

States—as per Prince Philip’s diatribe against growth—while at the same time furthering the British plot to balkanize the country.

The new Confederacy

Advocates of balkanizing the United States are not confined to the environmentalist fringe. An equally perfervid commitment to breaking up the nation can be found among the extreme anti-big-government crowd represented by Gingrich, Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), and their fellow Conservative Revolutionists. It should be pointed out here that, despite superficial appearances, the radical environmentalists have much in common with the radical right-wingers—witness Gingrich’s support for the Endangered Species Act, for example. Also, early this year, the National Taxpayers Union, an organization founded and directed by James Dale Davidson, business partner of Lord William Rees-Mogg, stunned many traditional conservatives by sponsoring a joint press conference with the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth to release a study, “Green Scissors,” which called for the shutdown of every dirigist, high-technology program still run by the feder-

al government. A few months later, the Heritage Foundation, the chief Washington, D.C. outpost for the Club of the Isles’ Mont Pelerin Society, released its own blueprint for the take-down of the federal government, which was nearly identical to a simultaneously released study by the International Resource Institute, a leading ecologist think-tank.

One of the clearest cases in point of the “green and brown alliance” to bust up the United States, is the Rockford Institute. Located in Illinois, Rockford has functioned as one of the major bases for the Mont Pelerin Society’s operations in the United States—as well as for the notion that the United States can no longer exist in its present form.

The February 1993 issue of *Chronicles*, a monthly magazine published under Rockford’s banner, trumpeted this conclusion via a feature article by its editor, Thomas Fleming. Fleming has subsequently earned high praise from Ambrose Evans-Pritchard of the *Sunday Telegraph*, who has emerged as one of the British oligarchy’s main propaganda mouthpieces deployed against President Clinton (see article, p. 8).

Entitled “A League of Our Own,” the article focused on the Lega Lombarda (Lombard League) and related political

Neo-Confederates urge violence, secessionism

On Dec. 10, 1994, speaking at the annual convention of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), Gun Owners of America President Larry Pratt delivered a blood-curdling call for a secessionist insurrection against the U.S. government.

Pratt, who is a close ally of the London *Sunday Telegraph*’s leading Clinton-hater, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, urged the gathering of mostly Republican state legislators to form private paramilitary groups, “without the permission of the central government.” Pratt made the preposterous claim that such militias could defeat the U.S. Army: “You have to remember that the biggest complaint that the British had was that the colonial militias had more modern weapons than they did, and that is why they lost engagements. . . . And if you look at recent history, regular forces have been defeated by militias, like in Afghanistan, and in Somalia.”

As early as 1985, Pratt’s group, then called the Gun Owners Foundation, had sponsored a symposium on “The Militia in 20th-Century America,” advocating the formation of private armed citizens groups.

Pratt’s strong words at the ALEC session were seconded by Mont Pelerin Society ideologue Walter Wil-

liams, an economics professor at George Mason University and the alter-ego of talk-radio host Rush Limbaugh (Williams is frequently the stand-in for Limbaugh on the radio). Williams told the ALEC audience: “We should first, peaceably petition the Congress, but if that does not work, we must be prepared to secede. . . . Whenever I say that, people argue, ‘but, the last effort ended in bloody failure.’ And I reply: ‘Well, that was the second attempt—who knows what will happen on the third try?’ ”

ALEC was the perfect forum for these anti-constitutional ideas; it has been the driving force behind the Conference of the States, a rump Constitutional Convention that would have the states usurp the power to override any action by the federal government. The group advocates “devolution” of the federal government (see article, p. 72).

ALEC was founded in 1973, simultaneous with the Heritage Foundation. It is the grassroots arm of the Conservative Revolution against the American System. Its principal source of funding is British-American tobacco, whisky, and gambling casino interests, and Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company. In recent years, ALEC has also been bankrolled by Corrections Corp. of America, the nation’s leading private prisons company. In fact, when Pratt delivered his call for armed insurrection against the U.S. Army, former Attorney General William Barr was seated next to him at the podium. Barr has been traveling around the South advocating the privatization of prisons.

—Leo F. Scanlon