

Murdoch Media Agent Planted 'Axis' on Bush

By Edward Spannaus

Mid-February reports have identified the author of the “axis of evil” tirade in President Bush’s State of the Union Address, as speechwriter David Frum, a Canadian subject who has previously worked for both the Hollinger Corporation and Rupert Murdoch, two of the leading British Empire a/k/a Commonwealth news media conglomerates. Frum has been a columnist for Hollinger’s *National Post* of Canada, and a contributing editor to Murdoch’s *Weekly Standard*; he is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute (funded by the Scaife, Bradley, and Olin Foundations), and the author of *Dead Right*, a 1994 book praised by ideologue William F. Buckley Jr. as “the most refreshing ideological experience in a generation”).

Loves Churchill, Hates FDR

A few other indications of Frum’s loyalty to the British adversaries of the United States:

- In a lengthy article published in 1996 in the *New Criterion*, Frum praised Adam Smith as “the most influential thinker of the modern world”—the American Revolution was fought *against* the British Free-Trade policies which pen-for-hire Adam Smith so slavishly promoted. Frum even praised the malevolent Bernard Mandeville—whom Cotton Mather, Benjamin Franklin, and other fathers of the American Republic viewed as the epitome of evil.

- Frum’s nomination for the “Man of the Century” was none other than Winston Churchill. Writing in the *Weekly Standard*, Frum attacked Franklin Delano Roosevelt as having aided the three great killers of the 20th Century—Stalin, Mao, and Hitler. (Frum no doubt is aware of FDR’s repeated confrontations with Churchill over British imperialism and colonialism, and Roosevelt’s stern warnings to Churchill that the United States was not fighting World War II in order to perpetuate 19th Century colonial methods.)

- In an Oct. 14, 2000 op-ed published in Conrad Black’s *National Post*, Frum declared, happily, that the Oslo peace process is “stone cold dead.” This was shortly after Ariel Sharon’s Sept. 28 provocation at the Temple Mount, which triggered the violent destabilization of the Labor Party-led Barak government, and sabotaged any prospects of a final settlement deal.

Frum wrote Bush’s May 3, 2001 speech to the American Jewish Committee, which made all manner of wild charges

against Sudan—including accusing the Sudanese government of promoting slavery—and attacked China, Iraq, Iran, Burma and others for human rights violations. Frum was also part of the neo-con crowd that was obsessed with lurid fantasies about Bill Clinton’s sex life; in April 1998, he ranted that “Bill Clinton has teams of goons roving around the country silencing witnesses.”

A Wifely Boast

This super-American was born in Toronto. His mother was Barbara Frum, a well-known, liberal CBC broadcaster; his father was Murray Frum, a land developer who became a well-known collector of African art. Apparently in rebellion against his parents’ liberalism, Frum gravitated into the “neo-Conservative” crowd, becoming a protege of Irving Kristol, and friends with the likes of “red diaper” neo-Con David Horowitz.

Danielle Crittenden, the speech-writer’s wife, is a CNN commentator; her father is Peter Worthington, editor emeritus of the *Toronto Sun*.

Frum’s putative authorship of the “axis of evil” line came to light when a gossip columnist for the *National Post* of Canada, received an e-mail which had been sent to family and friends by Frum’s wife.

“Dear all, I realize this is very ‘Washington’ of me to mention but my husband is responsible for the ‘Axis of Evil’ segment of Tuesday’s State of the Union address. It’s not often a phrase one writes gains national notice—unless you’re in advertising of course (‘The Pause that refreshes’)—so I’ll hope you’ll indulge my wifely pride in seeing this one repeated in headlines everywhere!!”

A Feb. 1 editorial in Frum’s father-in-law’s newspaper, the *Toronto Sun*, also identified Frum as the author of the “axis of evil.”

However, syndicated columnist Robert Novak wrote that Frum actually proposed “axis of hate” to describe Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and that chief Bush speechwriter Michael Gerson (who brought Frum on board in the first place) changed it to “axis of evil.” Novak noted that self-identification of language by a presidential ghostwriter is supposed to be absolutely forbidden.

Columnist Chris Matthews wrote on Feb. 14, that President’s Bush’s war on terrorism, originally targeting Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda, has been “hijacked” by a “coterie of neo-Conservative thinkers led by *Weekly Standard* publisher William Kristol and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz,” who are now writing Bush’s script. “Out of the ashes of Sept. 11, they and their rightist associates found what they’ve long yearned for: an American government headed for war in the Middle East.”

This crowd had long wanted to go after Saddam Hussein, Matthews wrote, and Sept. 11 gave them a new opening: “*Weekly Standard* writer David Frum, now a speechwriter for Bush, authored the term ‘axis of evil’. . . . Finally, the President was speaking from the script.”