

Child-abuse awareness spurs reform

By Jeff Weil
The Register

SACRAMENTO — Child-abuse problems, routinely "swept under the rug" 10 years ago, have become a rallying point for the public and fuel for many needed reforms, Attorney General John Van de Kamp said Monday.

Burgeoning public awareness, evidenced by a 766 percent increase in child-abuse reports since 1975, also helped propel several significant bills into law during the 1985 legislative year, he said. This year, the number of reports are projected to increase by 25 percent, to 52,677.

Most of the governmental changes were spearheaded by a panel appointed by Van de Kamp, the Commission on Enforcement of Child Abuse Laws. Six months ago, the commission released an 80-point reform package, the "Children's Bill of Rights." Since then, 30 of the recommendations have been put into action, Van de Kamp said.

Van de Kamp said that in 1975, "child abuse was an issue that most people just wanted put under the rug. They didn't want to talk about it. But we made a very important discovery... (that) the abused became the abuser... Few people were willing to make the connection between the ugly problem of child abuse and the ugly problem of violent crime."

The commission, flanking Van de Kamp at a press conference, met Monday in Sacramento to review the implementation of its "Bill of Rights." It then met to consider new legislative recommendations for new laws in 1986.

The 1985 "report card," Van de Kamp said, included passage of the following bills:

■ One measure authorizes judges to protect child witnesses in criminal cases from harassment and repetitive questioning. The legislation also allows children to complete their testimony without cross examination, before being challenged on grounds of competency.

■ A second bill forces the Department of Social Services and Attorney General's Office to review the statewide "child abuse registry" before granting day-care licenses to any individuals.

■ A related bill gives the Department of Social Services more discretion to revoke day-care licenses, while receding guidance of guidelines for investigating child-abuse incidents in day-care facilities.



Store cleanup
Orange County fire Capt. Larry Black, right, and engineer Tom Wall discuss how a car crashed through the side of a pharmacy at 5311 University Drive in Irvine late Monday afternoon. The driver and a shopper suffered minor injuries in the crash and both were taken to Tustin Health Care Medical Center. Police believe the car's accelerator may have stuck, sending the car into the store.

Jury selection begins in Stanton widow's suit against tobacco firm

Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — John Mark Galbraith, crippled by heart disease, lung cancer and emphysema, lived his final years on bottled oxygen.

Yet his widow and children, residents of Stanton, contend he was addicted after nearly 50 years of smoking that he yanked back the oxygen mask to sneak a puff of Camel, Salem or Winston cigarettes.

On Monday, jury selection began in Galbraith's survivors' \$1 million liability suit against R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and two stores.

The suit, being heard in Santa Barbara County Superior Court, is the first among about 35 new liability suits against Reynolds to go to trial.

The wrongful-death suit filed in 1983 against Reynolds and two stores that sold Galbraith cigarettes, claims his 1982 death at age 69 was due to injuries that resulted from cigarette smoking.

It alleges that the cigarettes Galbraith smoked for about 50 years were "defective and unsafe for their intended purpose in that they contained contaminated, adulterated, impure, harmful, lethal and carcinogenic ingredients."

"The heart of the law suit is to have an American jury, having heard the medical and scientific evidence presented by both sides, find that cigarettes cause human illness and especially, Mr. Galbraith's death," said Paul Monzone, associate to attorney Melvin Belli, who is handling the case for Galbraith's widow, Elaine, and son and daughter.

Similar suits have been brought before, but Reynolds spokesmen say the tobacco industry never has been found liable for damages resulting in death or disease stemming from cigarette smoking.

Reynolds' leading personal injury lawyers, said he believes he can win. Belli has brought similar cases against Reynolds and lost them all, the first 25 years ago.

Belli sought out the Galbraith family — a practice prohibited by California law unless the attorney pledges any proceeds to the public good. Belli says he will donate any income he receives from the case to cancer research.

Unlike previous cases, Belli said this trial will focus on smokers' addiction and on new scientific evidence linking smoking with disease.

Belli said he would seek out smokers for the jury, since they will better understand his claim of addiction.

Reynolds' attorney, John Strauch, said cigarette smoking does not meet three tests of addiction — that the addict increases dosages, that he suffers withdrawal as when he quits and that his addiction interferes with social and work activities.

JDL is the second most active terrorist group, FBI says

Group linked to Santa Ana bombing death

By Adam Dawson
The Register

LOS ANGELES — The Jewish Defense League, blamed by the FBI for the October bombing death of Alex Odeh in Santa Ana, is the second most active terrorist group in the United States, according to FBI reports.

The bombing occurred Oct. 11 at the West Coast headquarters of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Odeh, 41, was the head of the committee's West Coast office.

The JDL, which began as a security patrol to protect Orthodox Jews in New York City in 1968, has changed over the years into a confrontational group that the FBI links to 37 terrorist attacks from 1977 to 1984.

The league pursues "a dual-track strategy alternating between civil disobedience and generally peaceful protest to vandalism and outright acts of terrorism," wrote Bruce Hoffman, a Rand Corp. terrorism analyst in 1984 in an essay on the Jewish Defense League.

Those acts of terrorism, according to the FBI, have ranged from bombings of cars of Soviet diplomats in New York City to the 1982 arson attack on a Brooklyn, N.Y., restaurant that left one man dead.

The restaurant was believed by members of the JDL to be a headquarters for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Only Puerto Rican terrorists, whom FBI reports link to 161 attacks during the same period of the terrorism front, have been more active on the terrorism front.

"We are not a terrorist organization," said JDL director Irv Rubin. Rubin said the FBI's public linking of his organization to the Odeh bombing and two on the East Coast is "wreaking havoc" with the group.

"The FBI, through the media, is making me look like a cold-blooded murderer," he said in an interview last week.

Only Puerto Rican terrorists, whom FBI reports link to 161 attacks during the same period of the terrorism front, have been more active on the terrorism front.

Investigators believe all of the groups, with the exception of the Jewish Direct Action, are an "extension" of the Jewish Defense League, according to the FBI's terrorism reports.

Hoffman and others believe competition between the groups explains the sudden increase in terrorism attacks on groups perceived as anti-Jewish targets.

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Irv Rubin
director, Jewish Defense League

may be connected to the group. Bonner said those incidents, including two in Los Angeles and the attempted bombing of the American-Arab Committee's Boston office, are under investigation.

“I don't care what the FBI has said in the past,” Rubin said. “The man (Odeh) has become a martyr, and the FBI is laying it on our doorstep. They are killing us.”

Rubin, who was born in Montreal in 1945, moved to the Los Angeles area in 1961. He attended Granada Hills High School in the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles Community College.

After spending four years in the U.S. Air Force, Rubin returned to Los Angeles and joined the JDL after hearing Rabbi Meir Kahane, the JDL's founder, speak.

Since then he says he has been arrested “more times than I can remember” at JDL protests, although he says he never has been convicted of a felony.

Last year he was named national director of the JDL, which has been in a state of flux since Kahane emigrated to Israel in the mid-1970s.

“The JDL speak tremendous lies when he left,” Rubin said. “The New York City chapter collapsed, and various splinter groups surfaced, including the Jewish Direct Action, the United Jewish Underground and the Jewish Defenders.”

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COMMITTEE: Project now based in Wisconsin

FROM B1

as an agent for the communist Vietnamese regime. Cooperman's committee bolstered the Hanoi government by trying to provide doctors and scientists with high technology equipment, May said.

May also claimed that Cooperman may have angered officials in Hanoi by selling them counterfeit Apple computers.

According to May, the professor — afraid he would be killed either by opponents or supporters of Hanoi — caused his own “accidental” death by forcing Lam to engage in horseplay with a loaded pistol.

But, committee officials insist that both the work of the professor and his organization were apolitical and humanitarian. Cooperman was not a supporter of the Hanoi government, they say, and friends say he was “politically naive.”

Professor Judith Ladinsky, a Cooperman protege who took over the committee reins and moved its headquarters to her office at the University of Wisconsin, says the professor and the organization were “vilified” by May. She blamed the news media for publishing May's remarks and damaging the reputation of the professor and his organization.

The committee had difficulty surviving the ordeal, she said. All of the committee's financial records were seized by police, she said, and “a lot of the information was in Ed's head and died with him.”

In addition, many friends and financial supporters of the committee mistakenly thought the organization folded after Cooperman was killed, causing a serious funding shortage for several months, according to Ladinsky.

Ladinsky said she keeps a lower profile than Cooperman, and that her own life has not been threatened since she became head of the committee. Cooperman maintained close relationships with many of his Vietnamese students, but Ladinsky said she is not personally involved with Vietnamese students — partly because Madison, Wis., has a tiny refugee community.

Beside the bone-marrow mission, the committee has hosted a dozen Vietnamese scientists visiting the United States, she said. The visitors took home medical and scientific books, journals and supplies — to counter what Ladinsky terms



“I hope Ed Cooperman's dream will continue forever... The sick and poor should have no political boundaries. Cooperman's work was horrendously distorted by publicity surrounding his shooting.”

Dr. Stephen Atwood
Columbia University official on Cooperman, left

Vietnam's “intellectual isolation.” In turn, about 17 U.S. doctors and scientists visited Vietnam under the committee's sponsorship, she said.

Ladinsky said she hopes the committee “will survive my lifetime. As years go by, I believe the people who left Vietnam will begin to have a more positive feeling about the remaining population and their needs. But there will always be those who don't support our efforts because they can't separate the people from the government.”

Meanwhile, Cooperman's Cal State Fullerton office has been re-furnished and turned over to part-time professors who did not know him. The eldest of his two daughters, Francoise, 18, began attending the university this fall.

His widow, Klaaske, has immersed herself in the Anaheim-based Dutch Club and is in the midst of remodeling her Fullerton home. She said her family is living on her husband's life-insurance benefits.

She also has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Lam and “unnamed others.” Through the courts, she hopes to gain access to information that she contends was not disclosed by Orange County prosecutors in the criminal trials and proves her husband's death was related to his efforts to help

aid to Vietnam. Cooperman spent most of his waking hours in his campus office, and Mrs. Cooperman acknowledges that she knew little about her husband's daily activities before his death. She said she was surprised to learn of his involvement in more than 30 humanitarian organizations, mostly on behalf of Southeast Asia.

When he died, Cooperman was working with Vietnamese scientists to determine the effects of the defoliant Agent Orange, which was sprayed over large sections of Vietnam by U.S. military forces during wartime.

“I suddenly realized why he was never home and why he got telephone calls at all hours of the day and night” from around the world, Mrs. Cooperman said.

Her husband knew his activities antagonized some people and that he was in danger, she said. The spring before his death, Cooperman was shocked by news that a friend and his wife who supported the Hanoi government had been ambushed by gunmen in San Francisco. The woman died of gunshot wounds.

“The wrong person is dead,” Cooperman told his daughters, his wife said. “Next time it will be me.”

FUNERAL AND DEATH NOTICES

For assistance in placing a funeral notice, call 714-941-1111. For assistance in placing a death notice, call 714-941-1111.

WILLIAM S. ALEXANDER
ALEXANDER, WILLIAM S., age 43, of Garden Grove, died November 17, 1985. He was born in Garden Grove, California, to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Alexander. Survived by wife, Betty; two daughters, Jennifer and Kelly; and one son, William. Burial in Garden Grove. Arrangements by FAIRHAVEN MORTUARY, Garden Grove, 322-3333.

ALTERS, CHARLES J.
ALTERS, CHARLES J., passed away November 17, 1985. He was born in San Diego, CA, December 22, 1919. He was a member of the Garden Grove Grange. He is survived by his wife, Thelma; two daughters, Beverly and Patricia; and one son, Charles. Burial in Garden Grove. Arrangements by FAIRHAVEN MORTUARY, Garden Grove, 322-3333.

DAVID ROMAN BAXTER
BAXTER, DAVID ROMAN, passed away November 17, 1985. He was born in Los Angeles, CA, January 20, 1901. He was a member of the Garden Grove Grange. He is survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters, Beverly and Patricia; and one son, Charles. Burial in Garden Grove. Arrangements by FAIRHAVEN MORTUARY, Garden Grove, 322-3333.

EARL E. BRUCE
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CHARLOTTE DAVIS
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