

Gingrich battered by FEC, House ethics complaints

by Suzanne Rose

America's leading crybaby, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and the movement he leads, have suffered several potentially devastating setbacks over the recent weeks. On Nov. 30, the Federal Election Commission made public over 1,000 pages of exhibits from its ongoing investigation and civil complaint against GOPAC, the political committee headed by Gingrich until earlier this year. The FEC is seeking summary judgment in U.S. District Court on its complaint that GOPAC was not registered with the FEC as a federal political committee, at a time when it provided funds for the reelection of Gingrich in 1990, and a number of other candidates for federal office. The exhibits and complaint throw at issue the whole process by which the petty dictator was reelected to Congress in 1990, and the takeover of Congress by his minions in the 1994 election. The complaint details a sordid history of the Gingrich-allied movement, exposing corruption, fraud, and the manipulation of the political process to achieve the fascistic aims of destruction of the American government and political institutions.

On Dec. 7, after foot-dragging for over 15 months, the Gingrich-controlled House ethics panel also voted unanimously to appoint an independent counsel to investigate an ethics complaint against Gingrich, involving the use of tax-exempt foundation funds to finance a college course taught by Gingrich. The course, "Renewing American Civilization," is the source of material which is reproduced on tapes and used to build his political machine. Gingrich also plugs corporate sponsors of his political endeavors in the classes. Other complaints were tabled, with the admonition that the actions which prompted the complaints were violations of House rules, including Gingrich's notorious book deal with media magnate Rupert Murdoch, who has business before House committees that Gingrich controls.

Gingrich is facing an increasingly hostile electorate, as

voters become more aware of the killer implications of the savage budget cuts he is attempting to impose. In response, the Speaker has become more despotic. His minions refused to hold hearings on the proposed cuts. He reacted to the growing opposition as a threat to his power, and made a series of missteps, including throwing a temper-tantrum over his seating on the plane trip to the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He also chose a path of confrontation in mid-November with the White House, in which he appeared power hungry and venal for causing the shutdown of government when his ultimatums were not met. When the newspapers served up cartoons of Gingrich in diapers, and the media picked up a song, "It's My Party and I'll Cry if I Want To," with lyrics exposing Gingrich's plight, by Lyndon LaRouche associate Bill Ferguson, Republicans, it appears, tried to muzzle their Speaker.

On Dec. 1, the *Washington Times* reported that Gingrich would be taking a back seat as spokesman for the the Conservative Revolution movement in Congress. Sources in the leadership of freshmen Republican congressmen, whom Gingrich directs, were quoted saying that their "Contract with America" agenda would be better served if the Speaker played a less vocal role for a while.

Since the "Contract on America" involves the virtual destruction of the power of the federal government to do good, and the imposition of spending cuts in medical care and other essential services which will lead to an increased death rate, the temporary weakening of the Gingrich leadership could be a window of opportunity for a grassroots mobilization to permanently defeat their policies. This indeed would set back the London-based financial elite who are behind the Gingrich campaign to impose budget cuts and privatization of government services all over the world.

On Dec. 5, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney an-

nounced a two-week mobilization of union members in 55 congressional districts represented by “Contract on America” budget-cutters, against cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, and education.

Popular axioms must be challenged

However, it will fall to the associates of LaRouche to challenge the popular axioms which have softened the population up for Newt’s budget axe—a belief in free trade, and an hysterical commitment to balancing the budget. The process of educating the electorate to the fallacies inherent in these beliefs, which allows speculators to loot the economy, coupled with elaboration of positive solutions to the crisis, began a year ago when associates of LaRouche began distributing millions of pamphlets entitled “How the Conservative Revolution Crowd Plans to Destroy America.” The pamphlets exposed the origins of the Conservative Revolution, which lie in the lunatic economic policies of Austrian fascist economist Friedrich von Hayek and his Mount Pelerin Society.

The campaign to crush this fascist element in the Republican Party escalated, however, following a Nov. 15 conference of the Schiller Institute in Washington, D.C. entitled, “Why American Voters Are Rejecting Newt Gingrich,” which was addressed by economist LaRouche. Participants included state legislators and elected officials from all over the country. They issued a statement demanding an end to the Gingrich policies of budget cuts, which they planned to place as an ad in the *Washington Post* on Dec. 13. Ammunition for the drive was provided in the form of detailed documentation of the systematic destruction of the physical economy of the United States by a cabal of London-centered speculators who have driven outstanding financial claims on the physical economy into the stratosphere, while causing the industrial and agricultural base to collapse in order to feed their speculative bubble. These interests are represented by many of the think-tanks which deploy the House speaker and his minions in Congress.

The GOPAC investigation

The FEC complaint reveals details of investigations which have been ongoing since 1990. These details show that Gingrich and his allies have been building a “reform” movement to take over Congress, using techniques and funding which have been largely unreported in the media. Begun in 1979 by former Delaware Gov. Pete DuPont, GOPAC was started as a political action committee for the Bush wing of the Republican Party, to fund ideologically aligned candidates on the state and local level. Gingrich took it over in 1986, and it adopted, according to the complaint, an ambitious program for the takeover of the U.S. Congress (which would bring it under the purview of the FEC, to the extent it was involved in election campaigning). It also, however, saw as its mission the rebuilding of the GOP as a majority party by recruiting from the ranks of the politically disillusioned and enraged sections of the population—who can be,

in times of economic crisis, the basis for a fascist movement. By 1989-90, Gingrich, his strategists, “idea men,” financial backers, and ideologically aligned think-tanks, had “taken the lead in planning, research and development for the entire Republican Party.”

Hundreds of so-called focus groups were conducted, using the most advanced demographic research, to develop issues for a national political reform agenda, which would be pushed by candidates at all levels of government simultaneously. The issues adopted, which came to be known as the “Contract with America,” did not address the economic crisis, but various social issues, which could be used to manipulate people against the government. “Focus groups sought to identify specific proposals of change (our products) and specific examples of the obstacles to change, from left-wing values and the bureaucratic welfare state (their anger points) which would motivate them to vote for the Republican Party.” Arguments for the issues invented for political reform, such as “term limits,” or “education choice,” critiques of the proposals, and slogans, were packaged and mass-produced as videotapes and audiotapes of Gingrich’s courses. Language and issues were “shaped and guided” for prospective candidates who were encouraged to play the tapes over and over until they had learned to “speak like Newt.”

In 1994, the complaint reveals, Gingrich’s “farm team” of 5-10,000 aspirants for political office got audiotapes on a monthly basis. Gingrich concealed a vast slush fund of interlocking political committees, nonprofit groups, and foundations, which were financing candidate “support and education,” direct mail efforts, satellite teleconference hookups, and focus groups around the country. He mounted what the complaint calls the “largest and most encompassing recruiting, training and funding effort ever attempted by any group.”

By the 1994 elections, they had targeted 170 congressional districts for takeover. The effort produced a crop of freshmen with the fascist agenda of “creating a sense of public rage by proving there is a corrupt liberal welfare state sustained and protected by a selfish, entrenched Democratic machine.” So brainwashed are many of them that they refuse to respond to anything but the agenda defined by the GOPAC circle. Their mission was to take down departments, slash spending, eliminate bureaucracies, a “march through the institutions” reminiscent of the proto-terrorist SDS movement of the 1960s. In fact, according to a memo described in the complaint, the GOPAC planning group was urged to read Mao’s *Guerrilla Warfare*.

The effort, which installed 73 freshmen of the Conservative Revolution in Congress in 1994, was not successful because of the brilliance of the strategists, their skullduggery, nor even the vast money machine which was created to fund the candidates, but because of the weakened state of the Democratic Party, which refused to acknowledge the economic crisis in the country during the campaign. Gingrich was able to engineer a victory based on a cynical sort of emphasis on family values, and an appeal for change.