50 richest and most powerful Jews of the U.S. and Canada. There was no press coverage, no limelight, just a few lines in the newspapers. . . . They agreed to launch a PR program under the Orwellian codename of 'Truth' with the purpose of influencing American public opinion regarding Israeli policies."

Shamir continued, "The megabucks call themselves 'Mega group.' This name appeared in the media a couple of years ago, as a name for the secret Israeli mole in the upper reaches of the U.S. establishment. It came up in an overheard phone conversation, later denied by the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. The newshounds and spook watchers got it wrong. 'Mega' was not an agent, Mega was the boss."

With some bitterness, Shamir wrote, "Megabucks influence us, even more than they influence the U.S. Our politicians are as weak and corrupt as America's and they are easier to swing. Even relative small-timers can cause eruption and bloodshed, like the California bingo-parlor owner [Irving] Moskowitz, who pushed our ex-prime minister Netanyahu to open the tunnel under the Haram al Sharif. . . . The Megabucks can buy Israel with their spare change. If they wish, we would have peace in Palestine today. But they are not interested in Israel per se. . . . Megabucks care for themselves, and they need Israel in order to keep the American Jews together, supporting them. That is why they do not mind bloodshed in Palestine, and even a bloody regional war does not scare them."

Shamir concluded: "In my opinion, Megabucks, rather than forces of Caballa, move the events in the Middle East. It is not magic, just money—but a lot of money. They do not rule America or Israel, but they exercise a lot of influence. Fifty multibillionaires united in one framework present a very real force in the world."

Of course, Shamir does not have the picture precisely right. The Bronfman-centered Mega Group is but one component of an insane and desperate element within the transatlantic financial establishment that is now pressing for a "Clash of Civilizations," as a means of responding to the collapse of their global financial empire, and the threat of a new set of Eurasia-centered cooperative arrangements among nations supplanting their power. But, as far as the Mega puzzle is concerned, Shamir has solved the mystery.

No wonder Mossad boss Yatom scolded his Washington-based underling with the warning, "This is not something we use Mega for."

Is Rail Union Pension Moynihan's Precedent?

by Anita Gallagher

On July 30, legislation which repeals the Roosevelt-era Railway Act of 1934, by allowing some pension fund assets of railroad workers to be invested in private securities, sailed through the House of Representatives with 384 votes. The new Railroad Retirement and Survivors Improvement Act of 2001 was supported by the AFL-CIO. But it may well be used by the Bush Administration as a precedent for the privatization of Social Security monies, which the same union leadership intends to demonstrate *against* in the Fall.

A fight for the right to invest pension money in bankrupt Wall Street is reality-avoidance of the worst kind. As Lyndon LaRouche, candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 2004, recently stated, "The only question being asked by alert and sane people around the world, is, 'Since the crash is now here, what do we do now?' The only significant issues before both the U.S. and world populations, are the political issues. . . . [Have the American people] still that instinct for survival once seen in the support for President Franklin Roosevelt's leadership out of the Coolidge Depression?" For the AFL-CIO, the answer is doubtful.

The Wall Street establishment desperately needs to employ the Bush Administration to vacuum new suckers into the financial markets, even while the *Wall Street Journal* frankly reported on Aug. 16 that, "The companies listed on the market that symbolize the New Economy haven't made a collective dime since 1995." The "Old Economy" is hardly tanking any less. The 85-15 ratio of new investments in mutual funds versus savings accounts has already flipped in one year, meaning that 85% of the population is now seeking the safety of savings accounts. For the first time since they were created, the average 401(k) private pension account lost 11% in the last year. The Virginia Retirement System lost $3 billion of its capital—7%—in fiscal 2001. Including 401(k)s, pension funds comprise 25% of all U.S. stocks traded—more than $5 trillion.

Financial Establishment Like Dracula

Whatever "visions of sugarplums" were in the heads of the Democrats and labor leaders who supported this rail legislation, the financial establishment operated to expedite what they hope will be a precedent for their Social Security "blood drive."

On July 30, the Opus Dei-connected columnist Robert

The latest recommendations by the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security will lead to the further gouging of America's senior citizens. As this publication reported in its Aug. 10, 2001 issue, the commission should be truthfully called, "Throwing Social Security to the Stock Markets." It is recommending the privatization and looting of Social Security by Wall Street, which needs this largest source of still-untapped funds to help feed its unsalvageable financial debt bubble.

After the commission's Aug. 22 meeting, they are recommending a new way to cheat: looking at ways to cut the scheduled payout to those who retire after the next ten years. Recommended was a change in indexing, from wages to inflation. A change in indexing would decrease benefits, as official inflation figures have been shown to be fudged downward. According to a Congressional Research Service Report, the change would reduce benefits by 12.9% by 2030, and 40.8% by 2070.

Commission Co-chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan (right), and Chairman Richard Parsons, are shown at a media availability before the Aug. 22 meeting.

Novak revealed in the *Washington Post* that "this remarkable piece of legislation" had been "quietly" cleared for action by House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.). Hastert had suspended the rules, which meant minimal debate and no amendments allowed, despite the fact that Republicans had killed a similar bill in the Senate last year. Further, Novak says, the bill violates President Bush's stated principle that there be no government—as opposed to individual—investment of retirement money into private capital markets. Why would Hastert, Bush's majority leader, support what Novak calls "a bad bill" that violates Bush's principles? Because Hastert needs alliances, and the bill was championed by fellow Republican "old bull," Rep. Don Young of Alaska, Novak answers. Right.

Bush's "opposition" to these Republicans, reminds one of Brer Rabbit's refrain, "*Please* don't throw me into that briar patch"—which is, of course, exactly where Brer Rabbit wants to be. Novak's claim that the bill is a budget buster is all a diversion. What those supporting the bill want is a precedent for "scoring"—that is, counting—pension money privately invested, as simply "reallocated" trust money that is still available, as if it were as safe on Wall Street, as in the old mandated investment in U.S.Treasury bonds.

This same "scoring" question is at the heart of the Social Security debate: to allow Social Security money invested in Wall Street to be counted just as if it were invested in U.S. government securities. The 1934 Railroad legislation created a separate social security system for railroad workers, which predates the Social Security system that covers Americans today. The railroad trust fund contains "tier one" money, which parallels the Social Security system, and "tier two" money, which parallels the additional pension a union worker would receive above Social Security.

The sugarplum used to gain the union support is that added benefits could be financed by "greater rates of return" in private investment—an idea that ignores all the evidence of painful reality. But, as the bill's proponents cheerily point out, if the investment reserves fall below the mandated level, contributions from workers can be increased. That's like saying, if your stock portfolio's value shrinks, you can always stop eating—or get two more jobs—and restore it to its old level: your own "personal guarantee!" It is also not impossible, if the investments are, at first, sufficiently limited, that some brief profits could be managed for the rail workers' fund this year, and be used as bait when the fight on Social Security itself begins in Congress.

Isn't it time for sane people to face reality—especially when even the insane bankers admit they need a fix?