

National News

Is Virginia Oligarchy Funding Nader for Bush?

Sources in Virginia's "Hunt Country" in Loudoun County, well connected in GOP circles, report that the word has come down from networks associated with George W. Bush to open the funding spigots for Ralph Nader's Green Party Presidential campaign. The sources report that large sums of money from wealthy Hunt Country families are to be laundered through the lists of supporters of various environmental and "anti-sprawl" outfits to Nader. One source reported that the Bush "Lords of Loudoun" networks had been chosen for this operation, since "they are already up to their eyeballs in environmental and similar causes. It will look perfectly okay."

This source said that he was aware from "high circles" in the GOP, that key party people, as well as Bush's most direct controllers, know about the operation. The idea is that if Nader can stay in the race through November as a "credible," but minor, candidate, he will significantly offset the impact of a possible Reform Party run by Pat Buchanan, which "the Bush people are trying to scuttle."

These sources also report that the same Hunt Country families are also funding the network of protest groups that intend to demonstrate—possibly violently—at the Los Angeles Democratic Convention. Protests at the GOP convention were reportedly run by these same networks, some of which were trained in the Middleburg, Virginia area, and who participated in the violent demonstrations in Seattle last year against the meeting of the World Trade Organization.

Farrakhan: LaRouche Was Targetted for His Ideas

Minister Louis Farrakhan, National Representative of the Nation of Islam, held a press briefing in Houston on Aug. 5, at the end of a "community leadership meeting," at which some 200 Houston community leaders were

present. Responding to a question from *EIR*'s Brian Lantz, regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's shredding of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in the case of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Minister Farrakhan replied:

"The Voting Rights Act bill, which was passed in 1965, which gave us the right to vote, comes up for review in a few years. . . . Mr. LaRouche, what he suffers, is because of his ideas. In Washington, D.C., the people there voted for Marion Barry, after his fall from grace. Once he was re-elected as mayor, they started to strip him of his powers, of his office, *nullifying the vote* of the people.

"You really look at it, your vote really doesn't mean that much anyway. This is not a true democracy. This is game playing. This is deception. This is fraud practiced on the American people; not just on Lyndon LaRouche, but on the American people. And the only way that this fraud can be exposed and manifested, is that there must be a *people movement* in America to take back the power that was mandated to them by the Constitution of the United States. No individual will be able to do it! It must be an individual or individuals backed by the mass movement of the dissatisfied elements of the American electorate. That's why the Million Family March, to me, is important, is because those issues of which you speak are the same issues that we have. And if we join these issues, then perhaps we can make an impact."

Dick Morris Expounds on GOP 'Triangulation'

"Dirty Dick" Morris, writing in the *New York Post* on Aug. 4, says that the Republicans have just completed their most successful convention since 1988, laying out an agenda of issues normally deemed "Democratic." Morris calls this a victory for his strategy of political "triangulation," in which all matters of principle are thrown to the winds in favor of opportunism.

Morris, who was chief campaign adviser to Bill Clinton during the 1996 election, foisted the "triangulation" policy onto Clinton, with devastating results for the nation, and for the President himself. Morris re-

signed his post on Aug. 29, 1996, just after the Democratic Convention, when his perverse toe-sucking affair with a high-priced prostitute was brought into the public eye. Morris is the cousin and protégé of the late Roy Cohn, the lawyer and dirty-trickster for Sen. Joe McCarthy.

"With the traditional GOP issues of welfare, crime, the deficit, taxes, and Communism largely exhausted," Morris writes in the *Post*, "the Republican Party has begun the mammoth task of transplanting itself into the new turf of education reform, Social Security preservation, Medicare stabilization, and health-care expansion.

"At times, viewers must have wondered if their TVs were malfunctioning and broadcasting the Democratic convention instead of the Republican conclave. Such is the way of triangulation."

Gore is going to have a rough time challenging the Republicans without going too negative and without turning off swing voters, Morris warns. His first mission "is to escape Bill Clinton's gravitational pull" and go off on his own.

Pentagon Disputes GOP on Military Readiness

At the Pentagon briefing on Aug. 3, a reporter asked about statements made by several speakers at the Republican National Convention, who were quoting from Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf (ret.), saying the U.S. military today is much smaller and less prepared than it was ten years ago.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon acknowledged that the military is smaller, and pointed out that this shrinkage started in 1989—at the beginning of the Bush Administration. Bacon said that these reductions in size of the military and military spending, bottomed out in the last couple of years and budgets have started to increase, beginning around 1996-97. "The most significant increase in spending occurred as a result of meetings that President Clinton had with the Joint Chiefs in 1998, in September," Bacon said. "It was those meetings that led to a \$112 billion-plus up in military spending that was proposed in January of 1999, January or

JOE ANDREW, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who excluded elected delegates pledged to Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. from the Democratic Party Convention, displayed the unbelievable hypocrisy on Aug. 2 of criticizing the Republicans for excluding primary candidates from the stage at their convention. "They don't want those people on the stage," said Andrew. "The tradition, certainly, in both parties, has been that if you run for President, you speak from the podium. We certainly look forward to having Bill Bradley speak at our convention."

CONDOLEEZZA RICE, foreign policy adviser to George W. Bush, said in an Aug. 2 interview to MSNBC that President Clinton was wrong to have classified AIDS in Africa as a national security matter. It is "a health problem," she said, and she does not intend to deal with it as part of her foreign and national security policy advice to Bush.

MORE THAN 934,000 elderly Medicare beneficiaries will be dropped by health maintenance organizations (HMOs) next year, the Clinton Administration reported. This is almost a third greater than the 711,000 cuts which the HMOs had projected in June.

THE STATES cannot account for people eliminated from the welfare rolls, according to a General Accounting Office report. More than 2 million families have left the state welfare rolls because of the 1996 welfare reform act. Of the families still on the rolls, most of the parents are working.

PENNSYLVANIA'S largest teachers union filed a lawsuit on July 31, asking that the law allowing state takeovers of school districts be declared unconstitutional. The law sets a three-year deadline for nine districts, including Philadelphia's, to improve standardized test scores or be taken over by the state.

February of '99, for the fiscal 2000 budget, and that has gone into effect, and what you see now is an improvement in spending and other trends."

When asked about GOP Vice Presidential candidate Dick Cheney's statement that morale in the military is at an all-time low, Bacon said that one very tangible measurement of morale is retention, and that rates of retention are rising.

Smart Business: Blair Burkes Gore

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in a comment on Aug. 2, noted that London sources have told the British press that Prime Minister Tony Blair has ordered his team to break off close working relations with Blair's own former crony, Vice-President Al Gore, and prepare to give a "conquering hero" reception in London for Republican Presidential candidate George W. Bush.

"In effect," said LaRouche, "Blair, the reincarnated Burke of the celebrated Burke-Hare team, has dumped his long-standing partner in resurrections, saying: 'When a loving chum turns up dead meat, any smart businessman does what he has to do.'"

Burke and Hare were a 19th-century team of Irish entrepreneurs who smothered their victims in order to sell their bodies to the medical profession for dissection.

Administration To Cut Medicare Drug Payments

The Clinton Administration is planning to cut payments for anti-cancer drugs, administered to patients in doctors' offices, in order to "save money" for Medicare, the *New York Times* reported on Aug. 6. Hundreds of thousands of elderly patients, who receive chemotherapy and other treatment in their doctors' offices, will be most immediately affected.

The rationale for this action, according to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, is that Medicare is paying too much for the drugs, more than the doc-

tors themselves pay, and that these "excessive Medicare payments" must be reduced, possibly as early as Oct. 1. Doctors respond that while they receive more from Medicare than they pay for some of the drugs, the extra payments are necessary to cover chemotherapy costs not reimbursed by Medicare.

An estimated 750,000 Medicare beneficiaries receive chemotherapy in doctors' offices annually, according to Dr. Joseph S. Bailes, former president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Most of these patients suffer from breast, colon, or lung cancer.

The announced decision has provoked an angry response from patients, doctors, nurses, and members of Congress. One hundred and twenty members of Congress have written to Shalala to protest the action. Chris Jennings, White House health policy coordinator, defended the move, saying that doctors are upset because they'll be losing substantial amounts of income. "Patients should not be hurt in any way, but taxpayers should get a fair deal," he argued. At least half of all patients receiving chemotherapy in the United States are on Medicare. It is quite likely that, following the government's lead, private insurers will lower their reimbursement rates as well.

Prison Population Tops 2 Million

The number of people held in U.S. prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities surpassed 2 million at the end of 1999, according to a report released by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics on Aug. 9. The U.S. prison and jail population, long the world's largest, and the second highest per capita in the world (after Russia), added nearly 74,000 inmates in 1999.

In addition to inmates in prisons and jails, there were about 106,000 juveniles held in secure facilities, 18,000 in territorial prisons, nearly 7,700 in immigration facilities, nearly 2,300 in military facilities, and 1,600 in American Indian jails. The total incarcerated population has swelled by 77% since 1990, an increase of nearly 600,000 inmates, the report found.