

alcohol, like drugs, acts as a 'multiplier' of crime." He goes on to describe how some officials at the Coors Brewing Company "were worried about some conclusions" found in a recent book of his, and "were upset with the book's discussion of alcohol and crime." Bennett also mentions that "the National Beer Wholesalers Association canceled a speech I was scheduled to give in September." He concludes with a prediction: "If the liquor industry does not start acting in a more socially responsible way, it may soon find itself held in the same kind of esteem in which the tobacco companies are now held" (7/29).

#### FORBES: PUSHING AUTO INSURANCE REFORM

An Americans For Hope Growth and Opportunity (AHGO) release announces the launch of a radio advertising campaign in support of a pro-consumer automobile insurance reform bill sponsored by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Maj. Leader Dick Armey (TX). The 60-sec. ad narrated by AHGO chair Steve Forbes: "In a period of just seven years, America's car insurance premiums rose by 44 percent. Today the average car insurance policy costs over 750 dollars. ... This is Steve Forbes. The auto choice act lets individuals choose between the current system ~~or a new auto~~ insurance system which reduces fraud and abuse. This could save consumers over 45 billion dollars a year" (AHGO release, 7/28).

*one more idea*  
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#### KERREY: MAKING HIS MOVE?

Hearst's Marianne Means writes Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-NE) "has been carefully, quietly positioning himself as a possible 2000 Democratic presidential alternative" to VP Al Gore. Now Kerrey "is going further, hiring a campaign consultant, planning to test his national fund-raising ability and sending up a trial balloon suggesting that he may go for it again." Kerrey "conceded in a TV interview recently" that both Gore and House Min. Leader Dick Gephardt "are out so early this time that 'the longer I wait, the less likely it is for me.'" Means concludes: "The odds are long that Kerrey could overtake Gore and Gephardt. But in politics, you'll never know what might have happened if you don't play the game" (Ft. Worth Star Telegram, 7/26).

#### POWELL: PATAKI AND GIULIANI VOICE SUPPORT FOR POWELL

New York Post's Dicker and Buffa report, CUNY Board of Trustees Vice Chair Herman Badillo, a top adviser to NYC mayor Rudy Giuliani (R), said he was ready to call for an immediate end to the search for a new CUNY chancellor if Colin Powell took the new command. Badillo: "There are circumstances where there is a completely outstanding individual whereby the trustees can waive a search committee." Powell aide Col. Bill Smullen "said Powell ... hadn't ruled out at least considering the CUNY job." Both Gov. George Pataki (R) and Giuliani "told reporters that they thought Powell would be just right for the CUNY job" (7/29).

#### RACICOT: A STANDING OVATION IN CLEVELAND

Billings Gazette's Johnson reports MT Gov. Marc Racicot (R) "got the only standing ovation" at last weekend's RNC meeting in Cleveland, "with requests from a number of officials that he speak in their states." MT GOP chair Sue Aleksich-Akey said RNC members "were impressed that Racicot walked a few blocks to a baseball game after the conference with a couple of people. They said their governors would have insisted on having limousines with a number of security people guarding them." Aleksich-Akey said Racicot got invitations to speak at the GOP's Western