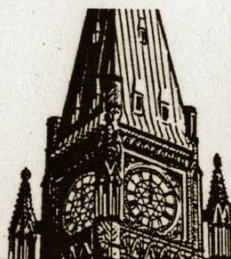


# OTTAWA



# CITIZEN

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1999

ESTABLISHED IN 1845

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## Tainted-blood sleuth firebombed

### Intimidation campaign suspected as Arkansas clinic razed, Montreal office ransacked

BY MARK KENNEDY

The controversial story involving tainted plasma from Arkansas prisoners that was shipped to Canada in the 1980s while Bill Clinton was state governor has taken a mysterious and chilling new turn.

Two crimes that occurred within hours of each other Tuesday night,

hundreds of kilometres apart, have raised questions about whether someone is trying to intimidate or silence those who are asking questions about the prison-blood fiasco.

In Pine Bluff, Arkansas, someone firebombed a prosthetics clinic owned by Michael Galster, who has been pushing hard for a U.S. government investigation. The clinic was burned to

its shell and fire officials, who found a gas container in Mr. Galster's attic — where he kept his documents — say they're "90-per-cent sure" the fire was arson.

In Montreal, someone broke into the offices of the Quebec chapter of the Canadian Hemophilia Society, which recently unearthed documents that showed Finance Minister Paul Martin

was a board member of the corporation that owned Connaught Laboratories, the company that fractionated and distributed the Arkansas prison plasma in Canada.

Hemophilia Society officials say thieves stole a computer and three telephones. They also stole documents from a box labeled "Hepatitis C, Krever Commission, Reform of the

blood system, HIV-AIDS."

Police are investigating both incidents.

Mike McCarthy, a Canadian hemophiliac at the forefront of pushing for answers into the prison plasma scandal, says he's convinced the two crimes are connected.

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