

Army pathologist: Brown may have been shot

By Elaine Hegwood Bowen
Special to Sentinel-Voice

More than a year after an April 1996 Bosnia plane crash claimed his life, Ron Brown is back in the news. A Pittsburgh Tribune Review expose, while not clearly substantive, said the late Commerce Secretary may have been shot.

A hole in Brown's skull could have been a gunshot wound, wrote reporter Christopher Ruddy. Ruddy interviewed several plane crash investigators for his expose.

An autopsy was never performed on Brown's corpse because White House officials were pressured to speed up the return of his body to the United States for a funeral, Ruddy wrote.

According to Ruddy, Lt. Col. Steve Cogswell, a doctor and deputy medical examiner with the

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, said that evidence that Brown may have been murdered has been ignored.

A 22-volume report issued by the Air Force said the crash, which killed Brown and 34 business executives and others, resulted from pilot error and faulty navigation equipment.

Cogswell said an X-ray showed small metal fragments inside Brown's head and he claims, according to Ruddy, that this X-ray has disappeared.

Ruddy wrote, "The pathologist said the fragments could be what pathologists sometimes call a 'lead snowstorm' pattern from a disintegrating bullet."

And while Cogswell didn't examine Brown's corpse, Ruddy wrote, he (Cogswell) did

interview colleagues who were part of the examination team. Cogswell also reviewed reports, records and photographs of the crash scene and victims.

Other Cogswell findings include the Air Force ignoring a two-step investigation process that calls for a safety board, in which all crashes are treated as suspect. Instead, Ruddy wrote, the Air Force went immediately into an accident investigation of the crash.

Shortly after the crash, the Bosnian airport maintenance chief was found dead, reportedly a suicide victim, the expose said.

Ruddy also wrote that investigators reported the hole in Brown's head could have been caused by a piece of the plane, such as a rod, bolt or seat bracket.

With these and other findings, Cogswell said suspicion should have been aroused because of Brown's position, Ruddy wrote. Just weeks before Brown's death, an investigation was underway to determine whether he had been involved in illegal financial transactions and possible illegal fund-raising activities for the Democratic National Committee and a DNC-affiliate, the Asian Pacific Advisory Council. This investigation terminated upon his death, but a subsequent investigation of his son Michael was handled by the U.S. Justice Department.

Brown was in Bosnia to bolster support for trade and economic assistance by helping U.S. companies develop closer ties with Bosnia.

Elaine Hegwood Bowen writes for the Chicago New Crusader.

CBC demands action federal law enforcement combat racism Letters follow a month of silence from the agencies, Waters says

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Maxine Waters released letters Dec. 8 to the heads of federal law enforcement agencies urging them to take immediate action on the chilling testimony given at the caucus' hearing on "Employment Discrimination in Federal Law Enforcement."

The letters were sent a month after the Nov. 5 caucus hearing where employees and former employees of the FBI,

"The heads of each of these agencies — Louis Freeh (FBI), Eduardo Gonzalez (Marshals) and Thomas Constantine (DEA) — must take responsibility for the actions of those subordinates who repeatedly trample on the civil rights of others"

— Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Maxine Waters

the U.S. Marshals Service and Administration shared discrimination at their the Drug Enforcement accounts of ongoing racism and agencies.

"In agency after agency, we continue to see a pattern and practice of some of the most egregious and blatant cases of racism and discrimination that I have encountered in my 20 years of service as a lawmaker," the California congresswoman said.

"The heads of each of these agencies — Louis Freeh (FBI), Eduardo Gonzalez (Marshals) and Thomas Constantine (DEA) — must take responsibility for the actions of those subordinates who

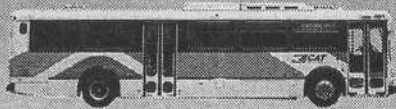
repeatedly trample on the civil rights of others," she said.

"We cannot have individuals vested with the authority to uphold the law actually breaking the law."

The hearing on "Employment Discrimination in Federal Law Enforcement" was the third special hearing conducted by the caucus this year.

The other hearings were on "The Plight of the Black Farmer" and "HIV/AIDS in the Black Community."

IT'S TIME TO CLEAR THE AIR... AGAIN.



Here at Citizens Area Transit, we're ready to do whatever we can to improve the air quality in our community. And, at the same time, we know that you want to save money. So, how do these two things relate? It's simple. We call it the CAT Air Pollution Solution.

When you buy a CAT Pass for the month of January, you'll receive a February CAT Pass for free. This means there'll be less cars on the street, less smog in the air and more money in your pocket! And with CAT's newly expanded routes, there's no better time to give us a try. (And remember, a CAT Pass makes a great holiday gift, too!)

So, buy your January pass today, or call CAT-RIDE at 228-7433 for more information.



For Information call

CAT-RIDE 228-7433

Se habla español

301 East Clark Avenue, Suite 300, Las Vegas, NV 89101