotape, statements from thousands of witnesses, laboratory analyses and testing reports, and a plethora of physical evidence and exhibits.

The sheer size of the investigation, the enormous commitment of federal resources and personnel to the task, and the vast assemblage of evidence are cited as proof that President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno have made good on their pledge to "leave no stone unturned" in the effort to bring to justice those responsible for this vicious crime.

But has the federal investigation into "the deadliest terrorist attack ever on American soil" really been as comprehensive, thorough, and competent as the impressive-sounding statistics cited above might tempt one to assume? Even more important, has this gigantic effort been an

honest one? The best way to answer these questions is to examine the fruit of this mighty labor — to look at the results.

So what important revelations have been unearthed by this unprecedented, year-long investigation? What new answers do we have to the all-important questions that are basic to any criminal investigation — the what, where, when, who, how, and why? In truth, virtually nothing, if one goes by the officially endorsed scenario. According to the federal gumshoes, it's a neat, easy, open-and-shut case:

- What, where, how? A truck bomb placed outside the Murrah Building exploded, causing the massive death and destruction.
- Who did it? Timothy McVeigh, aided by Terry Nichols.
- Why? Because they're right-wing, gun-obsessed, extremist, violent, anti-government misfits, of course.

Simple. Convenient. Case closed.

But those were the same pat conclusions the Clinton/Reno team's federal flunkies had settled on shortly after the bombing. Those conclusions, which were patently absurd then, are doubly ludicrous today, the massive federal "investigation" notwithstanding.

Inadequate Explanation

Serious problems with the government's official scenario of the crime began surfacing almost immediately after the explosion. Eminently qualified authorities in the fields of demolition and explosives began telling THE NEW AMERICAN that the official truck bomb theory was wholly inadequate to explain the devastation of the Murrah Building. Foremost among these critics was Briga-



Nichols was not at bomb scene, but feds say he was a "mastermind" of crime with McVeigh.

dier General Benton K. Partin, USAF (retired), one of the world's premier explosives and munitions experts. (See the article beginning on page 25.) In a highly compelling initial analysis of the bombing evidence in May of last year, and an even more comprehensive and convincing report he completed in July, General Partin threw major obstacles in the way of the prevailing truck bomb theory.

Attributing the magnitude and the pattern of the damage to the Murrah Building to a truck bomb that was outside the building, said the general, is completely incompatible with the laws of physics and the well-known effects and capabilities of explosives technologies. According to this highly decorated expert, it would have been "technically impossible" for the truck bomb to cause the collapse of the building's hardened, steel-reinforced columns without supplemental demolition charges being placed at some of the columns themselves.

The implications of Partin's analysis are obvious. If demolition charges were

used in addition to the truck bomb to cause the destruction experienced at the Murrah Building, then the operation was much more complicated than one merely involving Timothy McVeigh driving up to the curb with a load of explosives and lighting a fuse. It would have required additional accomplices, more time, considerable coordination, and more sophisticated expertise.

Confirmation From Pentagon?

Over the past several months we have heard repeated rumors that top experts in the Department of Defense strongly endorse General Partin's thesis but have been prevented from publicly stating the results of their findings. If that is true, word may be leaking out anyway. In its March 20th issue, the Baltimore-based newsletter *Strategic Investment* reported that a "classified report prepared by two independent Pentagon experts has concluded that the destruction of the federal building in Oklahoma City last April was caused by five separate bombs." "The two experts," says the newsletter,

"reached the same conclusion for the same technical reasons. Sources at the Pentagon study say [redacted] McVeigh did play a role in the bombing, but peripherally, as a 'useful idiot.' The multiple bombings have a 'signature,' pointing to an Iraqi or Syrian involvement." [redacted]

THE NEW AMERICAN has been unable to confirm the existence of the Pentagon study, but has had little trouble finding support for Partin's analysis from a wide array of qualified experts. According to Taylor Jesse Clear, former Special Adviser for Combatting Terrorism at the Pentagon's Counter Terrorism Directorate, the general's report is "the most convincing and sensible analysis of the event I've seen." Sam Gronning, a former military demolitionist and for the past 30 years a professional blaster, told THE NEW AMERICAN that in his opinion the Partin report was "absolutely right" that "no truck bomb of ANFO [ammonium nitrate fuel oil] is going to cause the kind of damage we had there" in Oklahoma City.

Seismic Evidence and the Multi-Bomb Theory

The discovery of two seismograms seeming to indicate that there were multiple explosions in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995 launched a controversy that still has not been settled. The seismograms came from two seismometers, one at the Omniplex Science Museum 4.34 miles northeast of the Murrah Building and the other at the University of Oklahoma-Norman 16.25 miles southeast of the blast site.

From the start, evaluations of the meaning of the seismograms were divided along political fault lines: official investigators and the Establishment media rejected them out of hand as valueless, while certain internet activists and members of the alternative media seized upon them as "proof" that the federal government had blown up the building.

In our June 12th and August 7th issues of THE NEW AMERICAN last year, we examined the seismic evidence based upon what the best science seemed to be saying about the data. We journeyed to the University of Oklahoma to meet with Dr. Raymon Brown, who had been appointed as the lead investigator into the seismic evidence from the bombing. We interviewed Dr. Charles Mankin, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, and Dr. Thomas Holzer, the lead investigator for the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as many other professional geophysicists, geologists, and seismologists. Our August 7th article, "Seismic Support," was the first (and still the only) in a national publication with not only the two original seismograms from April 19th, but six additional seismograms from the May 23rd demolition. Until that data was published in this magazine, it had been inaccessible to most of the professionals in the fields of seismology and geophysics who were keenly interested in evaluating the data themselves.

The "Seismic Support" article stirred such intense interest in the professional community that the Geophysical Society of Oklahoma City convened a special symposium on November 20, 1995 to bring together in the same forum the two leading (and opposing) investigators, Drs. Brown and Holzer. Dr. Brown is persuaded by the weight of the evidence that a multiple-blast scenario best fits the available seismic data, while Dr. Holzer contends that the data is consistent with a single explosion. Since the audience was composed primarily of experienced professionals, both presentations involved highly sophisticated technical data and jargon peculiar to that field of expertise. THE NEW AMERICAN was the only national publication to cover this event and was recognized and commended by Geophysical Society President Russell Lyons as having provided the impetus for this important conference.

Because the research by the scientists is still continuing and because this magazine is not technically qualified to do so, we have not pronounced a definitive verdict on the matter. Speaking strictly from a layman's position, Dr. Brown's presentation appears to be the more convincing to this reporter. The Geophysical Society has not yet worked up its position paper on the subject or conducted a survey of its members as to whether they are convinced of either one scenario or the other. Our own informal, unscientific survey of attendees at the conference indicated a leaning toward Dr. Brown's multiple-explosion scenario.

Those who are interested in evaluating the scientific arguments for both sides of the debate may obtain a video of the symposium for \$15.00 from the Geophysical Society of Oklahoma City, P.O. Box 12163, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73157. ■

— W.F.J.

Among the other experts who have expressed the same qualified opinion is a former Special Forces demolitionist who had access to the Murrah building during the rescue effort. This source told THE NEW AMERICAN that he began noticing contradictions between the truck bomb scenario and the internal damage sustained by the building. When he began pointing this out to a co-worker, a federal security official immediately stepped in to demand that he cease talking about the matter.

It should be obvious that the question of whether there were multiple explosions or a single explosion on April 19th in Oklahoma City is a weighty one that goes to the very heart of the crime: What actually happened? If there were indeed multiple bombs in the building, then we are faced with either gross incompetence or criminal obstruction of justice on the part of those entrusted with the investigation. According to the experts we have consulted, experienced investigators would have been able to quickly determine, and laboratory tests would have verified, whether or not there were demolition charges inside the building. This is serious indeed. This matter might have been resolved very early on except for one thing: the destruction of the crime scene before a thorough, independent examination could be made.

Evidence Destroyed

The rush to destroy the Murrah Building stands out as one of the most troubling of many incidents involving "disappearing" evidence in this case. Considering the enormity and seriousness of the crime and the importance of the building and its debris as primary physical evidence, the decision to implode the site is indefensible. There was no pressing public safety consideration demanding it: The building site was securely fenced off, with ample security personnel to insure that it would present no threat to people in the immediate vicinity.

The decision to demolish the Murrah Building not only violates all standard investigative procedure, but stands in sharp contradiction to the extreme care taken by the FBI to cordon off the cabin site of the suspected "Unabomber."

Current news stories show federal investigators going through the cabin and its surrounding grounds with fine-tooth combs, and packaging up truckloads of evidence for laboratory testing.

Coming on the heels of the deadly Waco and Ruby Ridge debacles, and involving many of the same federal officials responsible for those infamous fiascoes, it should not seem at all surprising that we are experiencing in Oklahoma City many of the same symptoms of malfeasance. In both of those earlier incidents, it has been clearly established, ATF and FBI officials were



Murrah implosion: Crucial evidence went up in smoke.

involved in destroying evidence, fabricating evidence, falsifying evidence and lying and intentionally misleading.* In the Randy Weaver/Ruby Ridge case, the FBI was fined for obstructing justice and the Justice Department was forced to admit that the FBI's "shoot on sight" rules of engagement in that fatal standoff "contravened the Constitution of the United States."

The two top FBI officials most directly culpable in the many egregious misdeeds in these episodes were Larry Potts and Bob Ricks. Potts was the Washington DC-based manager of the FBI's 1992 raid on Ruby Ridge, Idaho, which resulted in the death of Mrs. Weaver from an FBI sniper bullet to the head. Potts was also the supervisor of the FBI's 1993 Waco operation, which left more than 80 people dead, including 22 children.

Bob Ricks was the FBI's chief spokes-

* For more details on these incidents, see "Missing Pieces: Unanswered questions about Ruby Ridge and Waco," THE NEW AMERICAN, March 4, 1996.

man at Waco, and as the FBI's special agent in charge of the Bureau's Oklahoma City office, was one of the top officials leading the early bombing investigation. He has since been appointed by Governor Frank Keating — one of the loudest voices for early destruction of the Murrah Building — to head Oklahoma's Department of Public Safety.

Federal Corruption

Concern over the FBI's inquest into the Oklahoma bombing should not be limited to those passionately stirred by the obvious terrors of injustice evidenced at the two notorious incidents cited above. Nor is it. Indeed, some of the most disturbing challenges to the FBI's formerly sterling reputation for integrity and professional competence are coming from a highly decorated FBI veteran agent. Dr. Frederic Whitehurst, a supervisory special agent and bombing specialist in the FBI's forensics laboratory in Washington, DC, has been setting off alarm bells for the last several months with charges that some of his colleagues at the celebrated crime lab have been falsifying evidence for years, including key evidence in some of the nation's most high-profile criminal cases.

On March 29th, news sources reported that Whitehurst believes the FBI is illegally withholding evidence that might undercut the prosecution's case against McVeigh. According to a report in the *Rocky Mountain News* of Denver, Whitehurst wrote a letter on the matter last November to a Justice Department official, claiming: "I will consider it an obstruction of justice and will testify in court to that opinion ... if that information is suppressed by the Department of Justice and/or the FBI."

Although the full content of the letter is not yet known, it is likely that the evidence to which Dr. Whitehurst refers may have to do with the chemical residue testing of McVeigh's clothing. One of the key pieces of physical evidence against McVeigh is the alleged presence of explosives residue on his clothing. FBI agent John Hersley testified in April of last year that residue had been found on the suspect's clothes. However, Whitehurst, a top FBI chemist who

conducted the testing on McVeigh's clothing after his arrest, reportedly found no residue.

This, of course, would not necessarily mean that McVeigh is innocent, but it would add still more difficulty to the prosecution's contention that he acted virtually alone. Although the government contends that McVeigh and Nichols acted together, it does not claim that Nichols journeyed to Oklahoma City with McVeigh and the truck bomb on April 19th. It seems to acknowledge that Nichols has pretty good alibis verifying that he was at home in Herington, Kansas all that day. So the "McVeigh-Nichols only" theory adopted by the government really translates into a "McVeigh only" theory when it comes to the actual crime of delivering and detonating the bomb. It is a theory replete with missing evidence and cover-ups.

No Other Suspects?

As we have detailed in previous reports in THE NEW AMERICAN, the mysterious disappearance of "John Doe No. 2" from the federal equation in the bombing investigation is nothing short of outrageous, and one of the clearest indicators of a cover-up of gigantic proportions.

Grand juror Hoppy Heidelberg expressed his concern in a letter to Judge David Russell that the federal prosecution was intentionally covering up John Doe No. 2. "The families of the victims deserve to know who all was involved in the bombing, and there appears to be an attempt to protect the identity of certain suspects, namely John Doe II," Heidelberg wrote.

The government's most recent lone-bomber thesis statement came at the first Denver hearing for the co-defendants on April 9th. "As of today," said a straight-faced Beth Wilkinson, special attorney to the U.S. Attorney General's office, "we have no information that anyone other than Mr. McVeigh and Mr. Nichols were the masterminds of this bombing."

Okay, suppose one were to concede that McVeigh and Nichols were indeed the "masterminds" behind the bombing. Does that eliminate the need to search for other accomplices? Not at all. There is overwhelming evidence that other perpetrators in this terrorist attack are still at large. Government spokesmen have been talking out of both sides of their mouths since early June of last year, alternately stating that there is

little or no evidence of additional organized accomplices, or that they are contemptuous, and the search for any possible additional suspects. Lead prosecutor Joseph B. Earthler demonstrated his mastery of this art of dissimulation when he declared at the press conference last August: "The indictment alleges that there are unknown co-conspirators. We will continue to investigate. We will continue it unavailingly to determine whether or not there are others who aided and abetted these conspirators who are charged today."

The clear implication of Mr. Hartzler's statement is that the government has no convincing evidence that there are any other conspirators, but that it is dutifully carrying on the search just in case there might possibly be some accomplices out there. But Hartzler is aware of the voluminous evidence indicating that there is not merely one John Doe accomplice out there, but several. (See page 37.)

As grand juror Hoppy Heidelberg says, "John Doe No. 2 is the \$64,000 question all the way around." But it is a question to which the federal government has been giving false and deceptive two-bit answers. ■

For related articles, see pages 25, 31, and 37.



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“Rewilding” Chicago. It will come as a surprise to many residents of Chicago that they are living in the midst of a wilderness area — “an ecological mother lode of rare species and unique geology,” in the words of the *Chicago Tribune*. According to the *Tribune*, “The Chicago Wilderness is threatened, and without intervention, scientists fear that hundreds of plants and animal species that are found only in the Midwest could disappear.”

A coalition of 34 federal agencies, cultural organizations, and environmental groups has created the Chicago Region Biodiversity Council, which the *Tribune* calls “an ambitious and unprecedented collaborative effort to restore what nature created, not piece by piece, but on a regional scale.... The idea is to create a network of native natural areas not just in [Illinois] forest preserves, but in city and suburban neighborhoods, and on corporate campuses. Lawns and parkways could be replaced by fields of prairies wildflowers and boring detention ponds could be replaced by living wetlands.”

The Chicago Wilderness project is merely the most striking application of the “Wildlands Project,” a scheme to roll back industrial society and create a continent-spanning network of wilderness areas in order to preserve “biodiversity.” Inspired by the UN’s Global Biodiversity Assessment and co-created by Earth First! founder Dave Foreman, the Wildlands Project would ultimately require the forcible relocation of human populations from at least one-half of the total land area of the continental United States.

As the Wildlands scheme unfolds, “Bioregional Councils” like that being established in Chicago would supplant state and local governments; ultimately, they would report directly to the United Nations’ Trusteeship Council, which would be given the task of regulating the “global commons.” Scores of Wildlands-linked environmental extremist groups throughout the United States have received foundation grants and federal subsidies to carry out the project. The Chicago Biodiversity Council received a \$700,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service to initiate work on its regional plan.

Does the Banner Yet Wave? U.S. soldiers assigned to the UN-mandated Bosnian occupation force have been forbidden to display the U.S. flag in public at outposts near the U.S. military headquarters in Tuzla. In a letter to the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper, Specialist Carl “Pete” Peterson reported that when he displayed a U.S. flag on his armored vehicle, “I got compliments from enlisted personnel as well as high-ranking officers. But now I have been told by my superiors to take it down. I was told ‘It [the order] came from higher,’ and we cannot put the American flag on display for the public to see. Why can other countries display their flags to the public?”

The *Orange County Register* reports, “There is no single policy on flags for U.S. troops overseas — the commander of each mission makes the rules. In the Balkans mission, said Army spokesman Maj. Lou Giampiccolo in Tuzla, each of the three U.S. base camps can fly one American flag.” Giampiccolo insists that the policy is rooted in concern that “over time the flag will become degraded. It will fray on the ends and mud will get on it.” Apparently, instructing soldiers to take special care of their personal flags is not considered an option.

World Bank and Chinese Gulags. Last Winter, Chinese-American human rights activist Harry Wu, a survivor of 19 years in Red China’s *Laogai* labor camps, accused the World Bank of awarding more than \$100 million to communist programs connected to forced-labor camps. At the center of Wu’s accusations is the Tarim Basin Project in China’s Xinjiang province, which is overseen by a quasi-private organization run by the communist People’s Liberation Army.

According to World Bank spokesman Graham Barrett, the organization’s in-house investigation of Wu’s charges concluded that its decision to fund the project is “helping to improve the quality

of life for many hundreds of thousands of some of the poorest and most isolated people in the world.” Graham did admit, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, that “the bank has always known that the group it funds [in Xinjiang] runs some prisons but he said the group’s mission is much broader, since it also runs state farms and other civilian projects.” Much the same thing could have been said of

some of the labor camps used by the Nazi regime as well.

Wu has demanded an independent investigation of his charges against the World Bank, charging, “They’re denying the obvious. They accept the Chinese government’s lies and they repeat those lies.” All of this is done at considerable expense to

the American taxpayer: The U.S. contribution to the World Bank for 1994-96 is \$3.75 billion.

UN Versus U.S. Prison System. While the UN-aligned World Bank was reiterating its support for the Chinese gulag system, a UN special investigator was censuring the U.S. prison system for “human rights abuses.” According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, “Pelican Bay State Prison in Northern California is one of several U.S. prisons sharply criticized in a United Nations human rights report.”

Nigel Rodley, a UN special investigator, stated: “In recent litigation the federal district court concluded the conditions ‘may press the outer bounds of what most humans can psychologically tolerate.’ A substantial number of prisoners [in Pelican Bay’s Security Housing Unit] were said to be suffering from mental illness caused or exacerbated by their confinement in the unit.”

Some prisoners in the Security Housing Unit, California’s highest-security prison facility, can be locked up for more than 22 hours a day in windowless cells with bare white walls. Rodley apparently did not take into account the nature of the offenses being punished. Furthermore, because of litigation initi-



Wu blasted World Bank for funding slave-labor programs.

ated by "prison rights" activists, Pelican Bay has been required to hire some 120 staffers, including social workers, psychiatrists, and psychologists.

The UN report also criticized prison facilities in Texas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. Other countries criticized by the world body included Iraq, Kenya, Israel, Pakistan, Turkey, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, and India — but not, significantly, the communist gulag states of China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Cuba.

Ron Paul Rocks GOP Establishment.

Conservatives were cheered when former Republican Congressman Ron Paul handed Democrat-turned-Republican Representative Greg Laughlin of Texas an early retirement in a primary runoff on April 9th. Paul's victory came despite Laughlin's high-profile support from the GOP establishment, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Texas Governor George Bush Jr., and the National Rifle Association (which cast its lot with Laughlin in spite of Paul's impeccable record of supporting the right to keep and bear arms).

Representative Laughlin has earned an anemic 50 percent rating from THE NEW AMERICAN's "Conservative Index" during the 104th Congress. Dr. Paul earned a 93 percent overall average on the "Conservative Index" during his tenure in Congress (1976-77, 1979-85).

Good News From the UN? On April 1st — in all apparent seriousness — Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali proposed cutting 1,000 people from the UN payroll over the next two years. Although this reduction would represent a full ten percent cut in the total UN workforce, the positions would not be taken off the UN Secretariat's organization chart.

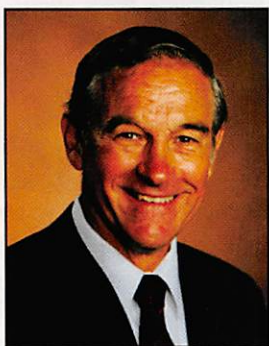
According to Boutros-Ghali, "No programs would be terminated, but delays and postponements caused by resource reductions are to be expected." The secretary-general has also proposed eliminating construction projects and cancelling many of the profligate meetings held by the UN in various countries.

While this is welcome news, it should be remembered that the UN needs to

project an image of financial restraint while Congress debates future funding for the body. Certainly the UN is no stranger to the method of taking one step backward in order to take two steps forward.

Robinson for Secretary-General?

Boutros Boutros-Ghali's five-year reign as UN secretary-general ends on December 31st, and the world body's rumor mill has cranked out numerous rosters of possible successors, including environmental potentate Maurice Strong and South African jurist Richard Goldstone. However, the April 15th issue of the socialist journal *The Nation* reports that the name of Irish President Mary Robinson has appeared at the top of many UN "wish lists."



Ron Paul: Odds good for return to Congress.

According to *The Nation's* Margaret Spillane, Robinson "has been a fierce and articulate enabler for marginalized groups within her own country. Since her election to the presidency, she has used the high wattage of her head-of-state position to bring attention to global emergencies — civil war, famine, immigration, threats to developing countries.

These efforts suggest to many that she could be the kind of bridge-building, window-opening advocate who would revitalize the UN's imagination as it considers more effective ways to do its job."

The UN increasingly defines its job in terms of re-engineering human society along the lines of radical feminism, and Robinson's accomplishments in this regard are substantial. "For years, the symbols held up as ideals of Irish society were isolationist, Roman Catholic and overwhelmingly rural," Spillane writes. "Robinson's passionate inaugural address embraced 'a new Ireland, open, tolerant, inclusive'...." As a parliamentarian in 1970, Robinson introduced Ireland's first contraception bill; as a legal advocate she has agitated tirelessly in Irish courts and before the European Court of Human Rights for the repeal of anti-homosexuality laws.

Thanks in large part to Robinson's efforts, Catholic Ireland now has legalized divorce and has more liberal laws on "sexual preference" than England. While abortion remains illegal in Ireland, "re-

forms" sponsored by Robinson now make it possible for English abortion peddlers to advertise their trade and arrange for Irish women to hop across the channel for a "procedure."

"As the seventh President of Ireland, Mary Robinson took a do-nothing job and made it dynamic," Spillane concludes. "As the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations she could do the same thing."

Whose Military Is It, Anyway?

According to figures provided by the Department of Defense, the total U.S. military force stood at 1,518,224 as of September 30, 1995. Of this number, 1,096,501 were stationed in the 50 states (including Navy personnel). The remaining 421,723 worldwide were stationed in U.S. territories and 148 different countries.

These countries range from Germany (73,280) and Japan (39,134) to Eritrea (one U.S. serviceman) and Seychelles (three servicemen). Keep in mind that these numbers represent pre-Bosnia deployment figures and therefore do not reflect the increased number of troops deployed abroad. With the military being downsized and U.S. foreign commitments being expanded, it is obvious that our military runs the serious risk of "overstretch" should it be needed actually to defend America itself.

"Peacekeeping" at Ft. Leavenworth.

"Soldiers who a few years ago would have stared at each other from behind opposing tank turrets are side by side this week, poring over terrain maps with a common objective — to make peace, not war," reported the March 7th *Kansas City Star*. U.S. and Ukrainian troops had been brought together at Ft. Leavenworth to practice future joint "peacekeeping" assignments under UN and NATO command.

According to the *Star*, "American forces ... are learning from former Soviet bloc forces in an attempt to forge new relationships. In the last two years the Army has conducted exercises in Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Albania and Hungary." The joint U.S.-Ukrainian "peacekeeping" exercises at Ft. Leavenworth, however, represented "the first time the [U.S.] Army and a former Soviet republic [worked] together at the command level on a peacekeeping exercise." ■

Madness in Montana

For at least three years, Sheriff Charles Phipps of Garfield County, Montana has wrestled with the problem of armed paramilitary extremism within his jurisdiction. One manifestation of that problem was on display in the March 25th arrest of "Freemen" leaders LeRoy Schweitzer and Daniel Petersen and the subsequent standoff between 100 FBI agents and about a dozen "Freemen" and their families near the hamlet of Jordan, Montana. At an arraignment hearing a few days later, Petersen predicted that the outcome of the standoff at the Freeman property would be "worse than Waco."

Schweitzer and several of his followers have been accused of forgery, bank fraud, tax evasion, and issuing death threats against local and federal officials. The ranch property upon which the Freeman have built their "common law community" — the so-called "Justus Township" — has been sold at a tax auction. "They were not getting their way in the court system, so they basically set up their own court system, appointed a judge, and issued 'arrest orders' and offered 'bounties' for local officials," Sheriff Phipps recounted to THE NEW AMERICAN.

Because of tensions between the Freeman and the local community, Phipps explained, "I put a posse together to deal with these people and provide security at public meetings and hearings about a year or so ago." However, the sheriff has never conceded that the conflict with the Freeman would inevitably end in a Waco-style tragedy. Immediately after the arrest of Schweitzer and Petersen, Phipps issued a televised appeal asking the Freeman to "think of their families" and end the impasse "without bloodshed."

Many of these details have become familiar to those who have followed press accounts of the Freeman standoff. However, there is another form of armed extremism with which Phipps has been forced to deal — the armed extremism of federal regulatory agencies. The impact of federal policies and enforcement measures in Montana must be under-



Members of Montana Freeman confront curious media during FBI standoff.

stood in order to appreciate fully the milieu in which the Freeman standoff has taken place.

Power Performance

"In late March of 1993," writes property rights activist Timothy Robert Walters in *Surviving the Second Civil War*, "federal officials conducted a raid on the Montana ranch of Paul and Rosie Berger. Officers of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management (16 of them altogether) took no chances with this one. They went in armed and wearing flak jackets. In support of their assault, they employed a half-dozen four-wheel-drive vehicles, an airplane with two agents aboard, three people on a 'chemical team,' additional ground crew, an attorney, other agents from the Montana Fish and Wildlife Department and the BLM, and a camera crew from Cable News Network (CNN)." The raid, which took place concurrent to the Branch Davidian standoff in Waco, had been precipitated by an anonymous tip from a convicted felon who had just been fired by the Bergers.

The feds moved against the elderly couple without contacting Sheriff Phipps, and they were careful to keep local journalists away from the scene. What had

Paul Berger done to attract such attention? He was not suspected of a violent crime against people or property, but rather of poisoning 17 federally protected eagles. The rancher was later arraigned on four misdemeanor counts of violating the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Eagle Act, and using a pesticide called carbofuran in a manner "inconsistent with its labeling" under the Federal Insecticides Act.

The federal officials, who confiscated farm chemicals and two pickup trucks during their search, did not advise the 75-year-old rancher or his 81-year-old wife of their rights or allow them to contact an attorney while federal officials scrutinized their property. Sheriff Phipps and a deputy arrived on the scene only after they had been informed of the raid by one of Berger's neighbors. "They could have notified me, and I would have gone in there and served the warrant," Phipps later complained. "There wouldn't have been any guns pulled." Noting that the feds hadn't seen fit to inform the local sheriff, but had brought along a CNN "environmental news team," Phipps concluded that the full-force raid had been carried out for propaganda purposes: "When they invite the national media and not inform the

local law enforcement, then I think it's a power show in front of the cameras."

Six months after the raid, a local jury acquitted Paul Berger of the alleged poisoning of the federally protected eagles, but convicted him of "improper" use of pesticide. In short, the federal government had mobilized an armed strike team to enforce the instructions on a product label.

Other peaceful, law-abiding Montana residents have gotten a similar dose of federal overkill. One such hapless Montanan is rancher John Shuler, who was fined \$7,000 by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for shooting a grizzly bear which had threatened first his livestock and then his life. When Shuler took his case to the federal administrative law judge, he was told that by trying to protect his property he had "purposefully place[d] himself in the zone of imminent danger of a bear attack" — in short, that the bear had the right-of-way. The administrative law judge (whose claim to constitutional authority is not much more plausible than that of the "Freemen" court) upheld the FWS sanction against Shuler and imposed a \$4,000 fine.

Militia Reaction

By 1994, Montana residents who had been shocked by armed federal raids like the Weaver and Waco tragedies and the Berger incident were further alarmed by the drive to disarm civilians, as typified by the Brady Act of 1993 and the 1994 "assault weapons" ban. Some of them gravitated toward the self-styled militia movement out of the belief that violent conflict with increasingly militarized federal law enforcement agencies was all but inevitable.

Ken Toole, a left-wing activist and critic of the "far right" in Montana, concedes that federal actions and policies facilitated the growth of the militia movement in Montana. "This was when the assault weapons ban was going through, and the crime control act of 1994 was being debated, and people were really angry and concerned about that," Toole told THE NEW AMERICAN. "There's also a deep distrust of federal power and the federal government that these people were playing to."

Toole believes that the Freeman are merely one element of the larger militia movement: "Freemen" is a generic term — there isn't really an organiza-

tion called the Freeman. It is a movement united by ideology, and in any movement of that type you've got varying degrees of commitment and different permutations of the idea." Schweitzer's version of the Freeman idea allegedly included the circulation of fraudulent "cashier's checks" which were backed by liens taken out against local public officials.

A New Approach

Banking fraud, abuse of civil courts, and threats against public officials are serious charges. If there is compelling evidence to suggest that the Freeman in Montana had been committing acts of fraud across state lines, then their case properly falls under FBI jurisdiction. Sheriff Phipps told THE NEW AMERICAN that he was quite satisfied with the fashion in which the FBI was handling the Freeman case, and that he had actively collaborated with them for about a year. However, there are some aspects of the FBI's behavior that are potentially troubling.

One innovative — and troubling — assumption at work in the standoff is the idea that a non-militarized approach to law enforcement is the *exception*, rather than the rule. Attorney General Janet Reno told the House Appropriations Subcommittee on March 27th, "The FBI has gone to great pains to see that there is no siege, no armed perimeter, and no use of military equipment" in its dealings with the Freeman. And former FBI Director William Webster stated in a television interview, "The Department of Justice and the FBI and those working with them have worked very hard this time not to be seen as an army about to descend on women and children."

"Gone are the visible displays of military-style symbols and tactics that had previously defined the FBI in such face-offs, like black fatigues, armored personnel carriers and the deployment of snipers and other specialists," observed the *New York Times*. However, although the familiar paramilitary assets weren't on public display, they were available. FBI behavioral scientist Clint Van Zandt told *U.S. News & World Report* that the Freeman standoff was the shake-down cruise of its new "Crisis Incident Response Group," a unit created in April 1994 which consolidates the Hostage Rescue Team (notorious for its role in the Randy Weaver tragedy), SWAT

personnel, hostage negotiators, behavioral scientists, and hi-tech specialists under the direction of 25-year FBI veteran Robin Montgomery.

According to the *New York Times*, the FBI's operation against the Freeman, "a high-stakes experiment for [FBI director] Louis B. Freeh," had been carefully planned for more than a year. The Justus Township confrontation was stage-managed from the FBI's Strategic Information and Operations Center on the fifth floor of the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington, DC. The FBI's on-site coordinator in Montana was Robert "Bear" Bryant, head of the FBI's national security division, which has jurisdiction over domestic terrorism cases.

Unanswered Questions

The Freeman, whatever the nature of their alleged offenses, had not been accused of terrorism. Why then was their case assigned to the FBI's anti-terrorism division? Neither the press office at FBI headquarters, Special Agent Ron Van Franken at the Bureau's Billings office, or Sheriff Phipps (who has kept in contact with Robert Bryant during the standoff) could explain to THE NEW AMERICAN why the operation against the Freeman was assigned to the FBI's national security division. The FBI also declined to answer a written inquiry posing the following questions: "Are the Freeman considered a domestic terrorist group? Does Mr. Bryant's involvement in this standoff reflect a new policy for dealing with 'extremist' groups like the Freeman?"

These unanswered questions are crucially important to those who wish to put the Freeman standoff in the proper perspective. As is documented elsewhere in this issue (see page 43), some self-appointed experts on "right-wing extremism" are seeking to indoctrinate law enforcement officers in the belief that nearly anyone who expresses strong conservative opinions should be looked upon as a potential terrorist. The relatively moderate means employed by the FBI in their dealings with the Freeman appear to be proportionate, given the offenses allegedly committed by some members of the group. However, the newly expanded definition of "national security" created by the Freeman standoff may prove to be a dangerous precedent. ■

— WILLIAM NORMAN GRIGG

Congress' Terrorism Reaction

During floor debate on the House version of the terrorism bill, Representative Charles Schumer (D-NY) summarized the primary argument in favor of the measure: "So, my colleagues, we must act. We must act." Schumer's admonition demonstrates Congress' "Do something — anything!" reaction to the bombings in Oklahoma City and at the World Trade Center in New York. But a reaction to the attacks — rather than a measured, constitutional response — is exactly what the perpetrators are seeking. Left-wing guerrilla warfare master Carlos Marighella explained in his *Mini-manual for the Urban Guerrilla* that the goal of terrorism is to force a situation in which "the government has no alternative except to intensify repression. The police roundups, house searches, arrests of innocent people, make life in the city unbearable.... The political situation is transformed into a military situation, in which the militarists appear more and more responsible for their errors and violence.... Rejecting the 'so-called political solution,' the urban guerrilla must become more and more aggressive and violent, resorting without letup to sabotage, terrorism, expropriations, assaults, kidnappings and executions, heightening the disastrous situation in which the government must act." (Emphasis added.)

Stimulus, Response

The terrorism bill passed by Congress seems to be just what terrorists — and their directors — hoped for. The legislation co-opts state criminal prosecutions wholesale at the discretion of the U.S. Attorney General, limits habeas corpus appeals, opens the door to a ban on bullets which can pierce protective vests worn by police, requires taggants to be placed on plastic explosives, creates a new anti-terrorism foreign aid program, and authorizes hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer funding for the FBI, DEA, ATF, INS, Customs Service, and related law enforcement agencies.

The Senate passed its version of the terrorism bill by an overwhelming vote of 91-8 — just six weeks after the Oklahoma City bombing. While the House



Images of terror: Scenes like this one of a victim of the World Trade Center bombing prompted Congress to react swiftly with its terrorism legislation.

removed from its version Senate provisions allowing emergency wiretaps without a warrant, military oversight of biological and chemical weapons cases, and a lowered standard of proof for prosecuting those charged with providing guns used in violent crimes, it added an amendment, by Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), which would have lengthened penalties for persons committing federal crimes who had laser sights or laser mounts on their guns. According to Erich Pratt of Gun Owners of America, "the DeLauro amendment would demonize gun owners.... Thus, a person committing *any non-violent* federal crime — securities fraud, speeding on federal reservations, etc. — would get additional prison time because he possessed a laser sight." While the House adopted the DeLauro amendment by voice vote, it was removed from the final version.

Reasonable Concern

Representative Charles Schumer displayed a casual stance toward the legiti-

mate concerns that people's liberties would be infringed by the legislation: "Anyone can invent an extreme hypothetical situation under which someone, somewhere, somehow will be treated unfairly by federal laws we pass. These may be interesting academic exercises for law professors, but we cannot allow these tortured fantasies to paralyze Congress and the nation." In a letter to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde (R-IL), Representative Don Manzullo (R-IL) offered: "I do not want to see the House fall into the political trap of reacting to a tragedy simply to be able to say it 'did something,' because what I have found in H.R. 2703 suggests we may be willing to compromise the integrity of the Constitution for the sake of responding to crimes that would be impossible to stop through the standard legislative process."

Chief among Manzullo's concerns were provisions in Section 104 of the bill which would "effectively grant *carte blanche* authority to the Attorney General to define a crime as an act of

terrorism. I believe this runs counter to the principles of a republican form of government and our constitution." Section 702 of the final bill federalizes nearly all state crimes against property and crimes of violence which affect "interstate or foreign commerce" (a phrase which has the practical legal meaning of "everything under the sun") and involve "conduct transcending national boundaries." Because the same section defines "conduct transcending national boundaries" as "conduct occurring outside the United States in addition to conduct occurring inside the United States," the legislation could easily be interpreted to include virtually all state crimes of violence and property. David Kopel of the Independence Institute observed that "both the Clinton and Dole terrorism bills define almost all violent and property crimes, no matter how trivial, as terrorist offenses. The bills thereby federalize virtually the entire criminal law."

Manzullo and other concerned congressmen are not worried about the federal government prosecuting every violent state crime. The FBI and ATF don't have the resources to prosecute that many cases even if they wanted to. But an enterprising bureaucrat certainly could parlay publicity on some of the more heinous state crimes into radically increased federal departmental budgets. Language in the bill would empower the Attorney General to preempt nearly all state criminal prosecutions on a political — or perhaps more accurately, discriminatory — basis. Any persons or groups singled out by the media — be they environmental extremists, ethnic or religious minorities, militia members, pro-life protesters, etc. — could be identified as "terrorist" for discriminatory prosecution under Section 104. This provision would effectively eliminate the right to equality of all under the law by allowing politics to determine different punishments for similar crimes.

"School Lunched"

Why the "conservative" Republican leadership pushed such a blatantly totalitarian piece of legislation perplexed some conservative Republican staffers on Capitol Hill. One staffer stated to THE NEW AMERICAN, "We didn't understand why the Speaker [Gingrich] put this up for a vote. The Republicans were divided; this was something Clinton wanted originally."

Nevertheless, the House GOP leadership pressed hard for passage of a terrorism bill — any bill — before the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. When it became clear that the bill as passed by the Senate was dead, the leadership looked to freshman Representative Bob Barr (R-GA) to construct a pared-down version which would pass the House. One senior Republican Party leadership staffer told a Washington lobbyist that they needed passage of a bill because "we don't want to get school lunched" — a reference to the demagoguery President Clinton engaged in after the Republicans pared planned spending increases in the federal school lunch program. As syndicated columnist Paul Craig Roberts summarized, "President Clinton has told the Republicans: Pass my bill or I am going to stand at the site of the bombed federal building in Oklahoma City and demagogue you to political death." The capitulation means that the GOP was willing to carry water for the Clinton Administration and shred the Bill of Rights in order to avoid a public relations problem.

But the public relations challenge would have been minor in any case. Representative Philip Crane (R-IL) noted in the *Congressional Record* that "letters and calls from my constituents are overwhelming in their opposition to this legislation." THE NEW AMERICAN surveyed several other congressional offices about constituent input on the terrorism bill. One Republican office summarized constituent support for the terrorism bill in the districts as: "None. There was not one phone call in support of this bill. And that was the case with most of the members. The response ranged from no response 'for' or 'against' to a significant amount of opposition."

The only support for the bill outside of the Washington beltway came from Oklahoma, where relatives of the victims of the Oklahoma City tragedy were exploited in an attempt to revive the then-moribund bill. But even some of the families of the victims of the Oklahoma tragedy who were paraded around Capitol Hill by the Washington Establishment in the days before the vote soon began to understand the dangers in the bill. Bud Welch, who lost his 23-year-old daughter Julie in the Oklahoma bombing, explained that "I, like the other family members in Oklahoma City, was approached very early in my

grief by people asking: 'would you be in favor of anti-terrorism legislation.' No explanation was given as to what such legislation would look like, or what it would do to our fundamental rights. In the throes of my loss, and with such an abstract concept presented about the bill ... my response was like so many other family members who were brought here last week to be used as advocates for this bill I am sure they still do not understand."

After learning the contents of the terrorism bill, Welch became a vehement opponent, and expressed his disgust at the manipulation he suffered at the hands of Washington insiders: "It utterly galls us as a family so devoted to my daughter that our loss is being used as a political football for politicians eager to posture themselves as 'tough' on crime to reap some political advantage, and to do the bidding of already powerful agencies who have demonstrated their inability to responsibly exercise the enormous powers they already possess."

Freshman Factor

There were some in the House who fought hard to stop the terrorism bill. House freshmen voted overwhelmingly in favor of the floor amendment by fellow freshman Bob Barr (R-GA), which stripped many of the obnoxious Senate provisions out of the final House version. Only six Republican freshmen voted with the leadership against the Barr amendment, while nearly 70 opposed the leadership. More importantly, nearly half the freshmen voted against the final legislation even with the Barr amendment, despite both a floor appeal from Speaker Gingrich himself and a party leadership united in favor of the bill. ■

— THOMAS R. EDDLEM

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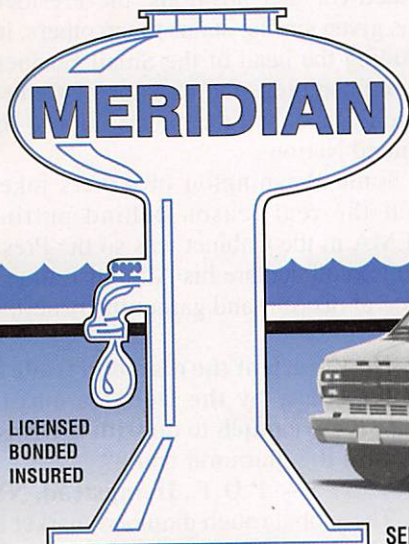
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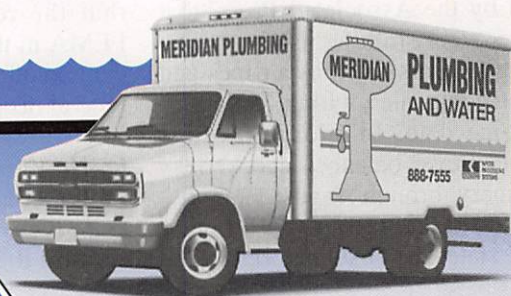
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THE RIGHT ANSWERS

Q. Who characterized Patrick Buchanan's supporters as skinheads?

— O.T., Portales, NM

A. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), chairman of the Democratic Party, said at a February fund-raiser in his home state that "the only difference between Pat's supporters and skinheads is hair." Such comments pass for humor in left-wing circles.

Q. How efficiently is the White House travel office running since the Clintons had the former manager put through the legal wringer?

— S.E.V., Massapequa, NY

A. When White House travel office manager Billy Dale and six other longtime workers were booted from their jobs in 1993, a Clinton spokesman cited mismanagement as one of the reasons for the action. After it came to light that the Administration had misused the FBI in the episode, five of the employees were reinstated elsewhere in the government and one retired early.

Dale had to endure more, with the Administration trying to hang embezzlement charges on him. Once Dale was brought to trial on the charges, it took a jury but two hours to acquit him.

When the General Accounting Office (GAO) took a look at the current travel office managers, they found widespread financial problems. An audit by the GAO released in January discovered, as reported by the Associated Press, that the office "rarely follows its own policy of paying vendors, such as airlines and telephone companies, within 45 days of the invoice date. In addition, office employees never balanced checkbooks from January through August 1995 'because other tasks were given a higher priority,' states the GAO report...."

Q. Did the government provide a free site for the NAACP to inaugurate its new head?

— G.B., Everett, MA

A. When Kweisi Mfume became the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People this past winter, the ceremony took place in the Great Hall of the Department of Justice, an action which raised some eyebrows since the NAACP often

does business before Justice. According to a spokesman for the Justice Department, a request for the hall was made by Mfume following his attendance at the swearing-in of Deval Patrick as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Any additional expenses to the government as a result of the NAACP ceremony, reports the Justice Department, are supposed to be reimbursed by the organization.

Q. Has President Clinton instituted a new federal Cabinet agency?

— C.R.A., Stillwater, OK

A. In late February, Mr. Clinton named James Lee Witt, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to sit in on Cabinet meetings. The White House, however, has acknowledged that the move, supposedly to honor Witt, is strictly symbolic. FEMA, said the President, "is now a model disaster relief agency. In some corners [it is] the most successful part of the federal government today. That is a breathtaking turnaround." There is no pay increase involved nor is there a change in Witt's title. In addition to 14 legally established Cabinet positions, the President has given similar status to ten others, including the head of the Small Business Administration, the director of Central Intelligence, and the ambassador to the United Nations.

Some Washington observers joked that the real reason behind putting FEMA in the Cabinet was so the President could declare his Administration a federal disaster and garner the benefits.

Q. How much of the diamond trade is monopolized by the DeBeers outfit? Does it have much to do with the Russians in the diamond trade?

— P.D.T., Hempstead, NY

A. The global rough diamond market is worth about \$6 billion annually, of which DeBeers controls approximately \$4.5 billion. About one-quarter of the diamonds purchased by DeBeers are from Russia. For the past five years, DeBeers and the Russians have had an agreement whereby 95 percent of Russia's uncut gems were to go to the DeBeers cartel, but there have been some complaints that too many gems

ave been allowed to go to independent buyers. In other words, market forces were interfering with monopolistic practices.

A couple of months ago, a new contract was announced between DeBeers and Russia's Almaz Rossili-Sakha, which produces 98 percent of Russia's diamonds and all of its exports. The agreement confirms the "DeBeers position as the sole exclusive buyer of all rough diamond exports" from Russia. Nevertheless, as the *Wall Street Journal* reported, "DeBeers and Russian officials confirmed that Russia will be able to sell an even greater portion of rough gems to buyers than it does now...."

Q. How does the economic size of the federal government now compare to what it was in the mid-1940s? Before the Great Depression?

— N.I., Reynoldsburg, OH

A. Since the worth of currency varies greatly over time, relationships among eras are better determined by showing how much federal spending goes on compared to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). In 1929, the federal government's expenditures represented about 2.6 percent of GDP, or about 1/40th of the total. In the period following World War II, federal spending was about one-seventh of the GDP. Of late, spending is approaching one-fourth of GDP.

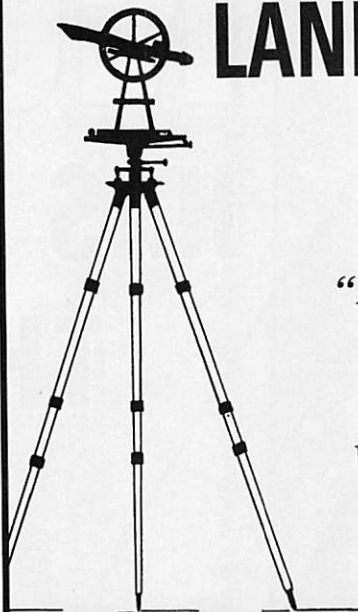
A study for the Joint Economic Committee prepared by Ohio University economists Lowell Gallaway and Richard Vedder attempts to demonstrate how the economy would be helped if there were restraints put on federal spending. Gallaway and Vedder found that "for every dollar government spending is reduced and a dollar's worth of resources is freed up to be used by the private sector, an additional 38 cents of output and income will be created in the initial year of the reduction and, over a seven-year period, the total increase in income will be \$2.45." This is in addition to the fact that there would be much less wear and tear on the Constitution if federal spending — most of it unconstitutional — were slashed. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

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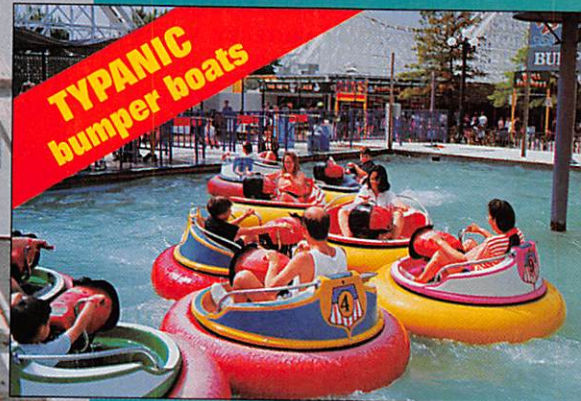
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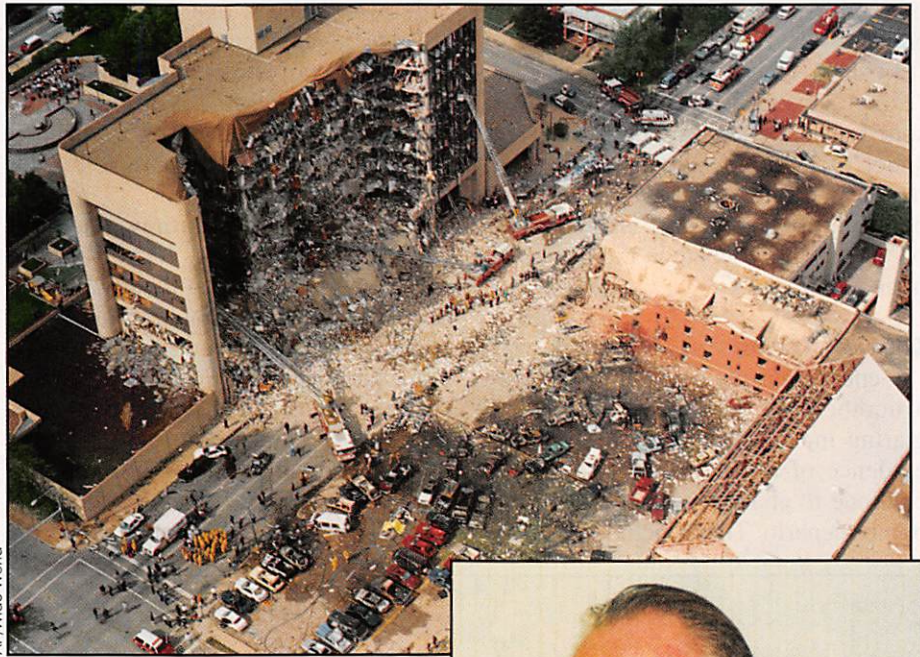
One of the earliest calls placed by THE NEW AMERICAN in our investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing was to Brigadier General Benton K. Partin (USAF, retired). As one of the world's foremost experts in both the theoretical and practical applications of explosives technology, General Partin possesses virtually unparalleled qualifications to authoritatively evaluate the public-source information available on the bombing.

From the start, the general expressed very strong misgivings about the "official" story — that the horrendous damage to the federal building had been caused solely by the reported truck bomb. Too many facts, he said, "simply just don't add up" to support that convenient explanation. For Partin, the reported "facts" contradicted not only the laws of physics, but a lifetime of personal experience as well.

Appeal for Delay

In a letter to Senator Don Nickles (R-OK), which he personally delivered to the senator's Washington office on May 18th of last year, General Partin appealed for action to delay destruction of the Murrah Building until a full, independent forensic examination of the site could be conducted. In that letter, which was also personally delivered to the offices of 23 other senators and some 30 members of the House, the general offered his initial analysis of the bombing evidence and explained:

I am concerned that vital evidence will soon be destroyed with the pending demolition of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. From all the evidence I have seen in the published material, I can say with a high level of confidence that the damage pattern on the reinforced concrete superstructure could not possibly have been attained from the single truck bomb without supplementing demolition charges at some of the reinforced column bases. The total incompatibility with a single truck bomb lies in the fact that either some of the columns



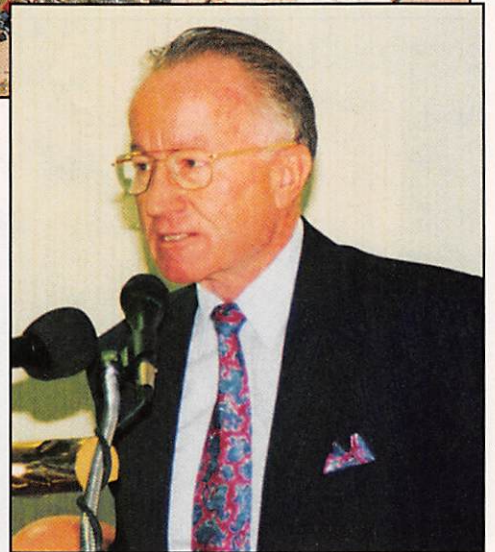
AP/Wide World

General Partin (inset) found obvious flaws in single-truck-bomb theory.

collapsed that should not have collapsed or some of the columns are still standing that should have collapsed and did not.

"To produce the resulting damage pattern on the building," wrote Partin, "there would have to have been an effort with demolition charges at column bases to compliment or supplement the truck bomb damage. A careful examination of the collapsed column bases would readily reveal a failure mode produced by a demolition charge. This evidence would be so critical, [that] a separate and independent assessment should be made before a building demolition team destroys the evidence forever."

General Partin was not offering another "wacky conspiracy theory." He was offering solid, compelling, methodical, scientific analysis backed by a sterling career and impeccable credentials. Twenty-five of his 31 years of active service in the Air Force were involved in intensive research, design, development, testing, and management of weapons at all levels. This included extensive hands-on work at the Ballistic Research Laboratories and field testing



of all types of explosives on a broad spectrum of structures and targets. He served as commander of the Air Force Armament Technology Laboratory and was the first chairman of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) joint service Air Munitions Requirements and Development Committee, responsible for munitions development for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines.

General Partin is recognized as a major guiding force behind our modern precision guided weapons systems. As far back as the late 1950s, he developed the earliest focused energy weapons program, wrote the first contract for laser weapons development, and pushed for deployment of a functional "Star

Wars” missile defense system decades before it became the hotly debated issue of the 1980s. General Partin was a Command Pilot and Command Missileman, a Distinguished Graduate of the Air War College, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, and thrice a recipient of the Legion of Merit.

In short, General Benton Partin is an “expert’s expert,” and his carefully reasoned analysis should command a respectful hearing. Unfortunately, he received no hearing whatsoever from political officialdom or from the arbiters of “acceptable” debate in the Establishment media.

Glaring Inconsistencies

General Partin’s analysis focuses on a number of crucially important and glaring inconsistencies in the forensic evidence of the Murrah Building that continue to challenge the official truck bomb scenario. These include:

- **Pattern and magnitude of the damage.** These were “technically impossible without supplementing demolition charges,” says Partin.

- **Demolition charge signatures on columns and header beam.** The smooth failure modes and exposed steel rebar are clear signs of contact charges.

- **Position of the collapsed columns and header beam.** If caused by the truck bomb, they should have been blown at least slightly inward, but instead came straight down.

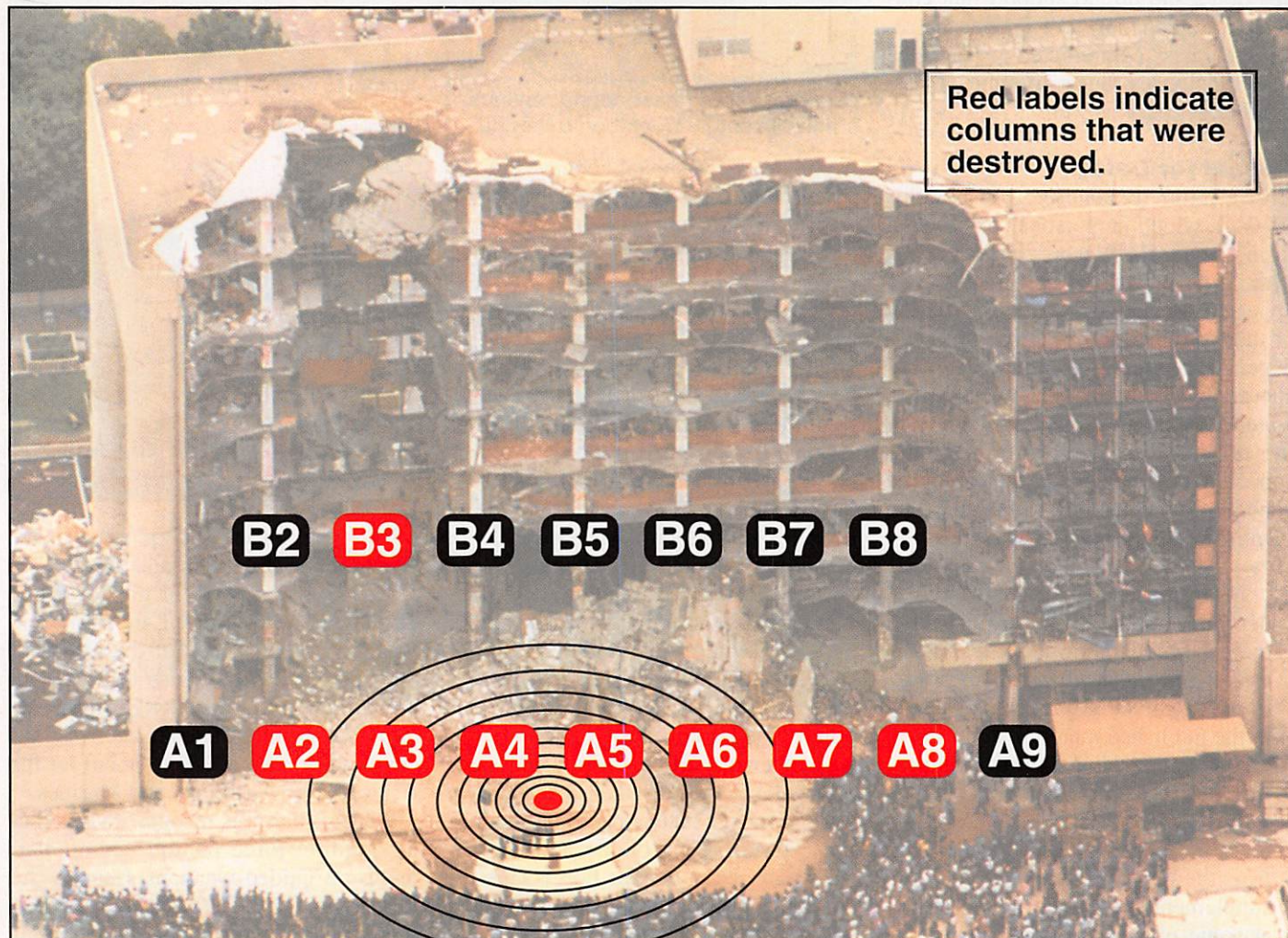
- **Contradictory damage to light and heavy materials.** It is “absurd,” says Partin, to hold that the truck bomb blast was powerful enough to take down large, steel-reinforced, concrete columns and still leave sheet rock, furring strips, and other light, decorative materials virtually unfazed.

- **Structural soundness of the remaining building.** If the blast from the truck bomb was sufficient to cause the

damage seen at the Murrah Building, much greater structural damage would have been sustained by the remainder of the building which was left standing. However, structural analysis revealed that it was relatively sound.

Evidence of Blast Charges

General Partin has repeatedly emphasized some of the basic physics problems associated with the single-truck-bomb scenario which seem to be lost on most laymen — and even many professional demolitionists — who are unduly impressed with the huge blast wave associated with the Ryder truck explosion. “First, blast through air is a very inefficient energy-coupling mechanism against heavy reinforced concrete beams and columns,” the general points out. “Second, blast-damage potential initially falls off more rapidly than an inverse function of the distance cubed. That is why in conventional weapons develop-



General Partin argues that the single-bomb explanation cannot account for the failure of column B3, which was further from the truck bomb than columns B4 and B5, which did not fail. He concludes that the asymmetrical nature of the damage to the Murrah building is one indication that demolition charges were used in the bombing.



Final demolition of the Murrah Building took less than 150 pounds of explosives.

ment, one seeks accuracy over yield for hard targets. Columns in large buildings are hard targets for blast.”

This principle was very well illustrated, he noted, in the bombing of the World Trade Center. In that case, he told THE NEW AMERICAN, a similar truck bomb blew a large cavity through several floors above and below the bomb but caused very little lateral damage. “The floor areas directly above and below the bomb were accelerated by the blast force and completely stripped away, but you can see in the published photos that the reinforced concrete column is standing there in the middle of the cavity with no damage.”

“The entire building in Oklahoma City could have been collapsed with relatively small demolition charges against the base of the columns and with even less explosives if linear cavity cutting charges had been used,” General Partin wrote in his letter to Senator Nickles. Partin’s point was dramatically illustrated with the final demolition of the Murrah Building on May 23, 1995. As that event demonstrated, a very small amount of explosives is required to bring down a large building — if the demolition charges are strategically placed within, or in direct contact with, the key structural points of the building. A spokesman for Control Demolition, Inc. informed THE NEW AMERICAN that less than 150 pounds of explosives placed in 420 locations were used to fell the three-fourths of the building left standing after the April 19th explosion.

Exhaustive Study

On July 13, 1995, General Partin released his 23-page report entitled *Bomb Damage Analysis of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*. The study includes five full-page color photographs taken of key areas of the crime scene which the general asserts provide “irrefutable evidence that at least four demolition charges were set off at four critical columns of

the reinforced concrete structure at the floor level of the third floor.” The report also includes an important aerial-view diagram of the Murrah Building showing the position of the truck bomb in relation to the building damage and a computation by Partin of the damage potential of the blast wave pressure in concentric circles as it radiates out from the blast source. (The photo on page 26 is based on the Partin diagram.)

THE NEW AMERICAN stands virtually alone in having published not only all of the report’s photographs and the building diagram, but a substantial portion of the text as well, together with interview comments from General Partin. (See our August 7, 1995 issue, “Explosive Evidence of a Cover-up.”) Space does not permit us to duplicate that valuable and extensive coverage here, so we have summarized some of the most compelling points made by General Partin.

It is particularly worth noting that no developments in the ensuing months have impeached or seriously challenged Partin’s compelling analysis. Indeed, quite the contrary. One of the more interesting examples of the general’s vindication can be found in the “official commemorative volume” of the Oklahoma City tragedy, *In Their Name*. This



According to the official scenario, the truck bomb collapsed column B3, yet failed to rip most of the sheetrock and decorative facade off adjacent columns.

“officially authorized” book, with an epilogue by Governor and Mrs. Frank Keating, contains many moving photographs and stories, as well as much useful data and many valuable illustrations. In the middle of the book is a large illustration of the Murrah Building spanning two pages (pages 86-87) and detailing the damage caused by the April 19th blast. What is quite striking about the illustration is that the artist has obviously moved the bomb crater to the left so that it is aligned with the deep blast cavity that extends into the building where the B3 column was collapsed, thus “solving” one of the glaring inconsistencies in the crime scene evidence pointed out in the Partin analysis.

That this placement of the crater is clearly wrong can be verified by an examination of almost any aerial photo of the building which shows the crater. In fact, *In Their Name* provides just such a shot a few pages earlier in the book (pages 82-83) which patently contradicts the illustration. What this episode demonstrates is that — whether consciously or unconsciously — the illustrator (and/or the book’s producers) have attempted to reconcile the conspicuously conflicting data by altering the evidence to fit the official story. However, this only serves to reinforce the trenchant arguments advanced by Partin.

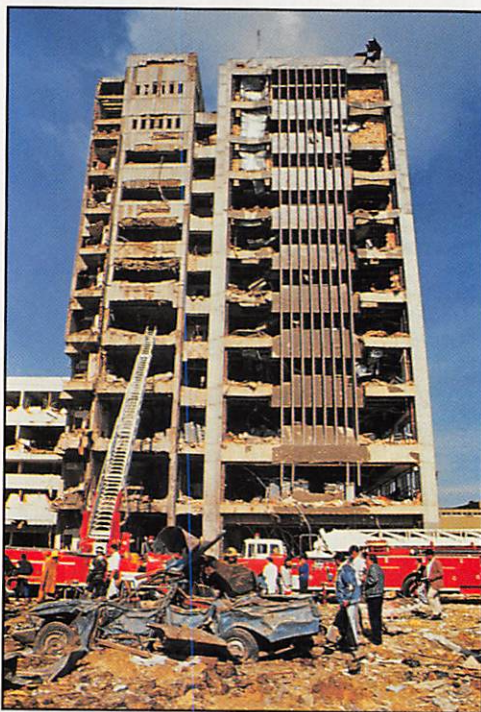
Diagramming the Blast

General Partin’s bomb-damage diagram illustrates the fact that in the first row of columns facing the street where the truck bomb was parked (row A), seven columns (A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8) collapsed, while in row B only B3 failed. Unlike rows B and C, where all 11 columns ran from the ground floor to the top of the building, in row A the bases of the even-numbered columns stood on a heavy reinforced horizontal concrete header which was supported by the odd-numbered columns.

“The truck bomb was not in front of column A3,” the general explains, “but instead, as the crater shows, between columns A4 and A5, which means that column B4, which did *not* come down, would have received about 40 percent more blast pressure than B3 which *did* come down. If any columns were going to come down in the B row it would have been columns B4 and B5. *You don’t have to go any further than that to know*

that you had a demolition charge on column B3 — unless you believe in magic.”

Additionally, the photographs reveal a number of other troubling dilemmas. “If you look at those B-row columns,” says Partin, “you can see that they still have furring strips and sheetrock on them.... Now, you can’t have the blast reaching clear in to column B3 and bringing down that heavy reinforced column and at the same time not even blowing off this lighter covering from the column.” (See page 27, bottom photo.)



Bogota blast, similar to the OKC bombing, did not cause severe structural damage.

Restating his earlier point about the tremendous falloff of blast pressure traveling through air, General Partin makes this important observation:

Using the official estimate usually cited for the amount of explosive in the truck bomb — 4,800 pounds — would yield a sphere of ammonium nitrate about 4½ feet in diameter with a blast pressure of about ½ million pounds per square inch at the detonation point. But by the time the blast wave travels through the air to the nearest of the columns in the A row (A5) it dropped off too around 375 pounds of pressure per square inch, and by the time it reaches the B row columns it’s down in the range of 27 to 38 [pounds per square inch]. And out at column A7 it’s down around 25 to 35 pounds per

square inch. The yield strength of concrete is around 3,500 pounds per square inch, and yet we’re supposed to believe that this large, reinforced concrete column is going to be brought down by 25 to 35 pounds of pressure? It’s absurd.

According to General Partin’s authoritative analysis, the blast wave from the truck bomb would have carried sufficient force to cause considerable damage to the face of the building and to some of its floors, but would have fallen far short of the force needed to cause the massive structural damage experienced at the Murrah Building.

Other Examples

This opinion is consistent not only with the bomb damage at the World Trade Center cited earlier, but from the results of other terrorist bombings as well. One of those which closely parallels the Oklahoma City incident is the 1989 bombing of the DAS (Columbia’s police intelligence) headquarters in Bogota, Colombia by drug lords of the Medellin cartel. An estimated 1,300 pounds of dynamite (which is much more powerful, pound-for-pound, than the ammonium nitrate mixture suspected in the Oklahoma City Ryder truck) packed in a bus was detonated in front of the 11-story DAS building. Although witnesses and survivors compared the explosion, which caused damage in a 26-block area and took dozens of lives, to “a mini-atom bomb,” the blast did not cause the kind of severe structural damage seen in Oklahoma City.

Another strike against the single-truck-bomb theory is the structural integrity of the remainder of the Murrah Building after the explosion. A single bomb large enough to cause the devastation seen in that structure would also cause considerable structural damage to the rest of the building. However, architects involved in the structural safety assessments said that this was not the case. Architect Ed Kirkpatrick told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that most of the building was structurally sound and worth rebuilding. Jim Loftis, the architect who designed the award-winning building, concurred, stating, “I think technologically we could have removed the damaged part of the building and rebuilt it” ■

— WILLIAM F. JASPER

Evidence of Prior Knowledge



Federal agents survey the bombed-out Murrah Building shortly after the attack.

Did agents of the FBI, ATF, DEA, Marshals Service, or other federal agencies have foreknowledge of a plot to blow up the Murrah Building? If so, was it acquired by wiretaps or other technical means? Were we warned by foreign intelligence sources? Or did these or other federal agencies have informants or agents actually operating within the bombing conspiracy? If specific knowledge of the planned terrorist act was indeed in the hands of federal law enforcement departments ahead of time, why was appropriate action not taken to avert the deadly disaster?

A growing mountain of very troubling evidence and an increasing lineup of witnesses prompt these questions. THE NEW AMERICAN first examined the issue of prior knowledge in our December 11, 1995 issue in a detailed report which presented a host of documents, witnesses, and jarring discrepancies indicating advance warning of the April 19th bombing. Despite repeated official denials of any forewarning, proof continues to mount that there was widespread knowledge in the federal law enforcement community that a "major event" was coming down.

Where Was the ATF?

THE NEW AMERICAN has reported previously on the evidence fueling charges that the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) must have been privy to information of an impending attack on that fateful April morning. Bombing victim Edge Smith, whose two young sons Chase and Colton were killed in the Murrah Building's day-care center, first drew America's attention to troubling rumors of an ATF tip-off during a live CNN broadcast in which she asked: "Where was ATF? All 15 or 17 of their employees survived, and they lived — they're on the ninth floor. They were the target of this explosion, and where were they? Did they have a warning sign? And did they think it might be a bad day to go into the office? They had an option to not go to work that day, and my kids didn't get that option. Nobody else in the building got that option. And we're just asking questions, we're not making accusations. We just want to know, and they're telling us, 'Keep your mouth shut, don't talk about it.'"

Lester D. Martz, special agent in charge of the Dallas ATF office, responded to the grieving young mother's

concerns in a May 23rd press release: "I strongly suspect that these malicious rumors are fueled by the same sources as the negative rhetoric that has been recently circulating about law enforcement officers. The facts are that ATF's employees in Oklahoma City were carrying out their assigned duties as they would any work day, and several of them were injured in the explosion."

Moreover, claimed Martz, "Several ATF employees were actually heroes on April 19th." His press release then went on to relate an apocryphal tale of heroism:

ATF's Resident Agent in Charge Alex McCauley was with a DEA agent in the elevator when the bomb exploded. The elevator dropped in a free fall from the eighth floor to the third. The two men were trapped in the smoke-filled elevator.... On their fourth attempt, they managed to break through the doors and escape from the elevator. The agents made their way to the stairwell and brought with them 10 or 15 people they found along the way....

"Pure Fantasy"

Incredibly, this tale was accepted as gospel by the media without any verification whatsoever. However, one reporter, J.D. Cash of the *McCurtain Daily Gazette* in Idabel, Oklahoma, did his homework and discovered a fatal flaw. Cash interviewed members of the elevator inspection and repair crew who were at the site scant minutes after the explosion. Repairman Duane James told the *Gazette* that McCauley's story was "pure fantasy." James said that he and other members of his crew checked and double-checked each elevator that terrible morning to make certain that no one was trapped inside.

According to James, the elevators were equipped with safety switches to

protect against excessive speed and acceleration. "None of those switches were tripped on any of the elevators in that building," James told the *Gazette*. "I, along with other men with our company, checked the equipment several times. Absolutely no elevators dropped that morning." In fact, said James, it is impossible for modern elevators like those in the Murrah Building to drop "unless you cut the cables, because they are counter-balanced to protect occupants from just that sort of danger."

Oscar Johnson, president of Midwestern Elevator, the company which employs Duane James, agreed that the falling elevator scenario could not be true. "None of the elevators fell," Johnson told THE NEW AMERICAN. "All of the elevators' cables were intact." Moreover, Johnson pointed out that, if a free-fall of five stories had occurred, those inside would have suffered severe injuries.

Johnson said that on the morning of April 19th, two of his technicians were about to begin an inspection of the Murrah Building's elevators when the bomb went off. The men had met with a General Services Administration inspector at the federal courthouse across the street from the south side of the Murrah Building at nine o'clock. All three men were walking through the tunnel under 4th Street to the Murrah Building when the explosion occurred. Within just a couple minutes of the blast they were at the scene of the devastation, checking elevators, assisting survivors, searching for trapped victims, and removing bodies.

"Within about eight to ten minutes, we had about ten people at the scene," Johnson told THE NEW AMERICAN. Getting the elevators operational again was a top priority for the rescue effort. Johnson, who had serviced the Murrah Building elevators for many years and was intimately familiar with the building, insists that the ATF account of Agent McCauley's elevator fall simply could not have happened. THE NEW AMERICAN has examined many of the dozens of photographs taken by Johnson and others of the elevators, elevator shafts, cables, pulleys, and safety switches; they bear out his assertion that the cable systems and switches were all intact.

While the obvious ATF fabrication about the falling elevator does not prove that the ATF had prior knowledge about



AP/Wide World

Oklahoma City Fire Department apparently was warned by FBI before bombing.

the bombing, it does seriously impeach the credibility of ATF spokesmen and the veracity of the agency's assertions and denials. This is important to keep in mind when assessing other serious challenges to the official ATF storyline.

Early Admission

On September 12th, television station KFOR, Oklahoma City's NBC affiliate, broadcast interviews with three witnesses who attested that ATF agents admitted to them to being tipped in advance of the bombing. The witnesses, whose identities were shielded in "shadow" interviews, arrived at the bomb scene shortly after the blast. The first witness worked just a few blocks from the Murrah Building and rushed to the explosion site minutes after the blast to find his wife who worked inside the bombed-out building. He and his wife knew many of the ATF personnel, since she worked in close proximity to them in another federal agency. Spotting an ATF agent whom he did not recognize, the husband asked him to contact other ATF agents to see if his wife had been found. The witness told KFOR's Brad Edwards that the ATF agent "started getting a little bit nervous. He tried reaching someone on a two-way radio, [but] couldn't get anybody. I told him I wanted an answer right then. He said they were in debriefing, that none of the agents had been in there. They'd been tipped by their pagers not to come in to work that day. Plain as day out of his mouth. Those were the words he said."

The second witness interviewed by

KFOR was the first witness' boss. He was standing with the first witness when the ATF agent made the comments, and he confirmed to KFOR the accuracy of the first witness' testimony. The third KFOR witness was a female rescue worker. When she asked an ATF agent on the scene if any of his fellow agents were still in the building, she was told that the agents "weren't here" at the office that morning.

We have interviewed the first witness and find his story very convincing. He has nothing to gain and much to lose by coming forward. His wife, who survived the explosion, sustained serious injuries and he does not want to subject her to additional stress from controversy. Moreover, in spite of her blast-related disabilities, she has been able partially to resume her former job — a job that provides important income, a job that they are fully aware is susceptible to political pressure and termination if they become too vocal.

Denial and Confirmation

Was the Oklahoma City Fire Department given advance warning of a terrorist attack immediately before the bombing? Apparently so. Glenn Wilburn, grandfather of bombing victims Chase and Colton Smith, had heard several reports concerning FBI tipoffs to the fire department before the blast and decided to check them out for himself. When he asked Assistant Chief Charles Gaines about the matter, he was met with denial. Walking out of the chief's office, he went down the hall to the office

of Chief Dispatcher Harvey Weathers and asked the same question. "Harvey said yes, they had received a message from the FBI on the Friday before the bombing that they should be on alert," Wilburn told THE NEW AMERICAN. He said he then told Weathers, "Well, you're going to be surprised to learn that Chief Gaines' memory is failing. He says it never happened." According to Wilburn, Weathers then responded, "Well, you asked me and I told you. I'm not going to lie for anybody. A lot of people don't want to get involved in this."

According to Wilburn, two other dispatchers corroborated Weathers' story about the Friday warning from the FBI. After reflecting on the discrepancy between the response of Chief Gaines and the replies of the dispatchers, Wilburn told THE NEW AMERICAN, "Actually, both accounts are probably correct. When I asked Chief Gaines, I was under the impression that the [FBI] warning had come in on Monday. So when he said 'No,' he was obviously being sly, knowing that it had come in on Friday and that I was off by a few days. So he could deny it without actually lying."

The matter might be resolved by the fire department's radio log tapes — except that the department claims the tapes for the period in question were "accidentally" recorded over. The department is also fighting a subpoena of the dispatchers by the Wilburns in their civil suit filed against Timothy McVeigh.

Judicial Forewarning

On December 1, 1995, U.S. District Judge Wayne Alley was removed as the presiding judge in the bombing case shortly after it was revealed that he had received warning of stepped-up security and increased concern over bomb threats before the April 19th explosion. Alley, who had been appointed to the case on August 10th, had been challenged by defense lawyers who contended he could not be impartial since his judge's chambers, along with the entire federal courthouse across the street from the Murrah Building, had been so heavily damaged. That line of argument did not seem to be making any progress, however, until the matter of prior knowledge was introduced.

On April 20th, the day after the explosion, the *Oregonian*, Oregon's largest daily newspaper, interviewed Judge Alley, who was born and raised in Port-

land, Oregon. Reporter Dave Hogan wrote in the *Oregonian*:

As a federal judge whose office faces the Alfred P. Murrah Building across the street in Oklahoma City, Wayne Alley felt lucky that he didn't go to his office Wednesday....

The judge said the bombing came just a few weeks after security officials had warned him to take extra precautions.

"Let me just say that within the past two or three weeks, information has been disseminated ... that indicated concerns on the part of people who ought to know that we ought to be a little bit more careful," he said.

Alley ... said he was cautioned to be on the lookout for "people casing homes or wandering about in the courthouse who aren't supposed to

be there, [and] letter bombs. There has been an increased vigilance."

Had Judge Alley failed to show up at the office on April 19th because he had been tipped — like the ATF agents — that it might be dangerous to do so? He hasn't said, but this much is clear: As soon as the issue of his possible prior knowledge was raised, Alley was jerked from the case with amazing speed. The defense team, which had been trying unsuccessfully for months to disqualify Judge Alley, was apprised of the *Oregonian* interview and submitted it as evidence of his unsuitability on November 30th. Presto! In less than 48 hours a federal appeals court ruled that a "reasonable person could not help but harbor doubts" about Alley's impartiality. What is particularly interesting in all of this, however, is that the appeals court ruling — as well as most media coverage of it — conspicuously failed to

Bomb Squad Witnesses

Multiple witness reports of bomb squad units in the immediate vicinity of the Murrah Building shortly before the explosion lend support to the contention that law enforcement and public safety officials were on a heightened state of alert the morning of April 19th.

- Attorney Daniel J. Adomitis was headed downtown for a meeting at about 7:30 a.m. when he saw a white bomb squad vehicle on the west side of the county courthouse. Adomitis told the *Fort Worth Star/Telegram*: "As I was passing the back side of the county courthouse, I noticed a truck with a trailer and the truck said 'Bomb disposal.' I remember thinking as I passed that, 'Gee, I wonder if they had a bomb threat at the county courthouse?'"

- On April 23rd, the Sunday after the bombing, the *Panola Watchman* of Carthage, Texas reported on the story of a woman identified only as "Norma" who worked in the federal courthouse building across the street from the Murrah Building. Shortly after the bombing, Norma recounted to *Panola Watchman* reporter Sherry Koonce that she had seen a bomb squad at about 7:45 a.m. as she walked to work through her building's parking lot. "There was some talk about the bomb squad among employees in our office. We did wonder what it was doing in our parking lot," she recounted to the newspaper. "Jokingly, I said, 'Well I guess we'll find out soon enough'...."

- A mother whose infant son was killed in the Murrah day-care center says she saw bomb squad personnel standing across the street from the Murrah Building an hour before the explosion. This mother said she had just dropped her child off at the center at 8:00 a.m. and was driving south on Robinson when she saw several men in dark jackets with "Bomb Squad" in big letters across their backs standing in front of the federal courthouse.

- Two additional witnesses report seeing bomb squad personnel and vehicles just south of the Murrah Building by the IRS building about an hour before the explosion.

Federal officials challenge the witness reports of bomb units at the building prior to the blast. Lester Martz, special agent in charge of the Dallas ATF office, told the *Fort Worth Star/Telegram*, "I haven't come across any information that any kind of a bomb unit was at the building prior to the bomb." ■

— W.F.J.

mention the *Oregonian* story and the whole issue of prior knowledge.

“Fatwa” Death Threat?

Another puzzling hint of federal prior knowledge comes from the U.S. Marshals Service. On March 22nd, a little more than three weeks before the Oklahoma City bombing, the Newark, New Jersey *Star-Ledger* reported that “U.S. law enforcement authorities have obtained information that Islamic terrorists may be planning suicide attacks against federal courthouses and government installations in the United States. The attacks, it is feared, would be designed to attract worldwide press attention through the murder of innocent victims.”

The story, by *Star-Ledger* correspondent Robert Rudolph, continued:

The *Star-Ledger* has learned that U.S. law enforcement officials have received a warning that a “fatwa,” a religious ruling similar to the death sentence targeting author Salmon Rushdie, has been is-

sued against federal authorities as a result of an incident during the trial last year of four persons in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York.

The disclosure was made in the confidential memorandum issued by the U.S. Marshals Service in Washington calling for stepped-up security at federal facilities throughout the nation....

According to the memo, the information about the threat was obtained from an unidentified “informed source” who said the death sentence was specifically directed against U.S. Marshals Service personnel....

The Marshals Service memo said the agency believes that “there is sufficient threat potential to request that a heightened level of security awareness and caution be implemented at all Marshals Service-protected facilities nationwide.”

The memo, issued by U.S. Marshals Service Director Eduardo Gonzalez,

warned that attacks may be designed to “target as many victims as possible and draw as much media coverage as possible.”

No “Islamic fundamentalists” have taken credit for the Oklahoma City bombing and, as we have reported previously, the federal government is bending over backwards to draw attention away from all evidence pointing toward any involvement by Iraqis or other Middle Eastern elements. Nonetheless, details of the warning and the timing of the Oklahoma City blast seem to indicate that the memo may have pertained to the mass murder at the Murrah Building.

An Unheeded Warning

Especially alarming is the revelation that a federal informant had delivered what appears to be a very specific and accurate warning about the impending Oklahoma bombing to U.S. Justice Department officials less than two weeks before the deadly blast — only to have his warning ignored. U.S. Attorney Henry Solano in Denver confirms that his office granted immunity last September to a man who claimed to have information about a plot to bomb a federal building. This same informant delivered a letter to the Justice Department on April 6th of last year claiming to have “specific information that within two weeks” a federal building was to be bombed. The informant’s handwritten letter stated:

After leaving Denver for what I thought would be a long time, I returned here last night because I have specific information that within two weeks a federal building(s) is to be bombed in this area or nearby....

I would not ignore this specific request for you personally to contact me immediately regarding a plot to blow up a federal bldg.... If you and/or your office does not contact me as I so request herein, I will never again contact any law enforcement agency, federal or state, regarding those matters [indecipherable word] in the letter of immunity.

After the April 19th bombing, spokesmen for the Justice Department stated that they did not — and still do not — deem the informant to be credible. How then to explain that a few months ear-

An Amazing Coincidence?

What are the odds against a Midwest lawyer writing a novel on terrorism five years ago that contains an extraordinary string of terrorist incidents unnervingly similar to infamous deeds which have since taken place? Events like the Oklahoma City bombing, the Arizona Amtrak derailment, the plane crash into the White House, the World Trade Center bombing? Maybe about the same as the odds of Pee Wee Herman taking out Mike Tyson in the first round?

But Martin Keating has done that — and more. His book, *The Final Jihad*, was completed in 1991 but is due to be released in June of this year. Among the startling similarities between his fictional story and present reality are:

- A terrorist network in Oklahoma.
- A key character named Tom McVey.
- The arrest of terrorists on a minor traffic violation by an unsuspecting highway patrolman.

“Martin Keating is a master storyteller with unique access to government intelligence agencies and clandestine terrorist groups,” says the publicity sheet accompanying our prepublication review copy of the book. “His brother, Frank Keating, currently governor of Oklahoma, is a former FBI agent and assistant secretary of the Treasury who supervised the Secret Service, U.S. Customs, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Keating’s uncle, Barney Martin, headed the Navy’s foreign intelligence collection unit.” In addition, Keating has benefited from access to the FBI’s ultra-secret Strategic Information Operations Center and some of the world’s top intelligence operatives.

Interestingly, the villains in *The Final Jihad* are not militia activists or “right-wing extremists” but, according to the book’s promotional literature, a “combined group of determined KGB, North Korean, and East German hardliners whose murderous acts are carried out by brutal Middle Eastern fanatics.” ■

— W.F.J.



lier they had deemed him credible enough to grant him immunity? That is not a prize which federal prosecutors dispense frivolously to every "informant" who walks through the door. The informant's immunity letter of September 14, 1994 on U.S. Justice Department stationery reads:

This letter is to memorialize the agreement between you and the United States of America, by the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney. The terms of this agreement are as follows:

1. You have contacted the U.S. Marshals Service on today's date indicating that you have information concerning a conspiracy and/or attempt to destroy United States court facilities in [redacted] and possibly other cities.

2. The United States agrees that any statement and/or information that you provide relevant to this conspiracy/conspiracies or attempts will not be used against you in any criminal proceeding. Further, the United States agrees that no evidence derived from the information or statements provided by you will be used in any way against you....

According to the informant, he was acting as a courier transporting illegal drugs from Kingman, Arizona to Las Vegas and Denver when he discovered C-4 explosives in a delivery package. He also says he overheard discussions about a plot to blow up a federal building — or buildings — in the Midwest sometime in mid-April 1995. The man apparently had no compunctions about participating in the illegal narcotics trade, but complicity in murder and mass destruction meant taking a step beyond where he was willing to go. The alleged conspirators, he said, were Latin American and/or Middle Eastern with Arabic names.

The Kingman connection is particularly noteworthy. Kingman, of course, was home to Timothy McVeigh and Michael Fortier, and Terry Nichols is reported to have visited McVeigh in Kingman a number of times. According to our information, the informant did not report seeing any of the accused trio or hearing their names in connection with the bomb plot. However, as we have reported previously in THE NEW

AMERICAN (September 4th, "Searching for John Doe No. 2" and October 16th, "Startling OKC Developments"), and in our article beginning on page 37 in this issue, reliable witnesses have identified apparent Middle Eastern accomplices in the company of McVeigh in the days prior to April 19th and on that fateful morning with McVeigh in and near the Ryder truck.

Trade Center Attack

What makes the informant's story especially disturbing is that it so closely parallels the situation in America's second most spectacular terrorist event, the World Trade Center bombing. What should have been thoroughly investigated in that case — but was instead quickly covered up by federal officials and compliant media allies — were the charges by a key federal informant and an FBI agent that the death and mayhem caused by that bombing could also have been avoided had FBI officials not ignored the repeated warnings and clear evidence provided by their own operatives.

Ralph Blumenthal opened his story in the *New York Times* for October 28, 1993 with this sensational bombshell: "Law enforcement officials were told that terrorists were building a bomb that was eventually used to blow up the World Trade Center, and planned to thwart them by secretly substituting harmless powder for the explosives, an informer said after the blast." Blumenthal continued:

The informant was to have helped the plotters build the bomb and supply the fake powder, but the plan was called off by an FBI supervisor who had other ideas about how the informer, Emad A. Salem, should be used, the informer said.

The account, which is given in the transcript of hundreds of hours of tape recordings Mr. Salem secretly made of his talks with law enforcement agents, portrays the authorities as in a far better position than previously known to foil the Feb. 26 bombing of New York City's tallest towers.

According to Salem, a former Egyptian army colonel who was able to gain access to Sheik Abdel-Rahman's inner circle while working for the FBI, he was originally supposed to substitute "phony

powder" for the explosive ingredients used in the bomb, but was foiled by an FBI supervisor who "came and messed it up."

The "mess up" apparently was caused when the FBI supervisor changed the terms of the Bureau's agreement with Salem and tried to force him to testify. "But that wasn't the deal Salem had made nine months earlier. He agreed to work only undercover," according to *New York Newsday* reporters Jim Dwyer, David Kocieniewski, Deidre Murphy, and Peg Tyre in their 1994 book on the Trade Center bombing, *Two Seconds Under the World*.

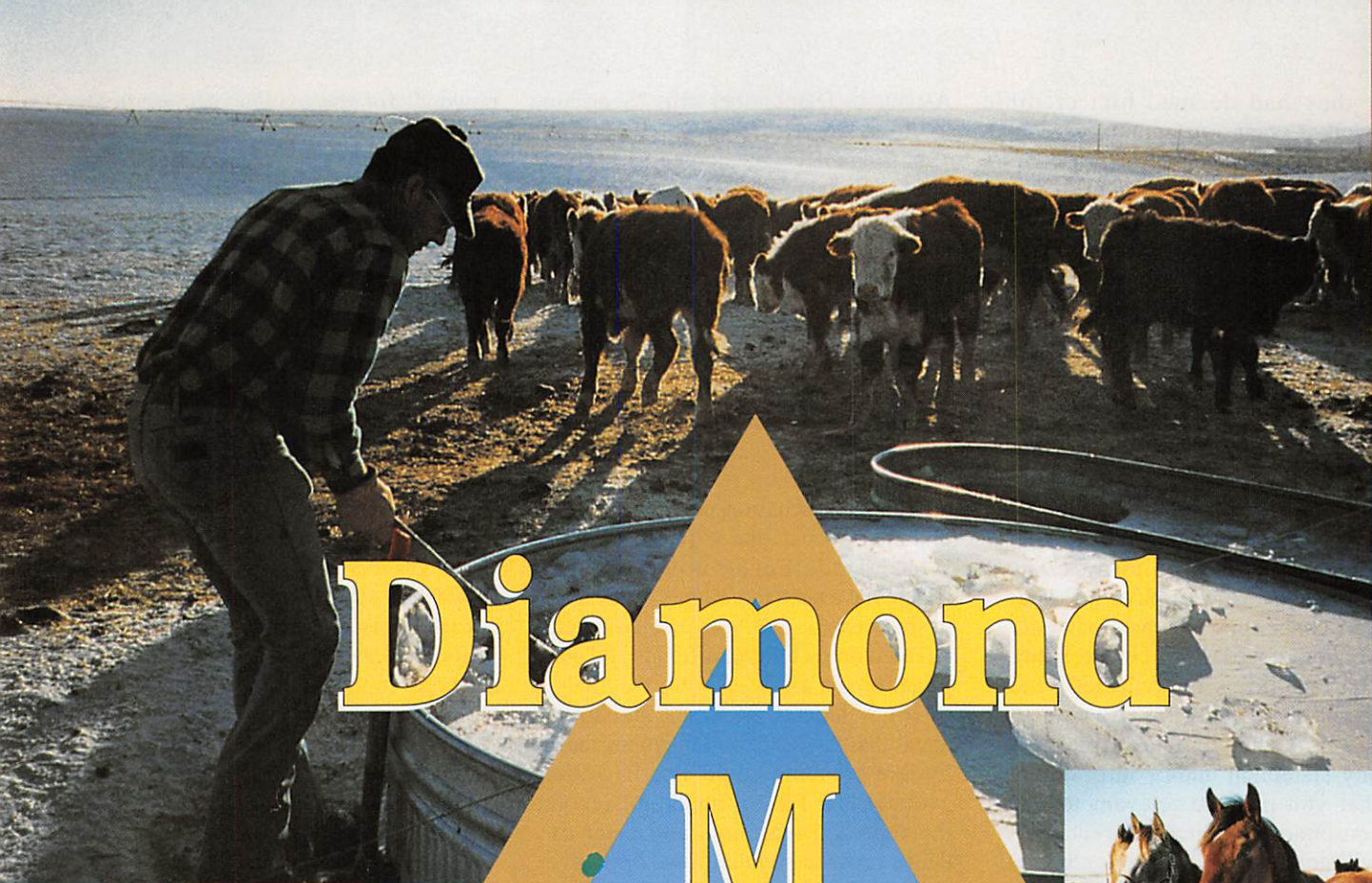
FBI counterintelligence officer Nancy Floyd had tried unsuccessfully to get her superiors to take Salem's warnings seriously, *Newsday's* investigative quartet report in their book:

A few weeks after the World Trade Center bombing, one of Floyd's supervisors called her into his office and asked her bluntly what, in her opinion, went wrong back then. "I may be nailing my coffin lid down," she said. "But the bottom line comes to this ... this thing was handled completely wrong from the very beginning.... All they wanted to do was have him testify ... *Emad had the information about the bombs and where they wanted to have them placed. If we had done what we were supposed to have done, we would have known about it ... we would have used our heads and come up with the solution of trying to neutralize the situation.*" [Emphasis added.]

Amazingly, after a few initial reports in the Establishment press on the FBI/Salem connection to the Trade Center bombers, the story fell off the media radar completely. There was no accountability for this fatal "mess up" which left six dead and over 1,000 injured.

Are we faced with a similar "mess up" in Oklahoma City? Is this another "failure" that will be conveniently swept under the rug? These are life-and-death questions that demand genuine, truthful answers. Anything less than a full-fledged investigation is an invitation to still more deceit and cover-up — and even more deadly disasters in the future. ■

— WILLIAM F. JASPER



Diamond

M

Ranch



REGISTERED & COMMERCIAL HEREFORDS

Range Bulls, Replacement Females, Stocker & Feeder Cattle
(one or a truckload)

Engaged In Accenting The Hereford Influence

The McIrvin Family:

Clive & Ruby
Bob & Shirley
Len & Pat
Jack & Debbie

Box 99
Laurier, WA 99146
Clive: 509/684-6806
(Summer phone)

910 South Lake Rd.
Pasco, WA 99301
Len: 509/545-5676
(Winter phone & address)

"This is a republic, not a democracy — Let's keep it that way!"

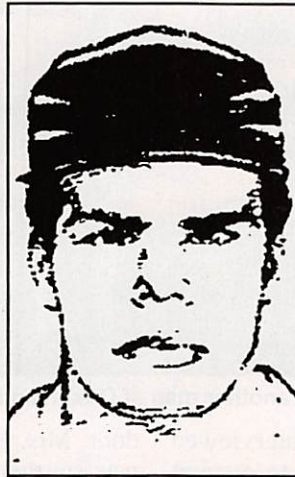
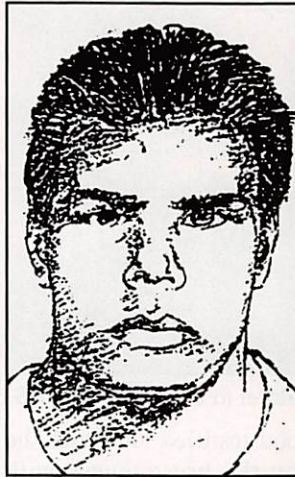
The Trail of John Doe No. 2

In its 11-count indictment handed down on August 10, 1995, the federal grand jury in Oklahoma City charged that Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols “did knowingly, intentionally, willfully and maliciously conspire, combine and agree together and with *others unknown to the Grand Jury* to use a weapon of mass destruction ... resulting in death, grievous bodily injury and the destruction of the building.” (Emphasis added.) The grand jury never heard testimony from any of the multitude of eyewitnesses who reported seeing prime suspect Timothy McVeigh — in the days before the bombing and on the morning of the explosion — in the company of a man (or men) resembling the now famous composite drawings of “John Doe No. 2.”

America’s Most Wanted

For six weeks in the spring of 1995 this shadowy figure was the most hunted fugitive in the world. His grim visage depicted in three FBI sketches was repeatedly flashed before billions of eyes in television broadcasts, newspapers, and wanted posters around the nation. A \$2 million bounty was placed on his head.

The global manhunt produced thousands of leads and look-alike sightings from eyewitnesses, but did not net the elusive prey. Since June of last year,



The FBI released three sketches of “John Doe No. 2,” a McVeigh accomplice.

federal prosecutors and FBI investigators have been sending signals that the now instantly recognizable composite drawings of the man known to the world as “John Doe No. 2” may have been a false lead from the start, the result of faulty witness memories.

However, if Timothy McVeigh did indeed drive the explosives-laden Ryder truck from Kansas to Oklahoma City and park it in front of the Murrah Building, as alleged in the indictment, it is reasonable to suppose that somewhere along the route other motorists, pedestrians, gas station attendants, customers at gas stations or convenience stores, etc., would have seen him — and others who may have accompanied him. That is exactly what appears to have happened. A trail of witnesses from the Ryder truck rental agency in Junction City, Kansas to the federal building in Oklahoma City provides a fairly continuous and logical time line between the two points. It also provides convincing evidence of the involvement of multiple “John Does” in this crime.

Following the Trail

There are additional witnesses and accounts besides those presented here, but the following provide a good sampling of the multiple sightings which place McVeigh, the

Ryder truck, and at least one person fitting the John Doe No. 2 description along a likely route from Junction City to the Murrah Building:

- **Thursday, April 13.** A woman who is a federal employee in the A.P. Murrah Building sees a man she later identifies to the FBI as Timothy McVeigh together with a second man in the building. A source closely involved with this part of the investigation told THE NEW AMERICAN that the woman was coming down the elevator when it stopped at the second floor. When the doors opened, two men dressed in janitorial smocks were standing as if waiting to get on. She says she recognized all of the janitors and that these two were not any of the regulars. She thought it odd that the two did not get on the elevator and turned away as if they might not have wanted her to get a good look at their faces.

The janitorial supervisor informed THE NEW AMERICAN that it would not have been difficult for the suspects to take smocks from one of the janitorial closets. Interestingly, another federal employee whom THE NEW AMERICAN interviewed told an investigator that he had seen Timothy McVeigh with two other men a couple of weeks prior to the elevator incident. The men had stopped by his office in the Murrah Building to ask about job opportunities. According to the investigator, the witness told him that he had no doubt that McVeigh was one of the men because he had engaged in a fairly lengthy conversation with



Map shows route of McVeigh and “John Doe.”



Witnesses saw McVeigh and another man at Dreamland Motel in Junction City, KS.

him. However, when we interviewed this witness and asked him to recount the incident, he became visibly frightened and said he would not talk about that matter and pleaded with us not to publish anything about it in connection with his name, citing fear for his life and the safety of his family from the bombers who are still at large.

• **Friday, April 14.** Timothy McVeigh, using his own name, checks into room 24 of the Dreamland Motel in Junction City, Kansas, 270 miles north of Oklahoma City and 26 miles north of Herington, Kansas, where Army buddy Terry Nichols lives. McVeigh is driving a 1977 Mercury Marquis which he purchased that day in Junction City. He has transferred to it an Arizona license plate from his trade-in car.

Shane Boyd, a helicopter mechanic who was also staying at the Dreamland, later told investigators and reporters that he saw a "bushy-haired man" resembling the John Doe No. 2 sketches in the parking lot near McVeigh's room.

• **Saturday, April 15.** In Oklahoma City two witnesses, husband and wife bartenders, serve beer to Timothy McVeigh and a dark-haired stranger who fit the description of John Doe No. 2. According to these two, the stranger spoke in broken English with a Middle Eastern accent.

• **Sunday, April 16.** Connie Hood, who lives in Junction City, stops at the Dreamland shortly after midnight, to visit a friend who is staying in room 22. As she walks toward the friend's room, a man flings open the door of room 23, eyes her quickly, and then closes the

door. Mrs. Hood testified later that she was startled by the brusqueness with which he opened the door and the intensity of his stare. She described him as about 5 foot, 9-10 inches, medium build, olive complexion, with thick, wiry, dark hair. She said there was a strong resemblance to the John Doe No. 2 sketches, though the man she saw had fuller features.

Route to Oklahoma City

• **Monday, April 17.** In Junction City, McVeigh and John Doe No. 2 pick up a 20-foot Ryder truck from Elliott's Body Shop. Employees later provide descriptions of both men to FBI sketch artists for suspect sketches released on April 20th.

That afternoon Connie Hood and her husband Donald return to the Dreamland to visit their friend David King in room

22. A Ryder truck arrives at the same time, its driver strongly resembling the man Mrs. Hood had seen sticking his head out of room 23 the day before. While Mrs. Hood goes into Mr. King's room, Mr. Hood waits in the parking lot. Mr. Hood notices a man resembling John Doe No. 2 come out of the motel office and get into the driver's seat of the Ryder truck at the same time that McVeigh comes out of his room and gets into the passenger side. The men then leave together in the truck. Mr. Hood later described the John Doe as about 5 feet, 9 inches, olive complected, with dark, brown hair combed straight back.

In Herington at around 9:00 p.m., Herington resident Larry Wild observes two men resembling McVeigh and John Doe No. 2 at Cardie's Corner, a gas station and convenience store a few blocks from Terry Nichols' house. Wild later described the John Doe he saw as being dark complected, about 5 feet, 10 inches, with dark hair combed straight back. He noted that the person he saw had more prominent cheekbones than the man depicted in the FBI sketches.

In Junction City, a man answering the description of John Doe No. 2 and driving a Ryder truck checks into the Great Western Inn, about a mile up the road from the Dreamland. The night clerk told THE NEW AMERICAN that the man was very nervous and unfriendly and spoke with a heavy foreign accent, possibly Middle Eastern. She also remembered that she "asked him to spell his name because it was foreign sounding."

• **Tuesday, April 18.** Early in the morning in Herington, Kansas, Terry Nichols, Timothy McVeigh, and a third



Elliott's Body Shop, where McVeigh and John Doe No. 2 picked up a Ryder truck.



Employee at tire store talked to McVeigh in Ryder truck minutes before blast.

man resembling John Doe No. 2 have breakfast at the Santa Fe Trail Diner two blocks from Nichols' house. The owners of the cafe, Robert and Barbara Whittenberg, recognize Nichols because he occasionally comes in for coffee or meals.

Mrs. Whittenberg, who is from Arizona, told THE NEW AMERICAN that she particularly noted the men because they had parked three vehicles in the parking lot and one of them, a light-colored car, had an Arizona license plate. The other two vehicles were a Ryder truck and a pickup truck. The John Doe 2 look-alike had more prominent cheekbones and a broader nose than the sketch artist rendering, said Mrs. Whittenberg.

After the bombing suspect sketches were released, customers at the Cattle Baron's Steakhouse in Perry, Oklahoma, 80 miles north of Oklahoma City, contacted the FBI to say that they saw McVeigh and a companion having a beer at the establishment. Owners of the restaurant, Terry and Judi Leonard, told the *Dallas Morning News* that they recalled a Ryder truck in their parking lot around 7:00 p.m. and two men who may have been associated with the truck, but they had not paid the men much attention.

Death Ride

• **Wednesday, April 19.** At 8:30 a.m. in Oklahoma City a mortgage banker for the Bank of Oklahoma is driving west on Main Street near Broadway (about four blocks south of the Murrah Building) following a Ryder truck and a car matching the description of Timothy McVeigh's Mercury Marquis. According to this witness account, McVeigh

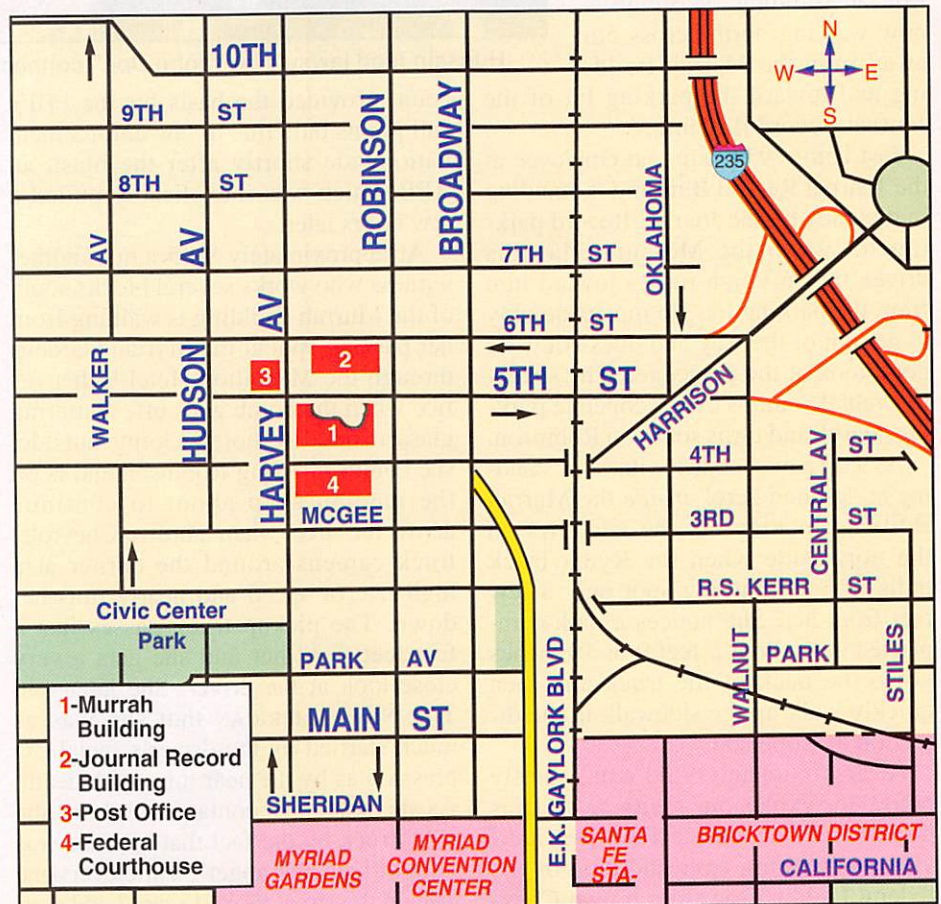
was driving the car and had two passengers, one in the front and one in the back.

At 8:35 a.m. Dave Snider, a warehouse worker in the Bricktown section of Oklahoma City, is waiting on the loading dock of his warehouse only a few blocks west of where the banker witnesses McVeigh and the Ryder truck. He is standing on the loading dock anxiously awaiting a truck delivery which is already several minutes overdue

when he sees a Ryder truck turn the corner and slowly approach his dock. Thinking it is his delivery truck, Snider waves and points toward the address, aware that it is difficult to see and that some drivers miss it.

When the truck slowly rolled by, Snider recalled to THE NEW AMERICAN, he was very upset and angrily yelled an obscenity at the vehicle and its occupants. According to Snider, Timothy McVeigh was sitting on the passenger side of the truck (the side closest to Snider) and yelled back an obscenity at the frustrated warehouseman. Snider said he got a good, long look at both McVeigh and the driver, whom he described as being dark complected, with dark, straight hair, and a thin mustache.

At 8:40 a.m., Mike Moroz and a fellow employee at Johnny's Tire Service at 10th and Hudson (five blocks north of the Murrah Building) notice a Ryder truck pulling into the parking area in front of their business. Motorists frequently pull into Johnny's for directions and, assuming that the Ryder occupants are in need of such assistance, Moroz walks out to meet the driver, whom he later identifies as McVeigh. McVeigh asks directions to 5th and Harvey (the



northwest corner of the Murrah Building). Moroz gives directions, pointing out that they are only a few blocks away. McVeigh returns to the truck and sits inside talking with the passenger for several minutes before driving off toward the Murrah Building.

At 8:50 another witness is sitting in his vehicle in the parking lot of the post office on 5th and Harvey, across from the northwest corner of the Murrah Building, when a Ryder truck pulls up and parks across the street from him on 5th. An "old, dirty" car (matching the Mercury Marquis description given after the bombing) pulls up behind the truck, and the drivers of both vehicles get out and meet at the back of the truck. After a brief exchange of words and the passing of some small object from the hands of one to the other, the drivers return to their vehicles. The witness goes into the post office, and when he comes back outside approximately five minutes later, both vehicles have moved. The Ryder truck is now parked one block further down 5th street in front of the Murrah Building. McVeigh is now walking north across 5th away from the Murrah Building and toward the parking lot of the Journal Record Building.

Just before 9:00 a.m., an employee at the Journal Record Building is standing in the alley by the Journal Record parking lot when the Mercury Marquis driven by McVeigh rushes toward him from the parking lot. He moves quickly to get out of the way and does not get a good look at the passenger. The speeding vehicle bumps over a concrete parking "curb" and turns south on Robinson.

At 9:00 a.m., another witness is standing at "ground zero" inside the Murrah Building looking out the windows on the north side when the Ryder truck pulls into the parking spot only a few feet from her. She notices a dark-complected man about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches go to the back of the truck and then quickly walk up the sidewalk in the direction of Robinson.

At approximately 9:00 a.m., shortly before the explosion, a witness sees (as he testified later to the FBI) two individuals "running from the area of the federal building toward a brown Chev-

rolet truck prior to the explosion." The witness later described the two men as "males, of possible Middle Eastern descent, approximately 6 feet tall, with athletic builds." One of the men was described as approximately 25-28 years old, having dark hair and a beard. The second person was described as approximately 35-38 years old, with dark hair and a dark beard with gray in it. He was further described as wearing blue jogging pants, a black shirt, and a black jogging jacket. A third person, not further identified, was believed to be in the brown Chevrolet truck. This witness ac-

fused. "I'll never forget the look on his face," she told THE NEW AMERICAN.

Iraqi Connection?

Based on the FBI's John Doe No. 2 sketch and the broadcasts of the APB on the possible Mideast males in the brown pickup truck, several residents in Oklahoma City pointed to a former Iraqi soldier who had recently arrived in the United States as a "refugee" and who was living in the area. After observing the Iraqi at his residence and place of employment and checking with eyewitnesses who had provided testimony to

the FBI on suspects seen at or near the Murrah Building on the morning of the explosion, investigators for NBC's television affiliate in Oklahoma City, KFOR, felt that they might have found the phantom John Doe who had eluded the global dragnet.

In June 1995 KFOR began running a series of broadcasts featuring video clips of their surveillance of the Iraqi they described as the "possible John Doe No. 2." KFOR was careful to digitally blur the man's face and not to mention his name during the broadcasts, which included on-cam-

era testimony from several key witnesses who connected him to McVeigh, the Ryder truck, and the brown pickup. One of the witnesses was the one mentioned above who was nearly run down by the brown pickup a few minutes after the blast. In a KFOR interview, she identified the Iraqi as the man driving the speeding vehicle. She also confirmed this in an interview with THE NEW AMERICAN.

On August 24, 1995, Oklahoma resident Al Hussaini Hussain filed a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against KFOR, charging that the news station had falsely accused him of being John Doe No. 2. After the lawsuit was filed, KFOR did not run any further stories into a possible "Iraqi connection" with the bombing. What is most incredible, though, is the lack of interest on the part of the FBI. According to our sources, the FBI, which has interviewed thousands of witnesses and suspects in this case, has never interviewed Hussain, his employer, or any of his co-workers. ■

— WILLIAM F. JASPER



Hussain filed lawsuit for "John Doe" connection.

count provided the basis for the FBI's "all points bulletin" to law enforcement nationwide shortly after the blast, an APB which was inexplicably pulled a few hours later.

At approximately 9:05 a.m., another witness who works several blocks south of the Murrah Building is walking from her parking spot at the Myriad Gardens through the Medallion Hotel to her office when the bomb goes off, shattering glass inside the hotel. Going outside, she begins crossing Robinson and is on the median strip about to continue across the street when a brown Chevrolet truck careens around the corner at a high rate of speed and nearly runs her down. The pickup truck passes just a few feet from her and she gets a very close look at the driver. She later told THE NEW AMERICAN that she was as much startled by the driver's facial expression as by the near miss with death. As she made eye contact with him, she was struck by the fact that his face was "full of hate and anger" while everyone else on the street looked scared and con-

10 Enemies on the Left

“Whenever you hear a man prating about the Constitution,” advised Vice President Andrew Johnson during the War Between the States, “spot him as a traitor.” Similar admonitions have issued from many opinion molders, academics, and public officials during the year that has passed since the murderous bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City. As Ken Toole of the Montana Human Rights Network recently told *THE NEW AMERICAN*, “The Oklahoma City bombing created a lot of ‘instant experts’ on the right wing” — among them Toole himself.

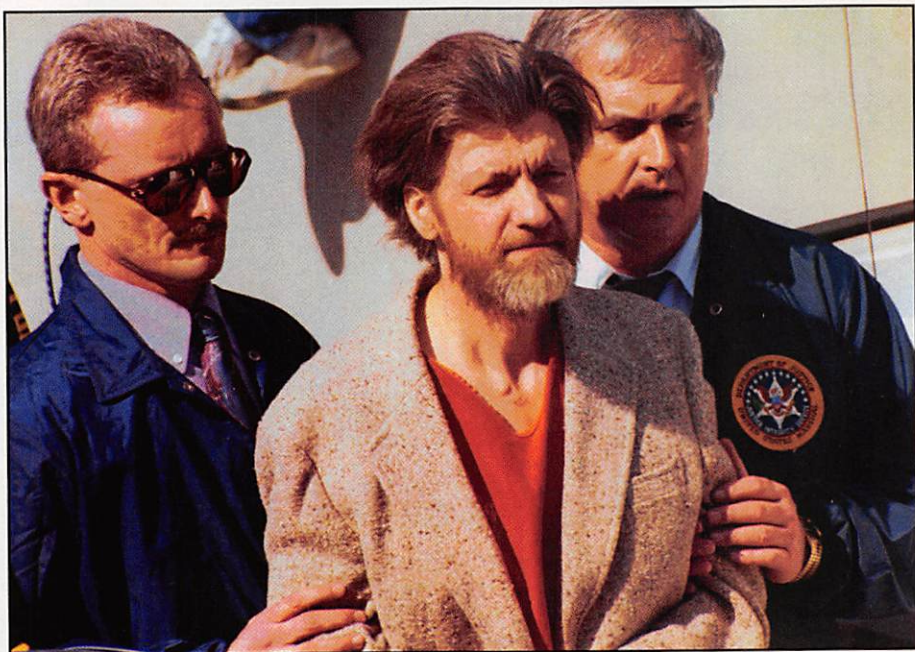
The message of many such “experts” to law enforcement officials is that whenever they hear a man indulging in “excessive” criticism of the federal government, or expressing a peculiar reverence for the Constitution, he should be considered a potential terrorist.

The tenor of the post-OKC campaign to stigmatize the right was established by President Bill Clinton in the days immediately after the bombing. In separate speeches in Milwaukee, New York City, and Washington, DC, Mr. Clinton denounced the “far right” — particularly conservative talk radio hosts — as “purveyors of hatred and division” who “feed on fear and uncertainty [and] promote paranoia. In the name of freedom of speech, they have abandoned the responsibility that democratic freedoms impose on all of us....”

Attempt to Isolate

In a commencement address at Michigan State University a few weeks after the Oklahoma bombing, Mr. Clinton condemned those who “appropriate our sacred symbols for paranoid purposes” — that is, for political purposes contrary to the Clinton Administration’s designs — and who “believe that the greatest threat to freedom comes from the government instead of those who would take away our freedom.” “How dare you call yourselves patriots!” Mr. Clinton fulminated. “There is nothing patriotic about ... pretending that you can love your country but despise your government.”

Appropriately, after unbosoming him-



Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski: A “left-wing extremist” in Montana?

self of this Stalinesque definition of “patriotism,” the President flew to Russia to celebrate Stalin’s victory in what the Soviets called the “Great Patriotic War.” After paying homage to his political heritage in Moscow, Mr. Clinton returned to his theme in a June 1st address to a hand-picked audience in a staged town meeting in Billings, Montana. In a fashion reminiscent of Chairman Mao catechizing the Red Guards during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, President Clinton declared that real patriots don’t allow citizens to criticize the federal government: “When you hear someone doing it, you ought to stand up and double up your fist and stick it in the sky and shout them down.”

While Mr. Clinton has shamelessly capitalized on the Oklahoma City tragedy for political gain, some left-wing academics and journalists have demanded that the Republican Party purge the “extremists” from its ranks. In August 1995, Jeffrey Herf of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University published a *Washington Post* op-ed column demanding that the Republican Party draw a “clear and firm boundary between the democratic and the undemocratic paranoid right” and create a social climate in which the so-

called radical right is “subjected to regular moral and political criticism and denunciation.”

It is the duty of loyal Americans, according to Herf, “to censure, criticize, ridicule, and, yes, exclude advocates of paranoid, conspiratorial and anti-Semitic views....” Herf asserts that all “right-wing extremists,” no matter how harmless or responsible they may appear to be, are latent mass murderers:

The Oklahoma City bombing and the world of armed militias that has belatedly come to public attention remind us that people who believe all our problems are caused by a small but powerful group that supposedly runs the world are driven, sooner or later, to political murder in order to eliminate the source of all evil.

“Warning Signs”

For conservative legislators, the continuing crusade to demonize the right may lead to some political difficulties. For private citizens found to possess “extremist” views, however, the implications are potentially much more serious. If the views of some critics of the right prevail, Americans who embrace “ex-



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views will be subject to political pressure by law enforcement agencies. Among the "instant experts" on the perceived threat of right-wing extremists is John Nutter of the Ohio-based Conflict Analysis Group. In early April of this year, Nutter presented a seminar titled "Criminal Justice and Right-Wing Extremism in America" for the benefit of about 500 law enforcement officers in Oklahoma City. John Dirk, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, which sponsored the event, explained to THE NEW AMERICAN that "Nutter's presentation was timely, given that quite a few police officers had questions about these [right-wing] groups. He was recommended to us as an expert on right-wing organizations and how they operate."

When contacted by THE NEW AMERICAN, Nutter declined to say how frequently he conducts law enforcement seminars, or to describe the extent of his involvement with law enforcement agencies. However, his biography reports that he has provided "expert" opinions on "right-wing extremism" to CNN, NBC, ABC, BBC Worldwide, ITN, TV Tokyo, Channel One, *Nightline*, the *MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour*, CBC, the Associated Press, "and dozens more."

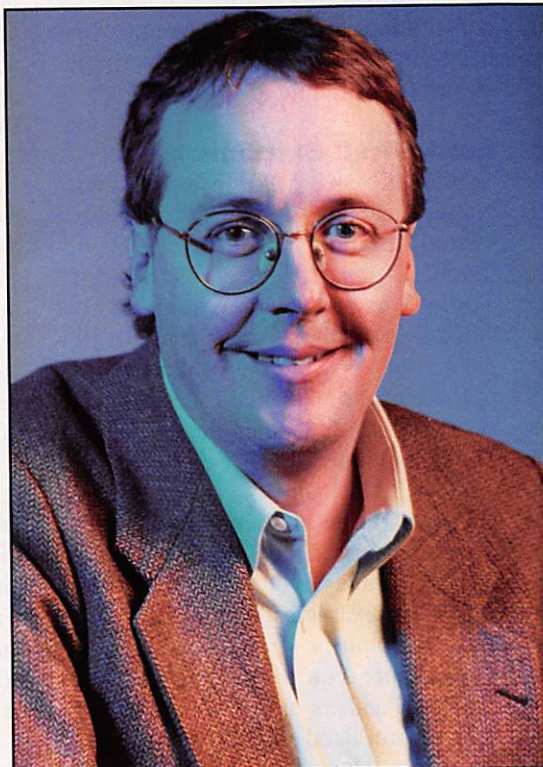
The syllabus from Nutter's seminar describes "right-wing extremism" as a "lightning rod for the mentally disturbed" and a movement which threatens "assassination, mass murder, and armed uprising." To help law enforcement deal with the "danger" from the right, Nutter offers an extensive list of "Potential Warning Signs." "Each of the following indications by itself might not mean an individual is active in an extremist group, or planning violent or criminal activity," the outline stresses. "However, if you observe one of them, better look for others."

Beginning with the "Really Obvious Warning Signs," such as possession of "The Terrorist's Handbook" or letters to the editor threatening local officials, Nutter extends his list to include camouflage clothing and "militia symbols" such as "firearms lapel pins, bumper stickers or window decals about the New World Order, Clinton Communism, 'I fear the government that fears my gun' ... or 'Don't Tread on Me'

flags." In this fashion, Nutter consolidates potential terrorists with law-abiding firearms enthusiasts and peaceful critics of the Clinton Administration's policies.

Waco, Weaver Preoccupation

However, Nutter's inventory doesn't stop there. He urges police officers to be wary of individuals who express "excessive concern" over the Waco holocaust, the Randy Weaver tragedy, and the Brady bill. This preoccupation can be recognized by detailed knowledge



Human rights "expert" Ken Toole views Right as reservoir of nation's ideological violence.

about the congressional inquiries into the Waco and Weaver affairs, or a knowledge of the names of federal personnel involved in the debacles.

Another token of "extremism" is the belief that the FBI "intentionally killed Branch Davidians to 'make an example' of them, and discourage resistance." Nutter does not mention that it was Bill Clinton who first described the Waco massacre as an object lesson for religious "extremists" and warned that similar incidents may occur again. Speaking the day after the fiery conclusion to the Branch Davidian standoff, Mr. Clinton declared: "I hope very much that others who will be tempted to join cults and become involved with people like Koresh will be deterred by

the horrible scenes they have seen.... There is, unfortunately, a rise in this sort of fanaticism all over the world. And we may have to confront it again."

Nutter lists other stigmata of "extremism": Do you know people who speak of a loss of American sovereignty to the United Nations? Do they bring up the case of Army Specialist Michael New, a soldier court-martialed for refusing to serve under UN command? Do they mention the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, David Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger, or the Bilderbergers? Do they collect gold or silver coins, long for the restoration of the gold standard, and occasionally conduct business through the barter system? Mark down such people as embryonic Timothy McVeighs as well.

Nutter advises law enforcement agents to be wary of people who "cite the Articles of Confederation," or evince a preoccupation with the Ninth and Tenth Amendments. People who believe that the "U.S. Constitution has been subverted by post-1700's laws, judicial review, and modern Amendments" or who voice misgivings about the 14th Amendment are suspect as well. Needless to say, "Strong proponents of the Second Amendment" who believe in the "right of individuals to possess 'arms,'" who are "fearful of *any* limitations on weaponry," and display a "sincere belief that guns = freedom" should be flagged as potentially subversive.

No Left-Wing Violence

Significantly, Nutter's syllabus implies that there is no such thing as "left-wing extremism." "What I'm talking about in the seminar are things that are potentially threatening to law enforcement and potentially violent," Nutter commented to THE NEW AMERICAN. "Frankly, there isn't very much of it [left-wing extremism] any more. And the kinds of things that occur that are violent, that produce violent confrontation for police officers and so forth — you just don't find them from left-wing extremists. The last really major left-wing terrorist event was the New Jersey Brinks truck robbery by the Weathermen and the Black Liberation Army in 1981, during which a couple of security

guards were killed.”

Like many other professional critics of the right, Nutter essentially divides political violence into two categories: “Right-wing” violence and “non-ideological” violence — that is, acts committed by left-wing extremists who are not identified as such. THE NEW AMERICAN asked Nutter if the 1992 “Rodney King Riots” in Los Angeles, which were abetted by left-wing agitators and are fondly remembered by the Marxist left as the “Los Angeles Uprising,” qualify as an example of left-wing terrorism: “No, I wouldn’t characterize it as ideological, I don’t think.” Noting that the syllabus lists “excessive concern” about Waco and Ruby Ridge among the signs of “right-wing extremism,” THE NEW AMERICAN asked if similarly “excessive” concern over the Rodney King incident is symptomatic of left-wing extremism: “I haven’t thought much about it.”

Nor has Nutter thought much about potential terrorism from Louis Farrakhan’s Nation of Islam, which is busily networking with urban gangs. Farrakhan recently received a promise of lavish funding from Libyan dictator Mummar Khaddafi. Furthermore, as Congressman Pete King (R-NY) has documented, Farrakhan’s organization has received an estimated \$20 million in taxpayer funding through security contracts with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and a regular media platform on the taxpayer-subsidized Pacifica radio network. Farrakhan is unabashedly anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic; he promotes recognizably paranoid views and racial separatism; he has hinted that he played a role in the murder of the radical black Muslim leader Malcolm X. However, Farrakhan’s activities are safely “non-ideological.”

Apparently, from Nutter’s perspective the only people motivated by subversive ideologies are those who seek to reduce the size and power of the federal government. Asked about allegations that concerns over the Second, Ninth, and Tenth Amendments are “warning signs” of incipient political violence, Nutter allowed that “not everyone who is concerned with these issues is potentially violent, but many of the people who are potentially violent do have such concerns and they express them very commonly and very frequently, to the point where they deny essentially any role for the federal government.”

The Montana Human Rights Network (MHRN), which was thrust into the headlines by the recent standoff between the FBI and the so-called Freemen, embraces similarly self-serving political definitions. MHRN is among the most frequently quoted sources on the activities of the Militia of Montana and other mediagenic right-wing bogeys in the Northwest. In a report entitled *A Season of Discontent: Militias, Constitutionalists and the Far Right in Montana*, MHRN condemns, along with racist and genuinely terrorist organizations, “Constitutionalists — Groups that view the constitution as a static document which has been misapplied and misinterpreted by the current judicial system.”

Earth First! Extremism

MHRN’s Ken Toole agrees with Nutter’s perception that the right has a virtual monopoly on ideological violence. Citing the Freemen standoff, Toole told THE NEW AMERICAN that “this is an example, once again, of illegal activity flowing out of the ideology of these groups.” Asked if he could discern similar tendencies on the far left, Toole responded:

Well, to put it bluntly, I think the right is more susceptible to it. There have certainly been traditions in the left, for example the SDS and the Black Panthers — although I’m not even sure you’d characterize the Black Panthers as left-wing — that have produced violent manifestations in the past.* Right now, certainly in Montana, there isn’t any of that. I mean, we’re very connected in communities, and we do not see “left-wing” violent activism that is directed at people.

It was Toole’s misfortune to be uttering this dismissal of “left-wing extremism” at almost the very hour that federal authorities were arresting the suspected Unabomber — *in Montana*. Montana resident Theodore J. Kaczynski was arrested on April 4th as the suspected culprit in an 18-year string of terrorist bombings that killed three people and injured 23 others. The Unabomber de-

* It is nearly impossible to see how Toole or anyone else could believe that the Black Panthers were anything other than “left-wing.” Their ideology and tactics were culled directly from Mao’s writings, and their leadership kept in close contact with the Weather Underground and similar groups.

scribed himself as part of an effort to overthrow industrial society. Some of his targets appear to have been identified by the eco-terrorist group Earth First! as enemies of the sacred earth.

However, Toole insists that Earth First! is not a terrorist organization. “Yes, they engage in illegal behavior,” Toole conceded, “but the difference is they’re not involved in violent behavior.” The family of slain Oregon logger Steve Benson likely entertains a different opinion. In April 1989, Benson was killed by falling debris as his logging crew was being harassed by a pack of Earth First! activists. On the day of Benson’s funeral, Earth First! thoughtfully sent Benson’s family a card stating that the young man’s death was an appropriate punishment for “murdering” trees. Earth First! involvement is also suspected in two helicopter crashes in Washington timberlands in the late 1980s. Earth First! founder Dave Foreman and four co-conspirators were arrested by federal authorities in 1989 for vandalizing power poles in Arizona in what was a trial run for an assault on nuclear power plants.

Toole maintains that “the difference [between Earth First! and right-wing groups] is guns.... You don’t see Earth First!-ers sitting in trees to stop a logging sale with guns. You do see that with these other folks. The Freemen sitting out there in their compound aren’t holding daisies; they’re holding on to semiautomatic weapons.”

Once again, for a representative of a “human rights” organization supposedly plugged into Montana communities, Toole is strangely unaware of some important developments in his home state. According to the January 9th *Los Angeles Times*, a left-wing eco-militia group called the “Environmental Rangers” has organized near Lincoln, Montana to prevent miners from digging holes into “Mother Earth.” Khaki-clad and brandishing sidearms, the Rangers describe themselves as “an army of citizens that will stand along the Blackfoot [River] after the lawyers and the lobbyists and the peaceful environmental protesters have gone home to defeat.” Ric Valois, the leader of the Rangers, promises: “That mine is not going in. They’re not getting these places without a war. And I mean a real war....” Perhaps the Rangers represent another example of “non-ideological” extremism.

Precedent

wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, the mainstream media and political establishment have tirelessly proclaimed that the refrain, *Pas d'ennemis à la gauche*. "There are no enemies to the left," is taken as an axiom of public policy. It is that potential domestic terrorists always come from the right, and those Americans who express unacceptably conservative political views must be expelled from political society and subjected to careful scrutiny by law enforcement agencies. These are not unprecedented assumptions.

The "All Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combatting Counter-Revolution, Speculation, and Sabotage" in revolutionary Russia — the Cheka, which evolved into the KGB — began its labors by defining opponents of the regime as "counter-revolutionary terrorists." A Spring 1918 directive from the Cheka instructed that "anyone in possession of unauthorized weapons" should be arrested and summarily shot; however, an exception was made for those who had "membership in a revolutionary Soviet party or worker's organization."

The Chekist tradition continues in contemporary Russia's Federal Security Service, the successor to the KGB. In 1991, the KGB's Fifth Service, which had been charged with the task of monitoring for "anti-Soviet ideological subversion," was neatly folded into the new "Directorate to Combat Terrorism" — thereby tacitly branding as a potential terrorist anybody who expresses "extremist" sentiments, and intrusive political surveillance of Russian anti-communists is still very much a contemporary reality.

Russian journalist Yevgenia Albats, who is perhaps the most knowledgeable student of the KGB, recalls asking a leader of the Federal Security Service why peaceful critics of the regime are still under surveillance; she was told that it was "to prevent the consolidation of extremist forces." Noting that she is a journalist who frequently criticizes the lawlessness of the Russian regime and its security agencies, Albats wryly remarks, "I hope to God [I] don't end up on the Chekists' list of potential terrorists who require stringent surveillance." Tragically, an increasing number of Americans might plausibly express similar anxieties. ■

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GUN REPORT

Conceal-Carry and Crime

On March 26th, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) released a study showing that states with non-restrictive conceal-carry laws have dramatically lower rates of violent crime than do states with restrictive laws. States were categorized as restrictive if they prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms or issue permits selectively on the basis of special "need." Non-restrictive states, in contrast, require that permits be issued to all adult residents who apply unless an applicant has a criminal record or a history of mental illness.

The study, based on 1994 FBI crime figures, compared murder, robbery, and aggravated assault rates in non-restrictive and restrictive states. The average murder rate for the restrictive states (per 100,000 population) was 13.1, compared to 5.5 for the non-restrictive states. The robbery rate, respectively, was 258.2 and 121.3. And the aggravated assault rate was 487.8 compared to 282.6.

According to CCRKBA chairman Alan Gottlieb, the study explodes "the myth that it is dangerous to allow law-abiding citizens to carry firearms for self-defense" and "proves what we have been saying all along: armed citizens who can protect themselves will actually make our streets safer."

The study confirms the wisdom of those state legislatures which have approved less restrictive conceal-carry laws in recent years. During 1995 alone, Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas enacted non-restrictive laws requiring that permits be issued to residents who meet reasonable statewide standards. Nevada, Utah, and Virginia replaced discretionary laws with "shall issue" legislation. And Florida, Idaho, and Pennsylvania improved existing "shall issue" statutes.

DC Official Backs Citizenry

On March 19th, members of the Metropolitan Washington, DC police department met with crime-beleaguered residents of the nation's capital to discuss home security and how shotguns and rifles could be legally obtained for home defense. Police Lieutenant Lowell Duckett, president of DC's Black Po-

lice Caucus and an assistant to Chief Larry Soulsby, subsequently told the *Washington Post* that the District's gun control law (which bans handguns and requires the registration of guns and rifles) should be repealed. A front-page story on March 22nd, *Post* quoted Duckett as saying: "Control has not worked in D.C. The only people who have guns are criminals. We have the strictest gun laws in the nation and one of the highest murder rates. It's quicker to pull your Smith & Wesson than to dial 911 if you're being robbed."

King of Bias

On March 27th, CNN's *Larry King Live* television program featured an interview with Jim and Sarah Brady of Handgun Control, Inc., about the supposed need to keep the federal ban on certain semiautomatic "assault" firearms. The Bradys were invited to appear unopposed. Tanya Metaksa, executive director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action, was also invited to appear during the program, but only if she would debate in a separate segment with anti-gun Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), chief sponsor of the "assault" weapons ban. The NRA objected to the rigged format, and, according to Mrs. Metaksa, the program's producer at first agreed that it did not seem fair. But on the day of the show, King's minions canceled Metaksa's invitation, opting instead for a discussion of inner-city crime with a former New York City commissioner.

Ohio Ban Unconstitutional

On March 22nd, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio ruled that an "assault" weapons ban imposed by Columbus officials is unconstitutionally vague. The court held that the city statute failed to adequately notify gun owners about which firearms were actually banned.

From Bullets to Wizards

For 32 years it has been either the Baltimore or Washington Bullets, but beginning with the 1997-98 basketball season, the NBA franchise will become the Washington Wizards. Team owner

decided on the change because he supposed "violent" connotations. "Bullets" when juxtaposed with "Anglo's" staggering murder — some would say because of his draconian gun control laws — he disarranged the law-abiding. He claims that he realized a name was needed when he "picked up" a paper and saw the word "bullets" in the headline and thought for an instant the article was about my basketball.

Other names considered were the Sea Kings, the Express, the Dragons, and the Millions. Some gun enthusiasts also suggested the Blacks.

Burger King Buckles

Tim Watson, owner of S&W Shooting Supplies and Repairs in Catonsville, Maryland, recently arranged with a local Burger King to place an advertisement on the back of the fast-food restaurant's receipts. Aimed at gun enthusiasts looking for a bargain, the advertisement read: "Good for one free box of ammo with gun purchase or 10 percent off."

But when anti-gun attorney Susan Wolf noticed the message while lunching at Burger King, she was "appalled." So much so that she took the receipt to the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper, where a reporter called Burger King's national headquarters, which promptly ordered the Baltimore outlet to stop distributing the pro-gun receipts. Company spokesperson Kim Miller bleated, "It's not the image that Burger King would like to be associated with in any way," noting that the chain sponsors a national alternative school for "at-risk" teens, whom Ms. Miller claimed were "oftentimes the very kids who end up using handguns." That *non sequitur* wrongly implied that the S&W sports shop was engaged in selling guns to unqualified buyers. But as owner Watson told the *Sun*, "I don't sell to lowlifes or the criminal element. The criminal element is getting guns illegally."

Equating guns sold legally from a sports shop to those used illegally by teens is equivalent to comparing the beef served by Burger King to Britain's "mad cow" meat. Michael Sharifi, manager of the Baltimore Burger King, told the *Sun*: "There is a problem it's with the Constitution, not the tapes [receipts]." ■

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CORRECTION, PLEASE!

The Voice of Reason

ITEM: In an April 1st New York Times column, Anthony Lewis tried to put down "conspiracy theories and smears" with his interpretation of the "Pillsbury Report." "On Whitewater," wrote Lewis, "it is time to follow Al Smith's dictum: 'Let's look at the record.'... The investigation was ordered by the Resolution Trust Corporation ... and done by the respected San Francisco law firm of Pillsbury Madison and Sutro.... The reports examine charges against President and Mrs. Clinton in exhaustive detail — and find one charge after another to be without substance...."

CORRECTION: House Banking Committee Chairman Jim Leach (R-IA) noted that the investigating firm did not have access to the billing records that the White House mysteriously and belatedly "found" after the report was issued. Those billing records showed that Mrs. Clinton had been deeply involved in a questionable Madison real estate deal which has been described by federal investigators as a series of "sham" land transactions. "Far from absolving the Clintons of any role in Madison Guaranty's taxpayer subsidized failure," said Leach, "the report contains much that is ethically troubling for the Clintons and their apologists on Capitol Hill."

Anthony Lewis is undoubtedly hoping that his readers forget what his own paper said on February 28th when it called for an extension of the Whitewater inquiry: "... the White House has yet to reveal the full facts about the land venture, the Clintons' relationship to Mr. McDougal's banking activities, Hillary Rodham Clinton's work as a lawyer on Whitewater matters, and the mysterious movements of documents between the Rose Law Firm, various basements and closets and the Executive Mansion. The committee, politics notwithstanding, has earned an indefinite extension. A Democratic filibuster against it would be silly stonewalling."

Maximum Politics

ITEM: In an editorial supporting an increase in the minimum wage, the April 2nd Washington Post argued, "We want people on welfare to quit the dole and take up jobs, and so they should if they

can. But the jobs then need to pay enough to sustain them.... We say again, there are costs associated with the step. The benefits outweigh them."

CORRECTION: That the *Post* admits the costs of raising the wage mandate is an indication of the weakness of its position. For the "benefits," which are ephemeral, don't outweigh costs. Most workers earning the minimum are young and single, and it is hardly a long-term situation; within a year most receive raises or are working for salaries.

Hiking the minimum wage does have high costs to its presumed beneficiaries. Raising it by one-fifth, as proposed, would cost the economy some \$12 billion over five years, according to a Congressional Budget Office study; with it would go hundreds of thousands of jobs. How about those on the dole? Welfare recipients in those states with recent minimum wage increases stayed on welfare 40 percent longer, according to a University of Wisconsin study. And as noted by a spokesman for Project 21, a black leadership group, an increase in the minimum wage "displaces unskilled or low-skilled workers whose labor is not worth the new arbitrary wage mandated by government...."

Indeed, as economist Walter Williams remarks, the gains of working at any job will pay off in the future. "If the Congress had courage and decency, both of which are always in short supply in Washington," Dr. Williams writes, "they'd not only reject Mr. Clinton's politically self-serving call for higher minimum wages, they'd repeal the minimum wage law altogether."

Partial-Birth Abortion

ITEM: In a White House ceremony, President Clinton vetoed legislation that would have prevented the practice of some partial-birth abortions. As reported in the April 11th New York Times, "Aligning himself firmly with abortion-rights advocates in an election year, President Clinton ... vetoed a bill that would have outlawed a certain type of late-term abortion, saying the women who need the procedure to safeguard their own health 'should not become pawns in a larger debate.'"

CORRECTION: The "certain type" of

abortion with which the President himself involves almost total anesthesia. With only the baby's head in the canal, scissors are rammed into the infant's skull; a tube is inserted, and the infant's brains are sucked out. The tactics were central to Mr. Clinton's strategy with the gruesome procedure is self-evident: A White House adviser even admitted to the Associated Press that the veto was judged politically expedient for President Clinton not to reverse on this issue which kills infants inches from birth.

Mr. Clinton, facing substantial opposition on this issue from Congress and the public at large, slipped the veto in the late on a day dominated by the funeral of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and tried to turn this into a women's issue, using several women flown to the White House as the very pawns he claimed to deplore. Then came the show — a heart-rending display intended to blur what happens to the child. Predominating, however, was Bill Clinton's need for the political backing of the abortion lobby. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

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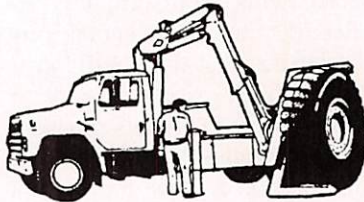
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Clinton signs line-item veto into law: Legislative power comes to Oval Office.

On April 9th, President Clinton signed into law the so-called "line-item veto," under which he will have the power to veto portions of a large bill he does not like. For over 200 years, no President has possessed such "selective" veto power. When presented with a bill passed by both houses of Congress, the President has always been limited to three choices: 1) sign it into law; 2) veto it and return it to Congress, which can then override the veto with a two-thirds vote in each House; or 3) do nothing and have the measure become law in ten working days without his signature.

The men who fashioned our Constitution never envisioned the massive bills currently being written and passed by Congress. They had little inkling that the federal government would be making law in such fields as education, housing, welfare, medicine, agriculture, etc. They believed that all legislation produced by Congress would deal with a single topic and not become the huge pork-laden measures so commonly offered today.

Nevertheless, according to constitutional authority Don Fotheringham, the Founders did consider giving the President power to strike down portions of

any bill. But they ended up rejecting this option, and the writings of those who participated in the 1787 Convention demonstrate their firm conviction that the President should have a limited legislative role, that being merely the power to veto or sign into law an entire measure.

Fotheringham notes that during the Administration of Ulysses S. Grant in 1873, there was a move to amend the Constitution to enable the President to veto selected items of bills. But this proposal failed to attract sufficient backing, in part because at that time our Constitution still enjoyed a great deal of respect among elected officials. Ignoring or circumventing the "supreme law of the land" had not become the favored tactic we see among today's lawmakers. What is most significant about the attempt to gain line-item veto power in Grant's day, however, is that the men of that period believed such power could be given a President only by amending the Constitution. Why, then, do current supporters of this measure believe that a mere act of Congress is sufficient?

Fotheringham says that 70 additional proposals dealing with this very topic were subsequently offered. Each recognized the necessity of amending the

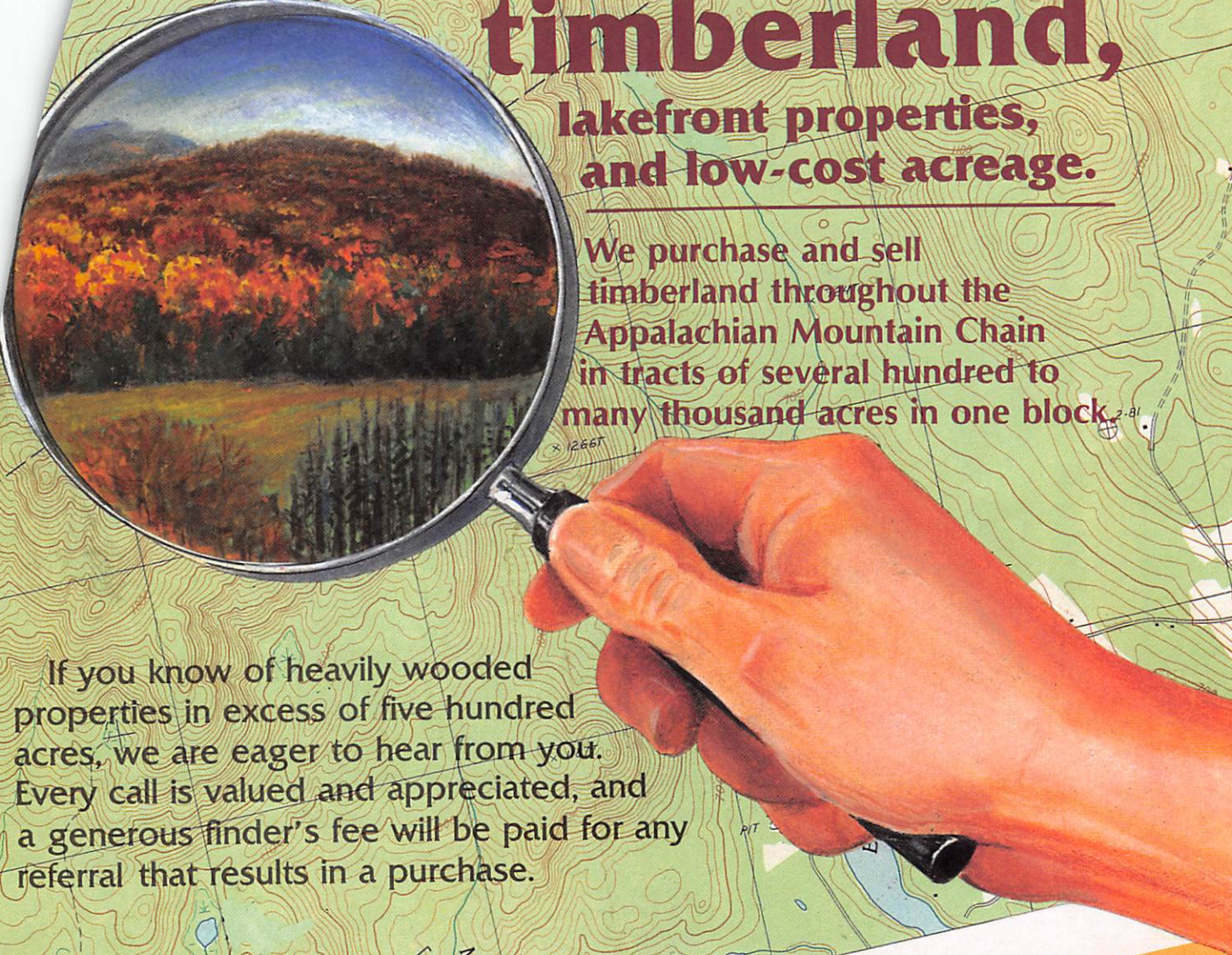
Constitution, but none received substantial backing.

The new power given to the President by Congress is supposed to result in cuts in government spending. However, 43 governors already possess line-item veto power over state matters and that practice has led only to different spending, not less spending. It has also enhanced the power of the governors who use the line-item veto as a tool to reward some legislators and punish others. Expecting a President not to use his line-item veto power for political purposes is unrealistic.

The measure just signed by Mr. Clinton exempts the huge federal entitlement programs, interest on the national debt, and a host of other items in the federal budget. If the military budget is excluded, and if this measure survives a constitutional test (which it should not), the President could use his line-item veto power to whittle down portions of only 17 percent of the entire federal budget.

But there is a deeper and more sinister motive behind presidential line-item veto power. The 1985 book *Reforming the American System*, distributed by the Committee on the Constitutional System (CCS), contains a direct assault on the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers. In the book, CCS board member James Sundquist calls for the line-item veto as a step toward concentrating power in the executive branch. He and his colleagues claim to want government to be "more efficient." In truth, less government, not a government that efficiently regulates and controls the people, is what the founders gave us and what America desperately needs.

There is definite danger to the American system of government in the line-item veto. Additionally, there is danger in the constant growth of the federal government itself. Fully three-quarters of federal spending today is not authorized by the U.S. Constitution. And those who champion all of these illicit federal programs are the same individuals who tell us that an unconstitutional line-item veto will reduce government spending. Is there no limit to their audacity? ■



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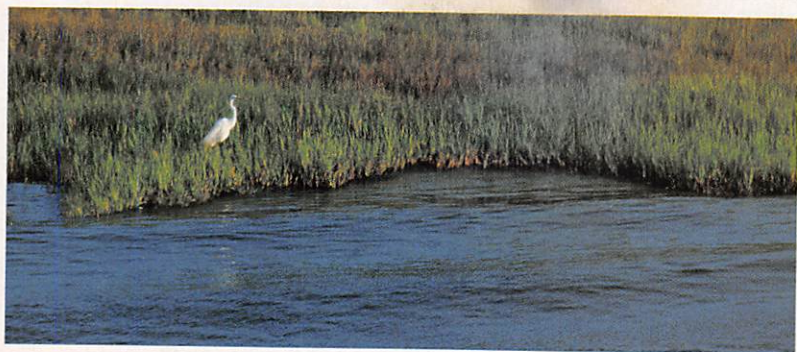
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