

Bush babies falling out of the trees

George Bush and his close allies suffered damaging blows in the 1996 elections, stung by the growing LaRouche-initiated exposure of Bush's central role in the cocaine plague; Bush defensively and blunderingly pushed himself into the lime-light during the campaign's final weeks.

Bush crashed in Louisiana, where Democrat Mary Landrieu was one of only two non-incumbent Democrats elected to the Senate from the South. Her victory was made possible by wide exposure of Republican candidate Woody Jenkins's role in the Bush Contra apparatus, which flooded U.S. cities with crack cocaine to fund its war in Nicaragua in the 1980s.

Lyndon LaRouche began the attack in September, in a campaign swing through Texas and Louisiana, for well-publicized forums and meetings with political and community leaders. LaRouche stressed that the strategy for a Democratic victory would be to target Bush's role in the 1980s as a "drug super-kingpin." Within the New Orleans city government, and through Democratic, student activist, and civil rights channels, the issue of Bush's responsibility for crack cocaine was forced into the U.S. Senate race.

Ten days before the election, Bush and the Contras exploded into New Orleans newspaper headlines: The *Times-Picayune* and the African-American *Louisiana Weekly* detailed evidence that Republican Senate candidate Jenkins had been part of the secret government's Contra war, working directly with Oliver North. Jenkins's "charity," Friends of the Americas, had transported goods on SETCO, an airline that ran the Contras' cocaine into the United States. On Oct. 29, New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial demanded an investigation into Jenkins's "involvement in the potential of flooding inner cities in Louisiana and in this nation with illegal narcotics."

George Bush flew into Louisiana the next day, and labeled as "vicious" the attacks on Jenkins and the "charity." Mayor Morial replied that Bush himself, as a key national leader when the apparatus committed the drug crimes, "may have to account for what has occurred in the mid-'80s." The Jenkins campaign then put Bush on television, proclaiming that Jenkins's charity "was doing the Lord's work" in supplying the drug-running Contras. Landrieu defeated Jenkins by less than 10,000 out of more than 1.7 million votes cast.

Weld burns himself up

LaRouche's exposé of the Bush-Contra drug machine proved decisive in the U.S. Senate race in Massachusetts. Incumbent Sen. John Kerry (D) picked up the ball, charging

that his challenger, Gov. William Weld, as number three in the Justice Department, had blocked investigations of the Contra-related criminal apparatus and had buried evidence of Contra drug-running which Kerry had presented in Senate committee hearings which he chaired over 1987-89. Meanwhile, the LaRouche movement widely circulated the facts, that the Weld and Bush family banking enterprises had been merged years before Weld corruptly protected the Bush machine's drug trafficking and money laundering.

As the campaign wore on, Weld began raving—first at LaRouche, and finally against Kerry. In debates, Weld called the "alleged conspiracy by the CIA and the American government to sell crack cocaine . . . a complete hallucination." By Nov. 2, Boston newspapers were reporting that Weld's flare-ups were costing votes. The *Globe* quoted one person after the last debate: "Kerry . . . seemed more in control of himself. That impressed me. Weld seemed like he was burning up when he attacked Kerry."

Perot exposed as Bush agent

In the final days of the campaign, Ross Perot exposed himself as a Bush operative, with a press conference in Boston endorsing Weld. Political observers estimated that the Bush-Perot tactic may have cost Weld a few percent off his vote. Over the last few weeks of the campaign, Kerry surged from behind in the polls, pulling out a victory of 1.33 million votes to 1.14 million votes.

The Bush machine stumbled badly in Florida, where George Bush's son Jeb is "Mr. Republican." Jeb Bush, who lost the 1994 race for governor, presided as chief fundraiser for Bob Dole's campaign. A Democratic Presidential candidate had not won in Florida since 1976. But the issue of Republican plans to loot Social Security and Medicare, and anti-immigrant posturing, and the AFL-CIO's hard campaigning, moved, especially, senior citizens and Hispanics to vote for Clinton. Florida Republican chairman Tom Slade complained that the Democrats waged "a deceptive ad campaign on Medicare and we never recovered from it." Dole lost Florida, by 2.2 million votes to Clinton's 2.5 million.

The other shoe, the Contra scandal, is still out there, waiting to drop on Jeb Bush. The man for whom Jeb Bush was a paid lobbyist, Miguel Recarey, remains a fugitive from justice in Spain, escaping after being indicted for stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from U.S. Medicare while he and Jeb Bush aided Vice President Bush's Contra apparatus.

Meanwhile, local governments from California to Ohio have passed resolutions demanding investigation of the government role in the cocaine epidemic. In St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois, the resolutions cited George Bush by name. The Cincinnati City Council called for the revocation of Executive Order 12333, and National Security Decision Directives 2 and 3—the Presidential decrees placing Vice President Bush in charge of all covert operations, especially the Contra war.