

'Bushgate' probe, like its target, is too wimpy

by Anton Chaitkin

George Bush, apparently headed to defeat in next month's election, has recently come under attack in leading U.S. news media for his role in the Iran-Contra affair.

The charges being raised against the President are as yet muted, but they are steadily becoming less timid. Bush's critics are aware of, but have so far refrained from using, a great array of the most devastating Iran-Contra evidence, which would implicate Bush in a multitude of felonies.

The Democrats and other Bush opponents are shaping their attack around narrow considerations of partisan advantage and self-protection. Bill Clinton has no more clue than Bush does of how to stop the economic collapse. Iran-Contra may come to be his scandal of choice, used to help finish off Bush, without committing Clinton to any difficult policy innovations.

Scandals in other areas, which if diligently pursued would surely sink Bush, are being studiously avoided.

Though the Republicans are mildly lampooned for proclaiming economic recovery, the Democrats are afraid to utter the word "depression." Thus, there is to be no serious attack on Bush, Nicholas Brady, or Boyden Gray for their corrupt central roles in the junk-bond looting of the past decade. The trail leads through both political parties, to the doors of their heavy contributors.

Bush's War on Drugs fraud will not be criticized by the favored candidates of the Hollywood mafia, the purveyors of the drug culture.

The killing of tens of thousands of Iraqi children, by U.S. bombs and the Anglo-American embargo, is not criticized, even by those who initially opposed Bush's war. Though Al Gore now says the Gulf war was "avoidable," he shares Bush's brutal commitment to population reduction for the mostly non-white Third World.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) blasted the Bush administration's destruction of Panama some weeks ago. With our troops still in place, he said, "we are governing Panama.

. . . The people we have put in power in Panama are all bankers . . . enmeshed in the illicit drug trade." The Democrats and the media squelched this exposé. But they have picked up Gonzalez's critique of Bush for selling arms to Saddam Hussein; following Israel's lead on the story, they have shaded it into a species of Arab-bashing.

Henry Kissinger has just perjured himself in congressional testimony on the POW issue. But Clinton is too shy to attack George as Kissinger's pupil and junior partner, in their arrangements with the Communist Chinese, their deals on dope trafficking, slave labor, and creating Cambodia's genocidal Pol Pot regime.

The Draper family's Population Crisis Committee has just published a warning that if China's communist dictatorship falls, the coercive mass abortion policy could not be enforced. It is unlikely that Clinton and Gore will denounce this Kissinger-Bush policy. Nor will they expose Gen. William Draper, Jr., George Bush's population guru, who teamed up with George's father Prescott Bush as a banker for the Nazis in the 1930s.

The facts in these and other areas, politically deadly to Bush, have been published in tremendous depth of documentation by this news service. They are in the hands of the significant U.S. political leaders, and could indeed be used in the remaining weeks of the campaign.

Iran-Contra: what Bush knew

The Iran-Contra affair has become, by default, the leading edge of public attack on the Bush regime.

A PBS TV documentary in April showed how Oliver North, employed by Vice President George Bush's counter-terrorism unit, set up three bank accounts at Bank of Credit and Commerce International to pay for weapons for Iranian kidnapers. The program's producer, Rory O'Connor, told the *New York Post*: "This counter-terrorism unit was being

run out of the vice president's office. That would strongly implicate our current President."

Bush has been widely charged with participation in a 1980 Republican deal to trade arms to the Iranian kidnapers for a delay in the release of their hostages, so as to defeat Jimmy Carter's reelection attempt. This news service documented Bush's ties to the "October Surprise" conspiracy—as well as the earlier complicity of Democrats in supplying arms and support to Ayatollah Khomeini's "revolution."

The pace of the Irangate scandal picked up with the recent perjury indictment of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. This led to the disclosure of Weinberger's 1987 protest that Bush shouldn't pretend ignorance of the arms sales to Iran—a policy Bush was in fact pushing.

Articles and editorials have appeared in the main establishment journals over the past few weeks, denouncing Bush's persistent lie that he was ignorant of Iran-Contra crimes, that he was "out of the loop." Howard Teicher, a 1982-87 Reagan-Bush administration security aide closely tied to the Israel lobby, has told the press how he personally briefed Bush about the criminal sales, and that Bush knew all details about the sales "from day one."

The *Wall Street Journal* wrote about Bush's covert Contra manager Felix Rodriguez (alias Max Gomez): "In October 1986, when the Iran-Contra operation began to unravel, Vice President Bush's office sent a set of humorous buttons to the Central Intelligence Agency reading 'I'm Max Gomez' and 'Who's Felix Rodriguez?'. . . Now, however, the joke could be on Mr. Bush. . . . The agency was [very aware] of Mr. Rodriguez and his role in the Contra supply operation. . . . [It is unlikely that] Bush and his aides could have known so little when the CIA—with which they were so close—knew so much."

Since much more damaging Iran-Contra material was *already published* by several of these same journals, during the 1980s, this could easily become the most explosive American scandal in the 20th century.

Where the probe must go

The crimes of Iran-Contra amount to treason against the United States and unlawful war against other nations. We will propose here certain key points of departure for the serious investigation of these crimes. The correct, non-partisan attack would not only lead to George Bush's prosecution, but would prevent the next administration from continuing the Iran-Contra policies and criminal relationships.

1) The Reagan administration memorandum of May 14, 1982. It stated that "National Security Decision Directive 3, Crisis Management, establishes the Special Situation Group (SSG), chaired by the Vice President." A series of new, secret structures of government followed, through which Vice President Bush became chief of all covert action and de facto head of U.S. intelligence. These illegal structures have never been rescinded.

One Bush group was the Task Force on Terrorism; under

Bush's direction there, were Col. Oliver North and Israeli terrorism expert Amiram Nir.

Covert Ops chief Bush coordinated the Office of Public Diplomacy to release National Security Council propaganda through private news media, to use law enforcement and private agencies such as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith to "get" enemies of the illegal NSC actions. One such target was the LaRouche political movement, raided at the height of Iran-Contra by a military-coordinated force of 400 federal and state officers. Later, LaRouche was jailed by a CIA-operative judge, Albert V. Bryan.

2) The May 1, 1986 meeting in the White House. Without the President, Vice President Bush convened a meeting of Oliver North, Bush's Contra supply chief Felix Rodriguez, financier Nicholas Brady (currently treasury secretary), and the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador. It was decided that "private citizen" Rodriguez would continue his Central American operations, designed to defeat laws passed to prevent exactly these operations.

3) Bush's July 29, 1986 Jerusalem meeting with Amiram Nir. The Israeli counterterrorism chief assured Bush, his boss on the task force, that "we are dealing with the most radical elements" in Iran. All stories of giving weapons to "moderates" are false, and the kidnapers were paid for their crimes by Bush and company. Bush aide Craig Fuller (currently chief of government operations for Philip Morris) reported this meeting to Oliver North, avoiding President Reagan. The too-knowledgeable Israeli Nir died in a plane crash just after Bush was elected President. British television later reported former Treasury Secretary Donald Regan's notes that Bush had feared Israel would try "to squeeze us" over the affair.

4) The 1983-84 Managua harbor mining. Conducted by CIA and private organizations coordinated by George Bush, the operation took off from Jupiter, Florida, home of the CIA-Bush naval warfare front company Continental Shelf Associates. Bush superintended these activities from *his family home* a few yards away on Jupiter Island, where his mother still lives. Reporters and history buffs who want to get to the bottom of Iran-Contra in a hurry, will swarm all over Jupiter Island—it's just helicopter minutes north of Miami's CIA station. There, on that private enclave of Averell Harriman and his partners (Prescott Bush, CIA founder Robert Lovett) and friends (Douglas Dillon, Paul Mellon) will be found the trail of gun-running and drug-running and dirty money operations going back to the Hitler era.

5) The Mena, Arkansas Airport. Oliver North's drugs were flown into Arkansas as part of the financing of Contra operations, under the protection of the Bill Clinton administration. Clinton supported Vice President Bush's criminal operations inside Central America with resources and personnel of the state of Arkansas.

The reporter is co-author of EIR's book George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography.