

# National News

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## Cheney Told Give Back Halliburton \$\$

In “an ethically untenable situation,” Vice President Dick Cheney “should stop accepting Halliburton compensation while he is in office,” demanded Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) on Sept. 23. Senator Lautenberg officially requested that the Governmental Affairs Committee hold immediate hearings into the contracts Halliburton has received from the Administration, supposedly for work in Iraq, as the value of its large no-bid contract has ballooned to \$1.25 billion. “Congress has the responsibility to look into this immediately, before more taxpayer money is placed in Halliburton’s bank accounts,” he said. Lautenberg made the official request, together with opportunist Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn), in a Sept. 23 letter to Sen. Susan Collins (R-Me), chairman of the Committee.

Lautenberg charged in a statement: “Vice President Cheney is currently receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars in salary from Halliburton, at the same time his Administration doles out billions of dollars in contracts to Halliburton. This is an ethically untenable situation. This is serious. The Vice President should stop accepting Halliburton salary while he is in office.”

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## Newsday Hysterically Denies LaRouche

On Sept. 23, *Newsday* denied the significance of Lyndon LaRouche’s Presidential campaign, in an article of very significant length for such a purpose—a 3,000-word feature by reporter Jeff Pearlman, the paper’s longest on any one candidate.

The article begins with a quote, “Handle them carefully, for words have more power than atom bombs.” As the article is completely disjointed, and dredges up every slander ever made against LaRouche, Pearlman’s opening quote is a curious choice. He intersperses quotes from various LaRouche associates and from Nevada State Sen. Joe

Neal; with others, from among LaRouche’s enemies; in order to prove that LaRouche is, “depending on whom you ask—either a dangerous power-hungry intimidator or a genius who can save the United States of America from inevitable doom.”

Quoting professional tax-cutter Grover Norquist that LaRouche is “downright dangerous,” Pearlman ends with a warning: “Lyndon’s LaRouche’s 2004 Presidential campaign is—if nothing else—his most precise. . . . This time LaRouche has a singular hot-button issue: the impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney. LaRouche calls the Vice President a ‘chickenhawk’ and accuses him of lying to President Bush about intelligence relating to Iraq. . . . Though he will send no Valentine’s Day cards to Bush, LaRouche considers the Commander in Chief little more than a marionette. ‘Cheney calls the shots in this Administration, and he’s gonna go down,’ says LaRouche. ‘He’s shaky enough and vulnerable enough with what’s happened around Iraq that the financial swindles he’s involved in can do the rest of the job sinking him.’”

“Of course, many politicians have made the case that Cheney and Bush misled the public, and some have even called for impeachment. But here is what makes LaRouche LaRouche: Whereas, others blame Osama bin Laden for 9-11, LaRouche insists Cheney orchestrated it in a gigantic plan to make a scapegoat of the Middle East, tear the region up and lead an American world takeover. ‘When I’m President,’ he says, ‘there’ll be no more of this irresponsible behavior. America will stand for something again.’”

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## Clinton in Israel On New Peace Plan

A well-informed Israeli source in the United States told *EIR* on Sept. 23 that former President Bill Clinton held meetings at a high level with Israelis, to discuss support for a new peace plan. Clinton was in Israel attending the 80th birthday celebration for Labor Party elder Shimon Peres. He also held meetings with people from other parties. The new peace plan, said the source,

is coming from a group around former National Security Council officer for the Middle East, Robert Medley, who served under Clinton, and is supported by former President Jimmy Carter. It would dispense with the “stages” approach, and emphasize a final settlement arrangement between Israel and Palestine.

However, the news of this new peace initiative sent Prime Minister Ariel Sharon into a flight forward against it, said the source. Sharon decided to escalate operations; his inner circle are thinking, not of killing Arafat (because of the U.S. warnings), but of capturing him and bringing him to Israel, where he will be imprisoned, totally cut off from his people, colleagues, other government officials, be forbidden to receive visitors, and forbidden to travel.

Another source close to the Israelis told *EIR* on Sept. 22 that the “order to kill” Arafat would be triggered by “a night of terror,” in which Hamas et al. would carry out another multiple terror attack.

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## Iraq Deployments Roil the Army Reserves

The U.S. Army’s decision to keep its reservists in Iraq for 12-month tours has sparked a growing movement of protests among the families of those deployed. Websites, created by families of deployed soldiers, are springing up, gathering petition signatures demanding that President Bush bring the troops home. The wife of a deployed soldier in the Michigan National Guard is reporting that three-quarters of his unit are planning to quit as soon as they return home from their tours, which could be four months longer under the new policy.

Florida Sen. Bill Nelson (D) is threatening to put on hold the nomination of James Roche as Army Secretary, if the policy is not changed. Nelson is warning that if National Guardsmen are taken away from their families and jobs for extended periods of time, reenlistment rates will suffer. An 1,800-man regiment of the Florida National Guard was activated in December and has been in Iraq since April. Some officials are even warning that the stress and strain on the Guard and

**WESLEY CLARK** “swapped hats” with indicted war criminal, Serbian commander Ratko Mladic, during a 1994 meeting in Bosnia, columnist Robert Novak recounted on Sept. 20. Clark was a three-star major general with the Joint Chiefs, and had been warned by the State Department not to go to Bosnian Serb military headquarters to meet Mladic. Clark made the trip, drank wine with Mladic, and accepted his pistol and a bottle of brandy. The incident resulted in Amb. Richard Holbrooke adopting “The Clark Rule” to keep the general under State Dept. watch.

**NEW AUTO CONTRACT** will lift the years-long moratorium on auto plant closings in North America, according to the United Auto Workers (UAW) website on Sept. 19. A ratification vote will begin at some auto plants of all the “Big Three” automakers in early October. The three have all announced plans to close plants.

**HOWARD DEAN** strongly supported Newt Gingrich’s “Contract on America.” On ABC-TV’s “This Week with David Brinkley” in January 1995, after the neo-con takeover of Congress, Dean said: “I’ve been unwilling to condemn the change in Congress. I actually think, despite my broad philosophical disagreements with the new speaker, that the change in Congress is a healthy thing. . . . We have an opportunity for historic change, and the question is, how far are we going to go?”

**SEN. KENNEDY** told Associated Press on Sept. 21, that the case for war against Iraq was a fraud, to give Republicans a political boost. “There was no imminent threat. This was made up in Texas, announced in January to the Republican leadership that war was going to take place, and was going to be good politically,” Kennedy said. He added that a Congressional Budget Office Report shows that the Pentagon is only able to account for about \$2.5 billion of the \$4 billion they are spending on military operations in Iraq each month.

Reserves could break the system which augments the active-duty force in times of emergency.

## Tom Delay Causing Christian-Zionist Split?

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay toured New York and New Jersey Sept. 20-21 to raise campaign money—and to add to the Christian Zionist clique’s pressure on President Bush to sanction a new Israeli murder initiative against Yasser Arafat and other targets. On Sept. 14, DeLay spoke at the pro-Israel Norpac in Northern New Jersey, and at a New York dinner fundraiser at a kosher restaurant.

DeLay’s Sept. 15 luncheon address to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations had been the subject of a warning, before the event, by Theodore Mann, former chairman of the Conference. In a Sept. 12 column entitled “Leaders Must Speak Truth to Power, Without Delay,” Mann said “what DeLay, as the most influential Republican in Congress, does to influence the Administration will have a major impact on Israel’s future. Some American Jews undoubtedly salute the majority leader for recent statements that placed him in the same camp as extremist Israelis who, perhaps feeling emboldened by the renewal of Hamas terrorism and the downfall of Abu Mazen, will accept no reasonable compromise with the Palestinians. But I hope the moderate leaders of our community, who support the Road Map and thus represent the views of most American Jews, will urge him to reconsider his positions.”

Last summer DeLay toured Israel, demanding President Bush abandon plans for the Road Map which DeLay said would “support a sovereign state of terrorists.” In late July, 2003, DeLay brought his war-mongering to the College Republicans’ National Convention in Washington. He was accompanied by mafia-linked Jack Abramoff, DeLay’s financial angel and intermediary to Israel.

A split is apparently developing among organizations normally united in supporting

the most aggressive agenda for Israel. The *Forward* on Aug. 22 quoted former Reagan official Gary Bauer threatening President Bush, if he doesn’t go all-out for Sharon’s crushing the Palestinians. But former Christian Coalition officer Ralph Reed, and Southern Baptist figure Richard Land, have been defending the Administration’s Road Map proposal.

## Islamic U.S. Army Officer Arrested

A U.S. Army officer of Islamic faith who had counselled al-Qaeda prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was arrested in early September by FBI agents in Jacksonville, Florida, as he deplaned from a military charter from Guantanamo. Capt. James J. Yee, a convert to Islam, and a 1990 West Point graduate, was interrogated by Federal agents for two days in Jacksonville, then transferred to the Navy brig in Charleston, South Carolina, where he is being represented by two Army lawyers. The Army has charged him with sedition, aiding the enemy, spying, espionage, and failure to obey a general order—and is said to be weighing charges of treason. However, a law enforcement source told the *Washington Times* on Sept. 23 that it was not the Army, but “the highest levels of government” that made the decision to arrest Yee.

The *Times* also reported that it could not be learned what country or organization Yee was supposed to be passing information to, nor how much damage he is thought to have done to U.S. efforts against “Osama bin Laden’s terror networks” while ministering to suspected terrorists held at the high-security prison in Cuba.

After 9/11, Yee—one of 17 Islamic chaplains in the U.S. Army—was the subject of numerous press articles and interviews, in which he spoke on behalf of traditional Islam, repudiating the terrorist attacks as prohibited by Islamic law. He joins U.S. citizens Yasser Hamdi and Jose Padilla—two high-profile “enemy combatants” already under detention at the Charleston brig.