

Fight to save the Presidency is rapidly gaining ground

by Debra Hanania Freeman

On Sept. 18, when Newt Gingrich's minions in the House of Representatives voted to release the videotape of President Clinton's grand jury testimony, along with 3,000 pages of raw grand jury transcripts and other material, they boasted that the broadcast would deliver "the knock-out punch" in what has become a \$40 million effort to illegally overturn the results of the 1996 Presidential election. They were quickly joined by the lunatic fringe of the "Religious Right," who similarly promised that once the American people had the opportunity to view President Clinton's testimony, they would turn against him.

Constitutional law experts across the United States expressed shock at the gross illegality of the move. European commentators were almost uniform in describing the action as an attempted coup d'état against the President and the U.S. Constitution, one that reeked of "McCarthyism."

Gingrich ignored it all. He ordered House Republicans to plunge ahead, in what was, at best, a reckless and dangerous drive to use sexual blackmail to discredit and defeat an opponent they could not defeat politically. In the ensuing two weeks, it is quite apparent that Gingrich's plan has not only failed, but has backfired miserably.

One ardent fan of Gingrich was recently heard lamenting, "I just don't understand why Newt rushed into this the way he did. The stakes are so high. He should have been more careful; more thoughtful. I just don't understand it. His timing has never been so bad."

Indeed, Gingrich's "timing" was a disaster. On Sept. 18, while Rep. Henry Hyde's (R-Ill.) House Judiciary Committee was ramming through their decision to authorize what has since been described as "a pornographic garbage dump on the American people," a press conference was being held a few blocks away, at the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative

Weekend. Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Harold James and a group of other African-American elected officials, were releasing the names of more than 600 notables from 46 states, who had joined in a newly formed group, "Americans to Save the Presidency" (see text of resolution, *EIR*, Sept. 18, p. 66).

They described how the initiators of the ad hoc committee had come together on Sept. 6, at a conference hosted by the Schiller Institute, in response to reports of new attempts by traitors in the Democratic Party to pressure the President to resign. They told the gathered press that the response to their strongly worded statement, which denounces attacks on President Clinton, particularly under circumstances of a global financial meltdown, as being "the moral equivalent of treason," had been overwhelming. They talked about public demonstrations and rallies, coupled with a national effort to hold 100 town meetings to support the President, and deliver a ringing mandate for him to provide not only national, but international leadership to address the financial and related crises.

By the afternoon of Sept. 18, Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.), in a dramatic presentation on the floor of the House of Representatives, invoked House Rule 9, reserved for matters of grave concern to national security, to offer a resolution to impeach independent counsel Kenneth Starr on grounds that he had knowingly acted to undermine the ability of the Congress, the President, and the courts, to carry out their duties under the U.S. Constitution (see text, *EIR*, Oct. 2, p. 72).

Over the course of the weekend, Jewish leaders across the United States, many of whom were clearly not Clinton supporters, pleaded with Gingrich and Congressional Republicans to reconsider the timing of the release, as it was scheduled to occur on Rosh Hashanah, one of the holiest days of Judaism.



Citizens rally in defense of President Clinton and the Presidency at the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg on Sept. 28. At the podium addressing the event is Schiller Institute representative Phil Valenti.



Clinton catches the oligarchy off guard

But Gingrich, and the financial establishment that controls him, had no flexibility in their timing. The week before, on Sept. 14, in a speech to the New York Council on Foreign Relations, President Clinton pushed aside the unprecedented assault on his Presidency to discuss what he called “the biggest financial challenge facing the world in a half-century.” Picking up on a theme most commonly associated with American statesman Lyndon LaRouche, the President said that “the United States has an absolutely inescapable obligation to lead,” and announced that he had instructed his Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, to organize a global summit, to occur in Washington within the next 30 days, to fashion a new financial architecture.

The speech caught the President’s enemies completely off guard. It was the kind of move that the entire assault on the Presidency was aimed at preventing. On Sept. 21, President Clinton was to return to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly. Even though the financial crisis was not the stated subject of Clinton’s address, his enemies

were not going to take the chance. Indeed, their estimate was that, even if Clinton talked about something else, they couldn’t risk the American public seeing their President acting “Presidential.” Gingrich’s timing wasn’t off. He knew exactly what he was doing. The broadcast of Clinton’s grand jury testimony was timed to coincide with his UN address. And, Gingrich did succeed in preventing the American people from seeing a live broadcast of the President’s speech. When the assembled leaders of the world rose to their feet in an unprecedented and historic gesture, to give William Jefferson Clinton, the President of the United States, a sustained and emotional standing ovation, U.S. television networks were playing direct feed tape of the President’s grand jury testimony, from Judiciary Committee Chairman Hyde’s office.

It didn’t work. The American people were furious. There were reports that hundreds of thousands of Americans joined in a spontaneous boycott. Radio and television stations across the nation played interviews with Americans saying basically the same thing, “I told my Congressman that I didn’t elect him so he could authorize the broadcast of irrelevant pornog-

raphy. I couldn't stop them from running the tape, but that sure as hell doesn't mean I have to watch it."

Among those who did watch the broadcast, the overwhelming majority of them were ecstatic. The responses started to flow in. "The President did real good." "He didn't take any of Ken Starr's crap." "The President really exposed Starr and his boys for the scum they are." Not only did the broadcast fail to deliver Gingrich's promised "knock-out punch," but within hours of the broadcast, the President's approval ratings rose eight percentage points, giving him the highest recorded popular support of *any* President in U.S. history.

Town meetings across the country

During the last week of September, as the nation headed toward the end of the fiscal year, and the biggest financial and economic upheaval of the modern period, more than 50 town meetings, attended by thousands of Americans, have been held in response to the call by Lyndon LaRouche to defend the U.S. Presidency, at a time when it is under attack by enemies, both foreign and domestic, who wish to paralyze President Clinton, to stop him from exercising that "inescapable obligation to lead."

Over the past week, citizens have attended meetings in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Jose, Palo Alto, and Orange County, California; in Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama; in Buffalo and New York City; in Washington, D.C. and its Maryland and Virginia suburbs; in Austin, Houston, and Dallas, Texas; in New Orleans, Denver, Topeka, Portland, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Reno, Albuquerque, and smaller cities in North and South Dakota, Michigan, Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Massachusetts, and Wyoming, among others. More than two dozen student forums have also taken place.

Audiences have heard speakers from the LaRouche movement document the origins of the assault on the Presidency and the efforts to save the Presidency. The 1994 LaRouche pamphlet, "Stop the Assault on the Presidency," which has already circulated in hundreds of thousands of copies, has been reissued. The new version also includes the transcript of a 55-minute television program, produced by the LaRouche movement, and released in March of this year. LaRouche puts the Starr operations against President Clinton in the context of the global financial crisis, and the British financial oligarchy's attempts to prevent the President from acting in the tradition of Franklin Roosevelt, and specifically, from following the policy approach LaRouche himself has outlined. In addition to LaRouche activists, the town meetings have been addressed by current and former elected officials, Democratic Party leaders, and labor, religious, and civil rights leaders.

Wherever President Clinton has made public appearances, LaRouche supporters have unfurled what has become a famous banner, "Save the Presidency — Jail 'Porno' Starr,"

and have rallied support.

On Sept. 28, State Rep. Harold James of Pennsylvania, one of the initiators of "Americans to Save the Presidency," led the first Democratic Party-sponsored rally to support President Clinton, in Pennsylvania's Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg. The event came just two days after the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee unanimously declared "continuing support for and confidence in President William Jefferson Clinton."

The Pennsylvania demonstration was particularly significant because it was in Pennsylvania that House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) shocked good Democrats everywhere by declaring that he considered the President's behavior to be "reprehensible." His remark set off a round of traitorous actions by "Third Way New Democrats" that threatened to become a stampede.

But, Gephardt, along with most of the other turncoat Democrats, has rapidly reversed course in the face of popular support for the President.

On Sept. 27, Clinton strategist James Carville, undoubtedly the clearest-thinking member of the President's political team, took to the airwaves to announce that he was opening a second front in the battle. Carville said that there was massive evidence that each and every shot fired against President Clinton was being directed by Newt Gingrich, and that it was time to rip away Gingrich's mask of "impartiality and fairness."

Clinton gets on with the nation's business

Meanwhile, President Clinton continues his fight to remain focussed on his responsibilities as President. On Sept. 23, the collapse of a New York-based hedge fund, Long Term Capital Management, brought the world financial system to the edge of the abyss. Even so, members of the Group of Seven, under the chairmanship of Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, are resisting Clinton's call for a global summit, for fear that a sovereign U.S. Presidency, with a President who might listen to LaRouche, could wipe out their power in the midst of the financial upheaval.

But, on Sept. 29, they may have been outflanked. President Clinton and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, in an event that holds tremendous and historic potential, announced "a new era in U.S.-China relations," following several unannounced meetings with China's Foreign Minister. President Clinton took the occasion to announce that America and China would work in a partnership to address the financial crisis. It is an action which is long overdue.

The fight to save the Presidency rages on. Close to 100 more town meetings are already scheduled. With each day, the number of signers on the "Americans to Save the Presidency" resolution grows. Ads in support of the Presidency are appearing in newspapers across the nation. And, the first mass demonstration to save the Presidency is scheduled for Oct. 17, at Lafayette Square, across the street from the White House.