for the B61-11. The money was flowing by July 1995. On Nov. 15, 1995 Smith pressed for the weapons labs to accelerate the R&D timetable, so the first B61-11 could be delivered to the military before the end of 1996.

The new nuclear weapon that replaced the B53 weighed 1,200 pounds, and could carry a nuclear payload ranging from 300 tons to 340 kilotons.

Even before the first B61-11 was delivered, Smith was threatening its use. He told a group of Pentagon correspondents in Spring 1996 that the United States would soon have a nuclear bunker-buster that could destroy an alleged underground Libyan chemical weapons plant at Tarhunah, 40 miles southeast of the capital, Tripoli, which the United States considered a serious threat. On May 7, 1996, Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon scrambled to repudiate Smith's threat, telling reporters at a regular Pentagon briefing, "There is no consideration of using nuclear weapons, and any implication we would use nuclear weapons against this plant pre-emptively is just wrong."

Don't Forget Israel

As reported in the preceding article, the current Bush Administation, top-heavy with mini-nuke proponents from the "Bush 41" Pentagon, has put the issue of pre-emptive nuclear war back on the front burner. The *Los Angeles Times* reported on Jan. 25, 2003, in an article by Paul Richter, "As the Pentagon continues a highly visible build-up of troops and weapons in the Persian Gulf, it is also quietly preparing for the possible use of nuclear weapons in a war against Iraq. . . . Military officials have been focusing their planning on the use of tactical nuclear arms in retaliation for a strike by the Iraqis with chemical or biological weapons, or to pre-empt one." Richter reported that one plan under consideration would include "the possible use of so-called bunker-buster nuclear weapons against deep buried military targets."

A senior retired U.S. military intelligence official, close to the Bush White House, told *EIR* that President Bush has not signed off on these nuclear weapons schemes, and that, beyond the B61-11, no other mini-nukes presently exist in the U.S. arsenal. Furthermore, he emphasized that even the untested B61-11 is a most dubious proposition, with a majority of nuclear experts contending that the idea that such bunker-busters would have limited radioactive spread, was pure nonsense.

Nevertheless, the utopian gang in the Bush civilian Pentagon bureaucracy and the Office of the Vice President have thrown their weight behind the idea of pre-emptive nuclear war against Third World "rogue" targets. This poses one of the post profound threats to global peace and stability in a generation. While there are undoubtedly sane voices in the U.S. military and intelligence establishment who would counter this new generation of Dr. Strangeloves, were they to reach for the nuclear button, who can vouch for Ariel Sharon's nuclear-armed Israel, which plays a perverse game of "monkey see, monkey do," with Washington's war party?

Lieberman Again Claims Bush's Iraq Policy

by Scott Thompson

At the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) meeting in Washington, where Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) was hosted on Feb. 26 before nationwide TV, the Senator began his speech by saying, "A funny thing happened today on the way to the Council to deliver this speech on post-war Iraq. We learned tonight that President Bush plans to talk tonight on the very same subject. This is good news." In the sequel, Lieberman again claimed credit for a post-9/11 policy coup d'état against the President, as he had at the Feb. 8-9 Wehrkunde military policy meeting in Munich. There, he boasted, "You might therefore say that, when it comes to Iraq, President Bush is just enforcing the McCain-Lieberman policy."

Both on "regime change" and "post-Saddam Iraq," Lieberman is exaggerating. Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche noted that President Bush's own Feb. 26 speech, to the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), was drafted by "a committee," and reflects the views of the neo-cons, "Wolfowitz-Perle cabal chicken-hawks," Christian Zionists, and others. Nonetheless, that televised address by the President on the question of "post-Saddam Iraq," was drafted with almost verbatim reprises of a Feb. 13 resolution that Senator Lieberman had introduced into Congress on the question; a long open letter that Lieberman had sent the President on the same subject that day; and Lieberman's above-referenced remarks to the CFR. Particularly echoed, was the demand that implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement must await the toppling of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein—which in reality, will rather trigger a 100 years war, than peace and security in the Middle East.

'Bull Moose' Blackmail

What is the strange hold of Lieberman and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) over the President? The answer is a matter of public record. Senator McCain has, like his hero the imperialist President Teddy Roosevelt, raised the threat of bolting the Republican Party to run on a "Bull Moose" Third Party ticket in 2004. In 1912, when President TR did this, he threw the re-election of incumbent Republican President William Taft to Democrat and Ku Klux Klan promoter, President Woodrow Wilson.

As McCain sycophant Elizabeth Drew documents in her book *Citizen McCain* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002), all the infrastructure for such a "Bull Moose" option, which

has driven White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove into paroxysms of rage, has been in place since shortly after McCain's 2000 bid for the Republican Presidential nomination. This was the main task of Marshall Wittmann, now McCain's chief spokesman, while he was at the Marc Rich- and "Russian Mafiya"-affiliated Hudson Institute. Wittman founded the Center for Conservative Reform, while others founded McCain's main political action committee, Straight Talk America. And on Feb. 21, Lieberman's Tweedledee, McCain, announced that, rather than retiring from the Senate, "the war on terrorism has renewed my view that there is still service to do." Thus, McCain announced that he would run for a fourth term and brought on Marshall Wittmann as his chief campaign spokesman, thereby deliberately opening the "Bull Moose" option wider. So widely is this being discussed, that Drew reports that McCain wrote a four-page letter to every precinct leader in Arizona, claiming that he would not run as an independent.

The Resolution

EIR has learned that Democrat Lieberman, in addition to being a "poster boy" for the Democratic-Republican Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), has now also emerged as the poster boy of a leading neo-conservative publication, the *Weekly Standard.*

In a Feb. 25 article in the *New York Post* (owned by imperialist Rupert Murdoch, whose News Corporation also owns *The Weekly Standard*), the editors of the *Standard* are quoted praising Lieberman for challenging anti-war Democratic Presidential candidates in Iowa. They quote Lieberman as having said that the 1991 Persian Gulf War was incomplete, because: "I worried then and throughout the '90s that we were allowing Saddam to become a ticking time bomb. I'm not going to oppose a policy [of regime change] that I've supported for 12 years just because the person who happens to be the Commander in Chief of the United States today is a Republican. . . . I'm going to hope, ultimately, that people will draw a conclusion, even if they disagree with me on Iraq, that . . . [I will] be the kind of candidate and type of President who will not try to please all the people all of the time."

Also on Feb. 25, in his "Lieberman Letter," Lieberman disclosed the entirety of his Feb. 13 resolution and elaborated open letter to President Bush, and repeated that he himself was "the lead sponsor of the legislation authorizing force against Iraq," back in January, and that he had now become "Mr. Post-Saddam Iraq."

Highlights of his resolution, which was the basis of his Feb. 26 CFR talk, include:

- The President must submit an estimate to Congress of the post-war costs for relief and reconstruction; with more "robust" response to calls for pledges toward a relief fund.
- The President must "design a transitional security force for Iraq," to reconstitute military, law enforcement, police, and judicial institutions, purged of individuals loyal to Saddam Hussein or guilty of serious human rights abuses.
- He must designate a transitional coordinator for humanitarian relief, who cooperates with Iraqi opposition groups.
- He should "carefully consider the most crucial security threat, the need to secure Iraq's weapons of mass destruction . . . to ensure that they are neither stolen nor transferred to terrorists. . . ."
- He should "develop measures necessary to temporarily steward Iraq's natural resources," especially protecting oil from destruction "by Saddam Hussein as his regime collapses . . . in retreat."
- He should "make provisions to establish an interim government and to ensure that it commands popular legitimacy," on the model of Karzai's government in Afghanistan.

These main points from Lieberman's resolution, were both in his letter the President Bush of Feb. 13 and in Lieberman's speech to the CFR on Feb. 26.

Lieberman Denies Steinhardt?

During both the CFR's question and answer period and the following press availability, which was covered by most major U.S. media, there were propitiatory questions to the effect of how Lieberman thought it best to select his "international civilian coordinator" to be proconsul for "post-Saddam Iraq." However, this author got an opportunity to ask: "There are growing splits in the Democratic Party?" Lieberman replied, "Yes." *EIR* asked, "The main reason is not just the war, but deep divisions on how to handle the economy. You are a leading member of the Democratic Leadership Council, which re-orients the Party toward the suburban middle class." Again, Lieberman said, "Yes."

EIR finally asked, "Michael A. Steinhardt, who is the co-founder and chief funder of the DLC, states in his autobiography, that his father was a fence for the Meyer Lansky Syndicate and that Michael Steinhardt started his hedge fund fortune by laundering money from the Lansky Syndicate. Do you denounce Michael Steinhardt?" Lieberman responded: "I have not read Michael's book. Michael has not had anything to do with the Democratic Leadership Council for some time." With that answer, Lieberman backed away and the press conference ended.

Steinhardt, however, as *EIR* has previously documented, had been a political patron of Lieberman. Lieberman was in fact the longest serving President of the DLC, from 1993 until 2000, when he was tapped by the Marc Rich-linked Al Gore to be Gore's running mate. Also, it is significant, that the $200 million in trusts of Lieberman's "partner" Senator McCain's family, which McCain's wife inherited as heiress to the Hensley brewing interests in Arizona, was the fruit of Prohibition-era gangster Sam Bronfman's operations in that state.

So, "The Bull Moose" option associated with nominal Republican McCain, in reality, represents the gangster wing of the Democratic Party.