

(a former Federal prosecutor and an outspoken TV critic of Bill Clinton).

Sources have identified participants in the “Olson Salon” as including: Kenneth Starr, Bork, Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Appeals Court judge Laurence Silberman, *Wall Street Journal* editor Robert Bartley, and *American Spectator* editor Emmett Tyrrell.

David Brock, the “Troopergate” author, wrote an article in the July 1997 *Esquire* magazine, entitled “Confessions of a Right-Wing Hit Man,” wherein he described how he had been in attendance at the 1996 wedding of Ted and Barbara Olson—in a crowd that included Bush’s former White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray (remember the RTC referral?), Starr, Robert Bartley, and others. Gray joked with Brock that since Starr wasn’t going to come up with the goods on Clinton before the November elections, it was up to Brock to do it. This was a reference to Brock’s forthcoming book on Hillary Clinton, which ended up being somewhat sympathetic to the First Lady. This rapidly resulted in Brock’s being disinvited from further social gatherings at the Olsons’ home.

Brock also blew apart the centerpiece of Gary Aldrich’s book *Unlimited Access*, since renegade FBI agent Aldrich had falsely used Brock as a source for stories that Bill Clinton was sneaking out of the White House for late-night trysts.

After Brock had informed Aldrich of the error, Brock writes, “I received the first of several tense phone calls . . . warning me to keep my mouth shut.” The first such call, Brock says, was from Mark Levin, the president of the Landmark Legal Foundation and former chief of staff to Attorney General Edwin Meese. Referring to Aldrich, Landmark’s Levin told Brock: “If he goes down, we all go down.” Lewin told Brock that he should leave town to avoid talking to reporters.

Starr and Paula Jones, redux

In November 1997, New York literary agent Lucianne Goldberg, desperate to deliver a frightened Linda Tripp into Starr’s hands, called publisher Alfred Regnery in Chicago—the publisher of many anti-Clinton books, by authors such as Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Emmett Tyrrell, and Gary Aldrich, who was a friend of Linda Tripp’s in 1992-93 in the White House. Regnery contacted Peter Smith. Smith called Goldberg back with Richard Porter on the line, introducing him as “Ken Starr’s partner,” and Goldberg then briefed them both on Monica Lewinsky.

Goldberg has described Porter as being “nervous” about his role, because of his close ties to Starr, and she says that Porter therefore used Marcus as his “cut-out” to Starr’s office.

Goldberg was also trying to find a new lawyer for Tripp; among those she sounded out, was Ted Olson.

By mid-January of 1998, Kenneth Starr was back where he always wanted to be: in the middle of the Paula Jones case. Now he could take over the case, under the pretext of investigating perjury and obstruction of justice, with Linda Tripp, Lucy Goldberg, and Monica Lewinsky as his witnesses.

Interview: Ed Vaughn

Stop the takeover of Detroit’s schools

Michigan Gov. John Engler (R), the leading GOP contender for Vice President on an expected ticket with Texas Gov. George Bush, has introduced Senate Bill 297, to take over the Detroit schools from the duly elected school board, and to hand them over to Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer (D), a leading supporter of Vice President Al Gore; the schools are ultimately to be privatized.

State Rep. Ed Vaughn (D-Detroit) is fighting the takeover, and in this interview with EIR, warns that passage of the legislation could lead to riots.

More than 500 Detroit residents went to Lansing on Feb. 17 to oppose the bill in the Senate. Hundreds more went on Feb. 24, for the second hearing, where Representative Vaughn led a protest in the committee hearing, including grabbing the speaker’s gavel—what he called an “act of civil disobedience”—to demonstrate “what it feels like to constantly have your rights taken away.” Vaughn and others were taken out of the hearing and the bill was reported out of committee in the GOP-controlled Senate. As the House is also GOP-controlled, the legislation is expected to pass there as well, unless a very strong fight is waged against it.



Representative Vaughn is chairman of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus, and is serving his fourth term in the legislature. He is also chairman of the Constitutional and Civil Rights Committee in the Michigan House, and vice-chairman of the Agriculture Committee. He is one of 12 state legislators who initiated the ad hoc committee “Americans to Save the Presidency.” He has endorsed both the Open Letter to President Clinton to exonerate Lyndon LaRouche, and the appeal to President Clinton to name LaRouche as his economic adviser. Marianna Wertz interviewed Vaughn on Feb. 16 and 19.

EIR: Can you tell us what the issue is in your fight against Gov. John Engler and Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer?

Vaughn: The main issue now is the Governor’s attempt to take over the Detroit public schools. It’s the only school district in the State of Michigan that the Governor has targeted for takeover. We believe that the takeover is about money and it’s about race. First of all, he has not targeted any other school district except an all-black district.

EIR: By takeover, do you mean privatization?

Vaughn: That's what it is going to be. What he plans to do is to put the school district in the hands of the Mayor, and the Mayor would then run the school district. That's theoretically the plan. But the real plan, which he has not said, is to actually take over the school district. The Governor would run it through the Mayor, and that would be a backdoor route to privatizing the school system.

EIR: So he's taking over local control of the schools.

Vaughn: Right. We have an elected school board in Detroit. So, he's going to vacate the vote of the people, and the guise under which he is doing this, is that the school system is a failed system, in that it's a troubled district. Now, there are no guidelines for what a failing school district is. The Detroit school district certainly has had its problems, and still has problems, but it also has a lot of highlights, in terms of what it has been able to accomplish, in spite of the problems. For example, one of our high schools is listed as one of the ten best in America. That's Renaissance High School.

We have now a \$96 million surplus in the school budget, and we have a \$1.5 billion bond issue. Engler wants to get his hands on that, to make sure that all of that goes into the hands of the usual suspects. The Mayor is claiming that he doesn't want the schools, but that if the Governor puts them in his hands, he'll take them. But we know that that's just a ruse for supporting the takeover.

EIR: What would Mayor Archer's reason be for doing that?

Vaughn: For one thing, the Mayor has been very supportive of the money people to take over Detroit. He's moving to privatize large sections of the infrastructure in Detroit. For example, he's moving to privatize our public lighting department. He's moving to privatize our water department, which provides water for almost one-third of the state of Michigan. All of these things are on a fast track for privatization.

There's a recall on the Mayor that's going real strong. The recall is being pushed by the Black Slate, the political arm of the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Detroit, which is a church group that has affiliates in Houston and Atlanta.

EIR: Why do they want Archer recalled?

Vaughn: Their reason is that he has completely gutted black control and access in the city. He's giving it all back to the people who had it in the first place, who left the city just before and after the riots. He's returning every aspect of Detroit, as far as infrastructure goes, back to the business people. They are taking over neighborhoods; they are buying up property, putting poor people off their property. There are lawsuits against them. It's a very bad situation in the city.

EIR: In your press release, you say that Governor Engler wants to be the "plantation master" for Detroit.

Vaughn: Yes, he does. I can back that up, considering his record in Detroit. He shut down our community college. He has

never given Detroit the money out of the state Health Department that we should have for at-risk students. He cut our adult education budget almost completely out. We went from 2,600 graduates down to 326 after his cuts. He has been disingenuous about supporting Detroit. Our basic foundation grant is about \$6,000, and that's less than [that received by] over half of the school districts in the state of Michigan per student. It's just been one thing after the other. He shut down a black community college in Highland Park, which is an all-black suburb inside the city of Detroit. He shut it down, and then put a private trade school in place of the community college.

EIR: One would expect this from a Republican like Engler, but Archer is a Democrat.

Vaughn: He used to be a Republican. He just kind of changed his colors in order to run for Mayor of Detroit.

EIR: Isn't he also close to Al Gore and his campaign?

Vaughn: He is supposed to be the chairman of Gore's committee. I understand he's being touted as one of the chairpersons. So, he's very close to Gore.

EIR: He has basically purged the Coleman Young machine?

Vaughn: Well, he did that, and he purged black people in Detroit also, not just the Coleman Young machine. He purged the black community, and he's doing it every day.

EIR: Has Engler moved to take over the school system?

Vaughn: He has a bill that's in the Senate to take over the school system. It's Senate Bill 297. The thing about Engler is that he is probably going to be the number-one person to run for Vice President of the United States on the Republican ticket. All of the big Republicans were in Detroit yesterday, in Warren. [Senate Majority Leader] Trent Lott [R-Miss.]; Engler was there of course, talking about what a great tax-cutter he is. They came here because Michigan is supposed to be a state where there have been tremendous tax cuts, but they've all been for rich people. There's not been any real relief for middle income and poor people.

EIR: You expect protests at the hearing on Feb. 17?

Vaughn: Yes, at the Senate Office Building. This has implications for the whole state, because if he can take over Detroit's district, he can take over any district in the state. So that's what we're trying to let people know, that this is not just about Detroit, it's about the whole State of Michigan.

EIR: [The next part of this interview was conducted on Feb. 19, after the Senate hearing.] What happened at the hearing and what are the plans now?

Vaughn: The hearing in Lansing produced more than 500 parents and students from the Detroit School District. There were many who testified. Helen Moore, Black Council for Quality Education, testified. Minister Malik Shabazz of the New Marcus Garvey Movement testified. Rev. David Mur-

ray, a newly elected member of the school board, testified. Engler had some of his charter school preachers come up and testify. They were small creatures who have charter schools, so they testified in favor of the takeover.

The vast majority of the people there were opposed to the takeover. Many, many buses came there with parents and students to protest. It was basically a joint hearing of the House and Senate, and they heard the testimony of these people. That was the second hearing. There may be a third one. We think there may be one next Wednesday, before the bill is sent to the floor of the Senate.

EIR: Did it already pass in the House?

Vaughn: No, it didn't pass in the House. It's still in the Senate. The Governor said he wants it on his desk by Easter.

This is very crucial to the people of Detroit. They really are not going to stand for this. I see civil unrest. There's also a move now to begin to have some boycotts of some of the corporations around town. There's some talk of that. I don't know how far that's gotten. There's talk of boycotting GM and Chrysler and other automobile companies.

EIR: Are they behind this bill?

Vaughn: You know that. They are very much in favor of it. I think they are behind it because there's a concerted move from the corporate community to retake Detroit. Not that they ever really lost it. Detroit has a very large Afro-American population. There are some things that are about to happen here that were on track to really give some direction to the rest of the country, had Archer not come in and thrown a monkey wrench into everything. I think we were on our way to solving the problem of our youth, to solving the problem of the education of our children. We were in control of the water department, which supplies water to almost half of the state of Michigan. We have a public lighting department, which has the possibilities of lighting up the whole city. Archer is privatizing everything.

EIR: What you say sounds so much like what Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia told *EIR* in his recent interview, when he said, in effect, that "we, in the Third World, were on our way to becoming full-fledged advanced countries when the speculators hit us."

Vaughn: Sure, same thing. We really were on our way. I think Mayor Coleman Young set it in motion. He urged people to buy homes. He had a homesteading program where people could take abandoned houses and fix them up. We were really on our way. Then Archer came in. We're convinced that it was a concerted move, just like what they [the speculators] did in Malaysia, to destroy a people-driven development plan.

EIR: Do you think the main forces behind it are the auto companies and the banks?

Vaughn: The main force behind it is corporate America. I don't think there's any question about that. They are the main

forces. They are the ones who financed New Detroit, Inc., which is the organization that first came up with the school takeover plan. They were disingenuous, because they said that they were really about trying to help the schools, and then we found out that what they really were about was to help the Governor take over the school system. The person who headed up that program, William Beckham, the director of New Detroit, came out of the corporate world. He was the lightning rod on this whole thing. But, he started out making the school board believe that he was trying to help develop a reform program to be developed by the Board of Education. It was somewhat later that they recognized that they were the ones who really were a part of the dismantling program.

EIR: I read the bill and it's pretty bald-faced. It really doesn't give a reason for the takeover, and it seems that the statistics they give for the Detroit schools are falsified.

Vaughn: They're very much falsified. But they are good at doing that. When they closed the college, they did the same thing. They lied straight up. And when we proved that they were lying, they just said, forget it. They went straight ahead.

EIR: So, it will be a fight in the House that will ultimately determine it.

Vaughn: If there's going to be any fight in Lansing, it will be in the House. I don't see much fight taking place in the Senate, especially since they have one of the Democratic Senators on board, this clown Emerson out of Flint.

EIR: It sounds like it's going to provoke demonstrations.

Vaughn: They're already provoking demonstrations. There have been quite a few. There were meetings last night all over the city. This thing is going to get out of hand, if they expect they're going to go through with it. People said very clearly that they will *not* accept it. If the bill passes and they try to institute it, I think you're going to see a tremendous amount of civil unrest in Detroit. I don't think people are going to stand for it. Detroit is not like other cities. The black community in Detroit doesn't stand for a lot of stuff, because of the historic background of struggle in the city. The union movement, the underground railroad movement.

In the black community, we've had a long history of struggle here. Practically every major event that happened in America really started here. From the underground railroad movement, before and even after the Civil War, to the labor movement, the founding of the Republic of New Africa took place here; the founding of the Nation of Islam happened in Detroit; the largest Marcus Garvey organization outside of New York was in Detroit. It's always had a history of fight and struggle. The biggest riot in America took place in Detroit. The one that topped all the rest of them.

EIR: We don't want to see that again.

Vaughn: It may happen. I don't think the people are going to allow this takeover.