

Will Al Gore be impeached?

by Jeffrey Steinberg and Michele Steinberg

While there is no question that the ongoing U.S. Senate impeachment trial against President William Jefferson Clinton is the poison fruit of a foreign-initiated insurrection against the U.S. Constitution and the Office of the Presidency, *EIR*'s investigation of that treason has turned up compelling evidence that genuine instances of "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors" have been committed by Vice President Albert Gore, Jr., which may warrant his immediate removal from office.

Those crimes implicate a group of Wall Street and foreign financiers, other members of the Clinton administration's "Principals Committee," former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, former Clinton campaign adviser Dick Morris, and some of the leading "Conservative Revolution" zealots among the Congressional Republicans.

The most damning instance of impeachable corruption by Vice President Gore, as you will learn below, centered on his relations with the Wall Street hedge fund, D.E. Shaw, which poured tens of thousands of dollars into Gore's pre-Presidential campaign PAC, while corruptly influencing the Vice President's active interference in Clinton administration Russian policy. Gore was also pivotal in covering up widespread evidence that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, a Gore ally, was stealing billions of dollars—including U.S. taxpayer-provided foreign aid dollars—from the Russian treasury. Gore's interventions to prop up the kleptocrat Chernomyrdin were also undertaken on behalf of Shaw, Long Term Capital Management (LTCM), George Soros, and others among the most corrupt elements on Wall Street, to the grave detriment of U.S. national security and vital American economic interests.

What follows is an initial presentation of the evidence assembled to date. We rush this information to print for reasons that will soon be obvious to the reader: The details of the "inside" insurrection against President Clinton, in which Vice President Gore has figured prominently, since no later than

the spring of 1996, constitute vital exculpatory evidence for President Clinton in the ongoing Senate show-trial. Any politically competent *and truthful* defense of President Clinton from the bogus impeachment charges must begin from the standpoint of the "Get Clinton" operation, running continuously since January 1993, which was launched from London via the Hollinger Corp. and other foreign-intelligence and financier oligarchy-tainted circles, for the express purpose of driving Clinton from office and installing Gore in his place.

The Constitutionally justifiable elimination of Vice President Gore from office would deprive President Clinton's enemies of the "Gore option" that has been pivotal to all of the impeachment actions against the President. Take away the prospect of a Wall Street/London-friendly Gore Presidency, and the impeachment of President Clinton loses a great deal of luster, even for the President's most hard-core enemies.

Kennedy spills the beans

On Jan. 11, 1995, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) delivered a speech at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., in which he warned that elements within the Democratic Party were in the process of selling out to the Gingrich-Army-Lott Conservative Revolution. Whether or not Senator Kennedy knew it at the time, he was actually smoking out the earliest indications of what would soon emerge as a full "inside-outside" insurrection against the Clinton Presidency and vital U.S. domestic and national security interests—an insurrection in which Vice President Gore would figure most prominently.

"Democrats," Kennedy said, "must be more than warmed-over Republicans. The last thing this country needs is two Republican parties. If we fall for our opponents' tactics . . . or engage in a bidding war to see who can be the most anti-government or the most laissez-faire, we will have only ourselves to blame. As Democrats, we can win."

Kennedy's remarks were aimed at the abysmal failure of



Vice President Al Gore and then-Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia, on June 23, 1994, shortly before a joint press conference by the two leaders of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission.

the Democratic Party to mobilize its traditional core constituency during the 1994 mid-term elections, which saw the Newt Gingrich-led Republican Party Conservative Revolutionists seize the majority in both the House and the Senate, by the narrowest of margins. Kennedy himself had conducted a traditional “FDR-JFK” campaign and won re-election. He addressed this issue at the Press Club: “The election last November was not a ratification of Republican solutions. By the narrowest of margins they gained control of Congress. But less than 40% of the eligible voters turned out on Election Day, and only slightly more than half of those — about 20% — cast ballots for Republicans.”

Kennedy then turned to the heart of the policy fight. “We are,” he stated, “without apology, the party that believes in assisting the poor and the disabled and the disadvantaged — but not to the detriment of the working class, which is justifiably frustrated and angry. They . . . know they are losing ground. They see the wealthiest Americans becoming wealthier. . . . The majority of Americans are working harder and making less.”

He continued, “We must resist our opponents’ mindless anti-government vendetta against regulation, a rhetoric leading to an across-the-board assault on government that hides a multitude of injustices and indifferences.”

Kennedy ended by calling on all Democrats to wage an all-out war against the Republicans’ “Contract on America” planks that would scrap the welfare system, “and other harsh proposals that aim at the mother but hit and hurt innocent

children.” Democrats, he asserted, must “prove to working families and average citizens that we are on their side fighting hard for them,” rather than adopting the GOP Contract.

Within a year, the Democratic Party and the Clinton White House would be embroiled in a bitter policy war, over precisely the issues identified by Senator Kennedy in his National Press Club speech. As the fight reached a showdown, in the spring of 1996, Vice President Gore joined forces with Dick Morris and leading Congressional Republicans to straitjacket the President into accepting the so-called “welfare reform” bill, at the heart of the GOP’s Contract on America, and, by so doing, open up his Presidency for the assault that has followed.

Gore’s well-documented, repeated collusion with Dick Morris warrants brief further comment. Morris was the most flagrant of the “Conservative Revolution moles” inside the Clinton camp, which was already rendered vulnerable by the President’s weakness for the “Third Way” rhetoric of the Democratic Leadership Council and, more recently, of Britain’s Tony Blair. But Morris was ultimately a treacherous snake, every bit the nephew of the homosexual rapist, mafia lawyer, and alter-ego to Sen. Joe McCarthy, Roy M. Cohn. While professing to serve President Clinton, Morris was caught, repeatedly, leaking White House policy material to his “other” political clients, including Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), two of the U.S. Senate’s most notorious Confederate ideologues. Morris’s leaking to Lott et al., in league with Al Gore’s inside pressure

on the President to cave in on the welfare bill, would prove to be a truly deadly combination.

‘Triangulating’ the President

During the August 1996 Democratic Party nominating convention in Chicago, Morris’s treachery caught up with him, and he was bounced from the Clinton-Gore campaign team, over a sexual perversion scandal. Morris made a seamless move into the “Get Clinton” camp, becoming one of the President’s most outrageous slanderers, most frequently in concert with Australian press baron Rupert Murdoch, whose *New York Post*, *London Times*, and Fox TV have been among the loudest screaming banshees, demanding Bill Clinton’s scalp.

But the Gore-Morris duo had already accomplished the vital bit of treachery: On Aug. 1, 1996, the Senate passed the Gingrich-crafted welfare reform bill, which tore out the guts of one of the major programs that provided a Federally protected safety net for the nation’s poorest households. The House had passed the measure on July 31. After a heated White House meeting, President Clinton announced that he would not veto the bill. He signed it into law on Aug. 8, 1996.

A former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) confirmed to *EIR* that Gore and Morris were the two key players, who convinced the President not to veto the bill, which the majority of the Clinton Cabinet, led by Labor Secretary Robert Reich, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, Office of Management and Budget Director Alice Rivlin, and Education Secretary William Reilly all opposed. The battle had been raging since the spring.

Gore’s “point person” in arguing for the President’s support for the bill, which the ex-HHS official described as “mean-spirited,” “wrong,” and “unconscionable,” was Elaine Kamarck. She would later emerge as Vice President Gore’s contact point to a group of Wall Street speculators and bigshots, who are eager boosters of Gore’s immediate ascent to power.

Morris argued that, without the President’s support for the welfare bill, the Democrats would lose the November elections, because they defied his strategy of “triangulation,” a slick term for abandoning the traditional FDR Democratic voter coalition, in favor of a crass appeal to the Republican Party’s enraged middle-class constituency.

Again, the former HHS undersecretary, who had resigned when bill became law, was blunt: “If Clinton had come out of that meeting and said he would veto the welfare bill, he had a veto-proof Congress. . . . Everyone was waiting to see what would come out of the meeting. I was waiting to hear the outcome of the meeting at my offices, with other people. If Clinton had vetoed the bill, it couldn’t have gone through, and many Democrats would have supported him. I think if Clinton had vetoed the welfare bill and pointed out that he had signed 43 state waivers [to allow states to make changes

in welfare] and pointed out that through the expansion of the earned income credit and of Medicaid, that he had reduced the number of people on welfare [but not by using workfare], that he had such enormous credibility, he would have won the election.”

Of course, President Clinton was re-elected on Nov. 3, 1996, but both the House and the Senate remained in the hands of Republican majorities. The stage was set for the impeachment onslaught.

Daschle-Bingaman and other voices

While the formalities of the welfare bill decision played out in early August, in fact, the battle had been lost, for all practical purposes, in the late spring, when the President failed to take up the initiative, put forward by leading Congressional Democrats, to conduct the 1996 election campaign around the fight to secure economic justice for all Americans. By failing to join Labor Secretary Reich, Democratic Senators Tom Daschle (S.D.), Edward Kennedy, and Jeff Bingaman (N.M.), Representatives Richard Gephardt (Mo.) and David Obey (Wisc.), and the newly elected President of the AFL-CIO, John Sweeney, the President abandoned his own 1992 winning strategy, which campaign adviser James Carville had memorialized in the simple, but precise slogan, “It’s the economy, stupid!” With President Clinton a momentary captive of the Gore-Morris “triangulation” strategy, the Democratic National Committee, another hotbed of Gore cronies, sabotaged the 1996 Congressional campaigns. The agenda put forward in the beginning of 1996 by the Congressional Democrats was canned by the beginning of the summer, at the same time that the President was beaten into submission on the vital welfare battlefield.

All of the above-named Congressional Democrats had attached their names to high-profile economic policy initiatives and studies during the first half of 1996.

Again, it was Senator Kennedy who took the lead, on Feb. 8, 1996, in an address to the Center for National Policy in Washington, where he warned that the United States and the world had entered into a “Quiet Depression.” “All is not well in the American economic house,” Kennedy told the audience, “because all is not well in the homes of too many American workers and their families.” Kennedy revived an idea that had been first developed during the short-lived Presidency of his brother, John F. Kennedy, to create “most-favored corporations,” that would receive tax breaks and other benefits as incentives for paying higher wages and benefits, and offering other improved living conditions, for their workers.

On Feb. 27, House Minority Leader Gephardt delivered an address at the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington, D.C., in which he lambasted Wall Street speculator-driven economic policies that “squeeze up short-term stock prices—even when that means ignoring the long-term needs of the corporation itself.”

The next day, Senators Daschle and Bingaman issued a

57-page report from their “high-wage task force,” titled “Scrambling to Pay the Bills: Building Allies for America’s Working Families.” It contained a series of proposals for reviving the U.S. industrial sector while ensuring increased wages for workers. And, finally, Rep. David Obey issued a House study report, similarly calling for a reversal of the erosion of household living standards of working families.

Many of the ideas contained in these Democratic Party proposals were inspired by Lyndon LaRouche’s 1992 Democratic Party Presidential campaign committee document, *The LaRouche Program to Save the Nation*.

The Gore power-grab

The fight during the spring of 1996 also marked the first phase of a concert of action to seize control over the Clinton administration’s most vital foreign policy initiatives, on behalf of Vice President Gore and the cabal seeking the destruction of the Clinton Presidency.

While Gore’s collusion with Dick Morris, Trent Lott, Newt Gingrich, and Wall Street to trap President Clinton into signing the welfare bill was an act of treachery with long-term consequences, Gore’s public actions had not yet passed the threshold of impeachable offenses.

Indeed, the role of Al Gore in the attempted foreign and national security policy coup would not become apparent until late August 1998, when the Vice President was caught operating behind President Clinton’s back in a blatant effort to re-install the traitorous thief, Viktor Chernomyrdin, as Prime Minister of Russia. Beginning in 1993, Gore had been given strong powers to shape U.S.-Russian relations, as the chief U.S. representative to a bilateral policy structure known as the “Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission.”

Well-informed sources have told *EIR* that, during the March 10-12, 1998 Commission meeting in Washington, the two desperately ambitious wanna-be heads of state deepened their ongoing secret alliance to work together to, in effect, seize power in Washington and Moscow — on behalf of some of the most corrupt international financier interests. Following two days of formal meetings in Washington, the tenth such bilateral session between the Vice President and the Prime Minister, the two men travelled to Silicon Valley in California, where Gore introduced his Russian “partner” to a group of financiers and cyberspace executives who have been among the leading underwriters of Gore’s political operations.

Apparently, Russian President Boris Yeltsin was alerted to the Gore-Chernomyrdin scheming, because, less than ten days after the Prime Minister returned to Moscow, Gore’s pal was fired. Anatoli Chubais, one of the other darlings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Soros-allied speculators, was also dumped at the same time.

It is instructive to review the events that began to play out in mid-August 1998, as the “Asia financial contagion” spread to Russia and sent the global speculators into a near-death

experience. They show Al Gore at his insurrectionary best, scheming against his purported boss and loyal friend, Bill Clinton, and committing acts that could fit the category of “treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Following the Aug. 17, 1998 announcement by then-Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko, that Russia was placing a 90-day freeze on some of its foreign debt obligations and suspending other payments, pandemonium broke out within the financial establishment, especially among the hedge funds and their commercial bank sponsors.

At the point that the Russian crisis erupted, President Clinton was pinned down with final preparations for his testimony before Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr’s Whitewater grand jury, which had turned into a runaway train, out to overrun the Clinton Presidency, using the Monica Lewinsky affair.

It was not until Aug. 23, when the President arrived at Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, for vacation, that he devoted his attention to the Russia crisis. By now, it had become a full-blown governmental crisis as well as a global financial crisis, with President Yeltsin abruptly firing Kiriyenko, one day before the Prime Minister was scheduled to announce emergency government banking measures to deal with Russia’s de facto bankruptcy and out-of-control physical economic collapse.

On Aug. 23, 1998, without consulting with the President, Al Gore, vacationing in Hawaii, made a series of telephone calls to the key players in the Russian crisis. He spoke on at least three occasions to his partner in crime, Chernomyrdin. He spoke with Kiriyenko. Highly reliable sources have told *EIR* that Gore and Chernomyrdin were in a flight-forward to ensure that Yeltsin nominate Chernomyrdin to resume his post as Prime Minister.

It was only after Gore had made this ham-fisted intervention into the highly sensitive Russian crisis, that the Vice President bothered to inform Bill Clinton of his unilateral actions.

President Clinton, according to these well-placed sources, was furious at his Vice President for working behind his back to install Chernomyrdin.

Gore telegraphed whose interests he was representing in his Russia intervention, and they were clearly not the interests of the U.S. government, or even the interests of Russia.

According to a variety of sources, Gore’s conversations with Kiriyenko and Chernomyrdin centered on how each man was prepared to deal with Russia’s foreign private creditors, who stood to lose billions of dollars if Russia followed through and declared some kind of debt moratorium. The sources report that Kiriyenko refused to commit to an “honor thy creditors” pledge, whereas Chernomyrdin was more than willing.

At some time during August, Vice President Gore, working through his aide Elaine Kamarck and Steve Rattner, the CEO of Lazard Frères investment bank, travelled to Wall

LaRouche defines policy for year 2000 campaign

Here is a statement by Lyndon LaRouche, issued by the Committee for a New Bretton Woods, his Presidential campaign committee, concerning policy for campaign 2000. It is intended as prefatory remarks to a report, titled "The Road to Recovery," which will be issued in the immediate future. EIR plans to publish that report as soon as it is released.

January 12, 1999

It is time to rebuild that Democratic Party of core constituencies, which President Franklin Roosevelt forged under the crisis conditions of the earlier Great Depression. All of the related considerations of the attached report, titled "The Road to Recovery," are implied in that proposed campaign-slogan for the Democratic Party's Year 2000 Presidential primaries.

As a matter of emphasis, the attached report is intended to focus attention chiefly upon proposed policy for the crisis-wracked, early months of 1999. This report is being released for general national and international circulation, both as a transaction of the Democratic Party's Year 2000 election campaign, and also as a public report of the issues which will impact all among not only our nation's political parties, but also our nation's concerned friends abroad, during the coming months.

Initially, most among you will probably react to this report as an unusual contribution to the ongoing political campaign. At first reading, some of you may wrongly consider it an egregious intervention. After you have reflected on its content as a whole, you may come to agree, that only

a statement of this type is appropriate for cutting through the presently dangerous, but popular political mythologies of both today's mass media, and, also, the mythologies of all too large a ration of the present leaders of the Democratic National Committee. Most of you will recognize, some already, others soon, that it is time to put aside generally accepted, relatively long-standing illusions, about so-called "politics as usual." It is time to face the real issues of the presently unfolding spiral of worsening national and foreign-policy crises.

If you are a student of history, you will appreciate that the world has now entered into most interesting times, not only for this nation, but the world as whole. These present crises, and more menacing crises soon to come, will stay with us for many months, probably years; perhaps, like the Great Depression of the 1930s, the effects already unleashed by the presently ongoing world crisis may not be fully overcome earlier than a decade or more in the future, until a time beyond that future general election currently anticipated for November 2008.

I can assure you, that there are many more kinds of things which will come to dominate the agenda of the coming months, than most citizens, even among our relatively most sophisticated political figures, and other readers, presently know, or would yet wish even to think about. During the weeks and months ahead, those issues will be presenting themselves at an accelerating pace, appearing in forms such that only reckless blunderers would then ignore them, or rule them out of order.

Thus, with my best personal wishes to all of us, I propose that we join in casting aside that poisonous rumor, that, as a matter of course, it will be the unelectable Vice-President Al Gore, who will carry the party's banner and political platform into the Year 2000 general election.

To my fellow-Democrats, and to concerned Republicans and independents alike, I am your(s)

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Street for a breakfast consultation with a dozen of the New York financial community's most powerful players, a majority of whom were heavily exposed in Russia. Among those who fed their "advice" to Gore were Soros, American International Group insurance magnate Maurice Greenberg, and David E. Shaw, the head of D.E. Shaw, a hedge fund that was in deep trouble as the result of highly leveraged investments in Russian bonds.

Details of what transpired at the closed-door Wall Street breakfast session are not yet known to *EIR*. But, two things are known. First, Vice President Gore had a personal financial stake in the outcome of the Russian crisis. On July 21, 1998, a group of top executives at D.E. Shaw had ponied up at least \$40,000 in personal contributions to Gore's political action

committee, Friends of Albert Gore, Jr., Inc. Shaw and company were the largest 1998 donors to the Gore PAC. D.E. Shaw had lost hundreds of millions of dollars in the Russian bond fiasco, and had a mighty stake in securing payment commitments from the incoming Russian government. Bank of America would post more than \$500 million in losses for the second half of 1998 as the result of Shaw's Russia bond bets, driving Bank of America to merge with NationsBank in order to stay alive.

Does the Gore-Shaw relationship, in the context of the Vice President's extraordinary intervention into the Russia crisis, smack of "bribery," one of the constitutionally elaborated impeachable offenses?

The second thing that is known is that Gore's machina-

tions briefly appeared to have carried the day. President Yeltsin offered Chernomyrdin the Prime Minister's job. And Chernomyrdin telegraphed his policy intentions by flying off, on short notice, to the Crimea, where, on Aug. 27, he caucused behind closed doors with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus. He reportedly assured Camdessus that Russia was prepared to give more blood to please the Western financiers. In a presentation days later before the State Duma (lower house of Parliament), Chernomyrdin spelled out his "economic recovery" plan, which was promptly dubbed the "Chernomyrdin-Fyodorov-Soros Plan," because in many respects it was identical to Soros's most recent looting scheme for Russia. Soros, whose Quantum Fund forbids any American investments in order to steer clear of U.S. securities regulators, was, it should be recalled, one of the more vocal participants at the Gore-Wall Street breakfast rendezvous.

The Chernomyrdin coup was short-lived. The Duma rejected his nomination on two separate votes, and on Sept. 10, 1998, President Yeltsin rescinded the nomination and appointed Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov as the new Prime Minister. It was a major setback for Western financier interests out to loot Russia.

The Gore-Chernomyrdin team was hit with a further blow on Nov. 23, 1998, when the *New York Times* revealed that the Central Intelligence Agency, as early as 1995, had developed hard evidence that Chernomyrdin was guilty of large-scale financial corruption. According to a CIA report that was provided to the White House, one German businessman complained that he had had to pay a \$1 million bribe just to get a meeting with Chernomyrdin to discuss a business proposal. Estimates are that Chernomyrdin amassed a personal fortune of \$5 billion while he was head of the Russian oil company Gazprom and during his tenure as Prime Minister.

When the CIA dossier on Chernomyrdin's thievery was passed on to Vice President Gore, according to the *New York Times* account, Gore sent the report back to Langley "with barnyard epithets scrawled across its cover." When confronted on the story, Gore told the *New York Times*, "I never discuss top-secret documents." The CIA stopped passing on evidence of Chernomyrdin's criminal behavior to the White House.

Parenthetically, the other Russian kleptocrat singled out for his corruption in the CIA dossier was Chubais.

The President's Russia policy

In another indication of the rift that opened between President Clinton and Vice President Gore as the result of the late-August "Al and Viktor" corruption scheme, President Clinton defied some of his key advisers on the "Principals Committee," the highest-level administration working group in which the President *does not participate*, and travelled to Moscow for a first-hand look at the plight of the Russian people. The President met with President Yeltsin in the first days of September, even though there was no Russian government in place.

While in Moscow, President Bill Clinton made his first public statements, acknowledging the depth of the global financial crisis, and the need for urgent action. He also continued on the theme of Franklin Roosevelt's success in devising economic programs to reverse the Great Depression, a theme that would soon be adopted by Primakov and some of his key economic advisers. Since his first visit to Moscow in 1994, Lyndon LaRouche, America's leading physical economist, had urged his Russian friends to study FDR and to adapt some of Roosevelt's policies to the Russian situation.

On Sept. 14, 1998, in a move that sent tremors through Wall Street and the City of London, President Clinton delivered a major foreign policy speech at the New York Council on Foreign Relations, where, for the first time, he explicitly echoed Treasury Secretary Rubin's statements about the need for a "new global financial architecture," and the dangers of a global financial meltdown.

The President continued to assert his own Russia policy throughout the autumn, sending Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers to Russia for discussions with Primakov, bypassing the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission (now called the "Gore-Primakov Commission") structure. He also had Talbott deliver a major foreign policy statement on Russia on behalf of the administration, in a speech at Stanford University, which was not a glowing endorsement of the IMF's looting policies toward Russia.

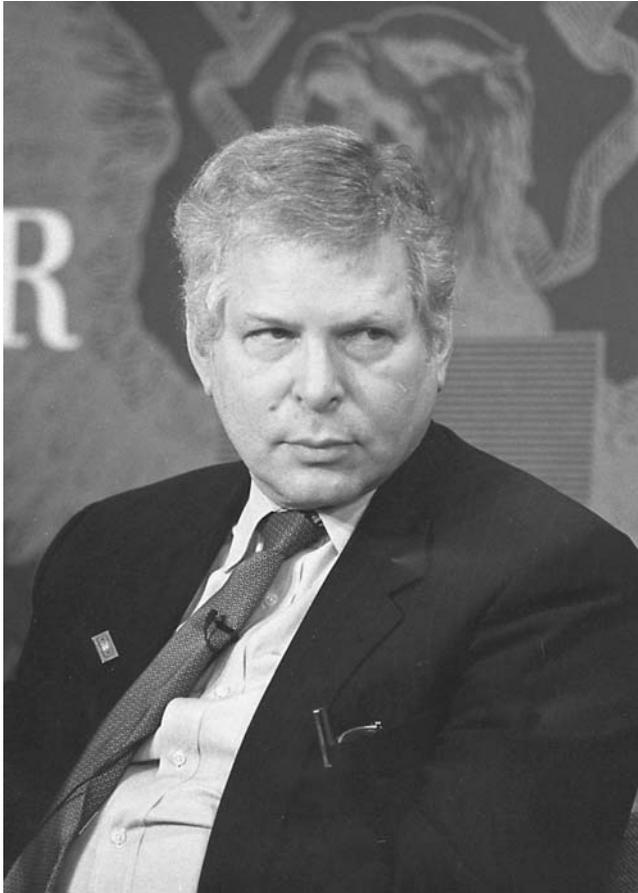
The Friends of Albert Gore, Jr. on Wall Street, in London, and in the other financial capitals of Europe were not thrilled with President Clinton, a reality that was evident as new escalations in the drive to impeach him from office was unleashed.

For the first time, Gore's name was publicly floated, with glowing accolades, by some of President Clinton's most die-hard enemies.

In the days immediately following President Clinton's trip to Moscow, the *New Republic* editorially called on the President to resign over the Lewinsky affair and make way for a Gore Presidency.

Even more dramatic was a Sept. 13, 1998 *New York Post* commentary by William Kristol, the editor of the Rupert Murdoch-bankrolled *Weekly Standard* neo-conservative publication. Kristol has been a fire-breathing Clinton-hater since 1992, but a Gore booster.

Kristol wrote: "If support among Democrats erodes, President Clinton will perhaps do the right thing and resign. But we know he won't go easily. This President cannot be importuned or beseeched to resign. He must be shown the door. The only way to do that is to make clear to him how little support he has. And the best way to do that, in turn, is to get on with it. The Judiciary Committee should vote articles of impeachment within a month. The full House should act immediately thereafter. And the Senate — if Clinton is still refusing to leave office — should proceed expeditiously with its trial. Al Gore for President."



Vice President Al Gore's National Security Adviser Leon Fuerth, the shadowy figure who steered the "Principals Committee" decision to press President Clinton to bomb Iraq.

The Iraq gambit

Even before Gore's perfidy against the President became public with his August maneuverings in Russia, the Vice President, abetted by the Principals Committee, the Blair government in Britain, the Benjamin Netanyahu crowd in Israel, and in the neo-conservative movement in the United States, and some leading "Gore, Inc." players outside of government—typified by *New Republic* Editor-in-Chief and Chairman Martin Peretz—were working overtime to lure the President into a new Persian Gulf crisis, aimed at isolating the United States from much of the rest of the world, and setting off a new geopolitical fiasco, dubbed by Trilateral Commission and Project Democracy propagandist Samuel Huntington as the "Clash of Civilizations."

Since January 1998, *EIR* has provided our readers with a running account of the drive to trigger a new military confrontation with Iraq, mirroring George Bush and Margaret Thatcher's 1991 Operation Desert Storm (see, e.g., *EIR*, Nov. 27, 1998, pp. 46-53). Suffice it to say that, beginning in January 1998, the President has been under constant pressure to launch a senseless and murderous aerial bombardment of Iraq, whose only geopolitical consequence would be to thoroughly isolate

the United States from Russia, China, the Arab world, and other allies and potential partners whose collaboration with the President would be vital to any effective, nation-state-centered solution to the global financial catastrophe in progress.

In February 1998, the President turned, successfully, to then-Russian Foreign Minister Primakov and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, to avert a military showdown with Saddam Hussein. The President's enemies responded with an immediate escalation in the domestic scandalizing offensive, through the Lewinsky affair.

By November 1998, as the result of provocations by UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) inspectors, the Iraq situation had once again turned red-hot. The war drive against Iraq coincided with President Clinton's long-planned trip to Asia, where he was to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, along with Russian Prime Minister Primakov, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, and other Asian-Pacific heads of state.

Pinned down by events in Iraq, the President, at the last moment, decided to remain behind in Washington, to make the final decision on whether to launch military strikes against Baghdad. Vice President Gore was sent to represent the United States at APEC.

On Nov. 15, President Clinton, again, working closely with Russia and with UN Secretary General Annan, successfully extracted a commitment from Saddam Hussein to allow UNSCOM inspections to resume. President Clinton called off the bombings, averting what he saw as a senseless military expedition that would have claimed at least 10,000 Iraqi civilian lives.

For President Clinton's enemies, in London, on Wall Street and in other financial capitals, in Israel, and in Washington—even within his own administration—the November decision to call off the bombing was the last straw. President Clinton had to go. The Gore Presidency option was now in full play.

British Prime Minister Blair publicly threw a fit over the President's decision not to bomb Iraq, as did Lady Margaret Thatcher. When President Clinton flew off to Tokyo and Seoul on Nov. 16, to pick up the second part of the Asia diplomatic junket, Blair dispatched his Defense Minister George Robertson to Washington, to rally the Principals Committee—the President's ostensibly loyal advisers—to assure that the bombing of Iraq would commence at the next possible moment. The target of the war would be to destroy President Clinton's standing with other world leaders, far more than any effort to unseat the always useful tool, Saddam Hussein.

Even as plans were being set, behind Bill Clinton's back, to reverse the President's stand-down order, Vice President Gore had been unleashed again, as a powerful weapon against American foreign policy and national security interests.

Standing in for the President at the APEC meeting, Gore

staged a diplomatic incident, by publicly attacking the conference host, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, and virtually calling for an insurrection against his government by so-called “democracy” forces, a cruel misnomer for the gaggle of non-governmental organizations, Soros-bank-rolled “human rights” activists, and secessionists who had been violently attacking the Malaysian government since the outset of the Asia financial crisis in mid-1997.

Prime Minister Mahathir had repeatedly infuriated the international speculators for 14 months. First, he had singled out Soros as a murderous pirate, during a speech at the IMF meeting in Hong Kong, in September 1997. The *Asia Wall Street Journal* had identified, in a front-page article at the time, that Mahathir had gotten his dossier on Soros and the other hedge-fund looters from Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR*.

More recently, Mahathir had imposed capital and exchange controls, to protect the Malaysian economy from further attacks by the international speculators. His efforts had received active backing from both China and Japan, and scores of government officials from Asia had praised Mahathir’s courage and foresight at the October 1998 IMF meeting in Washington.

Whereas President Clinton and Treasury Secretary Rubin had avoided any direct confrontation with Mahathir, Gore’s thuggish antics in Kuala Lumpur provoked a worldwide outcry against the United States.

Again, President Clinton, according to several highly placed sources, was furious at Gore’s usurpation of Presidential authority. But, once again, President Clinton was confronted with a new escalation on the Kenneth Starr front, as the House of Representatives pressed ahead with the impeachment travesty.

The bombings

Vice President Gore’s “mentor” and publicist Marty Peretz knew what was coming well before the President did. On Dec. 7, 1998, *National Review* published a glowing profile of Leon Fuerth, Vice President Gore’s longtime aide, under the headline “Fuerth in Line—Gore’s Foreign Policy Guru.” The article reported, “For a vice-presidential aide, the former foreign service officer has an unusually prominent position as a member of the top national security policymaking group known as the Principals Committee, whose members include Albright, Cohen, and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger. ‘No one would make a decision without including him,’ says Ashton Carter, a former Pentagon official.”

National Review then spilled the beans on the forthcoming war on Iraq: “Though the tough stance he [Fuerth] advocates against Iraq has yet to be fully adopted by the administration, as this weekend’s near air strike illustrates, his position seems to be gaining support. Even some Republican critics of the Clinton administration think highly of Fuerth, perhaps because he’s that rare bird, a non-Southern Democratic hawk.”

Fuerth knew when to act. In mid-December 1998, President Clinton was scheduled to travel to the Gaza Strip, to

address the Palestinian National Congress, where the Palestine Liberation Organization Charter was to be revised, and to Israel, to confer with Prime Minister Netanyahu, in a last-ditch effort to revive the collapsed Wye Plantation accords. Some top Clinton aides shared LaRouche’s view that the President should cancel his Mideast trip, which posed a security nightmare, and which stood little chance of success, given Netanyahu’s unshakeable opposition to the Wye accords.

The President ignored the advice, and left for the Mideast on Dec. 13.

Behind his back, Gore, Fuerth and their allies among the Principals Committee members schemed to win the President’s okay for the bombings that had been called off in November.

It had been pre-arranged that UNSCOM boss Richard Butler, a British Commonwealth operative with years of experience in the manipulative world of arms control, would issue his status report on the inspection missions in Iraq while President Clinton was in the Middle East. His blatantly phony report, claiming a pattern of Iraqi violations of the inspection agreement, was all that Gore et al. needed. While the President was still in Israel, he was informed that the Principals Committee had reached a “unanimous agreement”: It was time to bomb Saddam. They pressed the President for an immediate decision, arguing that, with the Islamic holy month of Ramadan scheduled to begin on Dec. 19, there was only a narrow window of opportunity to strike against Saddam’s intransigence. On Dec. 15, 1998, while aboard Air Force One on his return to Washington, and relying solely on the Principals Committee demands, the President approved the bombings. The attack began the next day.

Three days later, the House of Representatives voted up two articles of impeachment against Bill Clinton.

A profile of the Principals Committee

by Edward Spannaus

Already in 1994, author Elizabeth Drew noted that one sign of Vice President Al Gore’s “extraordinary and unprecedented” foreign policy role was that his National Security Adviser, Leon Fuerth, was sitting in on “Principals Committee” meetings.¹ In March 1998, the *Washington Post* observed that Gore and Fuerth enjoyed a “foreign policy influence rarely seen at the vice presidential level,” and in June 1998 the *Post* described Fuerth, in his “obscurity,” as “the virtual day-to-day manager of relations with Russia,” as well as being “at the

1. C-SPAN “Booknotes” interview with Elizabeth Drew, author of *On the Edge: The Clinton Presidency*, Dec. 11, 1994.