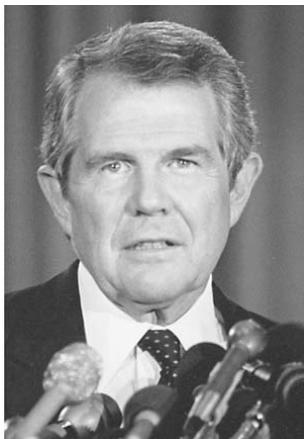


# Scotland tells Pat Robertson: 'No deal'

by Mark Calney

At an emergency meeting held at an undisclosed location in Boston late in the evening on June 4 with televangelist Pat Robertson, senior officials of the Bank of Scotland, led by its CEO Peter Burt, informed Robertson that their plan to establish a U.S. telephone-based bank was doomed. The bank issued a statement after the meeting saying, "Dr. Pat Robertson and Peter Burt . . . agreed that the changed external circumstances made the proposed joint venture between Robertson Financial Services and Bank of Scotland unfeasible."



Pat Robertson

Those changed circumstances began when the Edinburgh-based newspaper *The Scotsman* ran an article on May 31, revealing Robertson's televised attacks against Scotland as a "dark land." On May 18, Robertson's 700 Club televangelist broadcast aired a special on Scotland in which Robertson vented his spleen about the recent protests in Scotland against him and his business deal with the Bank of Scotland. He lamented that Scotland was no longer the land of heroes, such as Braveheart, saying, "In Europe, the big word is tolerance. You tolerate everything. Homosexuals are riding high in the media. . . . And in Scotland you can't believe how strong the homosexuals are." Europe is the hardest place in the world to evangelize, Robertson stated, "with the possible exception of a few Muslim countries." In particular, Robertson attacked the "cynical media" in Scotland for the opposition.

## God and Mammon don't mix

*EIR* forecast in its April 23, 1999 issue that the more the Scottish people began to learn about Robertson's evil activity, the sooner the Bank of Scotland deal would be stopped. *EIR* articles documenting the history of cultist Robertson were circulated among Scotland's religious, labor, and political leaders. Scots were outraged by this modern-day Elmer Gantry's attacks on their nation. The response by institutional

leaders was sharp and swift, but it was the newly elected members to the Scottish Parliament who forced the deal to fold.

Members of the Scottish Parliament representing all the elected parties, made it clear that if the Bank of Scotland didn't cancel its deal with Robertson, the new Scottish Parliament, after it convenes in July, would reconsider its existing arrangement to retain the Bank of Scotland as the bank to the Scottish Parliament. Ironically, it was the former Scottish Parliament that created the Bank of Scotland in 1695. With this news, by June 2, the Bank of Scotland's shares in London nose-dived, wiping out £403 million from its market value. Two days later the deal was a dead duck.

## The Bush connection

Many in Scotland lamented that the "good name of the Bank of Scotland" could have allowed itself to be tarnished by its association with the irreverent Reverend Robertson. However, the curious issue which has not been in the spotlight, is the role of the Bank in this seedy arrangement.

*EIR* researchers first began to examine the role of former Bank of Scotland director James Gammell (chairman 1977-85), and his intimate, long-term friendship with former President Sir George Bush. In 1953, with an investment of \$50,000 from his Edinburgh investment house of Ivory & Sime, Gammell became a key participant and director, along with George Bush, of the Texas company Zapata Petroleum.

Though James Gammell, Sr. died several weeks ago, the family relations continue. Texas Governor and Presidential candidate George W. Bush has been a partner with Gammell's two sons (William and James, Jr.) in the Scottish-based oil and gas company, Cairn Energy.

*EIR* has reported Robertson's own admissions of his relationship to Sir George Bush, which included a meeting with Bush in the White House where private mining ventures in Africa were discussed.

The Gammell legacy continues today at the Bank of Scotland. CEO Peter Burt, who cancelled the Robertson deal, was a protégé of Gammell. Two of the bank's current directors, Ian B. Inglis and Roger Young, have been associates of Ivory & Sime. These connections came to light in Great Britain, when the *Independent on Sunday* newspaper of London published a feature on June 6 entitled "The Banker, the Preacher and Mr. Bush."

Troubles for the Bank of Scotland continue. In addition to a payoff of about £3 million to Robertson, the bank has lost almost 500 customers since publicizing its Robertson partnership. On June 7, despite the bank having terminated the Robertson deal, the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union announced that it was cancelling its agreement to market Bank of Scotland credit cards to its 420,000 members. Other trade unions, local governments, and charities are also expected to cancel their accounts with the bank.

