

Scotland revolts against money deal with Pat Robertson

by Mark Calney and Alan Clayton

During the first week of March, the Bank of Scotland and U.S. doomsday cult televangelist Pat Robertson announced that they were seeking U.S. regulators' permission to launch a banking-by-telephone scheme in the United States. The American "bank" without branches, to be named the New Foundation Bank, would be about 65% owned by the privately owned Bank of Scotland and 25-35% by Robertson, who would become the CEO of New Foundation. Customers would presumably be drawn to this new financial institution by Robertson's "holy" reputation, from among the estimated 55 million viewers of his "700 Club" television program. However, since the day the deal was made public, labor, religious, and political leaders have spearheaded protests in Scotland in opposition to the scheme.

On March 12, demonstrators entered and disrupted business at the main branch of the Bank of Scotland, in Edinburgh. Speaking to a rally outside the bank, the chaplain of Edinburgh University, Rev. Iain Whyte, said that he is "embarrassed and disgusted" that Christianity has been associated with Robertson, and he called on the university to withdraw its \$300 million account from the Bank of Scotland. The ecumenical body Action for Churches Together in Scotland, which represents 1.5 million church members, is now considering action to withdraw its accounts from the bank. Bill Spiers, the general secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, has also voiced labor's concerns that the deal could backfire and cost jobs, and he is demanding to meet with bank officials to discuss the numerous complaints he has received from the membership. At the rally, a member of the Transport & General Union said that he would urge his union to rescind its 10,000 new credit card accounts from the Bank of Scotland.

Robertson's 'extreme views'

Keith Geddes, leader of the Edinburgh City Council and president of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, introduced a motion into the City Council denouncing the banking venture with Robertson. The motion won support from all parties represented on the council, including Conservative, Labour, Scottish Liberal Democrat, and the Scottish National Party. Geddes stated that Dr. Robertson's extreme views differentiate him from the traditional U.S. right. "The views of the extreme religious right which create a climate of

fear . . . help provide a justification for acts of brutality and barbarism carried out by armed members of the extreme right-wing groups," he said. He cited the "Oklahoma bombing which resulted in the death of over 200 Americans [sic]" as "perhaps the most extreme example." (See Anton Chaitkin, "Who Is Wagging Your Neighbor's Tongue? The Militias and Pentecostalism," *EIR*, Aug. 22, 1997, for an exposé of such groups, including the role of Robertson.)

Even some oligarchic financial houses are threatening to abandon ship. *Crédit Suisse Asset Management*, which holds 1.4% of its £85 million ethical fund at the Bank of Scotland, has said that it will sell its shares if the Robertson deal goes through.

The Robertson issue has raised such a furor that on March 25, eight Scottish Members of Parliament entered a motion into the House of Commons in London supporting the Edinburgh city councillors who have called on the Bank of Scotland to cancel its deal with Robertson.

The issue is not simply a disagreement over "personal religious beliefs," as representatives of Robertson and the Bank of Scotland have argued. As more Scots begin to learn the true depth of evil and criminal activities that Robertson has been involved in, the opposition has become sharper. It is being hotly debated in local city councils from the Shetland Islands to the Border counties, and is reminiscent of the anti-slavery, "Send the Money Back" campaign of the 1840s.

In 1846, American statesman and author Frederick Douglass toured Scotland for five months, speaking out against the Free Church of Scotland and mobilizing Scots to demand that the church stop accepting funds from their Presbyterian sympathizers who were slaveholders in Southern U.S. states. Douglass, a former slave, and admirer of the poetry of Scotland's Robert Burns, electrified the populace in every town and village where he spoke. Not since the time of Burns and the American Revolution had there been such a national debate in Scotland over the nature of mankind, in opposition to the oligarchical system of slavery and "free trade" usury.

Who is Pat Robertson?

It is no accident that when many people hear the name Rev. Pat Robertson, the images of burning crosses, Ku Klux Klan rallies, and the famous fictional, con-artist/preacher Elmer Gantry come to mind. Robertson has more in common

with the Constitution of the Confederacy, with its open embrace of “free trade” and John Locke’s notion of “life, liberty, and property,” than with any principles of Christianity. His publicly perceived image as a man of “intolerance” against women, Muslims, homosexuals, and dark-skinned people, is often mistaken as a product of his so-called Christian doctrine. However, Robertson’s identity is located in being an elite member and promoter of British-Israel race mythology, a Masonic belief structure which sees the British as the “Chosen People” of God, and which sits at the core of much neo-Nazi fanaticism.

British-Israelism is at the heart of the British intelligence operation known as Pentecostalism, which traces its origins and operation to the highest levels of the British and Dutch royal families. Such cults, as typified by Robertson and the Promise Keepers, are run as subversive operations of the highest administrative agency of the British state, the Privy Council (see Lyndon LaRouche, “Whose God Does Pat Robertson Serve?” *EIR*, Nov. 14, 1997). This is exemplified by the leading role that Robertson recently played in the treasonous attempt to illegally remove U.S. President Bill Clinton from office.

Robertson alleges that his family left Scotland in 1695, the year the Bank of Scotland was founded. His mother is a member of the Winston Churchill family. His father, Sen. A. Willis Robertson, was a Wall Street and London flunky as head of the Senate Banking Committee.

Harold Bredesen, an Anglo-Dutch intelligence operative (see Chaitkin, op. cit.) and magician-preacher, trained Robertson. Bredesen, famous for his promotion of the brainwashing technique known as speaking-in-tongues, has written: “Don’t speak words your mind understands. As long as you do, your mind will remain in control.”

“Diamond Pat” Robertson, as he has come to be referred to by many residents in his home state of Virginia, has been under investigation by that state’s authorities as a result of a complaint filed by State Sen. Janet Howell. The complaint involves Robertson’s swindling people to give money to a charity called Operation Blessing which benefitted his personal diamond mine operation in Africa. *EIR* interviewed pilots who flew more than 100 “charity” missions in Zaire for Robertson. The pilots said that most of the flights were used for the diamond-hunting operations of the African Development Co., a venture solely owned by Robertson (see *EIR*, Nov. 14, 1997). During 1994 and 1995, the cargo planes were being financed by Operation Blessing, ostensibly a food and medical relief charity that provides flights around the world.

On Feb. 1, 1997, Robertson wrote in the Richmond, Virginia *Times-Dispatch* that his Zaire mining operations were undertaken on President George Bush’s request: “Before a visit to Zaire, I met with George Bush in the White House and asked his advice,” Robertson said, and Bush told him to go into business in Zaire. Robertson, who met with the Cabinet of Zaire, “evangelized,” with the advice to lay off workers

SNP opposes Yugoslav bombing

Beginning in late March, the tragic conflict in Kosovo has become an issue in the forthcoming election. Scottish National Party (SNP) leader Alex Salmond has gone on national television and described the NATO bombing as “an unpardonable folly” which has allowed the Slobodan Milosevic regime in Belgrade—a regime which, as *EIR* has repeatedly pointed out over several years, has been a British asset—to unleash a pogrom against the ethnic Albanian Kosovo population. This would have been impossible if the international inspectors had been kept in place.

Salmond’s stand resulted in a rabid attack on him in the British House of Commons by Prime Minister Tony Blair, and accusations by Foreign Secretary Robin Cook that Salmond “stood shoulder to shoulder with Milosevic,” accusations which are tantamount to allegations of high treason.

Yet, Salmond has in fact expressed the deepest fears of many people not only in Scotland, but also in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, that the NATO bombing campaign is based not on humanitarian principles at all, but on a British geopolitical intent to dominate NATO and its out-of-area deployments

The SNP has stated that if it gains control of the Scottish Parliament, it will in fact function as a real parliament, independent of the empire elite. Worrying times for the oligarchy, indeed.

and give away the national patrimony to foreign looters. “I . . . analyzed the . . . Gecamine copper mines, where 3,300 workers produced a pitiful [quantity] . . . of gold, . . . and the government-owned industrial diamond facility in Mbuji-Mayi, where I discovered production limping along at 50% of peak capacity,” he said.

Scotland’s new Parliament

The uproar over the Robertson-Bank of Scotland deal is taking place within an historic election campaign. On May 6, Scots will go to the polls to elect their own Scottish Parliament for the first time since the Union of 1707, when the London-centered oligarchy organized the dismantling of Scotland’s Parliament and incorporated Scotland into the United Kingdom. The election is occurring as a result of the overwhelming “yes” vote that Scots gave to an independent parliament referendum in September 1997.

The election debate has been heating up around a number

of issues as the election approaches. The two main contenders to take power in the parliament are Tony Blair's Labour Party, now known officially as New Labour, and the Scottish National Party (SNP).

On the constitutional front, the House of Windsor has been keeping close track of developments, and there was a secret meeting several months ago between Prince Charles and SNP leader Alex Salmond on the potential role for the House of Windsor in an independent Scotland. For a number of years now, Charles's sister, Princess Anne, has cultivated a "Scottish" image, which some see as a fallback position if the House of Windsor falls from the English throne.

This has included such things as vociferous support for Scotland in the annual international Rugby and Soccer matches between Scotland and England, and emphasis on the House of Windsor's antecedents in the former Scottish House of Stewart. This took definite form recently, when proposals were circulated that after the Scottish Parliament is in place, Anne should move permanently to Scotland and live at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, the former residence of the independent Scottish kings. However, the idea has not caught on; rather, it has come up against a strong current of Scottish indifference, and often open hostility to the House of Windsor.

In sharp contrast to the murderous, budget-cutting policies of the Newt Gingriches and Tony Blairs, at a recent special conference of the SNP in Aberdeen, the party decided to use the limited tax-raising powers that the Scottish Parliament will have, to increase income tax by 1 pence. This would cancel out a 1 pence income tax reduction which British Chancellor Gordon Brown had declared in his earlier budget speech. The SNP described Brown's tax reduction as an "election bribe," and has committed the revenue that an additional 1 pence tax will bring in, to hospitals, schools, and housing.

Blair's financing schemes

There is certainly a crying need for this kind of investment, because many hospitals are in critical condition. For example, during a recent flu epidemic in Edinburgh, patients were kept on trolleys in corridors because the beds were all full. New Labour's answer has been the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). This would involve private finance for building hospitals, schools, etc., and the government paying fees to the holding company in perpetuity. It is an immoral policy that will not provide needed services, yet at the expense of looting of future generations.

A specific example of the PFI in action is the Skye Bridge project, known throughout Scotland as the "Sky high toll project," initiated by the previous Conservative government. The bridge goes from the Scottish mainland to the Isle of Skye. A single journey across the bridge, less than a two-minute drive, costs £7, or about \$12. The bridge is owned by a private international consortium, but the government does not know which consortium owns the bridge, because it has

changed ownership within the global financial casino several times since its construction.

It is the prospect of Scottish education and health care becoming similar chips in the global casino that is causing so much concern, and underlies the SNP proposals to refuse to reduce the income tax by 1%. The SNP, backed by the major public service union, Unison, has advocated an alternative proposal called the Scottish Public Services Trust, which would involve public trusts being formed to build hospitals and schools. Funds would initially be borrowed from financial institutions such as the banks, but at negotiated interest rates over a limited period, at the end of which the institutions will come into complete public ownership.

The financial markets around the City of London are of course particularly unhappy about any government that is not committed to the full monetarist scenario, and they have been attempting to block the advance of the SNP with a massive campaign of disinformation similar in scale to that which has been used against the LaRouche movement over the years. It is in this context that the Bank of Scotland-Pat Robertson deal must be viewed, and the words of Frederick Douglass remembered: "My work is to make slavery disreputable, and I cannot do this while Christian churches in this country [Scotland] are extending the hand of Christian fellowship to the slaveholders and endorsing their character as slaveholders."

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