

Marc Plaza hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for Paul Weyrich's class on how to run a winning campaign. Weyrich would become Gingrich's political godfather; he was the founder of NET-Political NewsTalk Television and the guru of the New Right. Weyrich quickly saw in Newt a useful if somewhat comic instrument to achieve his ends. Though Weyrich was in charge, Newt quickly took over the meeting. Voice chiming, arms waving, Gingrich 'began to lecture me about how we should run as a team,' Weyrich recalls, 'and how all of the people that were there, if they all ran with the same theme, they would be far better off than if they ran singly, and that it was my responsibility to put together a theme for all these candidates.' Almost 20 years later, that strategy produced the Contract with America. At the time, all Weyrich remembers thinking was, 'Where do you come from?'

By the time he got ready for his 1978 congressional race, Gingrich had linked up with Weyrich, and with Wilma Goldstein, survey research director of the Republican National Committee.

To get past the first hurdle of surviving the loss of his teaching job (Gingrich quit West Georgia's faculty rather than suffer the embarrassment of being rejected for tenure), and setting his campaign in motion, Gingrich set up a thinly disguised campaign finance scam—the first of many. He got a longtime financial backer, Chester Roush, to set up a \$13,000 "fund" to pay for Gingrich to spend the summer of 1977 in Europe, "researching" a book on the Soviet threat to Europe and NATO. The book was never published, and the only copy is closely held by Gingrich, who claims that "one day" he may release it for publication.

With backing from the Weyrich "Radical Right" and from his eco-freak student followers at West Georgia, Gingrich won the 1978 congressional race against State Sen. Virginia Shepard. Gingrich attacked her for planning to leave her family behind in Georgia if she won the seat. Newt's cynical slogan was: "When elected, Newt will keep his family together."

Once he arrived in Washington, Gingrich had no problem "squaring the circle" of his New Age patrons and his Conservative Revolution profile. He founded the Conservative Opportunity Society, a New Right caucus of pranksters who assailed the Republican House leadership for playing "politics as usual" with the Democrats. Bob Walker of Pennsylvania and Vin Weber of Minnesota joined him in the COS, and Newt obliged by bringing in the Tofflers, John Naisbit (author of *Megatrends*, another futurist propaganda tract widely touted by the liberal press), and other Tavistock social engineers to "train them" to "think about the future."

Back then, the same *Time* magazine that recently named Gingrich "Man of the Year," described the COS, a prototype of the current freshman Republican crew, as "a noisy, buffoonish fraternity of outcasts and troublemakers." *Time* should have stuck with its original analysis.

Royal Dutch Shell game

Stripping away the New Right rhetoric, Newt Gingrich remains as devoted to the Tavistock Third Wave paradigm today as he was when he penned his mid-1970s endorsements of Jimmy Carter.

In August 1995, Gingrich's Progress and Freedom Foundation held a conference in Aspen, Colorado dubbed "Cyberspace and the American Dream II." The "vision" of the conference was spelled out in a document circulated on the Internet. It stated: "People who live in an age of revolution, and who seek to shape its course, must do more than proclaim it as good. . . . People are open now to the new wave and the Big Change. But few believe that it will well up like a gentle eventide. Most expect a Tsunami, a rushing wall of change that sweeps their old world away. . . . We can show what needs to be done now to make Big Change work for the good. All the way through this age of revolution."

And who did Newt gather under his tax-exempt banner to plan out the revolution? He brought in his old mentor Alvin Toffler, and he brought in a crew of counterculture refugees who had pioneered the MK-Ultra project of the 1960s—led by Grateful Dead "acid" rock band lyricist John Perry Barlow, and Stewart Brand.

Brand, in the late 1960s, was the chief publicist for MK-Ultra victim Ken Kesey and his "Merry Pranksters" LSD traffickers. He founded the *Whole Earth Catalogue*, an early propaganda outlet for the radical zero-growth ecology movement, which today exists as the WELL ("Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link"). According to Brand's biography, published in the literature of the "Cyberspace and the American Dream II" Aspen conference, throughout his New Age adventures, Brand has been employed as a fulltime consultant by the Royal Dutch Shell Corp.'s strategic planning staff. In fact, Royal Dutch Shell strategic planning spawned its own anticipatory democracy apparatus, called the Global Business Network, publisher of *WIRED* magazine, and adviser to 60 of the Club of the Isles' multinational corporations.

At the time that Royal Dutch Shell was launching its Global Business Network, the corporate president was John Loudon, who also sat on the governing board of the Tavistock Institute, and served as president of the World Wildlife Fund of Britain's Prince Philip.

—Jeffrey Steinberg