

Are Gore and Bush Running Another Racist Campaign?

by Scott Thompson and Michele Steinberg

According to a well-informed political leader in Florida, the *Miami Herald*, which is extremely close to the gangster-like thugs of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), is running a slander campaign against at least ten major African-American and Hispanic candidates—especially those in the Democratic Party—in that state. Many of those minority leaders who have been targets of the *Miami Herald's* poison-pen had earlier gone head-to-head with Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), whose brother is Republican Presidential nominee Gov. George W. Bush, over Jeb Bush's plans to overturn affirmative action. In January, Jeb Bush had been caught by television cameras telling an aide to “kick their asses out of here,” when African-American elected officials were staging a sit-in in government offices against Bush's elimination of affirmative action programs designed to overcome racism in state hiring.

Reflecting a similar pattern of racist attacks in New York City, in the countdown to the Sept. 12 Democratic primary election, the Aug. 30 *New York Daily News* used ADL-style “slimeball” tactics against maverick State Sen. Larry Seabrook, who is running for U.S. Congress against incumbent U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-Bronx). Engel is closely allied with right-wing Zionist thug circles in the Republican Party. Senator Seabrook, who is the former head of the New York Legislature's Black and Hispanic Caucus, has attracted significant support in the Bronx.

The pattern of attacks against prominent African-American elected officials is the political end of the heinous Justice Department operation known as “Operation Fruehmenschen” (the DOJ's pidgin German for “primitive man”), that is continuing in the form of these ADL-style media smears.

The attacks against Seabrook include overt slanders, such as one in the *Washington Post* which branded him “anti-Israel” because his opponent is Jewish and a known supporter of

Israel. These slanders have contributed to a climate in which death threats have been made against him, including one by the notorious ADL-backed terrorist group, the Jewish Defense Organization.

One of the most outspoken opponents against Operation Fruehmenschen, and the ADL's participation in the racist targeting of minority political leaders, has been Democratic Party leader Lyndon LaRouche. In the mid-1990s, LaRouche and his associates exposed the racist crimes of the Justice Department's permanent bureaucracy, in publications and in Independent Commission hearings that published testimony about how the DOJ, in league with the ADL, targeted thousands of African-American elected and appointed officials for politically motivated criminal prosecutions and frame-ups. In both the 1996 and 2000 elections, LaRouche, who has opposed racist profiling all his life, fought political and legal battles against the DOJ's allies in the Gore camp and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) who were out to overturn the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965. In the 2000 elections, LaRouche ran for the Democratic nomination against Gore, only to have his votes—he won the Michigan primary and swept 22% in Arkansas—nullified by Gore and the DNC, in the same way that Southern racists had excluded African-Americans from representation in the 1960s.

Racial Profiling

Senator Seabrook is a grassroots Democrat who was among those who spoke out when, on Feb. 4, 1999, the New York Police Department “Nintendo cops” cold-bloodedly murdered an unarmed African immigrant, Amadou Diallo. Diallo died when a special unit of the NYPD fired 41 rounds at him, as he reached for his wallet to show them his ID; 19 of their bullets found their mark. After a tyrannical verdict in

March of this year acquitted the policemen of any crimes, Seabrook was arrested for protesting at police headquarters with other members of the Black and Hispanic Caucus.

The *New York Daily News* began its smear campaign on Aug. 30, just after an important Bronx politician, Roberto Ramirez, withdrew his support for Engel and instead endorsed Seabrook. In a ludicrous article entitled “Bronx Pol in Divorce Flap,” the *Daily News* quoted Seabrook’s former wife claiming that her husband had “secretly” divorced her, and then committed fraud by filing joint IRS forms, and conducting other such financial transactions.

Seabrook called the claim that his wife did not know about their divorce, “ridiculous,” and together with his lawyer Armando Montano, accused Engel of using these smears for character assassination. “Matrimonial records are confidential,” said Montano. “This smells of criminality.”

This was not the first slander against Seabrook. Earlier, a *Washington Post* piece by Robert Novak claimed that while Engel is a staunch supporter of Israel, Seabrook, because he is African-American, must not be. In a July 1 letter to the editor published by the *Post*, Seabrook blasted the false allegation, saying: “Racial profiling can take many insidious forms and, unfortunately, Novak’s column seems to be another example.” Because of “racial stereotyping” such as Novak’s column, Seabrook began to receive death threats that bore the hoof prints of the sort of dirty tricks regularly carried out by the ADL’s paid *agents provocateurs*.

As *EIR* has reported, Engel was named in the June 9 issue of *Forward* (a New York-based Zionist Lobby, neo-conservative weekly) as being a member of the “bipartisan” Lebanon Study Group. The LSG at that time released a report demanding that the Clinton Administration take all available action to drive Syria out of Lebanon immediately, including the possibility of waging a “Gulf War-style campaign to oust Syria’s troops.” This places Engel, together with leading foreign policy advisers to both Al Gore, Jr. and George W. Bush, who participated in the LSG, among the far-right war-mongers of the Zionist Lobby.

‘Get Their Asses Outta Here’

EIR is still substantiating the role that the *Miami Herald* is playing against the African-American elected officials and candidates. But what is known to date, is that Jeb Bush became Florida Governor, he has had heated clashes with African-American officials over his stand against affirmative action and for the death penalty.

One incident occurred on Jan. 17, when two African-American Florida legislators, Sen. Kendrick Meek of Miami and Rep. Tony Hill of Jacksonville, both Democrats, began a sit-in in the State Capitol office of Republican Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan, protesting Bush’s “One Florida” program—an executive order issued in November 1999 that banned affirmative action in state contracts and university admissions.

The next day, an infuriated Governor Bush (you know,

that famous Bush family rage) ordered his staff, “Get their asses outta here. . . . We’re going to make their lives hell for this.” The outburst was caught by a TV camera crew, and the next day became national news. By midday, as 20 state legislators and 200 protesters joined the sit-in, the Governor’s offices were closed, while “frat boy” Jeb called a news conference to apologize to his mother for using foul language.

In an interview with *EIR* on July 17, State Sen. Daryl Jones, Chairman of the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators, explained the real meaning of Bush’s “One Florida” plan for minorities. A Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Senator Jones had been President Bill Clinton’s nominee to be Secretary of the Air Force; however, his nomination was blocked amidst a racist smear campaign. What Jones discussed in *EIR*, was Governor Bush’s the “Talented 20,” which proposed that only those high school graduates in the upper 20% of their class would be guaranteed admission to the Florida state university system. Jones explained how this would end affirmative action: “I can understand his reasoning; however, I just disagree with it. My problem with the Talented 20 program is that the Governor is touting it as a minority access program and it’s not. By the Board of Regents’ own numbers, the Talented 20 pool of candidates would be about 25% ethnic minorities. Our current university system is 35% [minorities]. When you match up 25% with 35%, you bring that 35% down, percentage-wise.”

Gore-Bush Thug Tactics

Precisely how deeply Vice President Gore is involved in these dirty tricks against elected African-American politicians is not yet known. However, *EIR* has received reports from several reliable sources that immense pressure had been applied on minorities to support the Gore-Lieberman ticket. The reason why minorities object to the ticket is because both members follow the policies of “triangulation,” ranging from Lieberman’s support for school vouchers to Gore’s central role in destroying welfare.

As Earl Ofari Hutchinson wrote in the first of several commentaries in the Philadelphia-based *New Observer*, an African-American newspaper, entitled “The Clinton-Gore Dilemma for Black America,” which appeared on Aug. 30: “Welfare. Republican Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and Bush promised to end welfare as we know it. Clinton-Gore did. They tacitly fanned these racial and sexual myths about welfare: It encourages dependency, cheating, laziness, and out of wedlock births. It is a massive drain on taxpayers. The recipients are mostly poor black women.”

While the national media are putting the spotlight on the ADL for sending a letter to Jewish Vice Presidential candidate Joe Lieberman, asked him to stop talking about religion and God, the real story may be that the ADL is doing Gore and Lieberman’s dirty work by targetting minority Democrats who reject Gore’s “Third Way” fascism.