

Small boys in a big playpen

Inept GOP contenders disgrace the party of Lincoln

The revelation by Wall Street lawyer Rita Hauser, a New York State collaborator of James Schlesinger, that she is running the presidential campaign of Texan "Big John" Connally lock, stock and barrel, has thrown embarrassing new light on what was an already disgraceful field of GOP presidential contenders. In an interview (page 31), Hauser not only bragged that every word to come from Connally's mouth lately had been planted there by herself, but that the sole purpose of the surprising support that the Texan has been receiving lately from New York Council on Foreign Relations-connected circles is to sidetrack the conservative movement behind former California governor Ronald Reagan.

But Reagan himself has cut a sorry picture lately, and no front-running GOP contender has shown much awareness, let alone concern, of where U.S. national interests lie.

With the crowded field of inept Republican hopefuls splitting the party, it is hardly surprising that the New York Council on Foreign Relations and the Zionist lobby expect that their boy General Alexander Haig can easily grab the GOP nomination, and from there make the final leap into the White House. A brief look at the competition (opposite) shows that Haig has little to worry about from his GOP challengers, and helps explain why some Washington wags have nicknamed the GOP the "Grand Old Playpen":

Psywar needed for Haig to win — terror expert

General William Yarborough, a top expert on international terrorism, outlines in the following interview his colleague Alexander Haig's "psychological" strategy for winning the Republican Party's presidential nomination.

Q: Your colleague, General Haig, has been advocating a major buildup of NATO forces for some time now. Do you agree with him?

A: Very definitely. Yes. And NATO's on some shaky premises now. I'm one of those who feel that NATO is purposely being kept as a focal point by the Soviets, who have no intention, really, of ever invoking that option, because the rest of them are so much less dangerous, and they're working, slowly but surely.(...)

Q: What about an Al Haig presidency, there's a lot of talk ... of course, I don't know if he could be sold in the tradition of MacArthur and Ike...

A: Well, my friend Fritz Kraemer (Henry Kissinger's mentor — ed.), whose judgment I value very highly, thinks he's outstanding and would do a good job. I think his problems with the country would be psychological, as any military man's would, but on the plus side

is his proven ability to use staffs to do orderly planning, to work with heterogenous forces, to be a diplomat. He's got a lot of things going for him except for the fact that he's an army officer, and I don't know whether he can overcome that or not.

Q: You don't think that could be turned into an asset.

A: Well, with a proper psychological approach, done over a period of time. I don't know that there's that much time.... It would have to be a deep laid, psychological plan which is already beginning to unroll.

Q: What would you see as key to the strategy in the psychological planning, in terms of the campaign for it to be successful, to take the country?

A: I would think a layman's interpretation of the massive job that he's been doing over there with all of its facets, relating it to the domestic scene and, secondarily, to the world's posture, because so many people think of a general in terms of the cartoon guy, who only thinks of shooting and communications. There's a hell of a lot more to it, especially in a job like that.

Q: Do you think that he could win support from industry?

A: ... I have the feeling that he's been dealing all along with aspects of industry, but I don't know, there's still a pretty damn rough deal ... Eisenhower wasn't all that good....

John Connally: Clever, but an amoral scoundrel, Connally is a small-time fixer who is being fixed by the big leaguers on Wall Street. Although he began his campaign with a few promising remarks about the need for high-technology exports and expanded nuclear and oil development programs, his campaign was completely retooled after only a few days' stay at Harvard's Kennedy Center. Now, Connally is shaking his rattle at Japan and Germany for their strong economies and railing against the nasty "oil sheikhs."

Connally apparently hopes to toddle into the White House via meetings and fund raisers on Wall Street and at leading Zionist organizations, such as the April 5 fund raising meeting organized by Hauser at the American Jewish Congress.

Ronald Reagan: Controlled by a gaggle of social-democrat William F. Buckley's smart young men — John Sears, Lyn Nofziger, Mike Deaver and Peter Hannaford — Reagan seems to have regressed to somewhere in the vicinity of his "Knut Rockne" days. Reagan's refusal to address any major issue in the month since his nondescript appearance at the Republican National Committee meeting in Indiana makes him a sorry choice for the honest members of his executive committee and campaign apparatus.

George Bush: A man who has only 1 percent support in most polls, former CIA chief and China hand, Bush is strictly a bush-leaguer. Bush, who hides behind a conservative Texas image, is the scion of the old New England patrician family. In fact, he is allied to the Kennedy wing of Democratic Party politics. His father, Connecticut Senator Prescott Bush, sat on the board of Brown Brothers, Harriman, Averell Harriman's family bank, and is one of Ted Kennedy's leading allies today. Bush doesn't have to court the New York Council on Foreign Relations' aid: he sits on its board of trustees.

Howard Baker: Surrounded by unsavory campaign advisors, including Rhodes scholar Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), his campaign manager, Baker is a vain and lightweight intellect hopelessly smitten by the presidential bug as a consequence of a few moments on national television in the course of being ruled out as President Gerald Ford's running mate in 1976. Baker's foreign policy advice comes from Edward Luttwak, an unstable British subject and Israeli intelligence agent whose policies are modeled on Henry Kissinger's and what he glowingly terms the "grand strategy" of the decayed Roman Empire.

Robert Dole: Better known as "Senator Who?", Dole apparently hopes that the jokes he made at Walter Mondale while serving as Gerry Ford's running mate will carry him into the White House.

— Barbara Dreyfuss

Hauser: Connally can knock out Reagan

Rita Hauser, member of the British-backed Warburg law firm of Strock, Strock and Lavan and a leading spokesman for the New York Council on Foreign Relations and the Zionist lobby, is making policy for John Connally in his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, the following are her candid comments on the Connally campaign.

Connally contacted me in December and asked me to endorse his campaign. I met with my friends here, the CFR and others, and we decided that the most important thing is to get Reagan, knock him out. Connally's the only man who can do that....I've been in regular contact with him ever since; he calls me at least weekly and I just met with him two days ago. He's doing very well, everything I tell him he's incorporated. Have you followed what he's said about the Soviets? He's got an updated Nixon foreign policy, which is the same as the Committee on the Present Danger... Although he doesn't like Kissinger personally, he's using all of Kissinger's ideas, funneled through me....

I've been the main person organizing his campaign, getting endorsements, I got (former Attorney General under Eisenhower) Herbert Brownell to endorse him....Three weeks ago, I organized a fundraiser on Wall Street...yes, we got some big investment house money....

His Texas and Southwest oil friends are a negative, but maybe we can use them as a way to get the Mexicans and Saudis in line...Yes, he's a wheeler-dealer, but we're surrounding him with our members, briefing him on everything, organizing seminars, he's doing very well...

And let's be realistic. Sure, we're for Israel, but now we can use Camp David to get the Saudis in line, and Connally can do that...I got the American Jewish Congress to hold a little party at their headquarters on April 5 and I think they'll go for him in a big way....

Look, I don't think we have to worry too much about Connally. He's very hard; remember what he did to bring the Europeans and Japanese in line when he was Treasury Secretary?

Personally, I think Al Haig is the man, but he's got no backing, not the charisma Connally has. I like George Bush, too, but he's got a similar problem....