

Klansmen claim double standard

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan broke a four-year silence Thursday to reveal his role in an abortive 1979 invasion of Grenada and demand freedom for a Klansman who plotted against the neighboring isle of Dominica.

David Duke, who was questioned by the federal grand jury that indicted Don Black and nine others, said he put mercenaries working for deposed Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy in touch with several KKK members in hopes of launching a coup.

"The Grenada invasion is a vindication of Don Black and the other valiant men who were arrested and prosecuted by overzealous federal agents for

daring to fight against communism," Duke told UPI.

"I think it's a gross injustice that Mr. Black is imprisoned for trying to do courageously as a private citizen what President Reagan is trying to do today."

Black, who took over as grand wizard when Duke resigned, is currently serving three years in the federal prison at Big Spring, Texas for violating the seldom-used U.S. Neutrality Act.

In the so-called "Bayou of Pigs" case, he and other right-wing activists conspired to invade Dominica in 1980 after abandoning their Grenada plans as too risky.

Duke has served as head of the National Association for White People since leaving the Klan. He said he decided to break his silence on the 1979

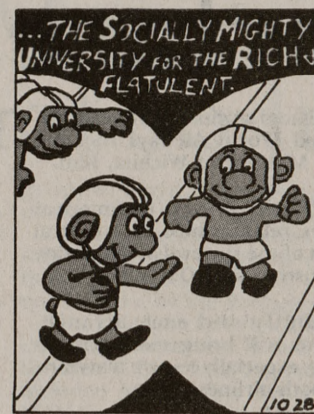
plot against Marxist leader Maurice Bishop in order to praise Reagan's action and to seek Black's release.

He delivered a letter Thursday to U.S. District Judge Lansing Mitchell in New Orleans, the judge who presided over the Birmingham, Ala., klansman's trial.

"A leatherneck or a Navy captain or a CIA operative or even a president has no more right to break the law than any other American," DUKE SAID. "If the law is not applicable to current political realities, it should be changed."

Black and the others were arrested by federal agents as they prepared to embark from a marina near New Orleans for the 2,000-mile voyage to Dominica.

R.I.



by Paul Dirmeyer

Couple feared for lives

Grenada students return

United Press International
HOUSTON — A medical student attending school in Grenada arrived in Houston with his wife Thursday and said escaping from the island nation "was like going through hell."

Timothy Mooney, 23, of New Orleans, arrived with his wife Michele, 21, of Houston. They were met by both sets of their parents at Houston Intercontinental Airport.

The Mooney's said they felt their lives were in danger and were glad to be back in the United States.

"We felt very much in danger," Mooney said. "There were lots of loud noises, automatic

weapon fire, rockets and heavy guns. We laid on the beach, first in the water and then on the beach, (waiting) for the rescue."

The couple escaped the tiny island with only the clothes they were wearing.

Mrs. Mooney said they wanted to leave Grenada "after they assassinated Prime Minister Maurice Bishop" last week.

"We were terrified. We were confined to camp and they had this 'shoot to kill' rule. When they lifted the curfew and asked if we wanted to leave, we were the first to say yes. We were afraid of catching a stray bullet or something. The army there was not as professional or organized as our people," she said.

"I will never go back to Grenada again unless it is a United States state. It is a beautiful place, but the government is too unstable," she said. "Anyone who says they (U.S. troops) should not have come to Grenada is a fool. It was just a terrible situation."

"We were scared for our lives. It was like going through hell," he said.

U.S. Hispanics urged by Reagan opposition

United Press International
EDINBURG — A civil rights advocate said Thursday that U.S. Hispanics should take a wider role in opposing the Reagan Administration's policies in Central America.

"Many of us do have a great number of connections — not only business connections, but family ties and ancestral ties — with Central America," Maria Mercado, a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' Texas Advisory Committee, told delegates at the opening session of a national conference on Central American policy.

"It is up to us to make a decision whether we will participate

in a policy that will make us choose if we will go into Central America and point a rifle at our brothers and sisters," she said.

The three-day conference at Pan American University is sponsored by 16 predominantly Hispanic groups and the university's Forum for the Study of the Americas and Friday will feature talks from representatives of the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua and the rebel Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador.

Mercado said that Hispanics were in South Texas 300 to 400 years before Anglos arrived and have a vested interest in Central America policy.

She said President Ronald

Reagan's approach toward Central America also cannot help but affect civil rights in the United States.

She alleged the policy was one of aggression and encouraging "military regimes which have no sympathy for the dignity of human life."

The U.S. Government is denying Central American refugees political asylum on grounds they are "economic refugees," she said, but the economic hardships the Central Americans are trying to escape are a direct result of U.S. foreign policy.

"We have to honestly review our roles in this policy. We have been silent so long," she said.

Yarbrough out safely, White says

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White was asked Thursday — in all seriousness — if he knew of any Texas students who were among the Americans enrolled at St. George's Medical School on Grenada.

"I was aware of one Texas student on the island," White quipped. "But we got him safely out of there."

White jokingly referred to former Texas Supreme Court Justice Donald Yarbrough, who led to the far-flung Caribbean island nation in 1981 to avoid imprisonment on a perjury conviction.

Yarbrough was extradited to Texas last March.

The 41-year-old Yarbrough, who was enrolled at St. George's, was arrested while auditing a medical course on nearby St. Vincent.

While Yarbrough lived and worked on Grenada for 19 months, the Marxist country did

not have an extradition treaty with the United States. Yarbrough drew an additional seven-year sentence for bail-jumping in July.

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