

name appeared on a short list of suspected Pollard collaborators, who stole the crown jewels of American national security and passed them, via Tel Aviv, on to Moscow. The so-called “X Committee” of Israeli-Soviet spies was never rooted out. Indeed, some of the leading suspects on the list prepared by then-Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger’s general counsel, have now made their way back into the Bush national security apparatus!

The Knuckle-Dragers Join the Bush Team

While the “Establishment” grouping within the Bush Administration—represented by Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill (the former chairman and CEO of Alcoa)—was taking its licks over the defense budget cuts, another nasty element was being added to the Bush II equation. Several senior posts at the Defense Department and the State Department were filled by veterans of the Reagan-Bush era “X Committee” and Iran-Contra “secret team.” The emergence of this corrupt, killer apparatus in senior management posts at the State and Defense Departments will further tilt the Bush Administration toward the Ashcroft “Yahooks,” who share these knuckle-draggers’ fanatical commitment to Israel, particularly the Israel of right-wing warhawk Gen. Ariel Sharon, the incoming Prime Minister.

In the span of one week, President Bush announced the appointments of Paul Wolfowitz as Deputy Secretary of Defense, Richard Armitage as Deputy Secretary of State, and Dov Zakheim as Under Secretary of Defense/Comptroller.

In February 1998, Wolfowitz, Armitage, and Zakheim were all signators on a letter to President Clinton, demanding the launching of a covert military operation, modelled on the “Contra” operations against the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua in the 1980s, to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. With Armitage due to run the day-to-day business of the State Department, and Wolfowitz set to handle the same duties at the Pentagon, there is no doubt that such an Iraqi “Contra” fiasco, and similar covert wars, are back on the agenda—regardless of whether the United States has a defense-industrial sector or not.

Armitage made this secret war policy, particularly toward Iraq, clear, at a recent meeting of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, in which he discussed the Bush foreign policy agenda. “I personally have no doubt that early on in the Bush Administration, the President will be challenged by Saddam Hussein in one manner or another. And this may offer an opportunity to resolve the questions of WMD [weapons of mass destruction] capability in Iraq,” he said. In an interview with the *Washington Post*, he cited Saddam’s flouting of UN resolutions, concluding, “many people have come to the view that perhaps eviction is in order.”

Armitage painted an even more graphic picture of what to expect from the Bush national security team, when he described himself at another forum on Bush policy: “I’m the guy with the blood, the mud, and the beer.”

‘Get Clinton’ Chieftain Named to Ashcroft DOJ

by Edward Spannaus

Following weeks of leaks in the news media, President George W. Bush nominated Theodore Olson, the man who ran the “Get Clinton” campaign from behind the scenes for the past eight years, for the position of U.S. Solicitor General. Olson came into the public eye as Bush’s chief lawyer before the U.S. Supreme Court in the Florida election case, where Olson argued in front of his cronies, Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, and Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

But, since 1993, for almost the entire period of Bill Clinton’s Presidency, Olson dispensed more than \$2 million of Richard Mellon Scaife’s money to bring down Clinton; it was Olson, as the lawyer for the *American Spectator*, who set up the so-called “Arkansas Project” to dig up dirt and witnesses against Clinton starting in late 1993.

The project resulted in numerous anti-Clinton articles in the *American Spectator* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and produced David Hale as the key witness against Clinton in the fraudulent “Whitewater” investigation. Already by November-December 1993, Olson was in contact with Hale, and had become his attorney. “Olson is somebody who Scaife would trust to see that nothing went wrong and that his money would not be wasted,” a source told *Salon* magazine in 1998.

Olson and Starr go back together to the 1970s, when they were partners in the Los Angeles law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; and they entered the Justice Department together at the beginning of the Reagan Administration. Both are also activists in the mis-named Federalist Society, founded in 1982 under the direction of Scalia.

Given that Olson was involved in orchestrating the Arkansas Whitewater scandals against Clinton *before* Starr was appointed Whitewater independent counsel, it is likely that Olson secretly played an instrumental role in arranging Starr’s appointment.

Olson and his wife Barbara (who wrote a vile book-length screed against Hillary Clinton) hosted regular Friday night meetings of the “Get Clinton” legal and journalist crowd at their Great Falls, Virginia home, which reportedly sometimes included Starr, their mutual friend Robert Bork, the *Wall Street Journal*’s Robert Bartley, and the *American Spectator*’s Emmett Tyrrell.

On Feb. 14, Bush also nominated Larry D. Thompson, a former U.S. Attorney in Atlanta, as Chief Deputy to Attorney General John Ashcroft. The nomination of Thompson, an African-American, is apparently intended to blunt some of