clings to the ballot, or blocks the hole in the next ballot when the cards are put through a counter, and makes counts unreliable. Wenger told *EIR* on November 20, "Punch cards should have been gotten rid of decades ago."

The confusing "butterfly ballot," which has become famous in the Palm Beach vote, is not the only badly designed ballot. In a recent interview on MSNBC, Wenger pointed to ballots in Louisiana, New York, and New Jersey that put minority candidates in different columns.

Last, but perhaps worst, comes the role of the U.S. media's instant awarding of states to Presidential candidates. The awarding of Florida to Gore, even before the voting was over in the Central Time "Panhandle" of the state, was patent interference in the state's election. These "projections" are based on "exit polls" of voters during the day, compared to the first few percent of the vote counted. If they match, a winner is declared and broadcast over national television to millions—many of whom have not voted in other time zones. On November 7, ABC-TV alone made errors in projecting the outcome of four major races. Considering the increasing number of people who don't even vote at polling places, such projections are even more unscientific than previously—if that is possible.

Where Did Campaigns Get That $3 Billion?

by Scott Thompson

The Year 2000 election cycle was the most expensive one in U.S. history, not only for Presidential candidates, but also for those running for Congress. Even the Federal Election Commission (FEC) complained of this in recent press releases. The question thus is raised: "Yes, but where do they get their money?"

This section of our *Feature* will first give an idea of the unprecedented amounts of money involved in this year's election campaign, which was at least $3 billion in combined "hard" and "soft money" contributions, and we will then briefly discuss some examples of the most corrupt fundraising practices carried out by the two "front-runners." The facts of the scope of the fundraising are as follows:

Fact: According to the FEC, from January 1, 1999, through October 18, 2000, Republican Party national committees raised $294.9 million, and had spent some $252 million. Democratic Party national committees had raised $172.7 million in receipts, and had spent $153 million.

Fact: According to the FEC for the same period, both parties continued to increase the non-federal, or "soft money" (funds raised outside the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act). Republicans raised nearly $211 million in "soft money," an increase of 74% over the same period in 1995-1996, the last Presidential cycle, while Democrats raised almost $199 million, an 85 percent increase. "Soft money" now represents 42% of all National Republican Party financial activity and 53% of Democratic National Party fundraising.

Fact: According to the FEC, Congressional candidates involved in the November 7, 2000 election had raised $800.7 million by the week before the elections, and had already spent $683 million by October 18 filings. This represents a 39% increase in fundraising, and a 42% increase in spending over 1998 totals. Candidates began the last 20 days of the campaign with $225 million cash-on-hand to spend. In Senate contests, political action committees (PACs) contributed only $45.4 million (14%), while in 804 House races PACs accounted for $168 million (35%).

Fact: According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Democratic Party Presidential nominee Al Gore had total receipts of $133,113,452. GOP Presidential candidate George "Dubya" Bush raised $184,228,804, and he disavowed federal matching funds, meaning that he did not have to report contributors.

However, Dubya encouraged the practice of "bundling" with a 115-plus member team known as the "Pioneers," who each bundled contributions from their firms as associates raising $100,000 or more in $1,000 individual contributions. Bush was also the most successful in "bundling" from businesses, having received bundles of bundles of $50,000 or more from individuals connected with 17 different firms.

While Gore refused to receive contributions from PACs, that can give $5,000 each to a Presidential candidate, Bush did receive PAC money, but it amounted to little more than $2 million (1.2%) of his total raised.

Examples of Dubya's Corruption

Through a partnership with Texas financier Richard Rainwater, who had been a party to the insider-trader scams that landed Drexel Burnham Lambert's Michael Milken in jail, Dubya skimmed at least $75 million from Texas taxpayers, who paid most of the costs for a new stadium for the Texas Rangers, the baseball team which Dubya had acquired with Rainwater and others. Bush later sold out his Texas Rangers stock at 18 times what he paid. Leveraged buyout bandit Tom Hicks bought it, for the second-highest amount ever paid in baseball history.

While Richard Rainwater had been an early, career patron for Dubya's political career, he has discretely stopped contributions, since he handles the Texas Governor's multi-million dollar "blind trust fund," that Rainwater helped raise.

However, with Texas Rangers partner Tom Hicks, Dubya was involved in the biggest heist in Texas history, by signing legislation to privatize the $13 billion endowment of the University of Texas system, which was one of the first bills that

Dubya signed as Texas Governor. The University of Texas Investment Management Co. (UTIMCO) was turned into a piggybank for Hicks' and Dubya's family cronies, placing large amounts of money with firms that later contributed heavily to Bush's campaign.

For example, in 1995, UTIMCO under Tom Hicks' guidance, decided to place $10 million The Carlyle Group merchant bank in Washington, D.C. That firm currently has $5 billion under management. Interestingly, The Carlyle Group includes some of President Bush's foremost associates, including James Addison Baker, III, who is the firm's senior counselor. James Baker had served during 1985-88 as Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan-Bush administration, and then as Secretary of State in the Bush administration from January 1989 through August 1992, when he became Bush's White House Chief of Staff. Currently, James Baker III is now heading Dubya's legal team for the Florida vote recount, where the sky is the limit in terms of fees and fundraising.

Also, many Dubya's other buddies, who had received large grants from UTIMCO, often paid him back by joining his group of "Pioneers." This corrupt kickback scheme that employed Texas funds to salt campaign contributions makes Whitewater seem like a Sunday school picnic.

Another example of Dubya's corruption made international news March 5, 2000. The London *Sunday Times,* in an article by its New York bureau chief Tom Rhodes entitled "Bush's Backers in Fraud Inquiry," pointed out that there is an ongoing investigation by U.S. Attorney for Connecticut Stephen C. Robinson, FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Michael Wolf, and IRS Criminal Investigation Division Chief Gregory Szczeszek, into how $500 million of Connecticut state pension funds were allegedly laundered through Wayne Berman's Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm, Park Strategies. Berman, who subsequently dismissed himself from the honor, had been one of Dubya's "Pioneers."

According to four published sources, this investigation may also include The Carlyle Group. The Carlyle Group also employed "Pioneer" Berman as a consultant, and he reportedly received $1 million as a "finder's fee" for getting $60-100 million of the Connecticut state pension funds placed into Carlyle by former Connecticut State Treasurer Paul Silvester. He subsequently pleaded guilty to multiple charges involving bribery, money-laundering, and running a Racketeering Influenced and Criminal Organization (RICO) conspiracy.

Examples of Gore's Corruption

Since he launched his campaign for President, Gore has made "Big Oil" one of his favorite targets. However, since approximately 1950, whenever the late "Red Capitalist" and oil tycoon, Dr. Armand Hammer of Occidental Petroleum, was asked about his relationship with Sen. Al Gore, Sr. (the Vice President's late father), Hammer would smile and pat his wallet. Since his father's death in December 1998, Al Gore Jr. holds $500,000-$1 million of stock in Occidental, which is one of the largest integrated oil companies in the United States.

And, Vice President Al Gore, Jr., "the good son," has helped pay Occidental Petroleum back. In October 1996, as part of Gore's "Reinventing Government" project, the Clinton-Gore Administration sold Elk Hills, one of two reservoirs of the Naval Petroleum Reserve, through a "sealed bid" auction, to Occidental. The price amounted $3.50 to $5.25 per barrel. Today, Occidental Petroleum is selling this "light, sweet oil" for $35 a barrel.

There is also approximately 2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Elk Hills, that Occidental is now selling for $5.50-7 per 1,000 cubic feet. And, Occidental plans to build a natural gas-fired generating plant and sell the electricity in California, where deregulation has sent electric bills soaring by 50% or more.

As the June 16 *Washington Times* revealed, this giveaway of Elk Hills reportedly tripled Occidental's U.S.-based oil reserves. And, it led to an immediate 10% increase in the company's stock price, from which Gore and his family have reaped at least $50,000 in profits. Moreover, several members of Occidental Petroleum have contributed the campaign limit of $1,000 to Vice President Gore's campaign.

Another morally corrupt deal in which Al Gore, Jr. has been involved, has been pandering to Hollywood to raise contributions. This goes to the heart of a dramatic and public rift has erupted between the Clintons and Gore over the issue of what former Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche has called the "New Violence," which has seen video games like "Pokeman" and movies such as "Star Wars" turn young children into killers.

The rift between the President and Gore first emerged publicly within hours of the release of a Federal Trade Commission report on the role of the motion picture, video-game, and music industries in fostering youth violence. The report, issued on September 11, 2000, harshly censured the entertainment industry for flagrantly using aggressive illegal marketing practices, to peddle violent and pornographic "entertainment" products to minors, while, hypocritically, claiming to enforce voluntary rating standards.

Within hours of the release of the FTC report, which President Clinton had personally commissioned on June 1, 1999, following the school massacre in Littleton, Colorado six weeks earlier, the President and the First Lady appeared together at an event in Scarsdale, New York, and delivered powerful endorsements of the FTC findings, going beyond the issues raised by the Trade Commission study.

President Clinton raised the issue to a more profound level. "First of all," he told the audience, "this is in some ways the newest of issues and in some ways the oldest of issues. Plato said thousands of years ago: 'Those who tell the stories rule society.' "

The same day as the President and the First Lady were taking up this crisis of the "New Violence," Vice President Gore, in a one-hour live appearance on the Oprah Winfrey television show, attempted to wrap himself around the issue,