

in 1994: “George was very useful to Harken. He could have been more so if he had funds, but as far as contacts were concerned, he was terrific. . . . It seemed like George, he knew everybody in the U.S. who was worth knowing.” And, as Harken founder Phil Kendrick put it, “His name was George Bush. That was worth the money they paid him.”

Harken bought the failing Spectrum 7 to get the Bush name. It did not give Dubya a managerial post, but placed him on its board, gave him a \$120,000 a year consultancy, and stock which was worth \$500,000 in September 1986, when Harken completed the merger with Spectrum 7.

At the time, according to a July 1999 seven-part series in the *Washington Post*, among other sources, the biggest investor in Harken Energy was George Soros, a Hungarian-born, British-trained and -owned billionaire. Soros’s multi-billion-dollar investment fund, Quantum Fund S.A., based in the Netherlands Antilles, had on its board representatives from two branches of the London-centered Rothschild family, and one of Quantum’s biggest investors is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This combination had taken over Harken Energy in 1983, and it was seeking to build an oil and gas conglomerate, under the direction of Soros’s hand-picked director, Alan Quasha.

No sooner had Dubya joined the board of Harken Energy, than another major investor came in, Harvard Management Corp., which manages that school’s multibillion-dollar endowment. Harvard Management agreed to invest an initial \$20 million in Harken, which gave Harvard some 10 million shares of Harken stock, or 24.5%. Eventually, Harvard Management would invest \$200 million in wildcat oil ventures, ostensibly at the instigation of Robert Stone, Jr., one of its directors. According to *The Buying of the President 2000: The Authoritative Guide to the Big-Money Interests Behind This Year’s Candidates*, by Charles Lewis and the Center for Public Integrity (New York: Avon Books, 2000), Stone had invested in the senior George Bush’s drilling ventures with Zapata oil in the late 1940s. In 1980 and 1988, Stone contributed to Bush’s Presidential campaigns.

### **Harken, Bahrain, and BCCI**

On Jan. 30, 1990, Harken Energy startled the oil world by announcing that it had beat out Amoco, one of the Seven Sisters, for the contract to do the offshore drilling for the emirate of Bahrain. According to Jonathan Beaty et al. in *The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI* (New York: Random House, 1993), the *Wall Street Journal*, and other sources, this deal would never have gone through except for the intervention of BCCI, which was glad to help the son of a President—especially as BCCI was on the verge of being shut down, when it was discovered that this drug- and gun-money-laundering firm of British and U.S. intelligence, had managed to siphon off all but \$1.5 billion of its \$23 billion assets. (See box.)

(Bahrain’s emir is especially close with Queen Elizabeth II, and he uses her Privy Council as his country’s highest court. The country is located on the Persian Gulf coast, neighboring Saudi Arabia, which has one of the largest oil and gas fields on the planet.)

When Harken Energy admitted that it could not continue drilling without a partner, both the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Buying of the President 2000* report that Harken was permitted by Bahrain to find one. Harken chose Bass Enterprises Production Co. of Fort Worth, Texas, a company controlled by the billionaire Bass family, which had contributed more than \$200,000 to the GOP in recent years. Two members of the Bass family had become members of President George Bush’s “Team 100.” Since those days, the Bass family has also been generous with Dubya, ranking number

## **Skullduggery and the Ohrstrom family**

As the accompanying article reports, members of the Connecticut- and Virginia-based Ohrstrom family were among the investors in George W. Bush’s Arbusto company. This family is at the heart of an oligarchical network of intelligence operatives and dirty-tricksters who, among their other projects, railroaded Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. to prison, on trumped-up charges, from 1989 to 1994.

First, the case of Arbusto: George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. and his wife put \$100,000 of their own money into Dubya’s company, as well as lining up another shady investor with “deep pockets,” Philip Uzielli, who was working through the offshore company Executive Resources. This firm had first been incorporated as a mailbox in the Netherlands Antilles, before shifting to the deregulated country of Panama. At first, Uzielli only invested \$50,000 in Arbusto. However, when the company was failing in January 1982, Uzielli bought 10% of Arbusto’s stock for \$1 million, when the entire firm had an assessed value of \$440,000.

Looking back up the family tree, George Ohrstrom, Jr.’s father, George L. Ohrstrom, Sr., had been a Wall Street swindler who lost his securities license and was barred from selling for several years. He was rescued by Dubya’s granddaddy Sen. Prescott Bush, then with W.A. Harriman and Co., who helped set up the George L. Ohrstrom Investment Company, and placed Ohrstrom (his Greenwich, Connecticut neighbor) on several corporate boards. It was Prescott Bush, together with such figures as Bank of England Governor Montagu Norman, who helped to finance Adolf Hitler’s rise to power, as Webster Tarpley

five among his career patrons, with contributions of more than \$273,000 to him from political action committees and individual contributions, according to the Center for Public Integrity.

### Insider trading?

On June 22, 1990, Dubya suddenly unloaded 212,140 shares, or about two-thirds of his holdings in Harken Energy, for a total of \$848,560. Author Joe Conason writing in the February 2000 issue of *Harper's Magazine*, among other responsible investigative reporters, raises the question whether Dubya had been tipped off by his papa that a war was about to break out that would affect Gulf oil stock prices. As *EIR* has previously reported, it was President Bush who lured Iraq into invading Kuwait, by having the U.S. Ambassador to

Baghdad, April Glaspie, tell Saddam Hussein that the United States would not become involved in any military resolution of the two nations' border dispute. Only a few weeks after Dubya dumped the majority of his stocks, Iraq invaded Kuwait.

However, when Dubya's dumping was first reported by the *Houston Post* in October 1990, there were already accusations of insider trading: accusations that incumbent Gov. Anne Richards (D) repeated against him during his 1994 successful bid to become Texas Governor. In April 1991, the *Wall Street Journal* revealed that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had not been notified of this timely trade until eight months after the legal deadline. Now, it seems likely that Dubya may not only have been tipped off to the impending war, but that he had been on Harken's

and Anton Chaitkin documented in *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography* (Washington, D.C.: Executive Intelligence Review, 1992).

Ohrstrom, Sr.'s three children operate from the Hunt Country in Middleburg, Virginia. One of them is Magalen Ohrstrom Bryant, whose stepson, "Generalissimo" J.C. Herbert Bryant, Jr., the founder of a paramilitary organization called Armored Response Group, U.S. (ARGUS), was convicted in 1994 for impersonating a Federal officer.

On Oct. 6, 1986, ARGUS provided an armored personnel carrier for the 400 Federal, state, and local officials who carried out a raid on offices in Leesburg, Virginia associated with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., as well as on the Virginia farmhouse where LaRouche was staying. The purpose of the aborted raid was to assassinate LaRouche; failing that, the "Get LaRouche" task force proceeded to have LaRouche and many associates indicted on fraudulent charges, jailing LaRouche and others soon after George Bush became President of the United States.

The major business of the Ohrstrom/Bryant family, the Carlisle Companies, makes and sells specialty parts for oil-drilling rigs and pumps.

Members of the extended Ohrstrom/Bryant family helped to fund the Iran-Contra network of gun and drug running, which Vice President George Bush oversaw. They also helped fund Bush's aide, Lt. Col. Oliver North (ret.), after the Congressional Iran-Contra hearings at which North testified. Tom Harvey, who helped create ARGUS, had been working for the senior George Bush personally in covering up the drug-running side of Iran-Contra and in running operations against the anti-drug activities of Bo Gritz. The Ohrstrom/Bryants then used Harvey to create their Global Environmental Technology Foundation, which was inserted into former East bloc



*An armored personnel carrier belonging to the paramilitary group ARGUS, used in the 1986 raid against LaRouche and associates.*

countries as an intelligence-gathering operation, after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Ohrstrom/Bryants have often funded such radical environmentalist projects as Prince Philip's World Wildlife Fund, and they control the anti-development Piedmont Environmental Council in Loudoun County, Virginia.

The Ohrstrom/Bryants also funded the Afghan Relief Committee, which was run by investment consultant and anti-LaRouche operative John Train. Before LaRouche's indictment, Train held a series of "salons" with representatives of the media, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), the U.S. Department of Justice's "permanent bureaucracy," and rogue members of the U.S. intelligence community. Under Train's instruction, they mounted a campaign of lies and slander against LaRouche, to create a lynch mob climate so that he could later be jailed.—*Scott Thompson*