

Has 'Daddy Warbucks' Soros Double-Crossed The Democrats?

by Our Special Correspondent

The Republican National Committee (RNC) and the Bush-Cheney in 2004 election campaign are laughing all the way to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), in delight over the fact that billionaire financier George Soros is helping himself to two Presidential campaigns in 2004: the Democratic Party campaign, whose nominee is not even decided yet, and the independent campaign of Ralph Nader—and the Democrats are apparently clueless.

No one in the Democratic National Committee (DNC) or in John Kerry's Presidential campaign has bothered to notice that Kevin B. Zeese, Soros' longtime #2 man in his main cause, the drive to legalize drugs, is also spokesman for Nader's Presidential campaign. DNC chief Terry McAuliffe has been entreating Nader not to run for President in 2004, while cheering billionaire Soros for his populist rhetoric that he will dedicate "his life" to defeating George W. Bush. McAuliffe's DNC'ers are complaining that Nader will split the "anti-Bush vote," but are stuffing their pockets with the same Soros dollars that built the drug legalization apparatus that is on tap, through Zeese, to put Nader on the ballot in at least 43 states as an independent.

Exploiting Soros' professed passion to defeat Bush in 2004, the RNC has filed a complaint with the FEC which charges that Kerry is at the center of "an illegal conspiracy of donors and shadowy groups to defeat President Bush," with a \$300 million "slush fund." The RNC says the Kerry campaign is using "527s"—groups organized under section 527 of the Internal Revenue code to raise money for political activities, including voter mobilization efforts, issue advocacy, and the like, to make up for an inability to raise enough "hard money" to defeat Bush. The Kerry conspiracy, says the RNC complaint, is "an unprecedented criminal enterprise designed to impermissibly affect a presidential election." The RNC succeeded in triggering the FEC to hold two days of hearings to redefine "the current definition of 'political committee,'" which could knock out the 527s, and subject the groups and their donors to major fines.

So, DNC chief McAuliffe has set the Democrats up for an attack, by cozying up to Soros, and the RNC moved in.

Even worse, at the same time that McAuliffe encourages Democrats' dependency on Soros dope dollars, he has been circulating a false, slanderous letter to Democratic Party state

chairmen, blackballing Democratic Party primary candidate Lyndon LaRouche. McAuliffe's actions against LaRouche are suicidal for the Democrats, since LaRouche has the broadest mass base of support of all the Democrats in the race. The March 2004 Monthly Reports filed with the FEC place LaRouche first, with 37,867 itemized contributions to Kerry's 35,337. Dennis Kucinich has 7,622 itemized contributions, and Al Sharpton has 2,486.

Soros and Nader

How big has the Democrats' dependence on Soros and the drug legalization lobby become? Records posted on the website of the Center for Responsive Politics show that the three funders of the decade-long drive to legalize recreational drugs in America—George Soros, John Sperling, and Peter Lewis—are the sugar-daddies behind the 527 groups. Soros Fund Management has put \$6,530,715 into 527s, according to records released by the Internal Revenue Service on April 12, 2004, reports the website opensecrets.org. Soros is therefore the #2 donor in the whole 2004 election cycle, topped only by the AFSCME labor union. Drug legalization funder Peter B. Lewis, founder of the Progressive Corp., an insurance company, ranks fifth, with \$3,980,000. Sperling's donations did not rank among the top 20 donors to 527s, but in recent years, he has dropped his former allegiance to the Republican Party, and has already dropped about \$100,000 into the Democrats' committees for 2004, such as the Congressional and Senatorial Campaign Committees.

The Cheney-Bush forces are just as gleeful that Nader is running as an independent. And, in order to keep the game up, they are praising his "independence."

On March 4, shortly after Nader announced his decision to run for President, Accuracy in Media, a conservative website, claimed that Nader's campaign was a "setback" for billionaire Soros. "Ralph Nader cannot be bought," crowed AIM reporter Cliff Kincaid, providing cover for Soros' double-dealing.

There are signs that Nader's campaign is going to be *nothing but* Soros' dope apparatus, courtesy of Zeese. Already Nader surprised everyone by claiming that he will not accept the nomination of the three "third parties" which carry automatic ballot status in a few states: the Greens, with 23 states, the Reform Party, with 7 states, and the Natural Law Party with 12, even though that means he must gather signatures to get on the ballot. On April 3, the *Washington Post* quoted Nader's spokesman, Zeese, saying that "Ralph sees himself as an independent. . . . Rather than being defined by a party, we define ourselves."

There is no problem defining Zeese. The Soros-boy is president of Common Sense for Drug Policy, co-founder of the Soros/Ethan Nadelmann Drug Policy Foundation (the Lindesmith Center), former executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), author of numerous books on drug legalization, and a lawyer in decriminalization and "medical marijuana" cases.