

The McVeigh case

Timothy McVeigh, the alleged mastermind of the plot to bomb the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death by a jury, in a trial which was designed, not to get at the truth behind the terrorist assault which took the lives of 168 men, women, and children, but to assuage the emotions of the “victims’ rights movement.”

In the courtroom in Denver, the government made no effort to probe the terrorist apparatus that carried out the bombing, and in fact suppressed a real investigation of the attack. By bringing a sentence of death to McVeigh, the trial achieved its purpose—to serve as a national spectacle which would provide the “victims” with the only thing the corrupt corps of prosecutors have to offer, the dead end of revenge.

Prior to the trial, Federal Judge Richard Matsch ruled that the victims could not both attend the trial and testify in the sentencing phase, for the obvious reason that their testimony would be influenced by the other testimony they had heard. Congress then rushed through a law, the Victims’ Rights Clarification Act, in record time, specifically to override Matsch. McVeigh’s lawyers have asked Matsch to declare the new law unconstitutional. It will certainly be a major issue in McVeigh’s appeal.

Irrelevant testimony about the bombing itself, and testimony about the victims, dominated the prosecution’s case. There was no judicial need for more than one witness to establish that the bombing occurred and killed 168 people, since it was not a contested issue. Yet Matsch allowed the prosecution to put on witness after witness, describing the deaths of the victims in gory detail. With the emergence of this new force on the judicial scene, the methodology of the political “show trial” which was exemplified in the frameup of Lyndon LaRouche and his collaborators, is now the standard for all prosecutions.

crisis teams . . . so that every type of ‘Employee Assistance Program,’ for example, would have the ability to counsel individuals or groups of employees who have experienced a private or work-related trauma. . . . Second, in preparing for wider-scale traumas, the agency could recruit and train volunteer professionals already skilled in one-on-one crisis intervention. . . . Third, we see as part of the specialized training given to the volunteers not only the techniques of how to administer ‘emotional first aid’ to large groups of people—the main focus of NOVA’s training in this area—but also an overview of the special kinds of crises that affect the national government, to better prepare them for their assignments. . . . Fourth . . . we think that Congress might also tap into America’s ‘insurance system of last resort’ in paying for professional therapy in needed cases—that is, the string of crime victim compensation programs now in place in 48 states plus the District of Columbia. . . . These programs are already subsidized by the Federal Victims of Crime Act. . . . Fifth . . . the agency be housed in the Justice Department, perhaps as a part of its Office for Victims of Crime. . . .”

Victims groups are built on the therapy techniques which have become the “secular religion” of America. Participants are encouraged to re-live the trauma of their experience, so that they may be effective witnesses for the prosecution, and, when appropriate, champions of the death penalty as a device of revenge.

Always, the leaders of these groups, which are typically organized directly out of the prosecutor’s office, present themselves to local legislative bodies and press outlets as “individuals” with no other connections—a ruse which is

enhanced by the often gruesome crimes they were victimized by, and the “sincere emotions” (cultivated in group therapy sessions) which motivate their calls for vengeance.

It would be a mistake to put the genuine agony experienced by individuals who are the victims of heinous crimes in the category of a fraud—because it isn’t. *What is fraudulent, is the government’s effort to utilize these cases in support of an effort to weaken the Constitution.* The victims are then manipulated, as a travelling freak show, displayed to the public whenever a prosecutor needs to railroad a conviction or a death sentence.

The Bush panel’s recommendations

The essence of the work of the Bush panel is contained in its proposed one-line addition to the Sixth Amendment, printed in italic type below:

“We propose that the Amendment be modified to read as follows:

“In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense. *Likewise, the victim, in every criminal prosecution shall have the right to be present and to be heard at all critical stages of judicial proceedings.*”

The fact is, that the victim *already* has the right to be