

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....