

Chem-Bio News

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2. HOUSE PASSES BILL GIVING FDA NEW FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT POWERS AND RESOURCES: *"The US House of Representatives yesterday passed sweeping legislation that would give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) more power and resources to prevent foodborne illness outbreaks."*

3. LAWMAKER 'SKEPTICAL' OF ANTHRAX RESULTS: *"A key congressional critic of the FBI's investigation of the 2001 anthrax attacks called Friday for a broader inquiry into the government's handling of the case, saying he remained deeply skeptical of the bureau's claim that a Maryland scientist acted alone in carrying out the country's worst bioterrorism attack."*

4. URANIUM SMUGGLERS SENTENCED TO TIME SERVED, SET FREE BY SLOVAKIAN COURT: *"A Slovakian court yesterday sentenced two uranium smugglers to time already served for selling the radioactive substance to undercover police in 2007, the Czech News Agency reported."*

5. US ENVOY WARNS OF POSSIBLE NEW SANCTIONS ON NORTH KOREA: *"A US envoy said Thursday that more North Korean individuals and entities could be subjected to UN sanctions for assisting Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IS ALSO A HATE CRIME

By J.D. Wallace
KOLD13 News

"A hazardous materials call on the northwest side Sunday morning turned out to also be a hate crime."

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"All I know is it was some kind of chlorine and I don't know what else," said Carley Riggs, who lives across the street from the neighborhood. "It was like coming over like a wall coming over the house."

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Detectives said that the target home had not only chlorine tablets and a liquid in the front yard, but also dead animals such as birds, and perhaps a cat and a rabbit near the front door. Spray foam sealed the door along with the garage door so that they couldn't be opened. An incendiary device was found in front, and a chemical dispersing device was in the back."

The full article can be found at: http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=10835087&nav=menu86_2
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HOUSE PASSES BILL GIVING FDA NEW FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT POWERS AND RESOURCES

By Lisa Schnirring

“The US House of Representatives yesterday passed sweeping legislation that would give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) more power and resources to prevent foodborne illness outbreaks.”

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“According to Dingell's office, the law:

- Requires food facilities to have safety plans to identify and mitigate food safety hazards
- Increases the frequency of FDA inspections at food facilities
- Provides stronger enforcement tools, such as mandatory recalls
- Gives the FDA tools to ensure that imported foods meet US safety standards
- Expands FDA trace-back capabilities during foodborne illness outbreaks
- Produces more resources to support the FDA's food safety activities

The next step is for the Senate to take up the issue, which probably won't happen until this fall, the New York Times reported yesterday. The Senate has proposed similar measures in its Food Safety Modernization Act, introduced in March by a bipartisan group that includes Sen Dick Durbin, D-Mich., and Sen Judd Gregg, R-NH.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/fs/food/news/jul3109foodlaw-ms.html>

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LAWMAKER 'SKEPTICAL' OF ANTHRAX RESULTS

By Joby Warrick and Carrie Johnson

The Washington Post

August 01, 2009

“A key congressional critic of the FBI's investigation of the 2001 anthrax attacks called Friday for a broader inquiry into the government's handling of the case, saying he remained deeply skeptical of the bureau's claim that a Maryland scientist acted alone in carrying out the country's worst bioterrorism attack.

“Our government -- and specifically, the FBI -- suffers from a credibility gap on this issue,” Rep. Rush D. Holt (D-N.J.) told an expert panel that convened in Washington this week to begin reviewing the scientific methods the FBI used to link the attacks to Bruce E. Ivins, a microbiologist who worked in the Army's chief biodefense lab at Fort Detrick, Md.”

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“The start of the panel's work coincided with the first anniversary of the death of Ivins, who had been the FBI's prime suspect in the attacks before he committed suicide July 29, 2008. Friends and colleagues of the scientist and some independent experts have sharply criticized the bureau's handling of the seven-year investigation, which for years focused on another Army scientist, whom the FBI later acknowledged was innocent.”

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“FBI Assistant Director Chris Hassell told the panel that he believed the review would validate the bureau's efforts to identify the source of the anthrax bacteria used in the attack. Bureau scientists identified a unique series of genetic mutations in the attack strain that were later positively matched to anthrax spores Ivins kept in his lab.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/31/AR2009073103803.html>

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URANIUM SMUGGLERS SENTENCED TO TIME SERVED, SET FREE BY SLOVAKIAN COURT

Global Security Newswire

July 31, 2009

“A Slovakian court yesterday sentenced two uranium smugglers to time already served for selling the radioactive substance to undercover police in 2007, the Czech News Agency reported.”

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090731_7798.php

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US ENVOY WARNS OF POSSIBLE NEW SANCTIONS ON NORTH KOREA

Agence France-Presse on Yahoo! News

July 30, 2009

“A US envoy said Thursday that more North Korean individuals and entities could be subjected to UN sanctions for assisting Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

Speaking to reporters after briefing a UN panel on US implementation of the latest sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear defiance, Philip Goldberg said: "One of the things that we discussed... is the idea that designations are still on the table.”

The full article can be found at:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090730/pl_afp/usnkoreadiplomacyweaponsnuclearun

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