

What Makes Gingrich Run?

by Michele Steinberg

Jan. 24—Just weeks after Newt Gingrich’s Presidential campaign tanked in Iowa and New Hampshire, the low-life former Speaker of the House made a miraculous comeback, winning the primary in South Carolina, putting himself back in the race. According to a well-placed Washington analyst on U.S. Presidential campaigns, Gingrich’s success has nothing to do with a grass-roots conservative upsurge, but rather, to a flood of money from billionaire contributors to the Republican Party, which is deeply split over whether to support Mitt Romney. The mega-funding is intended to provide Gingrich with what he needs to be the pitbull who will block Romney’s early sweep of delegates.

The reality is that the GOP’s miasma stems from the fact that the party, thoroughly corrupted from the Bush-Cheney years, has stubbornly blocked what would be the crucial action for the survival of the United States—the removal of Barack Obama from office.

Instead, the entire field of Republicans is hopelessly incompetent to lead the United States, and that fact makes Gingrich all the more dangerous. While most people think that Gingrich’s unfitness is related to his personal depravity, e.g., his marital perversions and financial dealings, the greatest danger comes from one of his top financial backers—the notorious Las Vegas gambling czar Sheldon Adelson, owner of the Sands and Venetian casinos. Adelson is described as the eighth-richest man in America, and backer of Gingrich to the tune of a promised \$20 million between December 2011 and the Republican convention. With a personal fortune estimated to be greater than \$20 billion, Adelson can give even more than \$20 million if he wants to, as long as it is funneled through the independent Su-

per-PACs supporting Gingrich. In the last two weeks, \$5 million of Adelson’s promise was delivered, financing the attack-dog ads against Romney in the run-up to the South Carolina primary.

The Adelson money flow began in December, when, in an exclusive interview with The Jewish Channel, a U.S.-based cable TV network, Gingrich declared that the Palestinians were an “invented people,” and had no historic existence. “They were part of the Ottoman Empire,” like the vast majority of Arabs, Gingrich declared. This piece of historical fiction was typical Newt Gingrich. More than any other Republican Party Presidential candidate, Gingrich never misses an opportunity to declare his unswerving loyalty to the right-wing war-mongering of Benjamin Netanyahu’s Israel. In his speech following the Iowa Republican caucuses, where he came in a distant fourth place, behind Romney, Rick Santorum, and Ron Paul, Gingrich took the occasion to declare that U.S. national security is identical to Israeli national security, a patently false notion, which is likely to provoke a general war.

Undying Loyalty to Israel

Every Republican Presidential candidate, with the glaring exception of Rep. Ron Paul (Tex.), has repeatedly declared his or her undying loyalty to Israel. But Gingrich stands out from the crowd, in his never-fail professions of loyalty to Israel as a Jewish state, and



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Sheldon Adelson, the Las Vegas gambling king, is the mega-moneybags behind the Gingrich “surge.”

specifically, the Israel of fascist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Ehud Barak, and Foreign Affairs Minister Avigdor Lieberman. The ruling regime in Israel is threatening preemptive war against Iran—without prior warning to its ally the United States—knowing that the U.S. will bear the brunt of retaliation and the sacrifice in blood and money.

This is exactly the agenda of Sheldon Adelson, one of Netanyahu and the Likud Party's biggest funders.

On Dec 15, the *Las Vegas Sun*, the newspaper of America's casino capital, ran a headline report, "Sheldon Adelson commits \$20 million to pro-Newt Gingrich group." Adelson is one of the wealthiest men in the world, according to *Forbes* magazine, and one of the closest friends and financial backers of Netanyahu.

His control over the Republican Party is enhanced by his financing of the Republican Jewish Caucus (RJC), the venue in which the 2012 Republican candidates, with the exception of Ron Paul, tried to outdo each other calling for war against Iran. Adelson's relationship to the RJC is so close that he has used his private jets to provide free transportation for Republican lawmakers in events sponsored by the Caucus. (Adelson says that collecting airplanes is his weakness, and he has one of the largest private fleets in the world, with about 100 aircraft, a virtual political Air Force.)

In 2007, Adelson launched a free Hebrew-language daily newspaper in Israel, called *Israel Hayom* (*Israel Today*). From its first day in print, it was the largest circulating newspaper in the Jewish state, and it remains so to this day. *Israel Hayom* supports the continued expansion of settlements and full integration of the Yesha settlements (all of "Judea and Samaria") into Israel. He is also a major donor to Birthright Israel, an organization founded by Michael Steinhardt, another leading American Zionist financier. The group sends thousands of young American Jews to Israel each year, free of charge, for sophisticated profiling and recruitment as, at least, political capital in support of the Jewish state, or as the future dual citizens of Israel and the United States.

Through his Adelson Family Foundation, Adelson bankrolls a right-wing think tank in Jerusalem, the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies, whose chairman is Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Natan Sharansky, the Soviet-era refugee, who has been a key Netanyahu ally. Sharansky also heads an organization called One Jerusalem, which is dedicated to securing Jerusa-

lem as the undivided capital of the Jewish state. The group has been investigated for laundering American Christian Zionist funds into the Likud Party.

Adelson played a crucial role in ensuring that the negotiations with the Palestinians sought by former Sen. George Mitchell would be dead on arrival (Mitchell resigned the post as envoy to the talks in May 2011). When Netanyahu agreed, early in the Obama Presidency, to a temporary halt in settlement construction in the West Bank, Adelson flew to Israel to convince the prime minister to reverse his decision. It was Adelson, together with American financier and California bingo gambling king, Irving Moscowitz, who ensured that the expansion of Jewish settlements would sabotage any possibility of good-faith negotiations. As Adelson was conspiring with Netanyahu on how to manipulate the U.S. political landscape on the Middle East, Moscowitz was ordering the demolition of historic Palestinian properties in East Jerusalem: The result was the end of any Israel-Palestinian talks in September 2010.

Casino Dollars

Adelson made his big money in the gambling casino business. His Las Vegas Sands Corporation owns a string of high-end gambling casinos in Las Vegas, Macao, and Singapore. According to Connie Bruck, in her June 30, 2008 *New Yorker* profile of Adelson, his Asian operations have been investigated for bribery, connections to organized crime, and other suspected financial crimes. Bruck's *New Yorker* piece raised serious questions about his business practices and his efforts to use his billions of dollars in personal wealth to influence political decisions in Israel and the United States.

That was 2008. Now, with the danger of Gingrich's Winning Our Future Super-PAC being financed with a promised \$20 million (or more) from Adelson, the questions raised by the *New Yorker* article about the Vegas czar's methods and operations may be a more important issue for the security of the nation. There is no doubt that Gingrich has profited from Warbucks Adelson's largesse: Adelson kicked in the initial \$1 million to get the predecessor to Gingrich's PAC off the ground, and contributed a total of nearly \$8 million to the Gingrich cause before his current Presidential run. Gingrich's Presidential hopes may fade into the desert sunset, but Adelson's power to buy a U.S. political party, and use it for a foreign agenda, remains a serious danger.