

Conservative Revolution takes aim at Clinton

by William Jones

As a deeply divided Republican Party assumes a majority on Capitol Hill for the first time since the Eisenhower years, with the fanfare and tinsel of a gala rock concert, all on-the-record statements of leading political figures still exude cooperation and bipartisanship. But meanwhile, in the back rooms, knives are being sharpened for an all-out effort to destroy the Clinton presidency. Heartened by their mid-term victory, the hard-core ideologues of the Conservative Revolution—even though many Republicans do not share their fascist world view—now feel that they are well-poised for capturing the presidency in 1996, and seem intent on doing so by wrecking the Clinton presidency, since they have little faith that the austerity policies in their bag of tricks can be imposed on their own “merits.”

In recent weeks, the Whitewater scandal has taken a back-seat to the month-long hype around the Republican “Contract with America” and the triumphal march of the *Wunderkind* of the conservative movement, Newt Gingrich. But as the 104th Congress gets down to business, Whitewater again moves to the top of their agenda, promising endless months ahead of media hype, hearings, and frivolous accusations in an attempt to whittle away at the commander-in-chief’s credibility.

Whitewater déjà vu

One of the first to jump back on the Whitewater bandwagon was Wall Street’s own Sen. Alfonse D’Amato (R-N.Y.). D’Amato, whose entire career has been fraught with scandal and suspicion of corruption, is now, to the delight of his Wall Street backers, the Republican chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. On Jan. 3, one day before the opening of the new Congress, D’Amato held a press conference on

Capitol Hill, at which he accused high-ranking Clinton administration officials of “serious misconduct and malfeasance.” Among other things, D’Amato claimed that former Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman had “deliberately lied” to Congress. D’Amato has urged Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr to look at alleged “contradictions” in committee testimony by White House officials for possible criminal violations, and to determine whether any “orchestration” of this testimony took place. The testimony was given last year by White House officials on Whitewater in hearings held by the Senate Banking Committee.

D’Amato is also demanding to know “what Webster Hubbell knew, and how he was involved in this information flow, either to the President or to the Justice Department.” Hubbell, a former associate attorney general, pleaded guilty last month to mail fraud and tax evasion in a deal made with Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

The Democrats on the Senate Banking Committee also issued a report on Jan. 3 with their findings from those hearings. While indicating that “too many people were having too many conversations about matters that they shouldn’t have had in the first place,” the Democratic majority found that no laws or ethics standard had been violated, and they saw no evidence of improper conduct in the Park Police investigation of the suicide last year of White House Assistant Vincent Foster. Both of these issues have been the brunt of Republican attacks on the Clinton White House for months on end.

Although D’Amato now accepts the conclusion of the majority report that Foster’s death was indeed a suicide, he now is demanding to know more about why Foster took his life. “There are unanswered questions as to why he took his

own life and what happened to the documents in his office after his death," D'Amato claims. D'Amato is also investigating any communications between President Clinton and Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker regarding Madison Guaranty, the savings and loan institution which is at the center of the overblown Whitewater affair.

The fact that "Big Al" was flanked at the press conference by such Republican heavies as Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orin Hatch (R-Utah) and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) is yet another indication that the Whitewater obsession is not simply the individual ravings of the highly erratic New York senator, but that many Republicans truly want to follow the orders issued by British intelligence, and beat this dead horse all the way to the next presidential election in November 1996.

At the same time, the media hype around Whitewater is providing a backdrop to the dire threat to the President's physical safety. The high density of security-related incidents in and around the White House, including the spraying of the White House with an automatic weapon by Francisco Duran, gives an indication of far more deadly operations already in the works.

Government by subpoena?

Republican legislators are also being seconded by Independent Counsel Starr, who is in fact a very partisan and hard-nosed Republican operative, and who was a key player in the Bush administration. At the urging of the Senate Banking Committee, Starr has renewed an investigation into the White House-Treasury contacts, including a review of the hearing testimony.

Although new hearings will be postponed so as not to interfere with the investigations of the independent counsel, D'Amato is intent on continuing his investigation, and has declared that he will "only go forward when we feel that we will not jeopardize his [Starr's] investigation—hopefully sooner rather than later." As investigations wind up again, the country may again be treated to "government by subpoena," as the Executive Branch gets locked up in endless hearings over frivolous accusations. At the same time, the Republican-dominated Congress hopes to ram through its package of budget cuts, driving the country deeper into destitution.

In his press conference on Jan. 3, Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) warned that the Whitewater affair is in danger of turning into a "political circus." "If this Congress turns into a squabble over politics, and people trying to gain the high ground politically, and to damage the President because it's a presidential election, then I think the people who engineer that kind of activity are going to pay the price," Dodd warned.

GOPers on a British leash

Pursuing Whitewater may very well backfire on the Republicans who are pushing it, in more ways than one. Most of the Whitewater dog-and-pony show is being orchestrated

by others, who play a much more low-key role than the outspoken senator from New York. Almost every bit of the Whitewater "sludge" was dredged up and kept alive by British intelligence operative Ambrose Evans-Pritchard in his scribblings in the London *Sunday Telegraph* and elsewhere. Every step along the way—Madison Guaranty, Troopergate, allegations that Vincent Foster was murdered—have all been stoked by Evans-Pritchard's rantings. The initial articles on Whitewater, printed in the Anglophile journal *American Spectator*, the paper which claimed to have "broken" the story, relied heavily on Evans-Pritchard.

At this point, it is only willful blindness which is preventing the puppets in this staged affair from seeing who is pulling their strings. Washington, D.C. and other major U.S. metropolitan centers have been inundated with hundreds of thousands of copies of a *New Federalist* pamphlet entitled "Why the British Kill American Presidents," which documents how Evans-Pritchard's controllers have never forgiven Clinton for severing the umbilical cord of the Anglo-American "special relationship" and instead establishing a strong working relationship with a reunited Germany as the main European interlocutor for the United States. As the pamphlet documents, the British oligarchy eliminated Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and Kennedy for identical reasons.

In his most recent scribblings, Evans-Pritchard has predicted a revival of the notorious story involving the running of drugs through a CIA operation based in Mena, Arkansas. In his Jan. 1 *Sunday Telegraph* column, he warned, "There are strong grounds for suspecting that the CIA used the corrupt rural state as a base for a covert supply operation, manufacturing untraceable weapons parts for shipment south to the Nicaraguan Contras, and possibly to the Guatemalan and Peruvian governments." Bill Clinton, as governor of Arkansas, Evans-Pritchard claims, had a "cozy" relationship with Ronald Reagan's CIA, and therefore is also implicated.

The operation described by Evans-Pritchard did in fact happen. But whatever connection Clinton may have had to it, one thing is sure: Republican Vice-President George Bush's relationship to it was infinitely closer. So, if the "big stick" of Mena, Arkansas is raised against the President, it could very well strike the very people who are attempting to eliminate him. Concerned about this possibility, the Jan. 3 *Washington Times* ran a one-page special report on Mena, attempting to give the story an anti-Clinton "spin." But even the *Washington Times* had to admit that one "thread" of the Mena story runs right back to former White House aide Oliver North, who is accused of having used Mena as a base for sending arms to the Contras. And connected to all of this, are such people as George Bush, his national security adviser and henchman Donald Gregg, and other characters of Iran-Contra infamy. Suddenly, out of the Mena, Arkansas story pops—the Conservative Revolution!

As the lid comes off this story, the stench is sure to sully the rosewater of the Gingrich revolution.