

ing market mechanisms, to protect the environment, promote clean energy, and reduce costs.

“And on these issues,” Clinton continued, “the President and I are asking the U.S.-Russia binational commission, under the leadership of Vice President Gore and Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, to carry forward the work.” Good-bye, Gore-Chernomyrdin. Hello, Gore-Kasyanov!

‘It’s the Economy, Stupid!’

The conference, however, missed an opportunity to deal with the fundamental issue which will determine the fate of Russia in short and long term alike: the industrial revival of the Russian economy. Putin, anxious to come to some agreement with the International Monetary Fund and the Paris Club, gave a thorough run-down of the measures he was submitting to the Duma (parliament), “structural reform” measures penned by his stable of “free market” economists. Clinton’s economic adviser, Gene Sperling, met with Putin’s top economic advisers Andrei Illiaronov and German Gref, in order to encourage them in their attempt to implement the same bankrupt “reform policy” which almost finished off the Russian economy in the first place. “It’s good to talk the talk,” Sperling told reporters on June 4, “but you have to walk the walk.” Sperling’s advice to his Russian counterparts, as they “walk the walk” down the gangplank to the shark-infested waters of “free market reform”: “Stay the course, boys, and everything will be fine!”

It must also have been with some amusement, or perhaps even suppressed anger, that Putin, the former KGB operative and security chief, listened to President Clinton recount how he, too, had had to bite the bullet in his first year in office in 1993, in order to institute “tough reforms” which would change “a negative market perception”—as if there could be any comparison between the situation in the United States in 1993, and Russia’s devastation today! Aside from this facile comparison and facile advice, there was really very little the American President was offering Russia economically, except for promising to send Robert Strauss (a.k.a. the Prince of Thieves), over to Russia with a delegation of capitalists to look at new “investment opportunities.” It was something like Queen Elizabeth sending Sir Francis Drake to help the Spanish Treasury manage its gold surplus.

In a Russian talk show on the Ekho Moskvyy radio program on June 4, President Clinton was asked by the first caller, “Do you think a financial crisis is possible in the United States?” “I think a financial crisis is unlikely in the United States,” the President replied, “as long as we have a good economic program, as long as we keep our budget in surplus, as long as we’re continuing to open our markets and compete with other countries, as long as we’re investing in our people. If we have good policies and we work hard, I think a big financial crisis is unlikely.” With the U.S. stock market about to burst, the President’s response seems to be an extreme case of the condition known as “whistling past the graveyard.”

Book Reviews

‘Starr’s Stenographers’ and the Conspiracy To Destroy the President

by Edward Spannaus

Truth at Any Cost: Ken Starr and the Unmaking of Bill Clinton

by Susan Schmidt and Michael Weisskopf
New York: HarperCollins, 2000
308 pages, hardbound, \$26

The Hunting of the President: The Ten- Year Campaign to Destroy Bill and Hillary Clinton

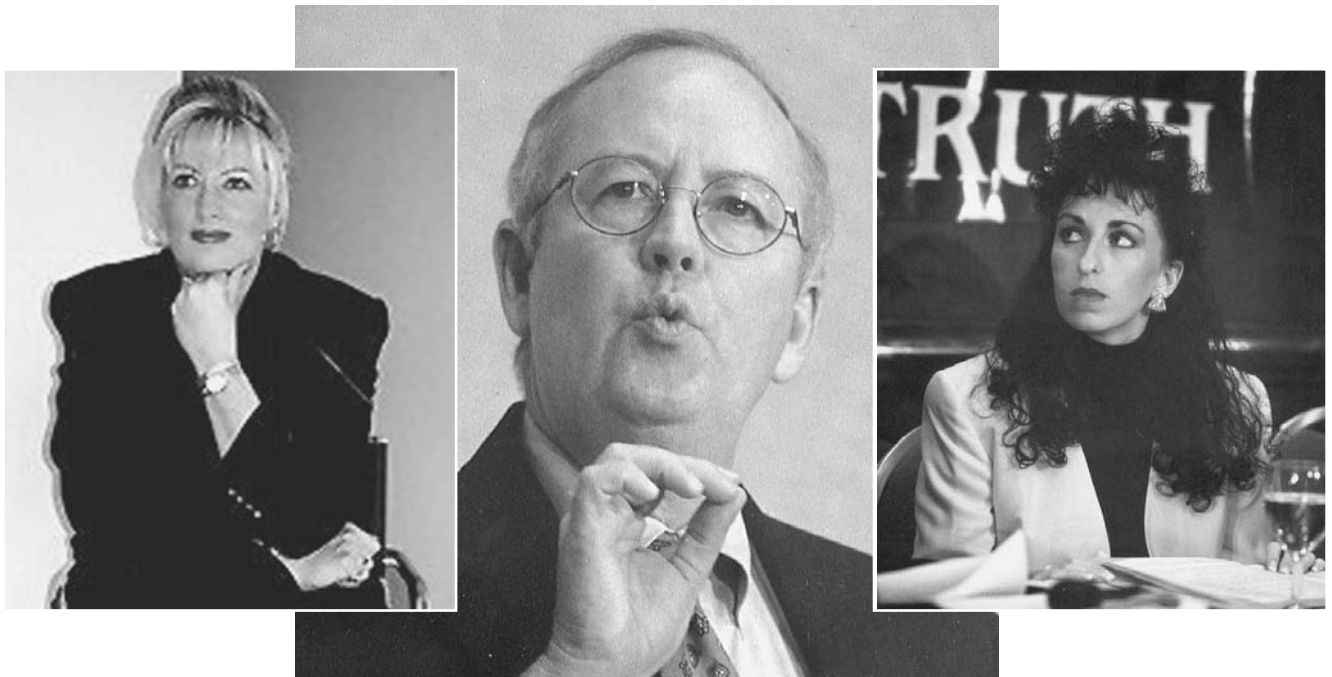
by Joe Conason and Gene Lyons
New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2000
373 pages, hardbound, \$25.95

Media critic Steve Brill, in his famous 1998 “Pressgate” article, described the *Washington Post*’s Susan Schmidt as someone who “does stenography for the prosecutors.” Schmidt was one of the “mainstream press” reporters who was skewered by Brill for uncritically taking dictation from independent counsel Kenneth Starr and his staff, and then reporting the results as if it were objective news.

Although Brill was subject to merciless attacks by the very reporters and news outlets which he was exposing—an irony, because they themselves knew full well the truth of what he was saying, being the very recipients of the leaks from Starr’s office—Brill is now fully vindicated by the new book by Susan Schmidt, *Truth at Any Cost*, co-authored by *Time* magazine writer Michael Weisskopf, also a *Washington Post* reporter for many years.

Not without reason, has Schmidt become known as “Stenographer Sue” among reporters following the Clinton scandals.

Simply put, the Schmidt-Weisskopf book is a shameless public-relations promotion for Kenneth Starr and his staff.



Linda Tripp, Kenneth Starr, and Paula Jones. Tripp, the Bush Administration holdover and White House mole, assisted independent counsel Starr's office to take over the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit. Jones's lawsuit was an outgrowth of the Richard Mellon Scaife-funded "Arkansas Project," and was instigated by British spook/reporter Ambrose Evans-Pritchard; it gave Starr's office the pretext to turn the Whitewater investigation into a pornographic sex-and-lies inquisition which destroyed Bill Clinton's Presidency. Starr had already been working to destroy Clinton before he became the "Whitewater" independent counsel, and his former law partner Theodore Olson was coordinating the Scaife-financed "Get Clinton" effort well in advance of Starr's appointment.

Starr certainly did his part, sitting for ten interviews, each of several hours duration, "resulting in nearly three hundred pages of typewritten transcripts," as the authors state in the Acknowledgements. (The authors still had a little bit of work to do: Since the text of the book is only 278 pages, they did have to edit the transcripts down slightly.) Additionally, they were able to supplement Starr's dictation with over 200 hours of interviews with Starr's staff.

Starr's Acolytes

The book's title itself betrays the authors' slavish devotion to Starr's crusade. Starr is portrayed as a disinterested but righteous seeker after the truth, who is obstructed in this noble effort at every turn by the evil Bill Clinton and his White House lawyers, who use every technicality in the book — plus some new ones — to impede Starr's search for the truth.

There is not even any pretense on the authors' part to any sort of "journalistic objectivity" about their subject. Right from the beginning, they paint Starr as an aggrieved victim of Clinton's criminal machine. For example, anybody who has paid even passing attention to Starr's witch-hunt, knows that Starr was targeting James and Susan McDougal (and Webster Hubbell) for one and only one purpose: to use them as stepping stones to get to Bill and Hillary Clinton, even to

the extent of demanding that they lie about Clinton, that they tell a story that would conform to Starr's version of the "truth."

Yet, Schmidt and Weisskopf sympathetically relate how "Starr felt he was up against an infernal system" in Arkansas, facing uncooperative witnesses and local officials, and with President Clinton's own lawyer, David Kendall, even having "dined openly with Susan McDougal and her counsel." Horrors!

"To see the President allied with the McDougals, criminal defendants in a duly authorized Federal investigation, outraged Starr and his team," Schmidt and Weisskopf dutifully report.

Starr's own tormented, paranoid worldview pervades the entire book, with its depiction of the upright, Bible-quoting Starr ever under attack and repeatedly stymied by the devious White House cabal of the Clintons, their lawyers, plus James Carville, Sidney Blumenthal, and other anti-Starr conspirators.

When Monica Lewinsky's second set of lawyers, Washington insiders Plato Cacheris and Jake Stein, joined David Kendall in seeking court action to stop the torrent of leaks from Starr's office, we have the privilege of learning what Starr's innermost thoughts were at that moment:

“He [Starr] had been disturbed, though, by the role of Stein and Cacheris. What were respected lawyers like them doing on the other side, Starr wondered. Why were they allied with the enemies of the truth, defenders of the darkness. . . ?”

Starr is not the only object of the authors’ adoration. At times, this verges on the pornographic, such as their description of Starr’s top deputy, Hickman Ewing, while he was presenting the evidence against Hillary Clinton to a meeting of the combined Little Rock and Washington staff: “Ewing, compact and athletic, began his presentation. . . .”

There’s more. Consider the following passage, concerning Starr’s reaction to the investigation of the leaks of secret information from Starr’s office to the news media. That day, Starr had just learned that Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder had offered to Chief Judge Norma Johnson Holloway, who was supervising Starr’s grand jury investigation, to assist the court in any way possible in its leak investigation.

“That night Starr woke up at 3 a.m. with a start. *Holder was trying to insert himself into the leak investigation*, he thought. Starr felt betrayed.”

The reader might justifiably wonder: Just exactly *how* do Schmidt and Weisskopf know what Starr was thinking at 3:00 in the morning?

‘It’s Not About Sex’

The most amusing portions of the book—apart from the adulatory descriptions of Starr’s relentless “search for the truth”—are the authors’ defense of the salacious sexual details included in Starr’s 1998 report to Congress. You see, Ken didn’t really want to do it, but it was that nasty Bill Clinton, insisting on his legalistic definition of sexual relations, who forced Starr to put all that dirty stuff in the report.

In fact, there were strenuous disputes within Starr’s staff about how much detail should go into the report. And the authors make the case that it was Starr himself who overrode the objections, and determined that so much explicit material should go into the report.

Starr took the hard line, arguing that the sexual detail was essential to prove their case against the President—but he nevertheless maintained that the case was *not* about sex.

“To him [Starr], this was no more a sex case than Watergate had been a third-rate burglary,” Schmidt and Weisskopf write. “It was a test of the rule of law, a challenge to Clinton’s mockery of it. He told the staff it was their ‘duty’ to present contradictory facts from other witnesses to prove the Presidential lies. ‘We cannot afford the luxury of blinking,’ he said. . . . ‘We have to prove our case.’ ”

And then, we learn that Starr was shocked, shocked that Congress decided to release the entire report, with all its pornographic detail, to the public. “It never occurred to Starr that lawmakers would release grand jury material unedited,” we are told. “Starr had misread Congress. . . . Starr had sent his

report to Congress expecting it to get the same judicious handling a sensitive brief would receive at the Supreme Court.”

(One can picture Starr helpfully pausing at this point in his dictation, to make sure the stenographer gets it all down.)

The related fraud of the Schmidt-Weisskopf public-relations brochure for Starr, is its blithe dismissal of any suggestion that Starr was part of a larger conspiracy to bring down Clinton. In order to maintain the fiction that Starr was nothing more than a righteous truth-seeker, who was dragged into the controversies surrounding Clinton against his will, the authors are compelled to skip over the circumstances of his appointment, and attempt to prove that there could not have been any conspiracy involving the right-wing spooky billionaire Richard Mellon Scaife—because Scaife and Starr supposedly never met. They reduce the story of the Scaife-bank-rolled “Arkansas Project” to one paragraph, enabling them to dismiss the whole thing as “wispy.”

Why the Washington Post?

In this respect, the *The Hunting of the President* by Joe Conason and Gene Lyons is a useful, albeit incomplete, antidote to the fantastical cover-up perpetrated by Starr’s enthusiasts Schmidt and Weisskopf.

For starters, the Conason-Lyons book provides some insight into both the *Washington Post*’s and Sue Schmidt’s shameless promotion of Kenneth Starr.

As to the *Post* itself, Conason and Lyons report that Starr “had earned the deference of the *Washington Post*” by his 1987 appellate court decision in the libel suit brought against the *Post* by a top executive of Mobil Oil. Not only did Starr overturn a multimillion-dollar jury verdict against the *Post*, but, they report: “Among editors and executives at the *Post*, Bob Woodward was hardly alone in regarding that opinion as one of the most important moments in the paper’s history, freeing it from inhibiting strictures on its tradition of aggressive investigative reporting.” (However, we might note, “investigative reporting” is too kind a term for the sort of pro-prosecution smear jobs which pass for reporting at the *Washington Post*.)

Schmidt, a reporter on the savings and loan institutions beat, was catapulted onto the *Post*’s special Whitewater team in 1993, as the result of having received an important leaked document from the Resolution Trust Corp. (RTC). That particular document was the politically motivated—and specious—criminal referral regarding the Clintons and Madison Guaranty bank in Arkansas. It ended up in a front-page article by Schmidt in the *Washington Post* on Oct. 31, 1993, which helped launch the drive for an independent counsel to investigate the Clintons’ Whitewater-related transactions.

Although it was never proven that Jean Lewis, the fanatically anti-Clinton RTC investigator who drafted the phony criminal referral, was the one who leaked the document to Schmidt, the *Post* reporter’s flattering (and inaccurate) portrayal of Lewis during Lewis’s stumbling and self-contradict-

tory Congressional testimony two years later, did nothing to allay those suspicions. The Lewis referral, as many *EIR* articles earlier reported, was based on allegations made by David Hale, a Little Rock con-man and former municipal judge, who was the beneficiary of legal assistance from one of Mellon Scaife's top lawyer operatives in Washington, Theodore Olson, already by late 1993.

When Hale took the witness standing during Whitewater-related trials in Little Rock in 1996, the *Post*'s Schmidt (never one to forget a favor) again presented Hale in the most favorable, flattering—and grossly inaccurate—light possible.

And then, on Jan. 21, 1998, it was Schmidt, on page one of the *Washington Post*, who was the first to break the Lewinsky story into the mainstream print media—a story once again based on leaks from Starr's office.

The True Origins of the Lewinsky Scandal

At the end of 1998, this reviewer wrote an article entitled "It Didn't Start with Monica: The Five-Year Campaign To Bring Down President Clinton" (*EIR*, Jan. 1, 1999). That article traced the then-ongoing impeachment effort back to Hale's "Whitewater" tales peddled during the 1992 election campaign, and to Hale's efforts to save his own skin after being indicted in the fall of 1993.

By late 1993, we showed, Hale had been picked up by Olson and the "Arkansas Project"—the \$2.4 million covert operation run through the British-linked *American Spectator* magazine, with Scaife money and Olson's legal expertise, which was designed to dig up derogatory information and potential witnesses against Bill and Hillary Clinton. Sex got added into the mix with the December 1993 publication of the "Troopergate" saga in the *American Spectator*.

As *EIR* reported, the ubiquitous Olson was not just the lawyer for the *American Spectator* and an operative for the British-trained Mellon Scaife; he was also Starr's former law partner and close friend. Additionally, Olson and his wife Barbara came to host a weekly "salon" at their secluded Great Falls, Virginia home, where much of the planning for Starr's assault on the Presidency was carried out.

The Paula Jones civil suit—Starr's vehicle for transforming the Whitewater real estate inquiry into a tawdry sex-and-lies inquisition—was, of course, an outgrowth of the "Troopergate" article. At the time of Starr's appointment as independent counsel to replace the first Whitewater independent counsel in August 1994, it was known to some extent, but not fully, that Starr had been involved around the edges of the Paula Jones case.

What was not known at the time—except perhaps to some of those doing the recommending and appointing—was that Starr's associate Theodore Olson was already deeply involved in efforts to bring down President Clinton. Had the full extent of Olson's activities been public knowledge at the time, it is inconceivable that Starr could have been named independent counsel. (Nor was it known at the

time, that which *EIR* is now in the process of documenting: that Starr was in the running to be appointed earlier, at the beginning of 1994, when Attorney General Janet Reno ultimately named Robert Fiske as the first Whitewater independent counsel.)

From Atwater to Olson

Conason and Lyons have gone this author's description of the "five-year campaign" to bring down the President one better: They have documented a *ten-year* campaign to destroy Bill and Hillary Clinton—as suggested by the book's subtitle. They trace the campaign against Clinton back to 1989, when George Bush operative and Republican National Committee chairman Lee Atwater went to Little Rock to conspire with local Republican operatives about how to ensure Bill Clinton's defeat in the 1990 gubernatorial elections, so that Clinton could not be the Democratic Presidential nominee in 1992.

Atwater believed that Clinton, as a southern moderate, was the one potential Democratic candidate who could beat Bush in the 1992 elections. Atwater vowed to work with Arkansas Republicans "to throw everything we can at Clinton—drugs, women, whatever works," adding: "We may or may not win, but we'll bust him up so bad he won't be able to run again for years."

The cabal of Clinton's enemies in Arkansas who plotted with the Bush camp and Atwater around the 1990 campaign were ultimately unsuccessful, but they formed the core group that made themselves and their dirt-collection available to the national news media during the 1992 Presidential campaign. They didn't succeed in stopping Clinton in 1992 either, but nor did they give up.

Toward the end of Clinton's first year in office, this same Arkansas gang put itself at the disposal of a well-financed group of operatives for the Scaife-Olson "Arkansas Project"—which was organized at a meeting at Olson's Washington law offices. *EIR* has reported previously that Olson functioned as Starr's controller: that he was the one with the "overview" of the entire field of activity bearing on Starr's operation, and that he was also Starr's liaison to the Justice Department's permanent bureaucracy. Conason and Lyons provide additional detail on Olson's central role in providing the link from Starr's office, through David Hale, to a network of right-wing journalists such as Ambrose Evans-Pritchard of the London *Sunday Telegraph*, Chris Ruddy of the Scaife-owned *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, and the *Wall Street Journal*'s Micah Morrison.

Although *EIR* has been the most persistent in elaborating the crucial role of Olson in the legal attack on President Clinton, we are pleased to see that Conason's and Lyons's researches led them to the same conclusion. They write:

"If any single figure in Washington embodied the effort to undermine Clinton it was Ted Olson, the former Reagan aide turned Republican power lawyer. Olson didn't seek pub-

licity (leaving his name off *Spectator* essays, for example) but he had played a part in almost every assault on the President, as an attorney for David Hale, as counselor to the Arkansas Project, as friend and defender of Kenneth Starr—and as a secret advisor to the lawyers for Paula Jones as well.”

Whitewater Dead-End

For all their efforts, the “Whitewater” saga manufactured by David Hale and his cronies, and laundered through Olson to Starr, was never sufficient to bring Clinton down.

And despite Starr’s later protestations to the contrary, *EIR* has shown many times that there was nothing fortuitous about Starr’s hijacking of the Paula Jones “sexual harassment” case. Starr’s takeover of the Jones civil suit is documented in *The Hunting of the President*, in excruciating detail.

By no later than mid-1997, Starr’s Whitewater investigation was dead in the water. The only hope Starr and his deputies had of reviving it, was if they could turn either Susan McDougal or Webster Hubbell into witnesses against the President. Joining Starr in efforts to pressure McDougal into cooperation were two leading members of the Get-Clinton press corps: *Newsweek*’s Michael Isikoff and ABC-TV’s Chris Vlasto.

Meanwhile, Starr had begun, already soon after the 1996 elections, deploying FBI agents and a team of private investigators to try and dig up dirt on Clinton’s sex life. But, how to turn sexual indiscretions into a criminal, or impeachable offense, presented a formidable challenge.

The break for Starr and the Get-Clinton Olson salon came in May 1997, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that pre-trial discovery could go ahead in the Paula Jones case. And a month later, the *Washington Post* (under the by-lines of Bob Woodward and Susan Schmidt) reported in a front-page story that Starr’s investigators were actively digging for dirt around Clinton’s sex life, having questioned at least eight present and former Arkansas state troopers, about Clinton’s personal affairs, and specifically naming Susan McDougal and Paula Jones, among others.

From the beginning, the Paula Jones case was a project of the covert Scaife-Olson Get-Clinton task force. *EIR* has emphasized over the years the critical role of London’s Ambrose Evans-Pritchard in launching the lawsuit—a point also made in the Conason-Lyons book.

What is presented with much new detail in *The Hunting of the President* is the secret, behind-the-scenes workings of the group of young lawyers grouped in the Scaife-bankrolled Federalist Society, who provided extensive legal assistance to Jones’s on-the-record lawyers, and who eventually functioned as the covert back channel linking the Jones lawyers with a select group of journalists and with Starr’s office.

This group—which one of its members, Ann Coulter, called the “elves”—was centered around Jerome Marcus of Philadelphia, George Conway III of New York, and Richard Porter, a former Dan Quayle aide who was a member of Starr’s



Bill and Hillary Clinton, April 1999. The dirty tricks and slander campaigns against them which began in Arkansas in the 1980s, were taken over by Clinton’s British- and Wall-Street-backed enemies in the 1990s.

law firm Kirkland & Ellis. When Jones’s lawyers were getting ready for their Supreme Court argument in early 1997, the elves arranged for them to be prepped in a secret session by two of their mentors and leading lights of the Federalist Society: former judge Robert Bork and Ted Olson.

After the May 1997 green light from the Supreme Court, Jones’s lawyers felt free to seek out and take testimony from any women who had claimed sexual harassment by Bill Clinton. With some help from a private investigator/informant working for Starr and Hickman Ewing in Arkansas named Larry Wood, Jones’s lawyers learned the identity of one-time White House volunteer Kathleen Willey, who was already telling her now-transformed tale of sexual harassment to *Newsweek*’s Isikoff—who is described as “an honorary member of the Jones team.”

(Conason and Lyons also reveal that Wood was the liaison between Ewing and a group of reporters who got regular leaks from Starr’s Little Rock office—notably Evans-Pritchard, Ruddy of Scaife’s *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, and the *New York Post*’s John Crudele.)

The strange saga of Kathleen Willey (see *EIR*, Nov. 13, 1998) was further complicated by two factors, detailed in the Conason-Lyons book: that Willey’s one-time friend Linda Tripp was adamant that Willey was *not* a victim of sexual

harassment by the President, but that she had in fact been stalking Bill Clinton, and that the “elves” group was taking confidential information about Willey from Jones’s legal team and leaking it to the news media, particularly to cyber-gossip Matt Drudge.

One of the purposes of the leaks, orchestrated by Ann Coulter and the “elves,” was to prevent any settlement of the Jones case—something which Jones’s lawyers and Clinton’s lawyers were close to. Coulter later told Isikoff: “We were terrified that Jones would settle. It was contrary to our purpose of bringing down the President.” This sabotage led to the resignation of Jones’s lawyers in August 1997.

For those who deny the existence of a “right-wing conspiracy” around the assault on President Clinton, the Conason-Lyons description of how Linda Tripp got in contact with Jones’s lawyers (the new team) is instructive. The contact was made by Richard Porter, the law partner of Kenneth Starr, who was also a close friend of “elf” Jerome Marcus. To make the story as simple as possible, it worked like this. Tripp was put in touch with the spook-turned-literary-agent Lucianne Goldberg through former White House speechwriter Tony Snow. Goldberg called the right-wing Chicago publisher and Scaife friend Alfred Regnery; Regnery called Peter W. Smith, the Chicago businessman who had funded both the original “Troopergate” research and Newt Gingrich’s GOPAC; Smith called Porter; Porter called George Conway; Conway called Jones’s new lawyers in Dallas; and Tripp got a subpoena.

It is believed that Tripp also made several anonymous calls to Jones’s lawyers, urging them to subpoena both her and Lewinsky. But, Tripp wanted to maintain the pretense that she was being summoned to testify involuntarily—which aided her in setting up the famous “talking points” memo, which was later used to falsely claim that Lewinsky (with the White House urging her on) was asking Tripp to perjure herself.

The “talking points” document—illegally leaked to the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, etc.—provided the pretext under which Starr’s office was able to insert itself into the Jones case, transforming the civil suit into a criminal matter. Conason and Lyons make a compelling case that the “talking points” were nothing more or less than Lewinsky’s writing-up of Tripp’s own discussions with Lewinsky about what Tripp herself would say if “forced” to testify.

Ironically, Jones’s lawyers weren’t very enthusiastic about having Tripp testify: They believed that her testimony would contradict and discredit the allegations of sexual harassment being made by Willey against the President—allegations which the Jones lawyers needed to bolster their own, extremely flimsy case against the President.

Via the network of lawyer “elves” (who had inserted one of their own, Paul Rosenzweig, into Starr’s office by November 1997), Tripp provided two critical elements to Starr’s office. First, through the fraudulent “talking points” document, Starr’s office was provided with the excuse to take over

the Paula Jones case, on the grounds that it was investigating possible obstruction of justice and suborning of perjury by the President or his top aides. Second, Tripp played a key role in setting up the “perjury trap” for Clinton himself in his deposition in the Paula Jones case. The broad outlines of this story—how Tripp set up Lewinsky to be grabbed by Starr’s agents on Jan. 16, 1998—are well known; and that Tripp met that same evening with Jones’s lawyers, and briefed them on what had taken place that day with Lewinsky, is also generally known.

In addition to providing some new details of those events, Conason and Lyons also point out that when Tripp’s lawyer met *Newsweek*’s Isikoff still later that same night to play the crucial Tripp-Lewinsky tape for him, this was being done at the behest of Starr’s office.

The Bigger Picture

What Conason and Lyons make no attempt to do, is to situate the assault on the President in its political context. *EIR* has elaborated that the attack on Clinton was not simply a linear continuation of local Arkansas politics, or even of national party politics along Republican-Democratic lines. At the root of the entire operation, was the fear on the part of the British-American financial establishment that the new President, Bill Clinton, would break out of the confines of the Anglo-American special relationship, by overturning fundamental aspects of British geopolitics (such as Clinton did with his promotion of peace processes in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and the Balkans), and of the International Monetary Fund-dominated financial game (which Clinton threatened to do around the IMF and Russia in late 1993).

Evans-Pritchard, the Hollinger Corp.’s agent in Washington, gave the game away already in June 1993, less than six months into Clinton’s first term, when he worried out loud in the pages of the London *Sunday Telegraph*, that Clinton was establishing a new “special relationship” between the United States and Germany, which would downgrade Britain “to the status of a secondary ally.” In 1994, the British press went berserk against Clinton, accusing him of killing off the “special relationship” with the mother country.

As the global financial crisis deepened, particularly in 1997-98, the British and their assets inside the United States were determined to do everything they could to ensure that President Clinton did not break out of the mold, and act as Franklin Roosevelt might have acted, to take on the British/Wall Street “economic royalists” and to move toward a new, just international economic order.

To understand the deeper motives behind the campaign to bring down President Clinton, this context, especially as relates to foreign policy and the financial crisis, must be taken into account. Once that is done, then the Conason-Lyons book is an excellent description of how the mechanics of that process worked. When read against the backdrop of “Stenographer Sue,” it’s even better.