

Who Is The Atlanta Mafia?

Interviews this week with leading businessmen and lawyers from Atlanta, nicknamed the "Atlanta Mafia" by the Eastern Establishment press, indicate that this regional grouping loses little love on its New York-based counterparts and would like to forge an alliance with European, Arab, and other Sunbelt investors, such as the Texas-Connally group, to enhance its political impact in Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, the Atlanta grouping, with few exceptions, conceives of its political and financial interests in regional terms, which severely inhibits its overall effectiveness in battling the Schachtian economic policies of the New York-based Lazard Freres crowd.

This week, the resignation of embattled OMB director Bert Lance, the Georgia native who had become the second most powerful figure in the Carter Administration, worried the so-called "Atlanta Mafia" and underscored its impotence. According to a leading Atlanta investment banker, what Atlanta wanted from the Carter Administration it has not been able to get: a direct Delta Airlines route to London and a solar energy research center which went to Denver instead.

Behind this small potatoes self-image, however, representatives of Atlanta's largest law firm, King and Spaulding, and largest investment bank, Robinson and Humphrey, revealed they are adamantly opposed to Lazard's reflation schemes and make-work projects. Furthermore, they are fully cognizant that Lance was driven from office by Lazard Freres and Company because of his refusal to condone such policies, and that other charter members of the Atlanta Mafia, such as Attorney General Griffin Bell, to say nothing of Jimmy Carter himself, will be the next to go if an effective counteroffensive against New York is not mounted. Whether such a counteroffensive will be launched remains to be seen.

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Atlanta Banker: We Never Had Much Affinity For New York

The following is an interview with a Vice President of international operations for Robinson and Humphrey, Atlanta's largest investment bank.

EIR: do you seek an alliance of the Atlanta Mafia with the Connally-Nixon Sunbelt group to get Arab and European money into the U.S. as a political plus for the Sunbelt crowd in the Administration?

VP: Yes, but I would say there has always been close cooperation. We handled, for example, the Kuwait Investment Co.'s takeover of the Atlanta Hilton complex, I believe the second largest hotel in the world, and the same Kuwaitis' takeover of Kiowa Island (resort real estate — ed.) off the Carolina coast. Now the way to look at this is to look at John West, the U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and the Southern Council on International and Public Affairs, now called the Southern Center for

International Studies. West is a Carter appointee and close friend, and very active in the SCIS, as am I. And contrary to what New Yorkers think about our being closed in here, we are very active in international affairs. The SCIS just had a breakfast for King Hussein of Jordan, a dinner for Julius Nyerere of Tanzania. You should look at its Board of Trustees: Dean Rusk (Secretary of State in the Kennedy Administration — ed.) is the chairman — he's an old Georgia woods boy, came up through the faculty of Georgia School of Law where he is now a member. There is also the vice-chairman, James Sibley of the SCIS, and another member of the SCIS, Hugh Spaulding, both of whom are from King and Spaulding, the biggest and most prestigious legal firm in Atlanta, who sponsored Griffin Bell. (King and Spaulding also handles all legal work for Arab investment in Georgia real estate — ed.) Mr. Carter's closest confidante, Charles Kirbo, is a senior partner at King and Spaulding. Another SCIS member is Sam Ayub, an Egyptian who is treasurer of Coca Cola.

EIR: Don't you think that the Lance scandal has made the Atlanta Mafia decide to break from the coalition with New York in which they entered the White House and try to work with Texas people to capture the White House and make the Carter presidency into more of a Nixon phenomenon? You know it was the Lazards and the Rockefellers who destroyed Nixon....

VP: Yes, I know, and these are very interesting ideas. I should refer you to an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* for the story on how the Trilateral Commission and the Council of Foreign Relations tapped Carter for the presidency.

EIR: You understand the policies of Hjalmar Schacht (Nazi Finance Minister — ed.) and their connection to the policies of Felix Rohatyn and the Lazards, right? And they went after Lance because he and the Georgia mafia don't agree with those policies, right?

VP: Right.

EIR: Well we criticized Carter election eve for the basically Schachtian content of his policies — the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, etc. — and for the Trilateral Commission control of him. But it seems the Lance affair indicates conservatives in the Atlanta Mafia don't go for that Humphrey-Hawkins stuff.

VP: No, I go to England two months of the year and I'm on the phone with Europe every day and I don't like what I see of that kind of thing....I don't believe in make-work and neither does Bert Lance. But you should understand that while Carter may have worked with New York in this Trilateral thing, we never had much of an affinity for New York, and we have very deep contacts with Texas.

EIR: Isn't it true that the Atlanta Mafia is working with John Connally (former Texas Governor and Nixon's Treasury Secretary), James Akins (former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia) to reconstitute a Nixon-type Administration around Carter, using Saudia and Kuwait money as their political edge within the U.S. power fight?

VP: Yes, that sounds about right, sure I know Connally, Akins... I know all these people from Williamsburg to Los Angeles. We're probably the biggest investment bank in this area. I told you, look at John West...

EIR: Who do you work with in the City of London? The way I see it, it breaks down basically into a Jewish Rothschild-Lazard factional equivalent to the Lazard-Schachtian faction in New York versus a conservative

Lloyds, Barclays, Samuel Montagu group equivalent to the Sunbelt crowd...

VP: Well, I will only say that I agree with your analysis and I guess that should tell you who we work with.

Open Letter To Jimmy Carter

The 'Jewish Lobby' Does Not Own Israel

The following statement was issued Sept. 20 by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., U.S. Labor Party Chairman.

I offer you the following information on the Middle East situation. The circumstance of this approach to you is the attack on Bert Lance and your office led by forces associated with Lazard Freres' Felix Rohatyn, an assault which has shifted the correlation of political forces with respect to the White House. In this new situation, you have the opportunity to act in vital national interests with a freedom not available to your prior to the *Washington Post*-led vendetta against Bert Lance.

I emphasize, in particular, that the public exchange between Senator Russell Long (D-La) and former Vice-President Nelson A. Rockefeller, proposing a shift from conservation toward new energy production is a bell-weather of a new situation — in which new situation the White House now has increasing freedom to develop a fresh approach to various domestic and foreign policy problems.

Naturally, I and my associates will act vigorously to ensure that alternatives in vital national interests are clearly identified to the White House, and we will defend the Administration's work energetically wherever, as in the case of Bert Lance's anti-inflation efforts at OMB, that work coincides with the nation's vital interests.

Basic Facts In Middle East

The following basic facts concerning the new situation in the Middle East ought to be primary points in formulation of U.S. government policies.

1. The basic U.S. perception of Israel ought to be that Israel exists as a focus of high technology, and must enjoy a truly independent sovereign existence as a force of high-technology internal development and export programs in a condition of durable peace with its neighbors.

2. The basic formula for durable peace is a "drying out" of the region adjacent to a sovereign Israeli state based essentially on Israel's 1967 borders.

3. No "drying out" of this sort can be established without the establishment of an independent Palestinian Arab state based on the Jordan West Bank and Gaza Strip occupied territories. No such state can be successfully established without including the Palestine Liberation Organization as a recognized *multiparty* government-in-exile, a government recognized as such by the majority of Palestinian Arabs.

4. However, a mere "real estate" agreement does not constitute a basis for durable peace. Without economic-development credits, a new Palestinian state would be a political ulcer in the region, and not a positive factor. Without new hardcommodity credits for Israel and adjustment of Israel's massive foreign debt situation, economic problems will nourish social and political instabilities inside Israel, constantly favoring external adventures by Israeli factions.

5. The critical recent development favoring a solution is the recent installation of the government of Menachim Begin, on the included basis of strong support for Begin from among the Sephardic majority within the Jewish population of Israel. This means that Israel is moving now with some degree of independence from the longstanding foreign rule by the so-called "Jewish Lobby" in the United States (the same "Jewish Lobby" integral to the forces whipping up press hysteria against Bert Lance).

6. In the long term, Israel ought to be allied in economic cooperation with Arabs of the Ismaili tradition for general, high technology-oriented Middle East industrial development. In the short term, deeply rooted prejudices being what they are, such future direct economic cooperation will probably be in the form of parallel efforts, mediated through third parties, such as the United States, friendly to both.

7. This must be complemented by a stabilization of Lebanon, and a solution to the deadly situation in Egypt.

8. A United States policy, publicly set forth and firmly perpetuated, would readily secure principled and practical agreement among the majority of EEC and CMEA nations. Although initial reactions to such a U.S. policy would include loud ideological tantrums from among Middle East principals and others, an unwavering well-managed commitment to principles which are actually in the common fundamental interests of all involved must prevail if a firm, unshakeable posture and practice are supplied to that purpose.

The Egyptian Side

The vulnerable point in your Administration is the deepening monetary crisis, with the accompanying downward spiral in U.S. exports and in production levels and employment in basic industry.

The solution to this problem is clear, as I believe Bert Lance would tend to agree at least in significant part. The only way to stop a monetary crisis is to lower the effective debt-equity ratio, so that domestic and in-