

This Way For Black Empowerment

The "Cultification" Of America

Last week the Treasury Department came out with the first of a number of reports which will be released over the next few weeks examining what went wrong at Waco.

The 510-page report is very critical of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the law enforcement arm of the Treasury Department, which planned and executed the initial raid on the Branch Davidian community during which four ATF agents and six Davidians were killed. The report concludes that ATF officials made serious "mistakes" during the February 28 raid and then repeatedly lied to cover their tracks.

But for all its criticisms, the report never gets at the underlying assumptions behind the "mistakes." For example, why did the ATF go after the Branch Davidians in the first place? Despite all the hype in the media about the "illegal weapons" stockpiled at the Davidian settlement, to this day there is no concrete evidence that the group had unregistered firearms (the ATF excuse for the raid).

And even if there were such weapons, since when is possession of unregistered guns a capital offense?

As one former ATF agent put it in the Washington Times: "Even if there were violations, and that's questionable, they involved registration problems—not real criminal acts." If the ATF believed that David Koresh, the group's leader, was breaking the law, it could have served him a warrant on the streets of Waco, as local law enforcement officers had done—nonviolently—on a similar charge a few years earlier. (By the way, Koresh was found not guilty in that case.) There was just no need to kick in the doors with guns blasting.

But the question most asked by journalists is: why did the ATF go ahead with the raid even after it learned that it had lost the element of surprise which it had considered essential for a successful strike? According to the report, ATF supervisors in Waco were told by an undercover agent who fled the compound the morning of February 28 that the Davidians knew the raid was imminent. But the supervisors went ahead anyway—with the predictable result of 10 dead and 36 wounded.

Why? What could possibly justify this reckless endangerment of

human life? Neither the report nor subsequent Treasury Department statements provide a credible answer. Did the ATF go ahead with the raid simply because it wanted to provoke the Branch Davidians? Was the raid deliberately designed to set up and destroy a small religious group that dared to stray too far from the mainstream?

The FBI's final assault on April 19 ended in the deaths of nearly 90 people including 24 children.

The message was clear: There is very little room for dissent and difference in 1990's America. God help you if the federal government decides that your religion is a "cult."

The "cultification" of dissent has not simply impacted on non-mainstream religions. The FBI, which has been investigating me and the New Alliance Party (on and off or continuously since 1988), has labeled the Black-led, multiracial electoral party which I chair a "political cult organization."

NAP has, over the last 14 years, received millions of votes (a significant portion of them from Black voters) in local, state and federal elections, been the principal catalyst for

the introduction of legislation for democratic reform of the electoral process and galvanized voter participation in the Black community and other communities of color throughout the country. But to the FBI, the New Alliance Party is a "political cult organization."

I and other leaders of NAP have filed a lawsuit against the FBI demanding that it drop its use of a plainly pejorative—and increasingly deadly—code word to describe the independent party. The suit challenges the Bureau's use of the word "cult" to justify investigative activities, the use of force, criminal prosecution or governmental regulation. Once we accept the use of the "cult" label to demonize a group of people and suspend their Constitutional rights, the basic freedoms of all Americans are in danger.

Harlem Congressman Charles Rangel and California Congressman Don Edwards have spoken about the FBI's investigation and harassment of the New Alliance Party. We all need to speak out against the "cultification" of American religion and politics.

Earlier Darkness Calls For Greater Pedestrian Safety

The switch to Standard Time on the night of Oct. 31—Halloween—is a good time to switch to reflective tape on clothing and equipment, the doctors of the Oregon Optometric Association suggest.

Optometric research shows that reflective tape is more visible to drivers—even drunk drivers—than any other material or color, including white. The greater visibility means drivers have more time to avoid pedestrians in the road.

The early darkness resulting from Standard Time means parents should add reflective material to their children's backpacks, bike fenders and coats. Likewise, joggers and dogwalkers need to put reflective material on their clothing.

A common comment from drivers who hit pedestrians at night is, "I didn't see anyone." Drivers can help themselves by turning on headlights at the first sign of dusk. That is the most difficult time of day to see clearly, according to optometrists.

A study by the Federal Highway Administration shows that drivers need 10 seconds at 30 mph to detect a problem, decide to take action and complete an avoidance maneuver.

Reflective tape may be found at safety supply stores, craft stores and fabric stores. Because most reflective material is permanent, be sure it is in the desired location before it is placed.

Oregon Bankers Excel At Executive Management Education

Three Oregon bankers tied for first-place honors in the 1993 graduating class of Pacific Coast Banking School (PCBS) to win the prestigious Kermit O. Hanson Award for Excellence. Marilyn Converse, Vice President and Credit Manager, U.S. Bank; Mark E. Landsem, Vice President/Collateral Loan Officer, Western Bank; and Wesley W. Lawrence, Vice President, Key Bank of Oregon, earned the highest scores among the 147 senior bank managers who graduated from the school this fall.

To win, the three bankers achieved almost perfect scores on a series of written assignments on bank management-related topics and a research report on a topic of importance to the financial-services industry. PCBS classes and written assignments cover a range of topics from the financial management of a bank's assets and liabilities to the leadership of human resources.

Pacific Coast Banking School is known throughout the financial-services industry for providing the highest quality executive education. More than 300 presidents and chief executive officers of banks in the Western United States are PCBS graduates.

The school, a unique product of the industry, was created in 1938 and has been governed throughout its history by representatives of the industry. Current members of the school's Board of Directors include Frank Brawner, President, Oregon Bankers Association; A.H. Towsey, Executive Vice President of First Interstate Bank of Oregon; and Roger Shields, President/CEO, of Bank of the Cascades.

Westside Light Rail Nets Another \$97 Million For 1994

Hatfield secures funding in joint committee

A joint House-Senate conference committee has approved \$97 million for Westside Light Rail in fiscal 1994, Senator Mark Hatfield announced.

The amount for Portland is the second highest allotted for light rail projects in the country. Only Los Angeles received a higher amount for light rail in 1994.

Hatfield, a member of the conference committee considering the Transportation Appropriations bill and ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, was able to increase the amount allotted by the House from \$70 million to \$97 million. The Senate version of the bill included \$99 million. Hatfield said anything less than \$97 million as a final amount would have required the Tri-Metropolitan Transportation District to borrow money in the current fiscal year.

Work has already begun on the new 12-mile light rail line that will run from downtown Portland to downtown Hillsboro. Crews are working on the main tunnel under Portland's

West Hills. The project is expected to generate over 3,000 jobs and will be completed in 1998.

"This is great news for Portland, Beaverton, Hillsboro, and the entire Portland Metropolitan region", Hatfield said. "We went into the conference committee with a \$29 million difference and came out with a number that keeps the project on track. This project continues to be one of my highest priorities and I intend to see that it is adequately funded."

Tri-Met officials said they were elated at the news.

"This is a stunning victory for Oregon and for Senator Hatfield," said Tom Walsh, Tri-Met general manager. "We are thrilled with this tremendous accomplishment. Senator Hatfield deserves our thanks and our admiration for this success. Congresswoman Furse also deserves credit for her role in pushing for this funding. She's made this her top legislative priority and worked tirelessly on our behalf."

Private School Judah Educational Center



Private school in your area that strives to promote excellence by addressing the needs of the whole being, i.e. socially, emotionally, spiritually, and academically. We specialize in counseling, as well as academics, and in matching the student's learning style to the teacher's teaching style. We believe in creating an environment of loving, caring, and understanding as a foundational basis for promoting positive self-concept.

The Judah Education Center located at 5632 NE 30th Ave. Port-

land, OR, 97211, admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

For more information please call: (503) 281-2793 and ask for Dr. Williams or Hutton.

Tuned Engines Mean Cleaner Air Says Lung Association

The American Lung Association is teaching motorist responsible behavior during the nationwide observation of National Car Month in October, driving home the message that properly maintained cars can decrease air pollution, improve lung health, increase gas mileage and save the car owner money.

"Motor vehicle exhaust is comprised of many dangerous pollutants that contribute to lung disease, including carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides," warns

Alfred, Munze, M.D. president of the American Lung Association. "These harmful auto exhaust emissions can cause headaches, chest pains and drowsiness. When they interact in the atmosphere, these emissions can also burden healthy lungs, making it difficult to breathe."

According to the Lung Association, motor vehicle emissions are responsible for nearly 40% of the air pollution in the United States. Many auto service centers have exhaust analyzers that make emission testing

quick, easy and inexpensive. "Emission testing should be a regular part of all auto repair checks," says Dr. Munzer. (Editors Note: Apparently, they haven't checked with or heard of Oregon)

IT JUST KEEPS ON HELPING

United Way of the Columbia-Willamette 228-9131

Lexus Luxury Cars To Move Through The Port Of Portland

The Port of Portland will be a new port of entry for Lexus, Toyota's luxury division, beginning October 23, according to George Borst, Lexus group vice president and general manager.

Approximately 10,000 to 15,000 Lexus cars a year will be distributed by rail from Toyota's 100-acre auto facility at the Port of Portland's Terminal 4 to 13 Midwest states.

Portland has been a major port of entry for Toyota since the mid-1960s. Toyota has a long-term auto lease with the Port extending into the next century.

Toyota presently distributes about 100,000 cars a year from Portland to

30 states.

Lexus port of entries have been Long Beach, Calif., and Newark, N. J. Francois Elmaleh, Port automotive division manager, said Lexus chose Portland to serve its central region because of the careful auto handling and efficient transportation infrastructure experienced by Toyota over many years.

"I am delighted," said Port executive director Mike Thorne, "to see that our continuing commitment to customer satisfaction and to the delivery of a quality product has led to an expanded relationship with one of our valued customers, Toyota Motor Co. In adding the Lexus line to our

operation, we know that by focusing on the customer and their needs, we provide service, quality and efficiency that achieves the goals of customer satisfaction."

Lexus models that will move through Portland include the LS 400, GS 300, ES 300 and the SC 300 and SC 400 sport coupes.

The Port of Portland moved into fourth place among the largest auto ports in the U.S. for 1992 according to the Journal of Commerce PIERS (Port Import/Export Reporting Service).

During 1992, the Port of Portland handled 274,119 import/export automobiles for Toyota and other car makers.

Remembering King



Rev. Billy Graham, accompanied by Mrs. Coretta Scott King, laid flowers and said a prayer at the tomb of her late husband, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the grounds of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change. "First and foremost, Rev. King was a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Mr. Graham said. "He was a great reformer whose sermons changed the world—we haven't had another man like that in this century."

The fact that he came from the Church gives credence to people like me who preach the Gospel, "he continued," "I can use the great work he did for the advancement of the Kingdom of God." The evangelist was in Atlanta to accept an invitation from local churches to hold his third crusade there in October, 1994.

Invitation To Groundbreaking For Walnut Park Precinct At North Killingsworth And Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The regular meeting of the Chief's Forum for 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 25, has been canceled so members may attend the groundbreaking of the Walnut Park Precinct at North Killingsworth and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 25, at the Walnut Park Precinct. The regular meeting schedule will resume on Monday, Nov. 8.

WHY PAY FULL RETAIL?

PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION
Saturday, October 20, 12:00 Noon

Up to 70 cars (many under \$1000) • Gates open at 9:00 a.m.

FEATURED VEHICLES

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 75 Chry Cordoba | 82 Buick Riviera | 85 GMC Sierra 1500 |
| 85 Buick Electra PK AV | 80 Chev Citation | 88 Ford Taurus GL |
| 77 Toy SR5 | 87 Subr RX Turbo 4WD | 87 Buick Skylark |
| 84 CAD Eldo Biartz | 80 VW Rabbit | 84 Merc Topaz |

River City **PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION**



6500 NE Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd. • Portland