

ideas have already been filtered into popular American culture, and been cleansed of their Nazi origin, by such leading lights of the environmentalist movement as E.F. Schumacher and Amory Lovins, at whose altar Gore has worshipped.

While Gore personally didn't make a big play for the population-reduction aspects of his reinvention agenda, one of his partners-in-crime, Wolfensohn, did. Speaking to delegates at a luncheon sponsored by the World Bank on the second day of the conference, the World Bank chief alluded to the supposed "population explosion."

Wolfensohn told his listeners, "Unless you roll back that 2 billion people" living in poverty, and primarily from Third World countries, "we can never raise the GDP of all the nations of the world."

Another keynote speaker at Gore's conference was New Zealand Prime Minister Jenny Shipley, who has virtually taken her government out of the business of maintaining any "general welfare." "Perhaps the first, most significant thing in the early '80s," Shipley said, "was that we cut subsidies and industry protection across the board." And what happens to labor unions and labor negotiations in setting wages? The unions were busted. Said Shipley, "In the labor market, as the Vice President has also outlined as a critically important area, in the labor market in New Zealand you have the right to negotiate your own conditions and rewards for work or to choose the agent who does it for you."

Every man for himself, facing the employers. This particular aspect of the program was underlined by the Vice President himself, who used the conference to launch his proposal for performance-based wages for Federal workers.

Attack on the nation-state

The other side of Gore's globalist foreign policy is the destruction of the nation-state. Building on the scorched-earth policy he introduced at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference in Kuala Lumpur, on Nov. 14, where he attacked the host, Malaysia's Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, who has fought to protect his nation against speculators and the global financial collapse, Gore's model is to rank governments by a "democracy" or "corruption" index. This will be the subject of Gore's conference in February on government corruption. "Corruption," in Gore's gospel, means serving the nation's welfare by improving conditions of life for the population. (See relevant remarks on this matter by Dr. Mahathir, on p. 9 of this issue.)

The connection between the two conferences was made clear by Gore adviser Fuerth when he responded to a question from *EIR*. "The linkage between these two is implicit, not explicit, but I think of it in these terms. You not only need efficient government; you need honest government. And there is, in fact, a connection between efficiency and the ability to resist corruption in government. The fewer layers there are, places where people can say no to honest enterprise, the less opportunity there is for corruption."

As Gore put it in his keynote, "Let this be a first principle of twenty-first-century government: economic prosperity demands political legitimacy." But in Al Gore's world, the political legitimacy of a government is no longer a function of the will of the people, or of whether it provides for their general welfare, but is contingent on its compliance with Al Gore's, and the financial oligarchy's, political agenda.

Bankers endorse plan for 'anti-corruption' coups

Michele Steinberg

On Dec. 7, the *Wall Street Journal* wrote that when "Al Gore last month took the bold step of criticizing the government of Malaysia on its own turf, and called for a campaign in Asia 'to root out corruption and cronyism,' the shock waves went round the world. . . . In Asian countries, Gore was denounced. . . . Back home, political observers took note of one of Gore's biggest moments yet on the world stage."

The *Journal* was referring to the Nov. 14, 1998 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference, where Gore praised the bloody anti-government riots in Indonesia, and called for a similar "movement" in Malaysia. While Gore was delivering his veiled threat to Malaysia and its Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was meeting with the wife of former Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who is on trial. Albright's action, like Gore's, was a blatant act of sabotage of U.S.-Malaysian relations, not in the interest of the United States, but in the interest of the financier oligarchy who despise Mahathir for his actions to defend his nation's sovereign currency and economy.

The *Journal* was not only praising Gore's threats in Malaysia, but was endorsing "the next step in this process," the "Vice President's Conference on Fighting Corruption," scheduled for late February. Of a piece with the just-concluded "Reinventing Government," or "Re-Go" conference, the "anti-corruption" theme is a ploy to infiltrate law enforcement agencies and security services of debtor countries, to facilitate bankers' coups against any world leader who attempts to resist free trade or International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity.

Gore told the *Journal*: "Tragically, our best worldwide efforts to build stronger economies and stronger democracies are sometimes undercut by corruption — and no corruption is more evil and destructive than the corruption of government officials. . . . This conference will bring together many of the world's top anti-corruption experts with leaders from all around the world to organize a new global effort to fight

corruption where it does the most damage—among key justice and security officials.”

Running parallel to Gore’s efforts is an evil, privately financed operation, known as “Transparency, International, Inc.” (TI), which works closely with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and Gore intimate James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank. Though Gore and TI deny that the Vice President’s conference is being run by TI, the intricate connections tell another story.

Some observers report that Wolfensohn, who addressed a meeting of TI in Peru in September 1997, may have been the godfather of Gore’s “anti-corruption” brainstorm.

The *Journal* quoted Nancy Boswell, the Washington, D.C. representative of Transparency International, about its efforts against corruption, including the bizarre “Corruption Perceptions Index” developed by TI’s Count Johann von Lamsdorff of Göttingen University in Germany. This index is a hit-list that rates 85 countries for corruption on a scale from 0 to 10. At the bottom of the list, in the *Wall Street Journal*’s chart, are Cameroon, Paraguay, Honduras, Tanzania, Nigeria, Indonesia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Russia (the lower the rating, the worse corruption in the country, according to TI).

The head of TI is Peter Eigen, a former World Bank executive, and at the TI’s conference last January, the keynote was given by Camdessus, who specifically targeted President Suharto of Indonesia, as well as Korea and Thailand, as countries where the governments should be overthrown because of “corruption.” Within a few months, Indonesia was in flames and President Suharto had resigned, as a result of the economic crisis caused by the IMF and derivatives speculator George Soros, another Gore intimate. The campaign against President Suharto of Indonesia continues to this day.

Labor says Gore is reinventing ‘Dark Ages’

As aides to Vice President Al Gore were boosting his Washington, D.C. “Global Forum on Reinventing Government,” they bragged that Gore had eliminated 351,000 Federal jobs between 1993 and 1998. While Gore may be proud of the large number of “pink slips” he handed out, the overall scheme is part and parcel of the slave labor and “labor recycling” that marks the policies of austerity and economic depression. After Gore “reinvented” employment into the trash bin, Federal agencies turned, in many cases, to “outsourcing,” where workers are no longer full-time employees with pensions and health benefits, but have to paste together their wages with several short-term, temporary, and part-time jobs, none of which have benefits.

Gore’s policy has drawn labor opposition. On Jan. 15, 1999, Kenneth T. Lyons, national president of the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), announced that he had notified key Congressional members that NAGE will “fiercely oppose” Gore’s proposal to “re-invent” the Federal government personnel system. NAGE is an independent union which affiliated with the AFL-CIO in 1982, as part of the Service Employees International Union.

Lyons’s opposition was noted in a *Washington Post* column on Jan. 21 under the title “NAGE Leader Is No F.O.A.” (Friend of A.I.). The *Post* reported that a couple of years ago, “while other unions were cheering the humane way agencies were eliminating jobs and promotion opportunities, Lyons demanded that Gore resign. He said ‘RE-GO’ was wrecking the government.”

In a Jan. 15 press release issued from Boston, Lyons stated: “For more than 40 years I have fought—and this organization has fought—to remove favoritism and patronage from the Federal civil service system, and now once again under the guise of meritocracy, the Vice President proposes sending us back to the Dark Ages where if you don’t genuflect when your boss walks by, you won’t get a raise.

“It is simply outrageous that he calls his re-invention proposal a new idea. It is the oldest of ideas, a system that was discarded for the best of reasons; because it was widely abused and good, hard-working Americans suffered as a result of mean-spirited bosses who were put into positions of power by people like the Vice President.

“If the Vice President really wanted reform we urge him to empower the system that’s already in place. He could begin by making the Federal Labor Relations Authority . . . independent . . . rather than the rubber-stamp that it now is . . . [with] agendas which, in fact, change with each administration. . . .

“ . . . [Our] members are model employees and citizens. These are the people behind the scenes who ensure our nation’s defense, the men and women who take care of our veterans, and the scientists and engineers who develop solutions to our nation’s problems.

“If the Vice President truly had courage, he would address the problems that actually exist instead of continuing to use Federal employees as scapegoats to anchor his political agenda. NAGE will continue to vigorously and vocally fight the Vice President’s so-called ‘reinventing’ program, even when it would probably be more politically expedient to remain silent, an option other unions have exercised, in the event that he becomes the nation’s next President.”

While other unions have not come out as strongly, reports in the *Washington Post* show that Gore’s pushing of “performance pay” for Federal workers provoked a hostile reaction from trade union leaders who were at the meeting. Bobby Harnage, head of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), said that Gore’s proposal is just “political fodder.”