

SECTION 6



BOB TAFT
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

July 7, 2005

Cincinnati, OH 45140

Dear Ms. _____

Thank you for your recent electronic mail letter sent July 2, 2005. In your email, you request all the documentation our office has regarding Kids Helping Kids in Milford, Ohio.

A thorough search of our records indicates that we do not have any records responsive to your request. According to the International Survivors Action Committee's website, Shelby Earnshaw's complaint was filed with the Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Services. You may wish to contact the Department at 280 North High Street, 12th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-2550, (614) 466-3445, for further information regarding the complaint.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Barron".

John W. Barron
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel

JWB/lah

KHK WISH LIST

Occasionally we come across an item we don't have or one that needs replacement which would enable us to better serve those who seek our services. Below you will find some items not budgeted for that would make life a little better during the recovery process.

- Fax machine
- Metal shelving
- Paper cutter
- Small round woodgrain conference table

Call Betsy Smith at (606) 689-5437 if you have an item to donate. Please help us avoid expensive postal fees by notifying us when your address changes or you no longer wish to receive our newsletter. THANKS!

We thank QC Type for donating 50% of the cost of typesetting this *KHK Connection* and Otto Printing and Entertainment Graphics for printing this publication at a discount.

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KidsHelpingKids

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HOPE TAFT
WHILE KHK IN KY?
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The Governor's Sub-rosa Plot to Subvert an Election in Ohio

By Daniel Forbes

May 30, 2002

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Principals:

Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio
Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio
Domingo Herraiz, Cabinet Member & Director of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services
Luceille Fleming, Cabinet Member & Director of the Ohio Dept. of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS)
Brian K. Hicks, the Governor's Chief of Staff
Marcie Seidel, the First Lady's Chief of Staff
Jennifer Carlson, the Governor's Executive Assistant for Criminal Justice and Public Safety Issues
William Olson, Minority Staff Director, U.S. Senate Caucus on Int'l Narcotics Control
Mary Ann Solberg, White House ONDCP Deputy Director nominee (since confirmed); presidential adviser; CADCA board member; director of Michigan anti-drug coalitions
Betty Sembler, wife of the Republican National Committee finance chairman (1997-2000); founder of the Drug Free America Foundation
The Partnership for a Drug-Free America
James McDonough, Drug Czar of Florida
Edward J. Orlett, Manager, Ohio Campaign for New Drug Policies
Dave Fratello, National Campaign Manager, the Campaign for New Drug Policies,

Principal Areas of Inquiry:

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New York freelancer Daniel Forbes (ddanforbes@aol.com) writes on politics and social policy. He testified before both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives regarding his series in *Salon* on sub rosa White House payments rewarding anti-drug content in the media. He subsequently detailed the paid media campaign's origins as an attempt to influence voters on state medical marijuana initiatives. (See: *Fighting "Cheech and Chong" Medicine*, *Salon*, 7/27/00. <http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2000/07/27/ondcp/>) He also broke the story of the White House's secret deals with TV programmers in *Prime-time Propaganda*, (*Salon*, 7/13/00. <http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2000/01/13/drugs/index.html>) He wishes to thank Robert E. Field for supporting the writing of this report.

legalization brainstorm session.” (As a member of its board, Pasierb lends his media expertise to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, a principal drug-policy advocacy group.)

The PDFAs executives were accompanied by Peter Kerr, then responsible for communications at the New York-based treatment provider, Phoenix House. (Prior to Prop. 36’s passage in California, the president of Phoenix House termed it “a dangerously deceptive measure,” and also “a giant step toward decriminalization.”) No doubt the Taft administration would welcome a similar high-profile endorsement.

The PDFAs foursome (and Kerr) were the only non-Ohioans present that morning aside from their host, Olson. Therefore political advertising – Hope Taft’s sanitized reference is to ‘PSAs’ – presumably dominated the discussion, as the three sets of minutes generated that day certainly indicate. Mrs. Taft’s staffer, Marcie Seidel, generated one set of minutes. Employing the frequent obfuscation, ‘educational,’ she phrased one of the consensus recommendations as: “PDFAs can do educational PSAs starting now about success stories of people who were required to get treatment.... They could start these educational PSAs before the political season begins.”

Apart from getting the PDFAs bigwigs there, what did Olson bring to the table?

With a wealth of experience, he’s well plugged in to Republican drug war circles. Prior to the inaugural in 2001, for instance, Olson was on President-elect Bush’s transition team, focusing on drug policy. Back during the elder Bush’s administration, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters. And, according to the biographical squib accompanying one of his published articles, he was also an acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for “low intensity conflict.”

X Active long enough to know anyone worth knowing in anti-drug circles, Olson was able to invite Betty Sembler to the July meeting. Referring to opposition to past medical marijuana initiatives, a senior Clinton administration official said, “Betty Sembler and Sue Rusche [who also attended the July meeting] were active and vocal, and Olson is close to that crowd. He spoke at one of Betty Sembler’s conferences in Florida on medical marijuana.”

Sembler and her husband Mel, the wealthy Finance Chairman for the Republican National Committee from 1997 to 2000, are known for having run the controversial and coercive private drug treatment program, Straight, Inc., whose affiliates have been closed down by several state governments. The last branch, according to Fox News, closed in 1993. Fox cited lawsuits resulting in Straight payments of \$220,000 and \$721,000, and it referred to accusations from Straight critics of vicious physical and mental abuse “at Straight chapters all over the country.” Betty Sembler, according to the Drug Free American Foundation website, was a delegate to a White House drug policy conference, has served on the Governor’s Drug Policy Task Force in Florida, and is vice-chair of Drug Abuse Resistance Education, International.

A second Washington drug policy insider referred to Olson as “Grassley’s point man.” His most important current connection, though, according to this source, is that, “Olson is good buddies with [Drug Czar] John Walters, dating back to when Walters headed supply interdiction at ONDCP during Bush I and Olson worked with him.” Once Grassley sent Olson to the Senate caucus, this source recalled that Olson worked with both Bobby Charles, the influential, ex-House drug policy staffer, and Walters “behind the scenes.” John Carnevale worked in a senior

X STRAIGHT, INC FOUNDERS

Dismissing Peter Kerr and the four PDFFA executives, Olson and the Taftites broke for sandwiches in East Front 100. They were soon joined by Sue Thau, lobbyist for the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, who remained for much of the afternoon session, according to Jeff Tauber. CADCA's website boasts that Thau is "recognized for her advocacy and legislative accomplishments.... She was a driving force behind the passage and full funding of the Drug-Free Communities Act...."

Along with Thau, both Olson and his boss, Grassley, were prime architects of the original Drug-Free Communities Support Program. Sen. Grassley claimed paternity, stating he "won passage by the U.S. Senate of his bill." (In a christening gambit that didn't stick, he tried to name it after himself.) Reps. Sander Levin, a Democrat, and Rob Portman, a Republican, were the chief House sponsors of both the original, 1997 bill and last year's reauthorization. Coincidentally enough, they represent Michigan and Ohio, respectively and, along with the PDFFA's Steve Pasierb, also serve on CADCA's board.

The program has grown wildly since its June, 1997 enactment. Initially funded at \$10 million a year, this year's total of \$50 million was a full 25% increase over the prior year. And the sky's the limit.

That is, the program's first five years were initially funded at a cumulative total of \$144 million. But then last December, while attending CADCA's annual meeting, Bush signed its reauthorization bill. With \$450 million guaranteed over the next five years, annual appropriations will increase steadily until maxing out at nearly \$100 million in 2007. The use of some of this money for "voter education" is discussed in the accompanying sidebar on CADCA.

The afternoon session in the Capitol building featured the wealthy Mrs. Sembler, who Hope Taft had informed Hicks and the governor "was the possible source of some funding for a counter-effort." Judge Tauber, who had already provided the Taft administration with "an outline of a counter-strategy," also attended. (Tauber's counter-strategy declared: "We need to co-opt the initiative proponents" by capturing "the allegiance" of treatment providers so as to "be seen as the real reformers." He also called for boosting drug courts, a PR effort, and "a substantial amount of money to stay in the game.") Sue Rusche of National Families in Action, an active opponent of past drug reform ballot measures, rounded out the session.

The Gathering at the Governor's Residence

The second big strategy meeting, the "Multi-State Drug Policy Forum," was held at the governor's residence on October 12th. The state of Ohio offered to pay for meals and lodging for out-of-state attendees, and with 19 participants, including the drug czars of Florida and Michigan, it was a somewhat grander affair than the Washington session. In a preparatory memo, Domingo Herraiz indicated that he, Luceille Fleming and the "Governor's Office" would set the agenda. A five-page "Outcomes" memo summarized the day's political strategizing, with a focus on fund-raising, as well as potential cooperation between Ohio, Florida and Michigan. It featured such exhortations as the aforementioned, "Have a seamless, collaborative effort of organizations involved, mobilized and working hard to oppose the Initiative."

Michigan community anti-drug activist Mary Ann Solberg also attended; she'd served for years with Hope Taft on the presidential advisory commission that helped steer many millions of

dollars in federal funds to CADCA members. But Solberg had achieved an even more significant White House connection two months *prior* to the October forum, when President Bush nominated her to be the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's deputy director. (She was confirmed in April, 2002.)

* Rich Isaacson, a DEA special agent with functional responsibility for demand reduction in Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky, also represented the federal government. A Michigan drug court judge participated, as did prospective funder Betty Sembler, who brought along her high-profile, DFAF executive director, Calvina Fay. Ten senior officials from Ohio were present, including Hope Taft, Fleming and Herraiz and their top legal, policy and communications deputies – in short, nearly the entire Taft anti-amendment team.

Making it an even twenty participants was a meeting facilitator, one Patrick Donadio, a “certified speaking professional” who was paid a cool \$2,000 for keeping the conversation on track. It's a bit surprising that these high-powered officials laid their cards on the table before someone with no particular institutional loyalty to the war on drugs, but maybe someone vouched for Donadio.

The two Florida participants, Sembler and the state's drug czar, James McDonough, indicated that “Florida's goal is that [national] CNDP not return to Florida or anywhere else.” The two discussed drug courts, gaining the governor's support and “legislation to moot the CNDP amendment.” They concluded, “The best time to win is before the process even starts: stay on the offensive all the way.”

(A prominent drug warrior, while working at the ONDCP, McDonough had the guts to upbraid Bill Clinton in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed for dallying with Monica Lewinsky while talking on the phone with a Congressman about potentially sending troops to Bosnia. McDonough wrote Herraiz last summer on Office of the Governor letterhead outlining the nature of his opposition to treatment initiatives and thereby providing the Taftites with talking points galore. He ended by saying, “I would hope that the people of Florida reject this cynical ballot initiative ... [and] the normalization of drug abuse in the state of Florida.” His marginal note: “Any help I can give you in your effort, please let me know. Jim.”)

DEA agent Rich Isaacson's lodging was paid for by the taxpayers of Ohio, his time and travel by federal taxpayers. Isaacson told me the forum was “merely to determine what is happening in these states regarding possible legalization efforts.” (Opponents of the amendment often falsely categorize it as de facto ‘legalization.’) His statement should be evaluated in light of the numerous, overt political tactics participants agreed were necessary.

DEA spokesperson Thomas Hinojosa said of Isaacson, “His job is drug investigations and stopping the flow of narcotics.” Asked how attending a strategy session on defeating a treatment initiative fit that brief, Hinojosa said, “That initiative deals with illegal drugs, which come under the Controlled Substances Act. So there's nothing wrong with that.”

“Fundraising Strategies” were dissected, with mention of Bill Gates, Ross Perot and Steve Forbes (no relation to myself). Corporate sponsorship was also discussed, as were “National groups.” The next page of Outcomes listed an astounding group of 37 potential “State & National Resources” to fuel the Taftite counter-campaign. Yes, there's a certain wish-list element

* DFAF - STRAIGHT, INC renamed -

As indicated above, Seidel phrased another D.C. recommendation this way: "PDFFA can do educational PSAs starting now [July, 2001] about success stories of people who were required to get treatment. Ohio has enough treatment systems to do this type of campaign. They could start these educational PSAs before the political season begins."

Seidel then added: "We have two media tracks: 1) the Partnership's educational, nonpolitical piece and 2) the political ads to get out the vote."

Yet, given their genesis and intent, calling the first set of ads non-political is absurd; indeed, so-called PSAs lend themselves to any number of political applications. In 1998, Betty Sembler's Drug Free America Foundation promoted its TV and radio spots featuring former first lady Barbara Bush as "a generous boost" to the "campaigns opposing 'medical' marijuana initiatives in Alaska, Washington and Oregon...." According to a DFAF release, Barbara Bush declared in the ads, "Now is not the time to send a message to our young people that marijuana is medicine. It is not. It is a dangerous, illegal drug."

The release from DFAF on this "marketing coup" stated that Mrs. Bush "should persuade voters to reject so-called 'medical' marijuana initiatives." The point is, the DFAF stated the ads were "originally recorded as public service announcements...." Obviously, with their "generous boost," PSAs have, says the DFAF, political applications, and Taftite confrere Betty Sembler had experience with psuedo-PSAs used for political ends.

Herraiz's strategy bible, the *Playbook*, contains a few more PDFFA smoking guns. Under its dual headings of "Information Campaign" and "Message Marketing," we find Task Number 2: "Develop Public Service Announcement." The two steps to achieving that goal are: "Contact and confirm meeting with Partnership for a Drug-Free America" and "Meet to discuss creation of a PSA promoting Ohio Drug Reform message." This last referring to the Taft counter-initiative effort, the indicated resources are the PDFFA, the governor's office and Fleming and Herraiz's departments.

An additional *Playbook* Task, slated for February, 2002, is "Develop PSA, with run time concentration only days before election." The corresponding resource is listed as the PDFFA. Now, an ad buy concentrated "only days" before an election has an irreducibly political intent. The *Playbook*, the administration's formal plan of action, underscores the PDFFA's political involvement.

Seidel's Washington summary stated, "Partnership for a Drug Free America will create educational PSA to run now, and we can purchase well-placed time during the end of the campaign to make assure [sic] the message continues."

Facing the same threat prior to the proponents' postponement in Florida, the three state governments realized they need to pool their resources. Seidel's D. C. notes cast this call to action in bold-face: "Next steps: Ohio to Host meeting with Partnership for Drug Free America, Florida and Michigan."

Seidel also generated a "Checklist and timetable for Ohio," which she indicated should be shared with Gov. Taft and Brian Hicks. One proposed course of action: "Convene in Ohio a strategy meeting with Partnership for a Drug-Free America, Florida and Michigan counterparts."