

Cheney Under Fire for Intelligence Frauds

by Edward Spannaus

In a June 26 radio interview, Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche was asked why he is calling for the impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney for foisting falsified intelligence upon the President justify the war against Iraq, and whether he is thereby relieving President Bush of the burden of responsibility.

“No,” LaRouche responded, “I’m looking at government as a future President would. We have a President who ain’t worth shucks, but he happens to be the President. Now, what if you go for the President? You haven’t got much on him, because the fact that he’s not too clever, shall we say, means that that’s a moderating consideration, in any errors he made.

“The point is, he is essentially a puppet of the Vice President, and this gang we call the neo-cons. Now, my view is, if we get this bunch out, . . . then I believe that the institutions of the Executive, with a little more courage shown by the Democrats, for example, in the Congress, we can get through the next year and a half, or so, without terrible problem.

“However, if you were to go for the President, against whom you do not have a clear case, you can’t prove that he knew what he was doing, because his limitations are well known. However, the Vice President, who is actually controlling the President’s mind, like a ventriloquist controlling a dummy, he is the problem. You want to get rid of the President, and put *him* [Cheney] in as President?”

Cheney in the Spotlight

Others are pointing the finger at the Vice President as well. We reprint below a column by retired CIA analyst Ray McGovern, who tears apart some of the excuses being proffered by the *Washington Post* and others to cover up Cheney’s role in cooking the intelligence on alleged Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Additionally, *Time* magazine, in its July 7 issue, asked “Who Lost the WMD?” The article identifies key questions that Congress wants answered, and the first question is: “What was Cheney’s role?”

Time reports that the Congressional committees investigating the Administration’s pre-war claims about Iraqi WMD, want to know about Cheney’s repeated visits to the CIA in the period before the war, to review intelligence assessments with CIA analysts. “Some Democrats say Cheney’s visits may have amounted to pressure on the normally cautious agency,” *Time* says. “Cheney’s defenders insist that his visits merely showed the importance of the issue and that

an honest analyst wouldn’t feel pressure to twist intelligence. The House intelligence committee (and possibly its Senate counterpart, sources say) plans to question the CIA analysts who briefed Cheney, and that could lead to calling Cheney’s hard-line aides and perhaps the Veep himself to testify.”

On June 25, Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) offered an amendment to the Intelligence Authorization Bill, which would have required the Inspector General of the CIA “to conduct an audit of all telephone and electronic communications between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Office of the Vice President,” relating to Iraq WMD. Citing President Bush’s claim, in his State of the Union address, that Saddam Hussein had sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa, Kucinich asked: “Did the Vice President play a role in making false information become the public reason the President went to war in Iraq?”

Cheney, Fraud, and CIA: Not Business As Usual

by Ray McGovern

This column was originally published in the Hartford Courant of Connecticut on June 27. Ray McGovern, a CIA analyst from 1964-90, regularly reported to the Vice President and senior policy-makers on the President’s Daily Brief from 1981-85.

As though this were normal! I mean the repeated visits Vice President Dick Cheney made to the CIA before the war in Iraq. The visits were, in fact, unprecedented. During my 27-year career at the Central Intelligence Agency, no vice president ever came to us for a working visit. During the ’80s, it was my privilege to brief Vice President George H.W. Bush and other very senior policy-makers every other morning. I went either to the Vice President’s office or (on weekends) to his home. I am sure it never occurred to him to come to CIA headquarters.

The morning briefings gave us an excellent window on what was uppermost in the minds of those senior officials and helped us refine our tasks of collection and analysis. Thus, there was never any need for policy-makers to visit us. And the very thought of a Vice President dropping by to help us with our analysis is extraordinary. We preferred to do that work without the pressure that inevitably comes from policy-makers at the table.

Cheney got into the operational side of intelligence as well. Reports in late 2001 that Iraq had tried to acquire uranium from Niger, stirred such intense interest that his office let it be known he wanted them checked out. So, with the CIA as facilitator, a retired U.S. ambassador was dispatched to Niger in February 2002 to investigate. He found nothing to