

Taking on the Feds

The Case of Dr. Jonathan Wright: Alternative Medicine shows the Federal Government is Armed and Dangerous

May 6, 1992. The story of storm troopers with automatic weapons rushing into Dr. Jonathan Wright's Tahoma Clinic in Kent, Washington, would read like a zany Monty Python comedy routine if it wasn't so horrifying. Remember the wacky "This is a robbery! Give me all your lupines!" sketch? Well, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's commandos burst into Dr. Wright's clinic screaming "This is a drug bust! Give me all your B-vitamins!"

What planet are we on?

Some people ask that about alternative medicine, but not about Dr. Jonathan V. Wright's practice. He's an internationally respected Harvard graduate with an M.D. in family medicine from the University of Michigan. He did his residency at Seattle's Group Health Cooperative. He volunteered at community free clinics. He has been invited to speak all over the world. He wrote a popular column for *Prevention* magazine for many years. His pioneering books on nutritional medicine have become best-sellers. He's appeared on radio and TV talk shows by the hundreds.

What planet are we on?

Some people are asking that about our own government after hearing what it did to this doctor whose patients come from every corner of the earth for help they can't find anywhere else. Dr. Wright's success in treating patients with chronic physical infirmities, allergies and other chemical sensitivities has become legendary.

The main thing that makes his practice "alternative" is his emphasis on diagnosing food allergies, among others, and his use of preservative-free medications—based on his investigations showing that many illnesses are caused by undiagnosed sensitivities to common substances in the diet

or in the environment, particularly to preservatives. Nothing terribly radical, but based on common sense and careful observation. His treatment of patients with preservative-free injectable vitamins and nutritional supplements has been shown clinically effective for two decades.

The catch is, vitamins without preservatives have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Vitamins without preservatives are legally classified as drugs.

Thus the FDA raids Dr. Wright in a commando-style drug bust and confiscates all his preservative-free vitamins. They threaten him with criminal charges, but fail to file them. Dr. Wright sues the federal government. They demand he sign a consent decree that would destroy his practice. He refuses.

The Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise is now soliciting contributions for Dr. Wright's legal defense. Tax-deductible contributions earmarked for Dr. Wright will be forwarded directly to his attorney and used for no other purpose than his legal defense.

What planet are we on? We knew health care reform was tricky, but the FDA's version is really crazy.

Mainstream Recognition for Wise Use Philosophy

Intellectual achievements seeping into American culture

The Wise Use Movement recently made two significant strides into the American mainstream. First, a noted historian praised the research of Wise Use writer Ron Arnold for his landmark discovery of the National Forests' true origins, which had been lost in mythology for a century until Arnold's investigation revealed that an Indiana congressman inserted the mysterious "Section 24" rider, which created the original 1891 Forest Reserves as a homesteading measure, not preservationism.

In a book review of *The Origins of the National Forests: A Centennial Symposium*, edited by Harold K. Steen (Forest History Society, 1992) for the Western Historical Quarterly, Prof. Thomas R. Cox, professor of history at San Diego State University, wrote: "Numerous historians, including Steen, have wrestled with these issues in the past, but Arnold is the first to provide convincing answers.... Arnold's essay...is a work with which not only forest historians, but environmentalists, Forest Service policy makers, and others will need to come to grips."

Second, two Wise Use leaders were featured as characters in a new docudrama about the spotted owl controversy titled "In the Heart of the Wood" by Todd Jefferson Moore and staged by Seattle's New City Theatre. Larry Mason of the Washington Commercial Forest Action Committee and the Center's Ron Arnold—along with 17 other characters—were performed by playwright and actor Moore with stunning accuracy and dramatic flair, combining rage, blame and humor in a stage *tour de force*.

The *Seattle Times* review said, "In the Heart of the Wood" may be as close to performance perfection as Seattle audiences are likely to see all year."

Media guru Marshall McLuhan noted that artists, including dramatists, are the "distant early warning system" that tells a society of changes looming over its horizon. Wise Use is showing up in the arts radar as a recognized blip.

