

## Whitewater Starr chamber may be running out of steam

by Edward Spannaus

It may not be accidental that at the same time that the Clinton administration is making some dramatic moves against drug-trafficking and money-laundering networks—moves which implicitly hit circles closely linked to George Bush's secret government apparatus which came to prominence in the 1980s—the attacks on President Clinton himself seem to be escalating.

Just as the federal prosecutors were bringing a massive indictment against the Cali Cartel and its Bush-linked lawyers, Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr indicted Clinton's successor in Arkansas, Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, along with Tucker's lawyer and a former business partner. Another associate of Tucker's pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge, and reportedly agreed to cooperate with the special prosecutor. The news media are rife with speculation that the noose is tightening around President Clinton's neck, and that the latest indictments portend that Starr is closing in on the White House.

The Tucker indictment was, no doubt, a nasty piece of work. But there may be less here than meets the eye.

Governor Tucker and his wife had both refused to give testimony before the Whitewater grand jury a week prior to his indictment. Tucker had accused Starr of improperly pressuring his wife and others for information. "Many of those people have had their wives threatened and their futures threatened. Just sheer intimidation," Tucker said. "If I don't resist this kind of stuff, who will?"

On June 8, Starr replied to Tucker's attack by indicting him, on charges which have nothing to do with President Clinton. The next day, *New York Post* financial columnist John Crudele, who has been receiving extremely detailed information on Starr's investigation, claimed that other indictments will soon be forthcoming. Crudele reported that Starr was "livid" and "fuming" because Tucker "tried to make him look like

a fool by publicly snubbing an invitation to visit with the grand jury," and that Starr "was ready to go after everyone. And that includes First Lady Hillary Clinton."

### Dead ends?

Starr's petulant indictment of Tucker and his seeming escalation against circles associated with President Clinton could be seen as a sign of weakness. This was suggested by, among others, the London *Observer* on June 11, which asserted that Starr's massive judicial inquiry "appears to have run into dead ends."

The *Observer* noted that aides of Clinton say Starr "is casting his net far wider than the President and the First Lady, and that he has spent \$10 million with 'nothing dramatic, nothing serious' to show for it."

Several of the supposedly big stories have fallen through, said the *Observer*: Hillary Clinton's commodity-trading deal turned out to be nothing criminal, and sinister shreddings of documents turned out to be routine disposals.

The *Observer* line on Whitewater is remarkably similar to a front-page feature run in the *Wall Street Journal* last Feb. 22, which already at that time pointed to Starr's failure to come up with a case against Bill and Hillary Clinton. What is most noteworthy about the Whitewater case, it said, "is how many of the biggest Whitewater headlines appear to be heading toward the cutting-room floor." The juiciest Whitewater allegations, such as Hillary's commodities profits or the shredding of mysterious documents, "have been all but discarded by criminal investigators."

The authors of the *Journal* piece went through nine different areas of investigation, including Whitewater-Madison, campaign loans, the Vincent Foster case, and document shredding, and show that in every single area, there was either no evidence of criminal wrongdoing, or if there were

any possible evidence, that the statute of limitations had already expired. Lesser figures might go to jail on white-collar charges, they wrote, but there is almost no one who believes anymore that Whitewater will ensnare the Clintons in criminal charges.

The only route that Starr could take would be to try to come up with a “coverup case” charging obstruction of justice, the authors wrote; they said that Starr is trying to figure out if he can cook up something around the removal of documents from Foster’s White House office after his death. But if no documents turn out to be missing, there would be no such case even here.

Starr is now focusing on the circumstances surrounding the death of Foster, according to a number of recent reports. He has now retained a crime-scene specialist, Henry C. Lee, to review the original reports on Foster’s death. Lee is the chief forensic scientist for the State of Connecticut, and has testified in many nationally high-profile cases.

Starr has gone back and forth on the Foster case. Earlier this year, Starr appeared to be accepting the conclusion of the previous Whitewater special prosecutor, Robert Fiske, that the Foster death was a suicide. But a second Whitewater grand jury, sitting in Washington, D.C., is continuing to call witnesses regarding the Foster case.

An expensive propaganda campaign exploiting the death of Foster has been being conducted by the same circles which are promoting the “Conservative Revolution” in Congress and generally revving up Whitewater. The “king of Foster conspiracy theories” is Christopher Ruddy, who writes for a Pittsburgh paper owned by Richard Scaife, a Mellon family heir and chief backer of the British-spawned Heritage Foundation; Ruddy’s chief sponsor otherwise is James Dale Davidson, the business partner of Lord William Rees-Mogg who also circulated an inflammatory tract titled “Waco2” in the period prior to the Oklahoma City bombing, charging that Clinton and “Field Marshal Reno” (Attorney General Janet Reno) were about to declare martial law.

Besides Rees-Mogg, the other architect of Whitewater has been the London *Sunday Telegraph*’s Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, who devoted his June 11 column once again to the Foster case. Pritchard, always in the van of Whitewater reportage, claimed that it’s now clear to everybody that Starr “is working from the premise that Vincent Foster may have been murdered.”

## The LaRouche Role

The story of the role of Rees-Mogg, the London *Sunday Telegraph*, and Evans-Pritchard in concocting the Whitewater assault on the U.S. Presidency was broken exclusively by *EIR* and its founder Lyndon LaRouche—although others, even the White House, have more recently commented on the role of the British press.

In a transparent effort to take the edge off LaRouche’s critical role in uncovering the British plot, the June 11 *Ob-*

*server* piece also presented a caricature of “conspiracy theories” allegedly floating around the United States. The article, titled, “Paranoia, MI6, and the Whitewater ‘Plot,’ ” described a U.S. magazine called *Paranoia*, and went on:

“Amid the sightings of unmarked black helicopters and forces of the new world order at work in the O.J. Simpson trial, Whitewater was all a plot, they are told, manipulated not by Bill Clinton, but by MI6 [the British foreign intelligence service].

“The theory goes roughly like this: The British Crown, frustrated by an Oxford alumnus in the White House who got rough with the special relationship, orchestrated the Whitewater affair through the good offices of the *Sunday Telegraph*, the [Rupert] Murdoch press, and even the *Economist*, to destroy the President.”

A little further on, the article got to its central point: “The British angle has been circulating for some time, pushed by the aging far-right extremist, Lyndon LaRouche, perennial presidential candidate, anti-Semite and millionaire ex-convict. LaRouche’s supporters put out 100,000 pamphlets, hawked on Washington street corners, detailing the plot; they also think the British killed JFK.”

Despite its lying characterizations of LaRouche, the *Observer* was compelled to admit that such conspiracy theories are “inspired by the wide play that conservative British newspapers, primarily the *Sunday Telegraph*, have given to the more lurid Whitewater scoops.”

The *Observer* also highlighted the role of the London *Times*’s Lord Rees-Mogg, who, it noted, wrote last February “that Clinton was presiding over a deeply corrupt state where businessmen made billions of dollars from drug smuggling and killed ‘dangerous witnesses, including schoolboys and probably including Vincent Foster.’ ”

## Starr’s army

Meanwhile, Starr is continuing to beat the bushes in Arkansas—as well as around Fort Marcy park near Washington—trying to come up with something, anything, with which he could nail Clinton’s hide to the wall.

Last February, it was reported that Starr already had more than 100 FBI agents based in Little Rock working on Whitewater. It was reported at that time that they were scouring through every financial transaction ever conducted involving Bill and Hillary Clinton—which seems to be confirmed by the subpoena issued to Tucker, which involved more than 100,000 documents spreading over 15 years.

The costs of Starr’s fishing expedition to the taxpayers is enormous. Recent General Accounting Office audit figures, reported in the June 7 *Wall Street Journal*, indicate that in the first eight months of operation, the two Whitewater special prosecutors spent \$5.5 million just on FBI agents and services alone. Whitewater spending is running at a far higher clip than Iran-Contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh’s investigation, which spanned the globe.