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## The United States

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# A very bad year for LaRouche's adversaries

by Jeffrey Steinberg

What do Dick Morris, Phil Gramm, Newt Gingrich, Thomas Ridge, Donald Fowler, William Weld, and George Bush all have in common? Each of these prominent American political personalities will probably look back on 1996 as one of the worst years of their lives. And, if they are willing to allow themselves a brief moment of honesty, they will probably also reflect back on an observation made a number of years ago, concerning the late New York City mob lawyer, Roy Cohn: If you're going to get into a political brawl with Lyndon LaRouche, you had better not have any skeletons in your closet.

Each of the above-mentioned figures got into a lot of political trouble during the course of 1996; and their political demises, individually and collectively, will shape the political environment in which the second Clinton administration enters office.

### Whom the gods would destroy . . .

The case of political consultant Dick Morris is superficially well-known to most readers of the supermarket tabloids, but the deeper story of his sudden fall from grace is known only to a relative handful of Washington, D.C. insiders, and LaRouche-watchers and associates. The story of Morris's demise offers a more universal insight into the process, by which the other political losers of 1996 orchestrated their own decline, and is, therefore, worth reviewing in more detail.

Morris was fired as President Clinton's chief re-election strategist, at the presumed high-point of his career, in the midst of the Democratic nominating convention in late August, ostensibly because a gossip-sheet, the *Star*, published the kiss-and-tell confessions of Sherry Rowland, his \$200-an-hour hooker-mistress.

In reality, Morris's troubles began in the spring of 1996, when LaRouche began issuing public warnings that Morris was in the process of bringing down the Clinton Presidency, in league with Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairman Donald Fowler, by conspiring to transform the chief of state into a born-again Republican. During the spring, *EIR*

published a series of exposés of Morris's political pedigree, including his intimate family ties to the late Roy Cohn, and his recent years of service to some of the President's hard-core GOP "Conservative Revolution" enemies. At the time that LaRouche launched his campaign to "dump Roy Cohn's dirty Dick" from the White House, Morris was already a hate-object of many of the President's most loyal advisers. However, until LaRouche went public with the Morris dossier, no one was willing to take the first step to send the GOP "mole" packing.

When *EIR* obtained a candid interview with Morris's father, corroborating all of the most damning charges against the million-dollar-a-year political ad-man, Morris made a fatal error: He embarked on a defensive self-promotion campaign that hastened his own political fall. Reaching deep into the Cohn apparatus of media moguls, Morris planted a string of news stories, highlighting his personal political achievements—while burying his lifetime links to the despicable Cohn.

When Morris, by now obsessed with his own political stature, orchestrated a *Time* magazine cover story about himself, the week of the Democratic nominating convention, he drew an angry response from First Lady Hillary Clinton, who, for good reason, deeply resented his behind-the-scenes Svengali-like efforts to steal the media spotlight. Hillary Clinton's break with Morris was of strategic significance. On several previous occasions, over the years, when Bill Clinton had dumped Morris from his campaign apparatus, Hillary Clinton had later interceded to bring him back. The Democratic National Convention breach was irreversible.

The public airing of the Sherry Rowland sexual gymnastics story provided the convenient pretext for Morris's sudden departure—but it was not the cause of his fall.

### An economic policy shift sabotaged

Not coincidentally, Morris's crash, during the Democratic convention, occurred at the same time that Morris's ally, Fowler, was also announcing his early retirement from the chairmanship of the DNC. Fowler had enthusiastically backed Morris's efforts to drive a wedge between President Clinton and the traditional voter base of the Democratic Party: the blue collar, middle class, civil rights, and entrepreneurial voters who had been the backbone of the party since President Franklin Roosevelt. The Morris-Fowler duo had opposed efforts by some leading Congressional Democrats, including Sen. Edward Kennedy (Mass.), Sen. Jeff Bingaman (N.M.), and Rep. Richard Gephardt (Mo.), to devise an economic platform and legislative agenda that would reverse the two decades of decline in real wages for working families, and also begin the process of revitalizing America's shrinking manufacturing base and collapsing public infrastructure. All of these proposals had been spelled out in detail in Lyndon LaRouche's 1992 Democratic Party Presidential campaign



*A demonstration in Philadelphia, July 24, 1996. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge threw 220,000 working poor off medical assistance, and people are dying as a direct result.*

platform, and had been studied by a number of party-linked think-tanks. President Clinton was favorably disposed to the Kennedy-Bingaman-Gephardt initiatives, a fact that he principally expressed through the efforts of Labor Secretary Robert Reich. But, when the President caved in to the Morris-Fowler faction of the Democratic Party, and signed the draconian “welfare reform” bill, despite his promises to “fix it” in his second administration, the FDR-JFK policy revival was undermined.

Fowler had made his own strategic blunder, when, during the 1996 primary elections, he had blocked LaRouche from fully participating in the Presidential primaries. LaRouche garnered roughly 600,000 votes in 26 states, despite Fowler’s efforts, and won several delegates to the nominating convention. When Fowler, by executive fiat, refused to seat those delegates, a number of party activists sued him, on discrimination charges.

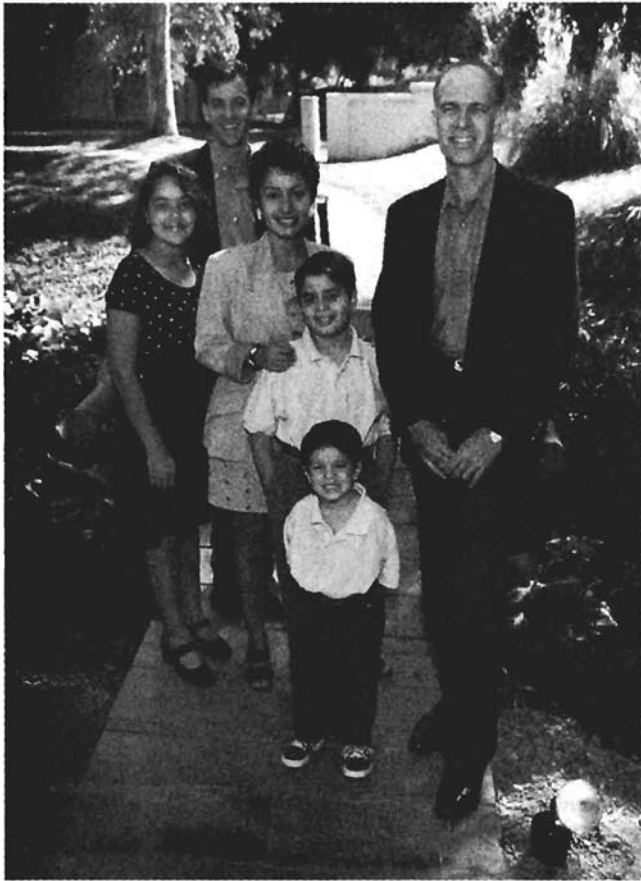
Unfortunately, the residual influence of Fowler, Morris, et al. deprived the Democratic Party of a golden opportunity to take back control over both Houses of Congress, and this has cast a shadow over President Clinton’s otherwise impressive defeat of Bob Dole in the Nov. 5 Presidential election.

There is no question that the Republicans maintained control of the Congress, courtesy of the Fowler-Morris sabotage

of the Democratic Party’s Congressional campaign effort. Two out of every three Democratic candidates for the Senate or the House were forced to run without any backing from the DNC. Chairman Fowler funneled all of the dedicated voter registration funds through Rev. Jesse Jackson, and, predictably, the money never found its way to the “get out the vote” operations.

Moreover, the myriad of campaign finance scandals still erupting around the 1996 Democratic effort are a continuing legacy of the Fowler regime, which President Clinton and the Democratic Party will be dealing with for many months to come. The scandals, and the general stench of corruption surrounding both the Democratic and Republican party campaign operations, were a not-insignificant factor contributing to voter demoralization and the pitiful turnout on Election Day.

The paradigm of the Fowler-Morris sabotage occurred in Arizona, where LaRouche Democrat María Elena Milton won the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Fourth C.D. against Gingrich protégé and GOPAC chairman John Shadegg. Fowler clone, Arizona state Democratic Party Chairman Sam Coppersmith, launched a “Democrats for Shadegg” operation to assure Milton’s defeat at the hands of one of Gingrich’s most important—and vulnerable—al-



*LaRouche Democrat María Elena Milton and her family. Milton ran a tough campaign against Rep. John Shadegg (R-Ariz.), a top Congressional backer of the Conservative Revolution. Despite sabotage by the Democratic Party leadership, she won 34%, and received strong support from labor and senior citizens.*

lies (she scored an impressive 34% of the vote, despite this).

Some responsibility for the Fowler-Morris havoc must be placed upon President Clinton and those of his close policy and campaign advisers, who failed to move against the dirty duo at the very outset of the campaign period, when Fowler first moved to block LaRouche from fully participating in the party campaign and mobilization. Fowler had issued a letter to state chairs early in the primary season, declaring his intention to block LaRouche from seating any delegates at the Democratic Convention. No orders came down, from the White House or anywhere else, for Fowler to retract the letter and correct the serious political blunder. Later, in the crucial final weeks of the primary season, when LaRouche sought to air a series of TV ads in Pennsylvania, targeting the Conservative Revolution's "lead duck," Gov. Tom Ridge, the Fowler letter was used to block the ads from airing. LaRouche's campaign against Ridge, had it gotten the media airing, might very well have tilted the outcome of the entire Congressional election to the Democrats, by

demonstrating the popular support for the drive to crush the murderous austerity in Gingrich's "Contract on Americans."

### **Conservative Revolution badly damaged**

The demise of Morris and Fowler is, despite these missed opportunities, part of the bigger U.S. political "news of the year"—the collapse of the Gingrich-Gramm "Conservative Revolution."

Going into the 1996 Presidential primaries, the newly installed Congressional Republican leadership had already badly blundered, by seeking a showdown with President Clinton over the FY 96 budget. The confrontation turned into a fiasco, when the federal government was shut down twice, and voters held the Gingrich Congressional leadership responsible. Underlying the political tactical blunders was a far more important reality: Americans were not ready to accept the fascist austerity measures that the Conservative Revolutionists were out to impose.

LaRouche had already demonstrated, in the case of Oliver North's failed 1994 U.S. Senate race in Virginia, that voters, when confronted with the evidence of what the Conservative Revolution is really all about, will reject it. LaRouche had launched an all-out effort to defeat North, despite North's \$20 million war-chest. Flustered by LaRouche associates' exposés of his ties to cocaine-trafficking Nicaraguan Contras, North—like Morris—destroyed himself. On the eve of the 1994 elections, he had openly come out in favor of privatizing Social Security, a euphemism for looting the retirement fund on behalf of Wall Street's biggest speculators.

Sen. Phil Gramm was the "Oliver North" of the 1996 GOP Presidential primaries. LaRouche set his sights on Gramm early in the primary campaign period, publishing a string of devastating exposés of the Nazi-like policies of the GOP "Contract on Americans," and going on national prime-time television with the same message. Gramm's heavily financed, and George Bush-backed Presidential campaign never got off the ground.

By the beginning of 1996, Gingrich had already been politely relegated to the back bench by fellow Republicans, anxious to get rid of the Gingrich stigma, in time for the November 1996 Congressional elections. But for the willful sabotage of Fowler and Morris inside the Democratic Party, and President Clinton's own hesitation to break decisively with Morris's "triangulation" strategy of self-isolation from the rest of the Democratic Party, the Conservative Revolution would have been crushed, and a Democratic majority returned to the Congress in 1996.

Indeed, the 1996 survival formula for many first-term Republican congressmen, was to break with the Speaker on such issues as his opposition to the increase in the minimum wage, and, thereby, hang onto their seats, often by the narrowest of margins.

## The Ridge paradigm

Another vital flank in the war against the Conservative Revolution was opened by the LaRouche forces in spring 1996, in Pennsylvania. Gov. Tom Ridge, one of the young Republican governors in the forefront of peddling the “Contract on Americans” at the state level, introduced an austerity program that included the cutoff of state health care benefits to approximately 220,000 Pennsylvanians. LaRouche recognized that the Ridge measures were identical to the murderous policies of the Nazis, and he and his colleagues attacked Ridge in precisely those terms. The Pennsylvania state AFL-CIO, the state legislative Black Caucus, and senior citizen groups joined the LaRouche Democrats in defeating Ridge’s austerity measures. After some cosmetic changes, and massive arm-twisting, Ridge later forced the cuts through. Within weeks of their implementation, Ridge’s cuts had already resulted in the needless deaths of several Pennsylvanians. Those individual cases were highlighted on the front page of the LaRouche movement’s *New Federalist* newspaper, over 100,000 copies of which circulate weekly throughout the United States.

To further demonstrate the fraud of Ridge’s argument that the state could no longer afford to provide the health care safety net for all of its citizens, state Rep. Harold James, a committee chairman and the head of the legislature’s Black Caucus, introduced a bill, calling for a tax upon all speculative transactions conducted in the state. By the most modest calculations, the tax would generate four times the amount of revenues needed to keep the health care program intact, and expand a number of other state services that had already been gutted.

LaRouche focused his Pennsylvania Democratic primary campaign on the call to impeach Ridge for his Nazi-like crimes against humanity. In August, at the Republican convention in San Diego, Bob Dole passed over Ridge—and all of the other like-minded austerity governors—as his vice presidential running mate. Prior to the LaRouche effort, Ridge had been among the leading candidates for the VP slot. Going into 1997, the campaign against Ridge is escalating. In November, tens of thousands of union workers showed up on the steps of the state capitol in Harrisburg, to attack Ridge’s policies.

## Bush and Weld

Two other longtime LaRouche adversaries, George Bush and Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, suffered serious political bruises in 1996, and face even more significant problems in 1997.

It has now been advertised in the pages of the City of London’s *Economist* magazine, that former President Bush is attempting to secure for his son George W. Bush, the Republican Presidential nomination in the year 2000. George W. Bush, the governor of Texas, is reportedly far less enthusiastic about running for the White House than his father.

Former President Bush’s own political fortunes are, now, in more serious doubt, as the result of a combination of recent political developments. In August, the *San Jose Mercury News* published a three-part exposé of the role of the Nicaraguan Contras in flooding the streets of South-Central Los Angeles with crack cocaine, to generate funds for their secret war in Central America, during the 1980s. The only serious error in the *Mercury News* series, was the characterization of the Contras as a “CIA-backed” group. In reality, as *EIR* subsequently documented, in a widely circulated *Special Report* entitled “Would a President Bob Dole Prosecute Drug Super-Kingpin George Bush?” the Contra program, including the drugs-for-guns trafficking, was run out of the White House, through a well-defined chain of command headed by Vice President George Bush. The exposure of the role of Bush in directing the crack cocaine-trafficking into America’s urban centers, has catalyzed a national outcry for action. Both the CIA and Justice Department inspectors general are probing the Contra-cocaine story, and two Congressional committees, plus the Congressional Black Caucus, are also digging into the evidence.

One of the early casualties of the Contra-cocaine revelations was Massachusetts Governor Weld, who was the head of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department during the mid-1980s, and who led the effort, at the time, to cover up the White House Contra-cocaine scandal. Weld was defeated by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) in the Senate race on Nov. 5—largely on the basis of revelations of Weld’s role in the Department of Justice coverup of the Bush cocaine operations of the 1980s. Weld’s earlier role in sabotaging a Justice Department prosecution of the Bank of Boston for money-laundering, a bank with strong ties to the Weld family, has also resurfaced; and members of the Massachusetts State Legislature are calling for a thorough probe of that shameful affair.

If the truth comes out about the roots of the crack epidemic of the 1980s, George Bush may soon be off to federal prison. The Bush role, as crack cocaine kingpin of the 1980s, is one of the most important news stories that will play out over 1997.

More skeletons are coming out of Bush’s closet as 1996 comes to a close. He is tied to a string of British and Canadian companies that are linked to the ongoing genocide and strategic raw materials grab in Zaire; and, he has come under heavy fire in Ibero-America for his recent continental tour, with Rev. Sun-Myung Moon, on behalf of several of Moon’s dirty ventures. Already, the press in Peru has linked Moon to Texas Gov. George W. Bush’s year 2000 Presidential campaign.

Perhaps the biggest unanswered question, as the second Clinton administration gets under way, is whether the furor against Bush and the Conservative Revolution will now be translated into the kind of policy changes that have been the hallmark of Lyndon LaRouche’s political efforts for years. The survival of the United States and the rest of the world hangs in the balance.