

Cheney and DeLay, Joined at the Hip

by Anton Chaitkin

No one should have been surprised when Dick Cheney rushed off to Houston to keynote the Dec. 5 fundraiser for Tom DeLay. An *EIR* investigation has revealed that the embattled Vice President and the indicted former House Majority Leader are virtually joined at the hip.

Study the chart accompanying this article, and you will see that the “DeLay, Inc.” machine of lobbyists, former DeLay staffers and complicit Congressmen, and the Cheney cabal steering the Administration, are one seamless dirty apparatus, serving common financier sponsors—as must become increasingly apparent to the Federal prosecutors and investigators now swarming all over the two men’s enterprises.

Vice President Cheney and President Bush took office in January 2001, while corporate energy pirates led by Enron and Reliant Energy were looting astronomical sums from California electricity users, under new state energy-deregulation laws. Dick Cheney was immediately appointed chairman of a White House Energy Task Force (National Energy Policy Development Group) to formulate national policy and deal with the crisis.

California Gov. Gray Davis (D) pleaded for Federal intervention to stop the crippling and bankrupting of his state. Cheney coldly replied that the cause of the crisis was that deregulation had not gone far enough! Now with outright Federal protection for the scheme, ten-fold electricity price rises netted some \$50-\$100 billion for the pirates and their banker sponsors, before the game crashed.

This scheme depended on the power axis running between Tom DeLay and Dick Cheney.

After Representative DeLay of Houston became House Republican Whip in 1994, the Houston-based Enron Corporation itself hosted the first fundraising event to give birth to DeLay’s Americans for a Republican Majority (ARM-PAC). This financing vehicle was used to build up DeLay as dictator of the House of Representatives. The founding Enron event raised \$280,000; Enron CEO Ken Lay subsequently gave ARMPAC an acknowledged \$50,000 and Enron Vice Chairman Joseph Sutton gave another \$25,000.

In 1997, DeLay bid for control of the House of Representatives, with the unsuccessful attempt to overthrow Speaker Newt Gingrich and install DeLay ally Bill Paxon (R-N.Y.) as Speaker.

Enron now advanced large sums to create an extended DeLay machine. At DeLay’s request, Enron gave \$750,000

to launch a new private lobbying company, Alexander Strategy Group, to be headed by DeLay’s chief of staff Ed Buckham, with other DeLay men as partners. A.S. Group paid Tom’s wife Christine DeLay a \$40,000 salary to manage ARMPAC.

DeLay, the new firm, and Enron together created a front called Americans for Affordable Electricity (chaired by Bill Paxon, former DeLay Congressional cohort turned lobbyist), which spent lavishly to promote deregulation of electricity.

On this pivot, by 1999, DeLay ruled the House with his brazen K Street Project: the financier-driven combination of lobbyists and rightist faction leaders, including hordes of former DeLay staff members in private positions. Corporate donors, herders of voters, and legislative leaders became a single unit unlike anything in American history.

The DeLay Project was put together by Jack Abramoff, Grover Norquist, and Ralph Reed, three political operatives in partnership since 1981. This trio’s joint dirty deeds, in conjunction with DeLay, have recently splashed into national headlines, as indictments have multiplied. Note that by 1997, Ralph Reed had been hired directly by Enron to promote the energy deregulation scheme alongside DeLay, Buckham, and Paxon.

The Cheney-DeLay Axis

The 2001 inauguration of Bush and Cheney finally gave all-out national power to the sponsors of this established apparatus. The regime’s underlying political structure can be glimpsed by a close look at the Cheney entourage, through and after the period of the California looting crisis.

Cheney and his backer, financiers’ representative George Shultz, together designated the makeup of the projected administration, including choosing Cheney himself as Bush’s running mate.

Handling relations to Congress for the transition team was **David Gribben**, Cheney’s high school friend who had been aide to Secretary of Defense Cheney (1989-93), and government liaison for Halliburton Corporation under Cheney as its CEO (1995-2000).

Gribben was uniquely qualified to manage the assembly of the Cheney-DeLay axis. He is reportedly an insider at the headquarters of The Fellowship, the far-right religious manipulation agency set up by the London-Wall Street oligarchy in the Hitler era; this is the group that runs the National Prayer Breakfast. When Tom DeLay entered Congress as a sorry drunk in 1985, The Fellowship captured him and set former Nixon dirty-trickster Charles Colson as DeLay’s personal guru, in exchange for a career pushing apocalyptic initiatives by Cheney and his friends. Fellowship-affiliated power brokers include Ralph Reed, whose Christian Coalition mouthpiece Pat Robertson was manufactured by the Fellowship; the regime’s first Attorney General, John Ashcroft, who at several



tomdelay.house.gov

Tom DeLay, the former House Majority Leader, indicted on corruption charges. His personal machine of lobbyists and staffers forms one seamless web with the Cheney cabal in the White House.

points intervened to save DeLay and Abramoff; and various kooky military men and agencies under the Cheney-Rumsfeld Pentagon leadership.

Cheney has more or less lived on Capitol Hill during his reign. The DeLay connection overshadows the Vice President's limited Constitutional role as President of the Senate, and has helped sustain Cheney as de facto boss of Washington.

When David Gribben left after the 2001 Inauguration, **Nancy Dorn** took over as the Vice President's all-important director of liaison to the Senate and House. A professional lobbyist, Dorn had immediately before been a member of the DeLay inner council, known as his "Kitchen Cabinet," with Abramoff, Norquist, Paxon, and other worthies. Dorn now served in the Vice President's office alongside Cheney chief of staff Lewis Libby, who has since been indicted in the probe of Cheney's operations relating to the Valerie Plame Wilson affair.

Nancy Dorn's deputy, Stephen Ruhlen, ran day-to-day relations on the House side. Records released in the leadup to Abramoff's indictment show that the Abramoff team met directly with Ruhlen as a channel to the Administration. In 2003, after Cheney oversaw the California crisis for the energy pirates and the Wall Street bankers behind them, JP Morgan Chase was fined \$135 million for its management of the Enron scams. Ruhlen left Cheney's office in 2003 and became head of JP Morgan Chase's Washington lobbying bureau.

The Informal Government

Here we see the informal arrangements of extra-Constitutional government. For example, Mrs. Lea Berman was social director for Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne, in 2001-02. The next year, Mrs. Berman served as Lynne Cheney's chief of staff. (She is currently White House Social Director.) Meanwhile, Mrs. Berman's lobbyist husband **Wayne Berman** was a member of DeLay's Kitchen Cabinet, representing powerful financiers such as Lazard Frères and London's Jardine and Lloyds, through DeLay to the U.S. Congress.

Wayne Berman was later installed as chairman of the Federalist Group lobbying firm, part of the K Street Project and a center for some veterans of the California crisis. Berman's partner **Drew Maloney** left DeLay's staff to join the Federalist Group in 2002. Maloney immediately arranged to take checks for \$30,000 from Reliant Energy for DeLay's use in Texans for a Republican Majority (TRMPAC), a spin-off from the DeLay-Enron ARMPAC. (DeLay has been indicted for laundering corporate money to TRMPAC.) At the Federalist Group,

Maloney began convening regular meetings of former Tom staff members ensconced along the K Street lobbying corridor.

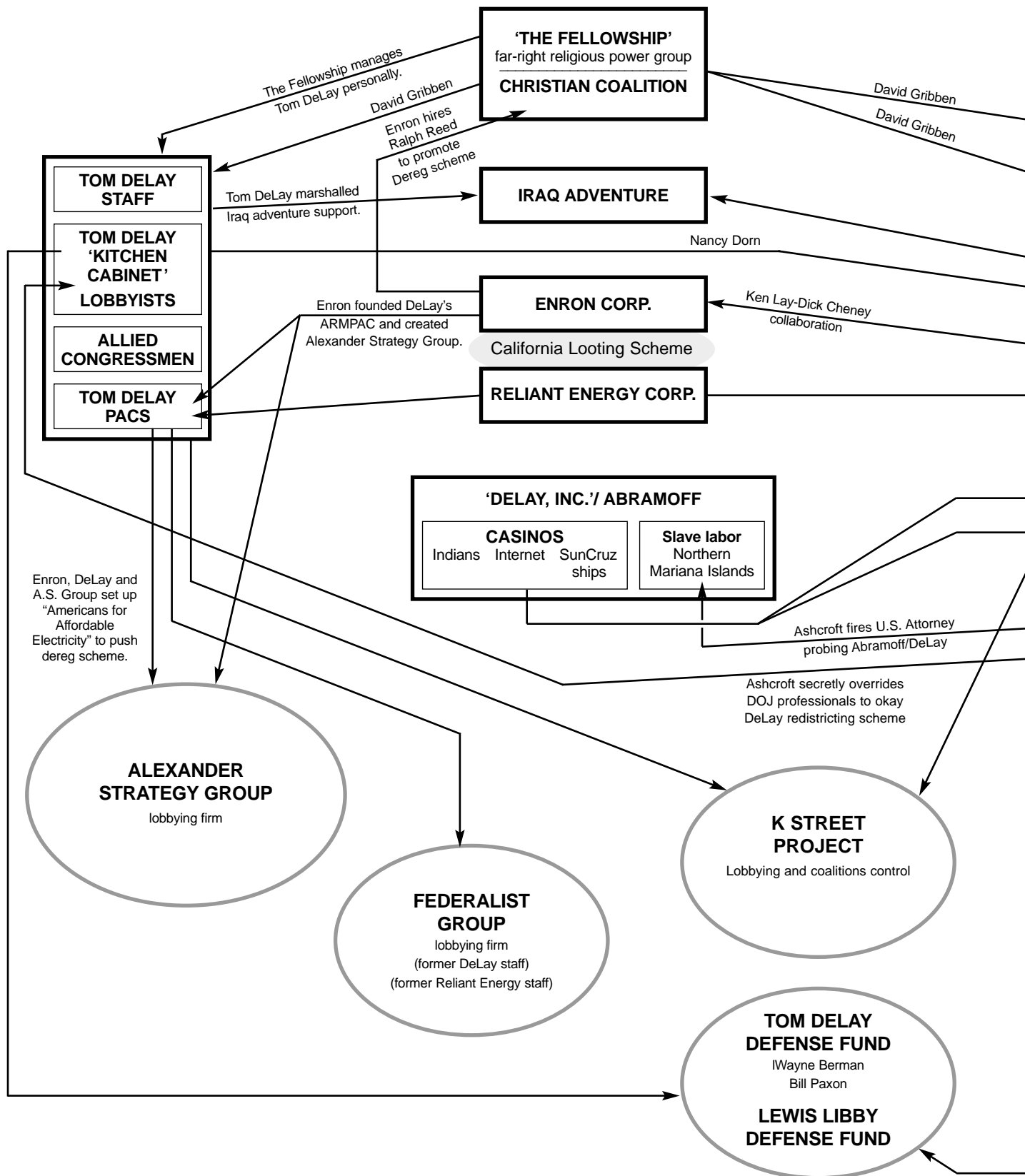
Chris Giblin is another partner under Wayne Berman. Just before joining the Federalist Group, Giblin had worked for Reliant Energy for five years, as head of the firm's Washington office, personally managing the company's California crisis alongside Cheney and DeLay.

Reliant Energy's operatives have been shown, through published telephone transcripts, to have conspired to shut down power plants to force up electricity prices to California customers. Diane Allbaugh was a paid lobbyist for Reliant Energy. Her husband, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) head **Joe Allbaugh**, was a member of Dick Cheney's Energy Task Force. Allbaugh was briefed in detail on the ongoing California cataclysm and aided Cheney in squelching action to block the looters.

Energy Task Force Chairman Cheney meanwhile met repeatedly with Enron representatives. Enron CEO Ken Lay is so far the only corporate chief executive who is known to have met privately with Cheney in connection with the Task Force. Cheney has fought desperately to keep secret the transcripts, and even the identities, of the corporations and officials who met with his Task Force.

The Flames Licking Around Cheney's Feet

Dedicated Federal investigators are now delving into the collective misdeeds of DeLay, Abramoff, Norquist, and their partners at Alexander Strategy Group and else-



where, in casino scams and Pacific island slave-labor enterprises.

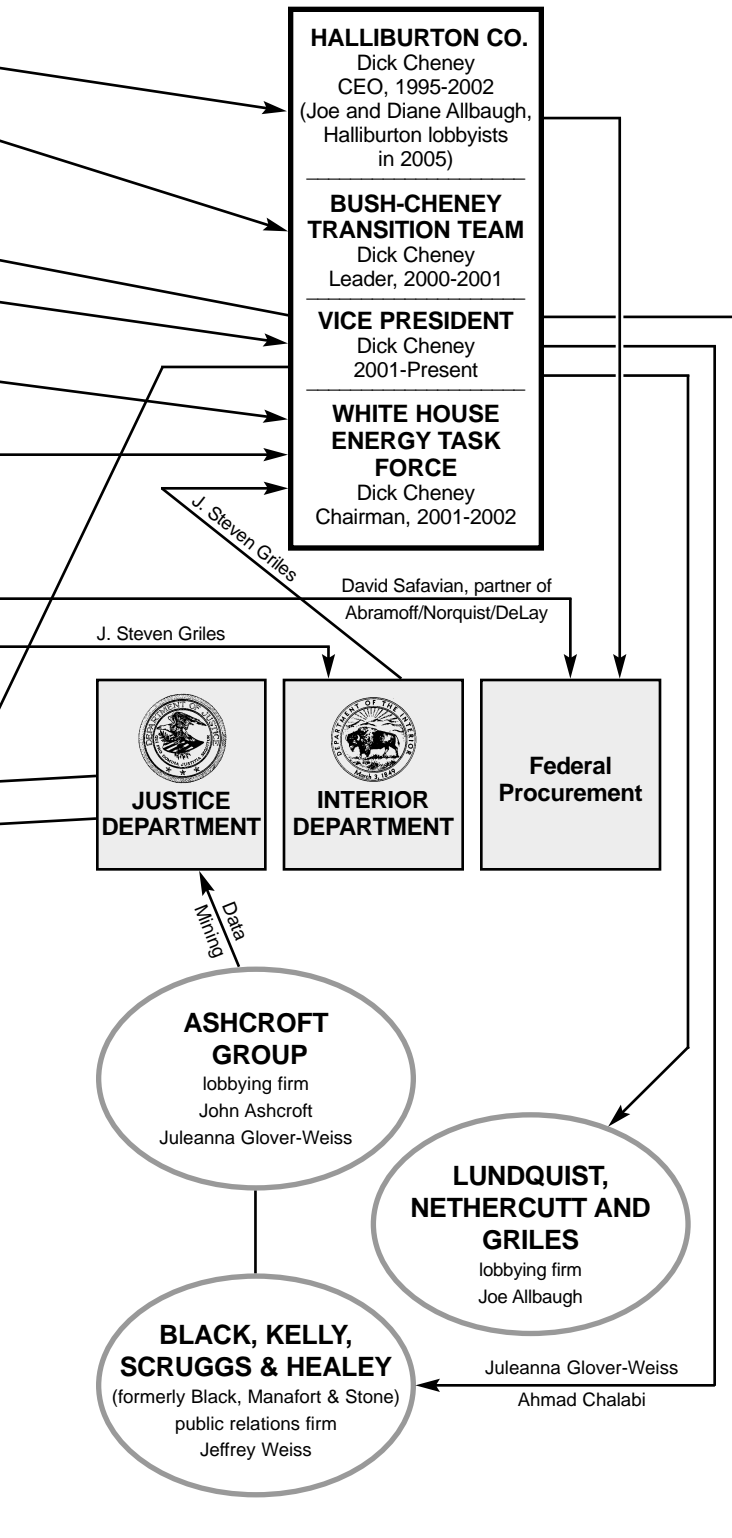
J. Steven Griles is one of this clique's deployed assets, who has already been hauled, sweating and blustering, before a Senate Committee. Griles was the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, where he was Jack Abramoff's main connection in seeking to bend Interior Department policy for the clique's Indian casino objectives. Abramoff used a bizarre channel to Griles, a political front group called Council of Republicans for Environmental Advocacy (CREA), created by Grover Norquist with Gale Norton, before she became Interior Secretary.

Previously a professional lobbyist for big energy companies, Griles managed much of the day-to-day business of the Interior Department. He met frequently with Cheney's staff and other members of the Cheney Energy Task Force. At the same time, Cheney was frequently represented directly at the Wednesday meetings convened by Norquist, at the center of the K Street Project.

As he awaits the outcome of probes in both the Cheney and DeLay branches of government, Griles currently lobbies as a partner at Lundquist, Nethercutt and Griles. His partner **Andrew Lundquist** was an energy aide to Vice President Cheney, and was executive director of the Energy Task Force. Another partner is Joe Allbaugh, the former FEMA Director and Energy Task Force member. Allbaugh, and his wife Diane, the former Reliant Energy lobbyist, are both currently registered lobbyists for Halliburton, the firm that still pays Cheney from his time as CEO. Allbaugh went to New Orleans in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, apparently trolling for contracts for Halliburton.

David Safavian has already been indicted, charged with lying to sabotage the investigation of Abramoff. Safavian was Abramoff's partner in the Indian casino game, and Norquist's partner lobbying for Internet gambling, capped by Tom DeLay killing a *Republican* bill to ban Internet gambling. Safavian became the chief of United States government procurement, where he played his part in quashing protests against the crimes of Cheney's Halliburton Corp. in Iraq. Just as Halliburton began going for Gulf Coast contracts after Hurricane Katrina, Safavian's indictment forced him to step down.

At the Dec. 5 DeLay event in Houston, \$4,200 would buy the donor a photograph with Dick Cheney, \$2,100 a photo with Tom DeLay. Fundraising is a very serious matter now for DeLay and for Cheney's indicted former chief of staff, Lewis Libby. The legal defense funds for *both Libby and DeLay* are being overseen by Wayne Berman and Bill Paxon, along with other insiders of the Cheney-DeLay axis. The very lists of official hosts for DeLay events in the current period, could serve prosecutors as a guide to the bull's-eye, in the fall of Dick Cheney.



In Memoriam

Eugene McCarthy: He Acted To Restore Our Nation's Purpose

by Nina Ogden

On Dec. 10, Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, the dear friend of Lyndon LaRouche and his movement, died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 89. In 2002, when he began to struggle with Parkinson's disease, McCarthy had reluctantly moved to a retirement home in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C., which he typically referred to as a "cruise ship on the River Styx."

It is truly poetic justice that Gene McCarthy's death has unleashed the image of the power of a youth movement challenging the legitimacy of an administration's unjust war.

On Nov. 30, 1967, expressing his concern that "the Administration seems to have set no limits on the price that it will pay for military victory," the Senator from Minnesota announced that he would challenge President Lyndon Johnson for the nomination of their own Democratic Party. He said in his announcement: "The issue of the war in Vietnam is not a separate issue, but is one which must be dealt with in the configuration of problems in which it occurs. It is within this context that I intend to take the case to the people of the United States." He emphasized, "I am hopeful that a challenge may alleviate the sense of political helplessness and restore to many people a belief in the processes of American politics and of American government." He once told this writer, "I was trying to avoid the debacle of a French Revolution."

McCarthy and LaRouche

In the last decade of his life, Gene McCarthy enjoyed a fruitful association with Lyndon LaRouche and his associates. When asked to sign an open letter calling for LaRouche's exoneration, after his unjust imprisonment in 1989, McCarthy said, "How could I not add my name in defense of a man who



EIRNS/Stewart Lewis

McCarthy at the "Ad Hoc Democratic Party Platform Hearings" of LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods, June 22, 2000.

has brought Plato and Schiller back into politics—and was sent to jail for it."

He was a distinguished panelist in the June 2000 Ad Hoc Democratic Party Platform Hearings sponsored by LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods. From 2001 to 2004, McCarthy contributed a column to LaRouche's *New Federalist* newspaper titled, "The American Bestiary," which characterized the utterings of political spin doctors with examples of common and rare animals from medieval manuscripts. In 2003, *EIR* published this writer's three-part interview with Senator McCarthy.

McCarthy and LaRouche enjoyed numerous in-depth discussions. One meeting between the two irreverent wits occurred when LaRouche visited his friend in the hospital. Visitors and nurses poked their noses in the door wondering at the rollicking laughter echoing from that hospital room.

But it was the LaRouche Youth Movement, whose progress he followed with intense interest, that really sparked a hope in the future for Gene McCarthy. After hearing about the latest breakthroughs and adventures of the LYM, he would say, "Those kids are trying to overthrow my fine Irish pessimism."

The Boston Convention

Therefore, it seems appropriate to honor his passing by quoting from the statement he gave to the LaRouche Youth Movement to be read at that turning point in history, the LYM Press Conference at the Boston Convention on July 25, 2004, following their exclusion by the Democratic Party.

"When I heard that the discredited Homeland Security Agency excluded the LaRouche Youth Movement from the

Convention premises, I was amazed. When I heard that the DNC [Democratic National Committee] did not act to protest the exclusion, I was, unfortunately, not surprised.

"Until today, I thought that the worst that could be done to a youth movement had been done to our own, in Chicago, at the 1968 Convention. . . .

"Now, we have been living through the tragic results of the demoralization of the Baby-Boomer generation. Shouldn't the DNC understand that the future of a country, let alone a party, depends on the development of the youth movement of today?

"In Bill Clinton's book, he says that when he was a student, and didn't have the proper shoes to wear to a meeting of some sort, I lent him my shoes. Let me give the youth at this press conference something less material, and perhaps more useful—my outrage at their exclusion and my support for their mission. Let me be a part of their mission."

Interview: Sen. Eugene McCarthy

Back to the Bestiary

Right after the 2004 Presidential election, when George W. Bush was declared the winner and most of the Democratic Party was lying on the floor in a pool of tears, Nina Ogden interviewed Sen. Eugene McCarthy on Nov. 5, whose hilarious characterization of George Bush, Karl Rove, and their "supporters" is even more true now than it was then.

McCarthy: Well, Bush has his mandate. The Karl Rove Republican specialists dragged it in for him and when he went out and wiped his feet on the doormat in front of the White House on Election Day there it was, under the doormat—his mandate.

EIR: What did they bring him?

McCarthy: The slough-pumpers.

EIR: Who slew what?

McCarthy: The slough-pumpers. In a time like this, we have to go back to the Bestiary.

EIR: Okay—I see. What kind of creature is a slough-pumper? Is it fish or fowl?

McCarthy: Fowl. Definitely very foul.

EIR: Okay. I looked it up. It says it's the *botaustus lentiginosus*, the American bittern.

McCarthy: *Botaustus*. . . . Oh, the Latin name. Well, the slough-pumper doesn't speak Latin, but Karl Rove hoped

they'd listen to it in their peculiar habitat.

EIR: What is their habitat and what do they sound like?

McCarthy: Well, they don't sound like anything else you've ever heard. Rove told Bush their call was "man-date, man-date." Maybe they're speaking in tongues.

EIR: It really says here in the literature, "The male's resounding breeding call sounds more mechanical than biological. Owing to their strange calls and penchant for living in desolate wetlands, they were considered evil omens. . . ."

McCarthy: Wetlands! They live in sloughs, swamps, marshes, places where the farmland is reverting to the primordial ooze! They have very short legs and underdeveloped brains, but since they are bad at catching fish, they are very good buggers.

EIR: It says here in the literature, "When frightened, the bittern points its bill skyward, relying on its striped breast to hide. It sways with the wind and looks forward to danger."

McCarthy: Sure, that's why Karl Rove's Republican hunting and gathering specialists brought them in for the mandate. But, you know, they hide in the short grass, so the Democratic specialists didn't know they were there.

EIR: Yeah, it says that in Minnesota, they lure males into live traps using mirrors and recordings. That's what it really says in the bird literature.

McCarthy: Sure, you can always rely on metaphor in a crisis, and we're really on a roll here.

EIR: No kidding! It says that John James Audubon reported, "When I have suddenly come upon them, they have stood still from mere terror, until I have knocked them down with an oar or a stick. Their movements were so sluggish as to give opportunities of easily shooting them."

McCarthy: I'm sure he found out how worthless they are. They taste terrible. If you're really hungry, you can eat a mud hen, which tastes really horrible. If you are absolutely desperate, you can eat a slough-pumper, but it won't really help you.

EIR: What are they good for?

McCarthy: Nothing really—Maybe in honor of his faith-based initiatives, Bush should replace the eagle in the Great Seal with the slough-pumper. There he would be, in the center of the Seal—paralyzed with fear, hidden in the swamp grass, his scrawny neck pointed up to the heavens, hoping for a plague of locusts and grasshoppers to fall into his open beak.

EIR: It says that other folk names for the American bittern are: Hell driver, fool fowl, water belcher, pile driver, thunder pumper, shiti-poke. . . .

McCarthy: Isn't metaphor wonderful?