

It is also stressed, by sources in a position to know, that among the many dirty activities that Mark Thatcher has been implicated in over the past years, is a series of shady deals with the Sultanate of Oman, where, as one expert put it, "he made millions of dollars by speculating on the name of his mother."

### 'What they did was reprehensible'

According to the *Observer*, Houston lawyer William E. King announced over the Oct. 1-2 weekend, that a suit would be filed by mid-October, under RICO legislation, seeking \$1 million in personal damages from Mark Thatcher. The "treble damages" allowed under RICO protocols could mean that the actual damages paid out could amount to \$3 million or more. Maggie's son would be sued for his part in the takeover of Ameristar. King is the lawyer for John "Jay" Laughlin, the founder of Ameristar, which was taken over this year by David Wallace, a 33-year-old Texas business partner of Mark Thatcher. According to the *Observer*, Wallace and the 41-year-old Mark Thatcher are partners in Grantham, an investment company named after Baroness Thatcher's birthplace. Wallace resigned in August as treasurer and director of her Thatcher Foundation, according to the *Sunday Times*.

The *Observer* wrote: "Mr. Laughlin claims he was duped into allowing Mr. Wallace a controlling stake in the company in 1993 and was then squeezed out completely last January. In 1993, Ameristar was worth \$2 million, although it had an annual turnover of \$250 million. Last month, when Mr. Wallace put Ameristar into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, it had a negative worth of \$6 million. Mr. Laughlin maintains that Mr. Wallace was a front man for Mark Thatcher, 41, who put up part of the money to buy a 50% share in Ameristar."

Laughlin informed the *Sunday Times* that Ameristar had been "hijacked." He said that Thatcher and Wallace "conspired" to take control of the firm "by falsifying its financial position to engineer a cash crisis." Thatcher and Wallace are "alleged to have taken an increased stake in the company after claiming it needed a major injection of cash." Laughlin further stated that in January of this year, he was physically escorted from his office by Thatcher's bodyguard and an armed, off-duty Houston policeman. He told the paper: "What they did was reprehensible."

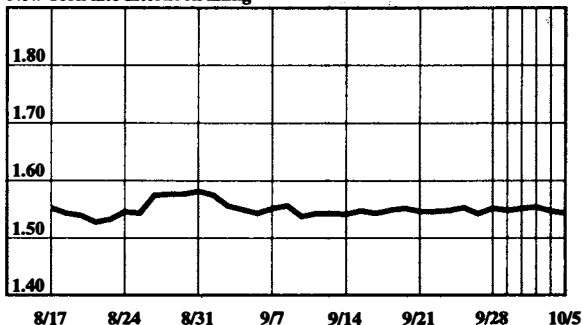
Shortly after this transaction, Mark Thatcher relocated his personal office from Dallas to Ameristar's premises in Houston. Grantham has moved into Ameristar's Houston offices, and Mark has secured deals for Ameristar in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Belgium. As indicated above, the U.S. branch of the Thatcher Foundation shares the same corporate address as Ameristar.

The *Sunday Times* also noted that Thatcher and Wallace intended to reorganize the Ameristar structure so that it would be wholly owned by a new company, of which Mark Thatcher would be the chairman.

## Currency Rates

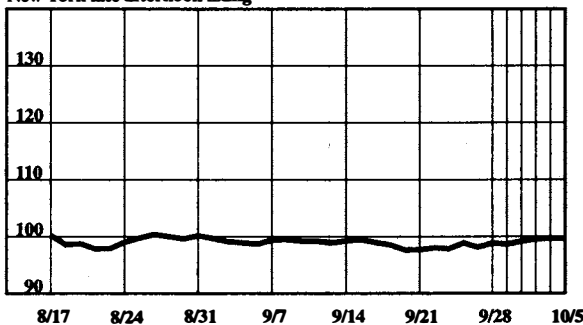
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



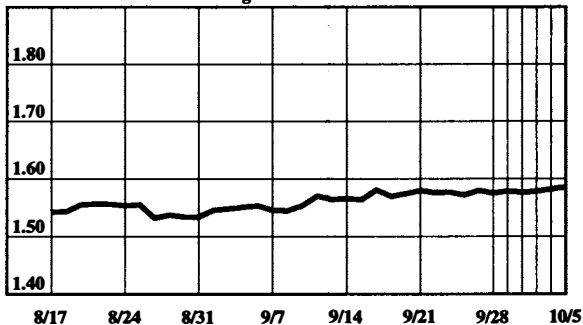
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

