

National News

Moynihan, Kerrey Blast Gore and Boost Bush

Sen. Daniel Moynihan (N.Y.) and Robert Kerrey (Neb.), two prominent Democratic outgoing Senators who backed Bill Bradley against Al Gore for the Democratic Presidential nomination, gave a press conference on Capitol Hill on May 5, lambasting Gore for his criticism of George W. Bush's plan to allow workers to take part of their Social Security withholdings and privately invest them in stock market accounts.

Moynihan, who was a Nixon-era architect of the legislation setting up health maintenance organizations (see article in this issue), accused Gore of attacking Bush for a policy that President Clinton had once mooted — stock market investment of part of the Social Security fund. Kerrey met with George W. Bush the week before, to discuss the Texas Governor's Social Security scheme.

While Gore's purported opposition to any privatization of Social Security may be the one issue where he is not totally off the wall, the fact that two senior, retiring Senators are attacking him, and even opening up lines of communication with Bush, may reflect the growing disenchantment with the unelectable Mr. Gore among many Democrats. Moynihan had endorsed Bradley, in part, because he said that Gore was "unelectable."

Simon and Schuster Issue Porno Video-Game

The publishing giant Simon and Schuster has released a pornographic video game called "Panty Raiders: From Here to Immaturity," reports *Holt Uncensored*, a publishing industry newsletter. The game, according to *Holt Uncensored*, "is a CD game for — well, see who you think the intended audience is — boys of many ages, one supposes. Players are told they can save the Earth from 'perverted' aliens with 'hormone-driven anger' who will soon blow up the planet. The key: 'Only the sexy underwear of supermodels' can satisfy these 'testosterone-driven

aliens.' The object of the game is to 'Seek Out Supermodels to Strip Them Down to Their Bra and Panties.'"

Joe Kelly, the head of an organization called Dads & Daughters, told *Holt Uncensored*, "We don't see the humor or fun in glorifying hormone-driven anger in boys, especially in the aftermath of tragedies like the Columbine shootings. We are offended when our sons are repeatedly subjected to the destructive stereotypes of boys objectifying females, placing titillation above all else, and using violence or its threat to get their way. . . . This is a call to Simon and Schuster to regard its audience more highly, to raise its standards of literature (and this is literature), to consider the ways that stereotypes, prejudice, and bigotry get started and are sustained."

British Wax Eloquent at Jamie Rubin's Arrival

Former State Department spokesman James Rubin's moving to London could begin "a new chapter in the much-vaunted 'special relationship' between America and Britain," wrote the *Sunday Times* of London on April 30. Rubin and his wife, CNN chief foreign correspondent Christiane Amanpour, have bought a house in Notting Hill, London, "that may become as effective an emblem of American power as the country's vast embassy," the newspaper commented.

After describing Rubin's "legendary" influence with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (for whom he represents "the son she never had," and whose Kosovo policy, especially, Rubin zealously defended), the article details the close links of Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour Party leaders with America, including the fact that several were trained in U.S. universities. Chancellor Gordon Brown spends his vacation every year on Cape Cod; Jonathan Powell, Blair's foreign policy adviser, "is as much at home in Washington as he is in Whitehall"; David Miliband, who runs the policy unit at Downing Street, was trained at MIT; and Ed Balls studied at Harvard.

Rubin is reported to be a friend of Alastair Campbell, "Blair's spin doctor in chief," with whom he "bonded" during the

Kosovo war.

Rubin and Amanpour's wedding, at an Italian castle, "coincided with the bombing of two American embassies in Africa," a key event that led to Albright's attacks against Sudan, then Iraq, and then Kosovo.

Rubin himself told the *Sunday Times*, "London is becoming a magnet for internationally oriented people like me. . . . England is on an upswing. London is, in many respects, the center of Europe."

Rubin says he wants to make his future lecturing and in television.

The article notes that "until November's Presidential election, Rubin will have almost unparalleled access to America's foreign policy establishment, providing No. 10 [Downing Street] with a useful conduit to Albright and the Clinton clan. This, and Rubin's desire to 'exchange ideas with intelligent people,' raises the prospect of a London salon to rival those of Carla Powell and George Weidenfeld." Lord Weidenfeld is a very close associate of Henry Kissinger. *Saloniste* Mrs. Powell is Jonathan Powell's sister-in-law; her husband, Sir Charles, was himself a former policy adviser to Margaret Thatcher.

Berger Looks to End of Communist Rule in China

U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger claimed that Communist Party rule could be undermined by getting China into the World Trade Organization (WTO), by speeding up the end of China's state-owned industry, according to statements quoted in the *South China Morning Post*. Berger was speaking at the East Asia Institute of Columbia University, New York City, in the first week of May.

On China's state sector, which makes up a third of its economy, Berger said: "That system has been an important source of the Communist Party's power. . . . [Admission to the WTO] will speed the removal of government from vast areas of people's lives. It will take the command and control out of communism."

Berger also warned that rejection by Congress of permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) status for China, "will set

off a downward spiral that could disrupt stability in Asia, diminish the chance of dialogue across the Taiwan Strait, and deflate hopes for a more constructive relationship between the U.S. and China. . . . Rejection . . . would be the worst possible blow to the best possible hope we have had in more than 30 years to encourage positive change in China.”

President Clinton has made similar recent statements, including the remark on May 2 that “the deal we negotiated with [China] does not give them one bit of increased access to our markets, but gives us huge increased access to their markets.”

Schiller Institute leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who has spoken on the economy to several major conferences in China, expressed dismay on May 5 that the U.S. officials would make such inflammatory remarks—apparently intended for domestic consumption, and without any consideration of the effect they would have abroad. “I can only say both of these remarks are for sure heating up the situation in China,” she said, “where the opposition to the WTO is already increasing. And a lot of that has to do with the Taiwan issue. This can only fuel the situation.”

Hard Times in Silicon Valley

The *San Jose Mercury News* reported on May 1 that the median price of a private home in Santa Clara County, California (the location of “Silicon Valley”) hit an all-time record of \$540,000 in March. One year ago, the median price for homes was \$398,000, and five years ago it was \$279,000. This compares with the national median price of \$139,000. The article adds that this figure includes the poorer Hispanic and Asian neighborhoods, as well as the cheaper rural areas in the southern part of the county. In the heart of Silicon Valley (Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, Mountain View), prices for even the smallest, shabbiest homes begin at over \$500,000.

On May 3, People Acting in Community Together (PACT), a church-based grassroots organization, released a report stating that more than 30% of the residents of Sili-

con Valley are completely without health insurance. In some areas, the figure is as high as 45%. PACT states that it is not just low-income families who lack insurance; there is an increasing pattern of high-tech companies hiring workers on a “contract” basis, in order to avoid paying health and other benefits (including sick days and holidays). PACT points, in particular, to the growing use of “temp” firms in hiring practices.

Former CIA Chief May Face Prosecution

Former CIA director John Deutch may face criminal prosecution for violating CIA security procedures and Federal laws, by having thousands of classified intelligence documents on an unsecured home personal computer, while he was Director of Central Intelligence.

According to the *New York Times* on May 6, after the Justice Department was first informed about the Deutch security breach in 1998, there was a brief inquiry, and Attorney General Janet Reno decided not to prosecute Deutch. He did have his security clearance lifted at that time. However, following a CIA Inspector General’s study of the case, and when the security breach gained public notoriety, after Los Alamos Lab scientist Wen Ho Lee was indicted for the same actions, the Deputy Director of the CIA Gen. John A. Gordon asked the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) to conduct a study of the case. That classified study, requested in February 2000, was recently completed, and passed on to Attorney General Reno. Reno reopened the criminal probe of Deutch.

The news comes amidst other intelligence scandals, that suggest a behind-the-scenes spook war. The State Department is under the gun for a string of serious security breaches, including at least three missing laptop computers, one with classified data, and the bugging of a conference room down the hall from Secretary Madeleine Albright’s office.

Also, there are renewed allegations that the Israelis were bugging phone and fax lines at the White House, the State Department, and other U.S. government offices.

KENNETH STARR, the former independent counsel, was the featured speaker at a dinner on April 29 to raise money for the Southeastern Legal Foundation, which is leading a drive to have President Clinton disbarred in Arkansas, *WorldNetDaily* reported. Starr would not confirm or deny plans to indict the President, “but there was a smile on his face when he said he couldn’t comment,” the daily reported.

LEON FUERTH, Al Gore’s National Security Adviser, is *not* overseeing the National Security Council’s policies in respect to HIV/AIDS as a national security issue, contrary to a report in the *Washington Post* on April 30. A spokesman for Fuert’h’s office said that Fuert’h’s involvement in the issue is only minor.

OUTGOING NATO Commander Gen. Wesley Clark complained that Washington opposed his ground invasion plan for Kosovo, in an interview published in a Dutch newspaper, *NRC-Handelsblad*, on May 3. In April, Clark, following in the footsteps of Henry Kissinger, George Bush, and Colin Powell, accepted a knighthood from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of Britain.

VIRGINIA Gov. James Gilmore, desperate to prevent an NAACP civil-rights tourist boycott of his state, announced a \$2.9 million allocation for black tourist sites, such as an antebellum slave market and some museums. The NAACP was threatening a boycott, protests, demonstrations, and rallies, because Gilmore had declared April to be “Confederate History Month.”

THE REPUBLICAN Governors Association announced its support for permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with China, in an open letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert on May 2. The letter says that “Americans are deeply concerned about human rights abuses in China,” but PNTR could ensure that “China continues on its path to a more democratic society.”