

stung by the exposés of his dirty background, that he made the fatal mistake of launching his own self-promotional public relations offensive. In the three-week run-up to the Democratic National Convention, Morris put in a great deal of time planting a series of puff pieces on himself. In rapid succession, the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and the London *Sunday Telegraph* (the Hollinger Corp.'s flagship newspaper and the leading voice of the Clinton-bashers in London's Club of the Isles), all ran glowing accounts of Morris's one-man crusade to once again save Bill Clinton from the jaws of political defeat, following the 1994 Republican Party sweep of the Congress.

The welfare bill disaster

Morris's principal "contribution" to the Clinton re-election effort during this period was his heavy-handed pressure on the President to sign a Republican-authored welfare bill that Clinton found repugnant. When the President caved in to pressure from Morris and others, and announced that he would sign the measure, ending federal government protection for America's poor, the President's support within many traditional Democratic Party constituencies was shaken.

All of these developments seem to have driven Morris to make a crucial blunder. Morris gave *Time* magazine an exclusive interview, which *Time* ran as its cover story the week of the Democratic convention. Morris had apparently become so obsessed with his own situation, that he upstaged the President during that week. The First Family, and the President's other key advisers, were reportedly furious at the Morris grandstanding. The article, in addition to quotes from Morris, included some damning, previously unpublished information.

First, Morris virtually admitted that he had been behind the surfacing of the Gennifer Flowers scandal, back in February 1992, when Clinton was in the midst of his primary election campaign in New Hampshire. If, indeed, Morris played a role in that incident, it places him in bed with one of the President's most filthy political enemies, Larry Nichols, a low-level operative within the George Bush-Oliver North Nicaraguan Contra circuit, linked to the Mena, Arkansas guns-for-drugs nexus. Nichols sold the Flowers story to the media during the heat of the 1992 campaign. Later, after Clinton's election as President, Nichols issued death threats against the President, brandishing a gun at a militia rally in Colorado.

Second, for the first time in public, Morris admitted that his family was tied to Roy Cohn. Morris tried to downplay the Cohn link, placing more emphasis on Cohn's father, Bronx Democratic Party fixer Al Cohn, than on the McCarthy witch-hunter and J. Edgar Hoover's closet homosexual snitch Roy Cohn. On Aug. 6 (p. 65), *EIR* had published excerpts from an interview with Morris's father, Eugene Morris, what had first appeared in a European-based newsletter, in which the elder Morris spelled out in detail his ties to both Albert Cohn and Roy Cohn.

AFL-CIO reawakening leads toward victory

by Marianna Wertz

The great reawakening of the American labor movement, under the AFL-CIO leadership team of President John Sweeney, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, and Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson which swept into office last October, will not only be decisive in the November elections. It is also threatening to substantially affect the way the nation does business after the elections, putting concern for the well-being of the workforce back at the top of the government and corporate agenda.

The AFL-CIO itself described what it has achieved this year in a media advisory for Labor Day: "What has changed in a year in organized labor? American workers and their unions are starting to win again. . . . Contract battles that not long ago might never have been fought are being won," like the contract won by 35,000 striking Boeing workers, including improved pay and benefits and job protections. The labor movement's pivotal role in the passage of the minimum wage bill is also highlighted.

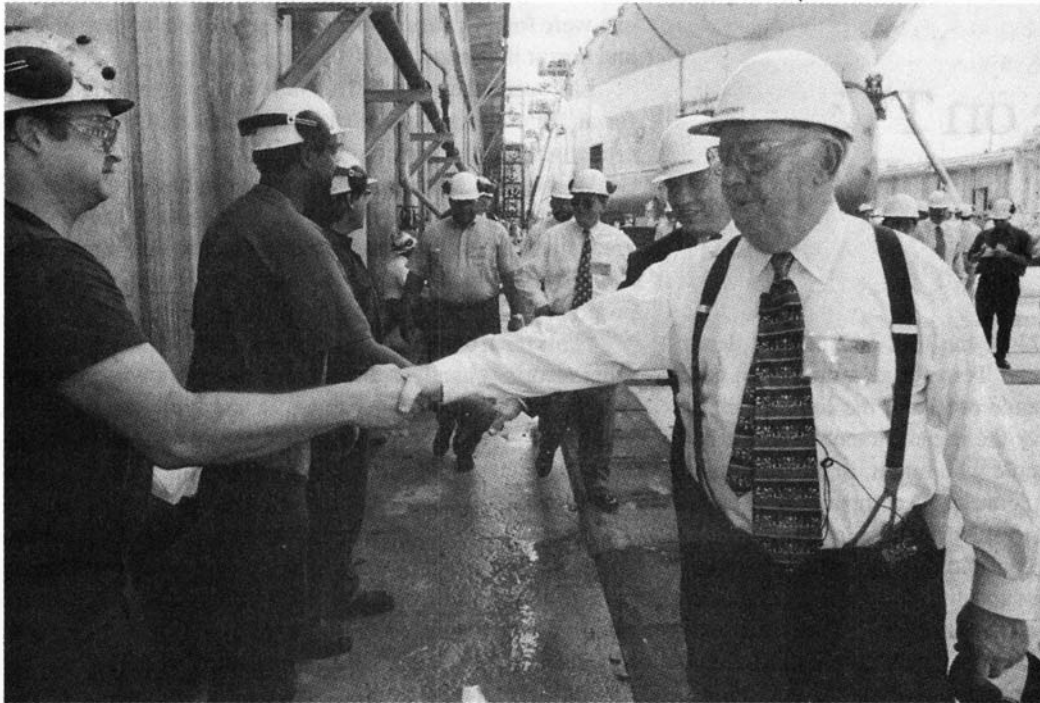
Tommy Thompson, president of Steelworkers Local 1055 in Tennessee and a leader of the crucial union battle against Bridgestone/Firestone, put the change that Sweeney's team has brought about in the labor movement in a nutshell, when he told this news service on Aug. 21, "There's life back in where it used to be just dead."

Focus is on the November elections

The immediate focus of organized labor's renewed energy is winning the November elections for the Clinton/Gore ticket and defeating as many anti-labor congressmen as possible. To achieve this, an unprecedented mobilization is under way, not only at the Democratic Convention in Chicago, but in congressional districts throughout the nation.

In Chicago, more than 800 AFL-CIO-affiliated delegates, representing 41 international unions, converged on the Democratic National Convention. If delegates from the unaffiliated National Education Association are also counted, union members constitute an unprecedented one-fourth of the convention delegates.

Labor delegates launched their convention intervention with a noon "America Needs a Raise" rally on Monday, Aug. 26, which drew an estimated 5,000 participants. AFL-CIO President Sweeney led the rally, declaring, "We're here in



AFL-CIO President John Sweeney visits Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia on Aug. 16. Here he is shown with workers who are building five double-hulled tankers at the shipyard.

Chicago to put out the word. That ugly era has ended. Working families are back. Unions are back. We have exposed Gingrich's ugly agenda. We have stopped the raid on pension funds. We have stopped the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid."

AFL-CIO Political Director Steve Rosenthal made clear the AFL-CIO's purpose at the convention: "There's a long-term struggle that we're involved in to help determine the direction of the Democratic Party and the country as a whole. There are certain factions within this party that would like to take it in a direction that we think wouldn't serve the interests of working families," he said.

Those "factions" are precisely the elements identified by *EIR* Founding Editor Lyndon LaRouche in recent statements: Clinton adviser and "Rasputin" Dick Morris and Democratic Party Chairman Donald Fowler, who personally intervened to prevent LaRouche's elected delegates from being seated at the convention. It is Morris and Fowler who are trying to turn the Democratic Party into a "second Republican Party," as witnessed most recently in Clinton's signing of the welfare bill, vehemently opposed by organized labor.

Labor-business-government partnership

On Aug. 5, the Sweeney team announced a campaign dubbed "Labor '96, Building to Win, Building to Last." To date, the campaign has enlisted 3,000 rank-and-file unionists, with a goal of training 10,000 this year, as part of a permanent grassroots network of at least 100 activists in each congressional district.

In a recent visit to Virginia, an anti-union stronghold, Sweeney indicated the direction that organized labor will take

after November. Speaking on Aug. 16 at Newport News Shipbuilding, Sweeney saluted the building of five double-hulled tankers with money invested from union pensions. The labor-business-government partnership that made the project possible "is what the modern U.S. labor relationship should be about," Sweeney said. That same day, Sweeney told the state AFL-CIO's convention that Virginia and the rest of the South will be a top priority of union organizers in the months to come.

As part of "Labor '96," the AFL-CIO is now publishing a "Capital Strategies" digest for union leaders, to train them in "strategic investment" of pension funds. AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Trumka told the June 14 Industrial Heartland Labor Investment Forum, "Too often, working people's pension funds are used to finance mindless corporate downsizing, exorbitant executive salaries, stagnant wages for the great majority of workers, and management tactics to defeat organizing campaigns or even destroy existing unions."

Instead, Trumka said, "we must invest in plants, equipment modernizing, new products, innovation, training for workers, and new work systems which democratize the workplace."

The AFL-CIO has also recently announced its commitment to stop the Heritage Foundation-led attempt to privatize Social Security. Mark Baldwin, assistant director of the AFL-CIO's Employee Benefits Department, told this news service on Aug. 16, "You've got an army providing intellectual cover for what I think is essentially a land grab on the part of financial interests. What they're putting together is a sort of network of academics . . . to justify this huge shift of financial resources."