

National News

Brits fear Clinton turn now that Morris is gone

The London *Daily Telegraph*, the Hollinger Corp. conduit for British intelligence, reacted with palpable anxiety to the news of the demise of Dick Morris, the self-styled controller of President Clinton. The *Telegraph* ran a lead editorial Aug. 26, headlined "Why Clinton Shouldn't Win," which made no secret of its concern, that Morris's unsavory exit might be a precursor of a Clinton policy shift, which London would find unpalatable.

After a few consoling claims that the sex scandal swirling around the political transvestite Morris "hurts" Clinton, the *Telegraph* declares: "Of greater concern to the Democratic cause, . . . is the fact that Mr. Morris will not be on hand to guide Mr. Clinton up to Election Day in November." After all, Morris was "the man responsible for the President's two-year tack to the right," the paper says. "But there is now a greater chance than before that his statist instincts will re-emerge. . . . It has been suggested that Mr. Clinton's conversion to conservatism, however opportunistic, means that it matters little whether he or Dole wins. Such complacency is misplaced; there is a danger that Mr. Clinton, once free of the need to seek reelection, will revert to type."

Clinton hits abuses by special prosecutor

During a televised interview on CNN on Aug. 26, President Clinton attacked White-water special prosecutor Kenneth Starr for abusing and distorting the American system of justice. Clinton noted that Starr is the first special counsel in history, to conduct investigations which have nothing to do with the President's campaign, nothing to do with the President's administration, and with no evidence of wrongdoing by the President or the First Lady.

He cited the report of the Resolution Trust Corp. on the Whitewater case—which found nothing criminal, nor even anything

meriting a civil law suit, against himself, or against the First Lady or her law firm. "It was not her law firm that was fined by the Resolution Trust Corporation; it was Kenneth Starr's law firm, the special counsel, who did not reveal that his law firm was still under investigation by the RTC at the time he took over."

The President also denounced "the abuse of the special counsel law," both by the special prosecutor and by Sen. Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.). "We've turned everything upside-down in our legal system. Now you have to prove yourself innocent. There is no presumption of innocence. Somebody makes a charge; you prove yourself innocent. The next story is the new charges, not that you proved yourself innocent. And I think this whole thing has turned badly upside-down, and I think it has distorted America's system of government. I think a lot of injustice has been done," Clinton said.

"But the people that they're really working over are people they just keep calling as witnesses, just over and over and over and over again. They never accuse them of doing anything wrong. They're just playing with them, just having a big time, letting them run up \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000 in legal bills. They don't care. They've got all the money in the world. There's no evidence they did anything wrong.

"If the American people really knew what had gone on in this thing, they would be appalled. Appalled. But they haven't found out what's going on, and I don't know that they ever will."

Ayn Rand named her pet Greenspan 'Undertaker'

In a feature on fascist "philosopher" Ayn Rand, the Aug. 25 *Washington Post* claimed that Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan became an active member of her cult's inner circle in the 1950s. Then in his twenties, Greenspan was a contributor to Rand's newsletter, and read and commented upon an advance copy of the manuscript of her book, *Atlas Shrugged*. In 1974, when President Gerald Ford named Greenspan chairman of his Council of Economic Advisers, Rand cooed to a reporter, "Alan is my disci-

ple." Rand's pet nickname for Greenspan was "the Undertaker."

Echoing Thomas Hobbes, Ayn Rand's fascist school promoted self-centered infantilism, which she called "objectivism." Rand is worshipped by many of today's Conservative Revolution ideologues, and her picture hangs inside the headquarters of the Cato Institute, which is "packed with Randians," says the *Post*. It also claims that another of her followers, Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, invites his law clerks over, for home screenings of the 1949 movie version of Rand's book, *The Fountainhead*.

Rand was born in Russia in 1906 as Alice Rosenbaum, arriving in the United States in 1926. In *The Fountainhead*, her protagonist attacks the founding principles of the United States: "The country was not based on selfless service, sacrifice . . . or any precept of altruism. It was based on man's right to the pursuit of happiness. His own happiness. Not anyone else's." When Rand died in 1982, she was laid out in an open casket, the *Post* reports, "beside a six-foot-tall floral arrangement in the shape of a dollar sign, her favorite symbol."

Nobel laureate delivers paper on his own lunacy

Prof. John Nash, who won the 1994 Nobel prize for economics for his work on "game theory," recently confirmed his eligibility for the award, by informing the 10th World Congress of Psychiatry that he was out of his mind. According to the Aug. 28 *London Times*, Nash told the conference in Madrid that he was schizophrenic from 1959 to 1974.

Nash said his mental illness began shortly after *Fortune* magazine billed him as the "most promising young mathematician in the world." During his research and the early phase of his illness, he began to believe "first, that the staff at my university, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and later all of Boston was behaving very strangely" toward him. "I started to see crypto-communists." As his illness became worse, he said, "I started to think I was a man of great religious importance and to hear voices all the time." He continued his "scientific" work

while undergoing psychiatric treatment.

"I would not dare to say that there is a direct relation between mathematics and madness," Nash told the conference, "but there is no doubt that great mathematicians suffered from maniacal characteristics." In an editorial praising Nash, the *Times* pointed out that "Isaac Newton underwent a period of schizophrenia in which he accused Locke of trying to embroil him with women." The London paper endorsed Professor Nash's questioning whether it is desirable to "cure mad geniuses," if "the sufferer's talent were thereby diluted. Luckily this mathematician regained his mind without losing his brain," the *Times* concluded.

F-16 sale to Indonesia a political firecracker

Unnamed "human rights officials" in the Clinton administration and members of Congress, including Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), are squaring off against members of the National Security Council (NSC), by calling for the delay or cancellation of the sale of nine F-16 jets to Indonesia, according to the Aug. 21 *New York Times*. The sale was finalized by Secretary of State Warren Christopher during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meetings in Jakarta in late July.

Those in favor of delay or cancellation say the sale would be an "unhelpful signal" at a time when the Indonesian government is conducting a crackdown, following riots on July 27. The *Times* suggests that the NSC supporters of the deal see it as a good way to make \$200 million. Either way, this firecracker is lit at both ends.

Washington recognizes that Indonesia is a key ally in Southeast Asia and in dealings with the Islamic world. However, the F-16s in question are part of the 28 F-16s, previously sold to Pakistan, but barred from delivery by the Pressler Amendment. President Clinton had personally pledged to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto last year that the U.S. would seek ways to reimburse Pakistan, to some extent, by selling the planes to a third party. Indonesia was the most promising candidate.

Responding to the *Times* story, Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ghaffar Fadyl said, "I hope the [U.S.] government will not be influenced by reports that are unclear and sometimes could be classified as disinformation."

NASA cuts threaten both space station, Shuttle

According to the Aug. 30 *Orlando Sentinel*, projected NASA budget cuts will place U.S. plans for maintaining its Shuttle program and developing a space station in serious jeopardy. As the space agency's out-year budgets stand now, 655 NASA positions, out of a current total of 2,100, would be eliminated by 1998.

Kennedy Space Center Director Jay Honeycutt reportedly outlined the consequences in an Aug. 7 letter to officials at NASA headquarters and at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Honeycutt stated that the cuts would leave the space agency unable to monitor the quality of the work of contractors; make it impossible to conduct government safety inspections of some facilities; force the center to discontinue independent safety studies called for by the commission that investigated the Challenger accident; and end efforts to upgrade or make technological improvements in the Shuttle after 1998.

The reductions proposed for the Kennedy Space Center have caused an uproar since they were announced. Complaints from employees, and demoralization on the part of the workforce that watched the Challenger blow up right before its eyes, has already led to independent investigations of the safety risks caused by workforce reductions.

A report by the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel stressed that the demoralization of the workers—who do not know if they will have a job tomorrow, and are concerned about the threat to safety—itsself increases the risk to the Shuttle system. According to the *Sentinel*, Honeycutt also emphasized in his letter, that the time when these reductions-in-force are to take place, is when demands on the launch center will be at their height, as segments of the space station are readied for launch.

Briefly

THE CLINTON administration abruptly grounded Britain's "Open Skies" proposal Aug. 26, just one day before British negotiators were to arrive in Washington for further discussions. An Open Skies agreement, giving each country's airlines greater access to the other's airports, was considered essential to the planned merger of British Airways and American Airlines. A senior U.S. official reportedly said the British plan "fell so far short . . . that it did not provide a basis for discussion."

HENRY KISSINGER still fancies himself a real wag. According to the Aug. 28 *New York Post*, Sir Henry told a recent dinner party "how his baritone had disturbed the frogs at the exclusive Bohemian Grove in California. The frogs set up such a racket that a herpetologist was called in to tape Kissinger talking. The tape also caused the frogs to go berserk." The scientist concluded that Kissinger's voice resembles that of "a male frog in heat."

WALTER MONDALE was presented with the Averell Harriman Democracy Award on Aug. 26, by UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright, on behalf of the National Democratic Institute. The award is named for the arch-Anglophile banker and betrayer of U.S. national interests, who promoted "race science" and backed Adolf Hitler.

THE AFL-CIO has released new television and radio spots, targeting 27 GOP members of Congress who are lying about their votes to slash Medicare. The ads urge voters to tell their representatives, "we know the truth about your vote to cut our Medicare benefits. Another vote is coming. This time, we'll be watching."

ROSS PEROT called for privatizing Social Security, in his first "infomercial" aired Sept. 1. A similar call by Oliver North during his 1994 senatorial campaign led to his resounding defeat by the voters.