

Dope money is buying the U.S. elections

by John Hoefle

Recent revelations about the financing of the campaigns of George Bush and Bill Clinton underscore the fact that dirty money has infiltrated and corrupted the political process in the United States, depriving voters of any real choice in the presidential election. The revelations center around Carl Lindner and Jeremy Jacobs, both of whom were identified in *EIR's* best-selling book *Dope, Inc.* as having longstanding ties to major elements of narcotics trafficking and money laundering. It is therefore especially timely that the third edition of *Dope, Inc.* is now scheduled for release on May 15.

The case of Carl Lindner

A total of \$250,000 was recently contributed to the Bush campaign by financier Carl Lindner, a man who heads one of the dirtiest companies in American corporate history. Lindner is chairman of American Financial Corp. (AFC) of Cincinnati, Ohio, a closely held conglomerate involved in insurance, banking, savings and loans, portfolio investment, television and radio, petroleum marketing, and entertainment production and distribution. AFC is also, in the judgment of a former financial consultant to the company, one of the most airtight money-laundering capabilities ever seen.

Lindner is chairman of a number of companies, including Chiquita Brands International, of which AFC owns 52.5% of the common stock. Chiquita, which adopted its trade name in 1990, was previously known as United Brands, a name which it adopted in the 1960s. Before that, the company was known as United Fruit, one of the dirtiest and most notorious companies in U.S. history.

Dope, Inc. identified United Fruit as "the center of organized crime" in the United States since the turn of the century, created by a merger of the dope shipping interests of the Boston Brahmins and the Sicilian mafia of New Orleans. According to U.S. law enforcement officials, United Fruit ships carried a substantial portion of the cocaine reaching the United States in the 1970s. Lindner took over Chiquita in February 1975, when then-chairman Eli Black allegedly committed suicide. Lindner and his associates, who then controlled 48% of the company's stock, installed former Detroit Purple Gang mobster Max Fisher as chairman. Supporting Fisher, who is now a top Republican fundraiser, was Donald Gent, a partner at Goldman Sachs and an associate of Henry Kissinger and Sol Linowitz, the Carter administration's envoy to Panama. Linowitz was as advisor to Maritime Fruit Co., the Israeli

counterpart to Chiquita, and a director of Marine Midland Bank, which merged in 1979 with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the central bank of the Far East heroin trade. In 1984, Lindner assumed the chairmanship of Chiquita.

While Lindner and Fisher ran Chiquita, the cocaine trade exploded, generating hundreds of billions of dollars of profits to be laundered and reinvested in so-called legitimate enterprises. Much of that money went into Drexel Burnham Lambert's corporate takeover binge of the 1980s. Drexel's junk bond specialist Michael Milken went to jail for his role, as did Lindner protégé Charles Keating, but their controllers went untouched.

In fact, Linder and his business partners, including Saul Steinberg of Reliance Insurance Co., Meshulam Riklis of Rapid-American Corp., and Victor Posner, a reputed investment partner of Murder, Inc.'s Meyer Lansky, provided the money which Drexel used to raid corporations. But while Milken went to jail, Lindner and his buddies remain untouched, free to buy influence.

Clinton and the Jacobs Brothers

One of the biggest financial backers of Bill Clinton over the years, the *New York Times* reported April 27, is one Jeremy M. Jacobs of Buffalo, New York. Jacobs and his brother, Max Jacobs, were identified in *Dope, Inc.* as heads of an organized crime family which made a fortune running liquor during Prohibition. The Jacobs family, through their company firm Emprise, owned some 450 companies, including horse- and dog-racing tracks, sports teams, and airport and sports stadium food concessions.

In 1972, Emprise was indicted, along with several members of the Purple Gang mob of Detroit, of conspiracy to take over a gambling casino in Las Vegas by illegal means. After it was convicted, Emprise changed its name to Sportservices. "Since 1972," *Dope, Inc.* noted, "they have continued to act as money-movers and bagmen for a whole list of organized crime members," including the Bronfman family of Montreal and such Meyer Lansky associates as Morris Dalitz.

In 1976, Sportservices was under investigation by federal authorities, including its activities in Arizona, by then-U.S. Sen. Sam Steiger. Working closely with Steiger was Phoenix journalist Don Bolles, who was assassinated by a car bomb on June 2, 1976. Bolles dying words were, "Mafia . . . Emprise . . . Adamson." In January 1977, local resident John Adamson pleaded guilty to the murder, and the role of Emprise was quickly covered up.

To further rehabilitate the company, Fisher deployed United Brands general counsel Stanley Mills, who had been a special assistant to Attorney General Robert Kennedy at the Justice Department, to Sportservices. Mills was joined by at least four other veterans of the Kennedy Justice Department, including Henry Patterson, the former top criminal division attorney responsible for an organized crime strike force cover-up "investigation" of Emprise.