

Does Dole have his own Dick Morris problem?

by Mark Sonnenblick

Just as mobster Roy Cohn's kissing cousin Dick Morris was forced out of President Clinton's re-election campaign, another operative from the Roy Cohn crowd took over Senator Dole's campaign.

"Paul Manafort, the man who managed the successful Republican National Convention last month, has taken over strategy, planning, and media for Bob Dole's sputtering campaign," the *Washington Times* reported on Sept. 6. The Dole campaign and the media spun this news as a wholesale purge of Dole's campaign staff. Dole's campaign attributed his trailing in the polls to his strategists' failure to properly tailor Dole's message and his TV commercials to the "facts" discovered by his pollsters. Most of the major dailies barely mentioned Manafort; none remind readers that he is a known co-conspirator of Dick Morris.

Manafort is a protégé of Bush confederate and former Treasury Secretary James Baker III. He has been the quintessential public-relations man for the Colombian drug cartel, and for irregular warfare run by the British in Kashmir, Angola, Kenya, and elsewhere, with the aid of Sir George Bush. His public-relations and lobbying firm, Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly, was composed of top-dollar sleazeballs from both parties, including Charles R. Black, who is managing Dole vice-presidential running mate Jack Kemp's campaign, and Roy Cohn's boy-chick Roger Stone, who affirms, "I have done some volunteer work for the Dole campaign."

In January of this year, the ever-manipulative Morris leaked to Manafort, already a Dole campaign operative, White House polling data, along with a memo arguing that Dole would gain Republican primary votes if he cut a budget deal with Clinton. When the press found the leak, Morris blamed George Stephanopoulos and James Carville for the leak. Later, when the truth came out, Clinton spokesman Mike McCurry announced that Morris was "in the doghouse."

Clinton campaign deputy director Harold M. Ickes forced Morris to disclose that, in 1994-95, he had been paid \$18,500 in bounties by Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly, for sending lobbying contracts their way.

Dole, according to Bob Woodward's book *The Choice*, was perplexed by Morris's back-room perfidies. Morris, scheming on behalf of his obsession with luring Clinton into a balanced-budget agreement, had plotted secret deals with Dole through the channel of his crony Manafort, and through

his long-term client, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.). Woodward reports Dole wondering to Lott about Morris: "Why would he send us that? It's too tricky for me, I guess. I never was a CIA guy."

Who is Paul Manafort?

Manafort, a lawyer, broke into the big time in 1978 by helping James Baker III be elected as Texas Attorney General. He helped Baker elect Reagan in 1980, and was rewarded by being made director of Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). That was good for business.

Manafort is a registered foreign agent. From 1980 until the partnership dissolved in 1995, he was in charge of the up to 15 lobbyists working on the international operations of Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly, one of the most expensive and most blatant influence-peddling lobbying firms in Washington. During the Reagan and Bush years, its three founders, and 1986-90 partner Lee Atwater, had free run of the White House, since they had managed Reagan's and Bush's campaigns. At Congress, Republican Senators Phil Gramm (Tex.), Jesse Helms (N.C.), and Strom Thurmond (S.C.) were among those beholden to their (and Morris's) campaign "magic."

Kemp's manager Charles Black is listed on the Dole roster as "senior consultant." He also managed Kemp's 1988 Presidential bid.

Together with partner Roger Stone and flaming homosexual Terry Dolan, he founded the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC). NCPAC employed the rubric of semi-secret "fundraising for the Contras" as a cover story for the Contras' real sources, including cocaine trafficking.

Roger Stone started out his career as Roy Cohn's young lover and confidant. He was toastmaster at the AIDS-stricken Cohn's last over-opulent New Year's bash. Stone makes no bones about having "learned everything I know from Roy Cohn." He goes to great lengths to look and act like the reincarnation of Senator McCarthy's slimy counsel. Stone even calls himself "The Prince of Darkness." (*EIR* has not tried to confirm tabloid stories that he and his second wife Nikki solicit group sex on their Internet site.)

Stone earned notoriety as the youngest trickster in the Watergate scandal in 1972. He served as Richard Nixon's

mouthpiece, when the former President was in Kissinger's thrall in New Jersey during the 1980s. Stone managed the 1982 Senate campaign of George Bush's Connecticut brother (Prescott Bush, Jr.), largely funded by NCPAC. Stone used NCPAC funds to hire his fellow Cohn boy, Morris, to do some polling. A junior staffer later discovered that Morris had faked the poll. Bush lost.

Lee Atwater, who died in 1990, will be remembered as the modern master of "negative politics," the contemporary art of trashing your opponent for some alleged personal defect or lapse of "ethics," while making sure the voters do not consider any of the important matters facing the nation. This earned him a place in Dick Morris's pantheon of heroes, next to Margaret Thatcher and Franklin Roosevelt political assistant Louis Howe.

Atwater, as Reagan-Bush deputy political director from 1981 to 1984, brought in New Age futurist Alvin Toffler and various rock stars to advise the White House. In 1986, he became a partner in Black, Manafort's political consulting wing. As such, he ran George Bush's 1988 election and was Bush's top political adviser until 1990, when he died of brain cancer.

Manafort's high-profile international operations included:

- In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Bahamas was the chief transshipment point for the flood of cocaine entering the United States, and its casinos were a key money-laundering machine. In 1982, the late Fred Wills, the former Guyanese foreign, justice, and trade minister, told this author that he had received a lucrative offer from Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling to become his justice minister. Wills, though penniless, turned down the offer, since he knew of Pindling's collusion with the very same British criminal interests which had been trying to kill Wills. (EIR's book *Dope, Inc.* first exposed Pindling as a wholly owned property of the Meyer Lansky syndicate.)

Black, Manafort and Stone, on the other hand, relished the aroma of cocaine dollars. Manafort proposed in 1984 to Pindling that the Bahamas government pay \$800,000 for lobbying in Washington. The Bush-linked firm would protect Pindling from U.S. government evidence that he took bribes from major drug traffickers. He got the contract. In their proposal, Black, Manafort suggest that the "personal relationship" between its partners, then-Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, and Edwin Meese, then-nominee to be attorney general, could get Pindling off the hook. And so, instead of a long jail term—or a U.S. invasion—Sir Pindling KCMG got U.S. taxpayer aid for his "anti-drug" efforts.

In September 1988, when Bush was running for President, Rep. Edward F. Feighan (D-Ohio) distributed copies of the Black, Manafort proposal to the press. Feighan asked, "How are these guys who surround the vice president going to lead the drug war when, until recently, they've been on the other side?"

Manafort's terrorists and assassins

- Manafort is registered foreign agent for the Kashmiri American Foundation, which arranged Bush administration approval for British-run terrorist Amanullah Khan to be safehoused in the United States. On April 10, 1990, at the United Nations, Khan ordered the execution of Indians which his terrorist group had kidnapped. Manafort arranged Washington press conferences for Khan, and protected him from extradition to India (see *EIR*, May 4, 1990, "Bush Administration Is Sheltering Kashmiri Terrorists").

- Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly were paid \$600,000 for arranging the public side of a mid-1980s visit to Washington by Angolan Unita guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi, "the Pol Pot of Africa." Savimbi had been put out of business ten years earlier by the Clark Amendment, which forbids covert U.S. activity in Angola. The firm arranged two long sit-downs with Secretary of State George Shultz, who once opposed helping him, a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Dole, and an Oval Office photo opportunity. "Some time during the visit, the decision to give Savimbi \$15 million in covert aid was made," columnist Mary McGrory reported. In 1992, when Unita continued the genocidal civil war after losing in free elections, "Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly gets a \$1.3 million annual retainer for representing Unita," the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

- Manafort has been known to throw elections. In 1985, he was given \$950,000 to protect the Washington flank for Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos. He did get President Reagan to make one pro-Marcos comment, but did little to stop the National Democratic Institute (NDI) ("Project Democracy") from overthrowing Marcos in February. NDI's treasurer was his partner, Peter G. Kelly. Once Marcos was toppled, Manafort pocketed the unspent funds in Marcos's account.

- Manafort made headlines at a 1989 congressional hearing on a \$326,000 consulting fee his partners Roger Stone and Gregory Stevens had received for obtaining a Housing and Urban Development Department contract which brought a New Jersey client \$43 million in rent subsidies on former migrant worker barracks. He testified, "I would stipulate that for the purposes of today you could characterize this as influence peddling." After that, Manafort retired from consulting on domestic political campaigns.

One of the three new media consultants whom Manafort brought in for Dole is HUD-fixer Gregory Stevens. Another is Alex Castellanos, who, in Helms's 1990 race against Harvey Gantt, paired with Morris to produce the infamous racist "hands" TV commercial. Dole's campaign is also blessed with Art Finkelstein, a thug from the Roy Cohn stable who choreographs the antics of Senator Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.), and used negative campaigning to elect Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister in Israel (see *EIR*, Aug. 2, 1996, "'Dirty Dick' Morris Assets Helped Wreck Peres Re-election").