

Gore Presidential campaign runs into a buzz-saw

by Harley Schlanger and Jeffrey Steinberg

Al Gore has wanted to be President all of his life. But, as the prospects of a Gore Presidency via a constitutional coup d'état by impeachment were dashed last February, and as his nascent year 2000 campaign has met with little more than scorn, derision, and disinterest by a large percentage of the traditional constituents of the Democratic Party, Gore's hopes of residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue are beginning to fade fast. Things have reached the point that some leading Democratic Party figures are predicting that, by the summer of 1999, the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination will be wide open, with a new cast of challengers joining Lyndon LaRouche and Bill Bradley.

The aura of the inevitability of Vice President Gore's ascension to the Presidency, which his handlers and the media have done so much to promote, has been replaced by the mocking of pundits and, far more significant, desertions by key Democrats and growing hostility toward his candidacy from major Democratic constituencies. The "Gore Express" is being derailed, and much of the blame for its impending crash can be attributed to the candidate himself.

On April 5, *Time* magazine led off its national news section with a feature entitled "Stuck in the Starting Gate?" *Time* reported on Gore's political near-death experience in Iowa in late March, when he turned a meeting with United Auto Workers officials into a political brawl, after one worker asked him whether the global warming treaty threatened American jobs. *Time* noted, "Gore's moment is now. Miss it, nervous Democratic veterans say, and he could squander his chances to define the election. Worse, Gore's gaffes and missteps, made all the more conspicuous when he is virtually alone on the stage, could harden into a perception that he is not up to the job."

And lately, there has been no shortage of gaffes. In trying to "reinvent" himself as an interesting character who can relate to the "average American," Gore has succeeded only in highlighting how untrustworthy he is. His claim to be the inspiration for writer Erich Segal's *Love Story* was denounced by the author; his assertion in a recent interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer that "during my service in the U.S. Congress, I took the initiative in creating the Internet," brought hoots of derision from all quarters.

To top it off, this child of privilege, whose family was bankrolled by the notorious Armand Hammer, who was raised in a luxury hotel in Washington's "Embassy Row" and attended elite private schools, told the *Des Moines Register* that he's just a working stiff who has shoveled hog manure, cleared land, and plowed fields with a mule team—a confession as touching, and believable, as Linda Tripp's claim that she's "just like you," a typical "soccer mom." Comments like these led *Houston Chronicle* columnist Jane Ely to write that Gore, "long noted as being rather spectacularly straight arrow and Boy Scout honest . . . also seems to have a supertalent for defensive lying."

The real Gore emerges

The really bad news for Gore, however, goes far beyond his problem of foot-in-mouth propensity, which rivals another former Vice President, George Bush. While Gore has been playing the fool, the growing citizens' movement behind the candidacy of Lyndon LaRouche has been focussing attention on the real Gore, by circulating the *New Federalist* pamphlet, "The Pure Evil of Al Gore." It is Gore who, as LaRouche wrote in "Al Gore and Adolf Hitler" (included in the pamphlet), was chosen by the British-American-Commonwealth

financial oligarchy as the point-man in their coup against President Clinton, and key operative in their drive to destroy the potential for a U.S. alliance with Russia and China to establish a new monetary system.

In getting this pamphlet into the hands of hundreds of thousands of voters who are part of the traditional Franklin D. Roosevelt coalition of core constituencies of the Democratic Party, LaRouche Democrats are providing answers to their questions, such as why they don't like Gore. From his radical anti-growth environmentalism to his support for depression-inducing free trade, Gore is a rabid promoter of policies which are destroying the nation, and collapsing the living standards of these core constituencies.

Gore's "deep ecology" beliefs, put down in black and white in his 1992 book *Earth in the Balance*, clearly place him in the camp of Prince Philip, the international head of the World Wildlife Fund who has publicly called for the reduction of world population by 80%. Even a Democratic National Committee "opposition researcher" described Gore's environmental views as insane. Critics renamed Gore's *Earth in the Balance* as *Mein Planet*, a direct reference to Adolf Hitler.

A recent issue of *National Review* featured Gore's crazy environmentalist beliefs in a cover story, that prompted syndicated columnist Ben Wattenberg to write, in the March 26 *New York Post*, that "Democrats now see Gore as a potential big problem. They think, with some real merit, that they have a good chance of recapturing the House of Representatives and possibly even the U.S. Senate. But that's not likely to happen if the Democratic candidate at the top of the ticket loses solidly."

Signs of the fall

The implosion of his campaign was clear to those at the California Democratic convention on March 25-28 in Sacramento. Of 2,700 delegates registered, only 1,700 delegates attended, and many elected officials also stayed home. There was a conflicting mood among delegates. While many revelled in self-congratulation over the sweeping victories in 1998 statewide elections, they showed concern over the prospect of Gore leading the ticket in 2000. Typical was one statewide official who dejectedly asked, "Who else is there?" when confronted with Gore's rapid slide in the polls.

LaRouche delegates at the convention handed out several thousand copies of the "Pure Evil of Al Gore" pamphlet, and copies were prominently displayed in the empty chairs of the VIP section when Tipper Gore addressed the convention. Al Gore did not attend. According to a report in the *Sacramento Bee* On-Line, the official word—that he stayed home to remain involved in the Balkans war—was only part of the story. The White House had been told "that support for Gore . . . would not be overwhelming," and that it would be better politically if Gore did not attend, so that his opponent, Bill Bradley, would not attend. After all, an enthusiastic reception

for Bradley would be highly embarrassing for Gore. The *Bee's* coverage concluded by noting that there is a "lack of enthusiasm for his candidacy at the grass roots."

Gore's troubles mount

That Gore is in trouble in California, a state which gave Clinton huge majorities in 1992 and 1996, was confirmed by a Field poll, which showed that more than 60% of Californians polled did not name Gore as their choice for President. There is a revolt brewing against him among Hispanics, especially because of his aggressive push for free trade policies such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has lowered wage scales in the United States and Mexico. Some Hispanic labor leaders who delivered votes for Democrats in 1996 and 1998, have announced that they are looking for other choices. The same is true among key African-American leaders, who are disgusted with Gore's alliance with Dick Morris in promoting "Third Way" attacks on the role of government, which they see as betraying the ideals of the Civil Rights movement.

The one area of support for Gore in California is around San Jose, home to billionaire yuppies who made their fortune in speculative stocks related to the Internet. Whenever he is in California, Gore makes a pilgrimage to Silicon Valley, where he is amply rewarded for his "invention" of the Internet. It is rumored among southern California Democrats that the corrupt Gore, whose close ties to organized-crime networks in Russia are documented in the March 19 issue of *EIR*, gets funds from this crowd due to his strong behind-the-scenes efforts on behalf of the Justice Department's prosecution of Microsoft, the major competitor of Silicon Valley firms.

This may be a source of some of his problems in Washington State, where top Democratic contributors and fundraisers, including many who backed President Clinton's campaigns, will hold a \$1,000-a-person gathering for Bradley on April 22. Among the co-sponsors are a "slew of folks with connections to Microsoft," according to the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. An April 2 article noted that a number of key Democrats in Washington State are expressing their fears "that Gore doesn't have what it takes to win the Presidency." Sources have also informed *EIR* that Microsoft chairman Bill Gates could join with Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett in backing an "Anyone But Gore" Democratic Party candidate, possibly U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey (Neb.), at the first sign that Gore's stumbling is becoming terminal.

And, in early April, even the Silicon Valley diehards began to show signs of tiring of Gore's losing ways. On the day that the Vice President was arriving in the Bay Area, a group of 55 top executives of such core information-age firms as Netscape, Cisco Systems, Microsoft, and Oracle signed a full-page ad in the *San Jose Mercury*, praising Texas Gov. George W. Bush for his efforts at encouraging the growth of high-tech businesses in the Lone Star State. The message could not have been more obvious.