

Top GOP and Dems Agree, Time To Dump Cheney

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On June 21, James P. Gannon, editor of the *Des Moines Register* and a leading Midwest mainstream Republican fundraiser and activist, penned an open letter to Vice President Dick Cheney, published in *USA Today* and many other newspapers around the country, which sent shockwaves through Republican Party circles. Gannon bluntly called on Cheney to remove himself from the November Republican ticket: "Nobody knows better than you do that you have become a lightning rod for criticism, and a favorite target for your party's political opponents. Fair or not, it is simply too easy to paint Dick Cheney as a tool of the oil industry, a too-eager advocate of war in Iraq and a too-gullible supporter of the now-disgraced Ahmad Chalabi, who fed the Bush Administration false intelligence on Iraq. Your former company, Halliburton, is a political albatross around your neck, weighing down not only you but also President Bush."

Gannon added, "Moreover, given your history of health problems, you do not offer the Republicans what they need for 2008 and beyond—a President in training. After November, the party will need to think beyond the Presidency of Bush, even if he is re-elected. Inaugurating a Vice President next January who could step up to lead the party in 2008 would be a great asset for the GOP."

Gannon was described by one source as "the voice" of the Midwest GOP. His blunt call for Cheney's removal from the ticket came amidst many behind-the-scenes moves by Eastern Seaboard Republicans. And one well-placed U.S. intelligence community source reported that when President Bush recently asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to stay on for a second term, the popular Cabinet official said he would consider staying on one condition: Dump Cheney from the ticket and cashier out all of the leading neo-conservatives from the Administration.

Rove Getting into the Act?

Another source close to the Bush White House revealed that Karl Rove is rapidly stepping to the forefront of those Republicans demanding Cheney's ouster. Rove—the consummate campaign tactician—is reportedly becoming more and more alarmed over secret GOP poll results showing that Cheney is a growing liability to the re-election cause. He may be encouraging the moves to dump Cheney, according to several reports.

The GOP moves have been paralleled by a growing chorus



The most powerful figure in the Bush Administration has been turned, by Lyndon LaRouche's two-year campaign, into its biggest political liability. Republicans are beginning to call publicly for Cheney's removal from the ticket.

of Congressional Democrats, who have zeroed in on a string of possibly criminal acts by Cheney, including his continuing lying efforts to justify the Iraq war by ever-more fantasmic claims of "proof" that Saddam Hussein had ties to al-Qaeda and the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

After the 9/11 Commission issued a report in mid-June, concluding that there was no evidence of Iraqi links to al-Qaeda and the 9/11 attacks, Cheney went on CNBC-TV on June 17, to claim that he "probably" knew of evidence of ties not known to the Commission. This caused an angry reaction from the Commission members, who have been committed, so far, to maintaining a nonpartisan atmosphere. The *New York Times* reported on June 19 that Commission co-chairmen Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton had issued a demand that Cheney turn over what he knows. Kean, former Republican Governor of New Jersey and a Cabinet member for the first President Bush, told the *Times* that he would be "very disappointed" if the White House did not share everything it knew about the 9/11 case. The *Times* editorialized the same day, "Show us the proof," Mr. Cheney.

Cheney's recently exposed role in the awarding of billions of dollars in no-bid contracts to Halliburton on the eve of the Iraq invasion is another hot issue. On June 17, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) sent a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft, demanding that he appoint an independent counsel to probe the Cheney-Halliburton corruption. Virtually accusing Cheney of lying to Congress and the American people, Lautenberg wrote, "The Vice President and his spokesperson have repeatedly said neither Mr. Cheney nor his staff had any knowledge of or involvement in the award of the no-bid contract to Halliburton. This new evidence contradicts those statements. This matter involves \$2.5 billion in taxpayer funds, and the Attorney General must move swiftly to get an investigation started."

Cheney is also under Federal grand jury scrutiny, SEC

investigation, and a probe by French magistrates over hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes paid to Nigerian government officials, to secure exclusive oil and gas contracts, while the Vice President was Halliburton CEO. A separate Chicago grand jury is also probing a Halliburton offshore subsidiary which did millions of dollars of business with Iran, in possible violation of U.S. embargo laws.

Mid-Summer Nightmare

But Cheney's biggest legal hurdle this summer may involve the ongoing independent counsel probe into the White House leaking of the identity of CIA covert officer Valerie Plame, the wife of Ambassador Joseph Wilson. Sources have told *EIR* that the Federal grand jury has recently heard evidence from a top staffer in the Vice President's Office, implicating VP chief of staff Lewis Libby, and possibly Cheney himself, in the crime.

A midsummer forced resignation of Cheney, in the wake of grand jury indictments, is Karl Rove's worst nightmare. This is one reason why some seasoned Washington political insiders believe that July is going to be the month that Cheney takes a powder.

EIR's Record in Exposing Dick Cheney's Halliburton

Here is a list of some of EIR's articles exposing Dick Cheney's Halliburton as one of the top looters during the Iraq War.

When Cheney was George H.W. Bush's Defense Secretary during the Gulf War, his machinations around a "revolution in military affairs" set the stage for the kind of looting operation he then put in place, during his 1995-2000 tenure as Halliburton's chief executive officer. This list covers only the last two years, because it is the most exhaustive of EIR's coverage, and some special features of individual articles are noted.

For readers, curious to understand, "How did they know where to look?" we strongly recommend the transcript of LaRouche's speech, "On the California Energy Crisis: As Seen and Said by the Salton Sea," published in our Feb. 16, 2001 issue, which was also issued as a strategic policy paper by the Presidential campaign committee LaRouche in 2004.

2003

March 21: "Cheney and Perle To Go Down Like Ollie North?"

April 4: LaRouche statement: "War, Hitler, Cheney."

May 30: "Halliburton Looter: Shouldn't Dick Cheney Be Impeached?"

June 20: "LaRouche Demands Iraq Answers from Vice President Cheney."

July 4: "LaRouche Targets DLC: 'Protection Racket for Cheney'." (This article noted that honest Republicans were becoming disgusted with Cheney, including former National Security Advisor Gen. Brent Scowcroft [ret.] and former Nixon White House Council John Dean.)

July 18: "Cheney Can Be Removed From Office Right Now!" (A LaRouche statement.)

Aug. 1: "Dick Cheney Has Long Planned To Loot Iraqi Oil." (The article included the map of Iraqi oil deposits that Cheney's 2001 Energy Task Force had drawn up, dividing the spoils. The issue's *Feature* itself was "The Case for Impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney")

Sept. 5: "Cheney's Energy Pirates Behind Schwarzenegger Recall Hoax."

Sept. 12: "Cheney's Carpetbaggers: Looking for Loot at the End of the Tunnel."

Sept. 12: "LaRouche Defends Zayed Centre."

Sept. 26: "Halliburton Is Houston's 'Greater Hermann Göring Werke.'" (A major exposé. Did you know, that from 1995-2000, when Cheney was CEO of Halliburton, \$1 out of every \$7 the Pentagon spent, went through Halliburton or its subsidiaries, such as Kellogg Brown & Root?)

Sept. 26: "Make California 'Recall' Fight Cheney's Waterloo." (The transcript of LaRouche's Sept. 11 webcast in Burbank, California, where he went to launch the fight against the campaign to recall Gov. Gray Davis—a recall run by Halliburton's fellow energy pirates, Enron, Dynegy, etc.)

Sept. 26: "Cheney's Sept. 14 Big Lies Backfire."

Oct. 10: "LaRouche-Led Assault on Cheney Is Drawing Blood."

Dec. 26: "Cheney's Halliburton Becomes 'Enron' of War Profiteers."

2004

Feb. 6: "Cheney's Crimes: Case for Impeachment Builds Momentum." (This was the lead article in the issue's cover story.)

"Investigations of Cheney's Crimes Are Multiplying."

"Government 'The Way Dick Likes It.'" (A review of Ron Suskind's book in collaboration with former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, *The Price Of Loyalty: George W. Bush, the White House, and the Education of Paul O'Neill*.)

Feb. 27: "Cheney Targetted in Halliburton and War-Profitteering Scandals." (Congress, including Sen. Frank Lautenberg, sets the checks and balances into motion.)

April 23: "LaRouche It's Time To Get Out of Iraq."

April 30: "Southwest Asia: The LaRouche Doctrine."

June 11: "LaRouche: Bankrupt Speculators with \$25 per Barrel Oil."

"Oil Geopolitics Central to Cheney Task Force." (These two articles are part of the issue's cover story.)

June 18: "Bush-Cheney Presidency: Worse Than Watergate." (A book review of John Dean's *Worse Than Watergate: The Secret Presidency of George W. Bush*.)