

Rock Creek Free Press

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.



Obama Team: Wall Street and Washington Insiders

By RCFP Staff

Obama’s first order of business, as president elect, was to appoint Rahm Emanuel as chief of staff. Obama said in a statement: “I announce this appointment first because the chief of staff is central to the ability of a president and administration to accomplish an agenda.” Emanuel, born in Chicago, is a dual American-Israeli citizen. While he has never served in

the US military, he did volunteer for the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) during the first Gulf War in 1991.

Emanuel’s father, Benjamin, was a member of the Zionist organization, Irgun Zvai Leumi. Mr. Emanuel named his son after “Rahamim”, a fallen member of the Lohamei Herut Israel, also known as the “Stern Gang” by the British

TEAM p. 8

Corporate Media Lies Exposed

By Matt Sullivan / RCFP

We caught them lying again. This August, the corporate controlled propaganda outlets like Fox News and nearly every other new source in the country, was accusing Russia of attacking its smaller neighbor Georgia. This paper was one of the few to correctly report that the conflict in South Ossetia was instigated by neocon puppet president Mikhail Saakashvili, the Harvard trained Georgian president who was installed

in power by the 2003 CIA-orchestrated “Rose Revolution”.

The *Times of London*, (Nov. 9), now reports that two former British military officers will give crucial evidence against Georgia to an international inquiry convened to establish who started the bloody five-day war with Russia in August. Ryan Grist, a former British Army captain, and Stephen Young, a former RAF

MEDIA LIES p. 8

Everything You Know About AIDS is Wrong

By Sheila Casey / RCFP

On April 23, 1984, Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler and researcher Robert Gallo from the National Cancer Institute held a press conference and announced that Gallo had found the cause of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the retrovirus HIV. Heckler estimated that a vaccine would be available in just two years. That same day in 1984, Gallo patented

the blood test to detect the HIV antibodies.

As a retrovirus researcher, Gallo had previously tried to pin the blame for Alzheimer’s, leukemia and neurological disorders on a retrovirus, all without success. Now AIDS was in his sights.

But Gallo had skipped an important step in the scientific process: his HIV research had never been subjected to peer review, and was not published until after the press conference with Heckler had already conferred legitimacy on it.

Billions of dollars poured into research programs and millions of people lined up to have their blood checked; by 2006, 72 million Americans had been tested, with a third of that number tested every year. As its creator, Gallo received a percentage of the cost of each test.

To receive a positive HIV test result was considered a death sentence: you would get AIDS and die a miserable death, sooner or later. As the years passed, it became apparent that this was not true. Only five percent of the people who tested HIV positive went on to develop AIDS. A vaccine has never been found. And there is now a growing group of scientists who dispute that HIV causes AIDS.

Peter Duesberg is a professor of molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley. Duesberg earned renown as one of the scientists to discover a cancer gene in 1970, and earned tenure at UC Berkeley at the age of 36. At 49 he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and in 1986 he received a prestigious grant from the National Institutes of Health.

He was on the fast-track to receive the Nobel until he published an article in 1987 in *Cancer*

AIDS p. 2

What Change?

Obama Will Continue Bush ‘War on Terror’

Plans ‘Surge’ in Afghanistan. Still Believes in Osama bin Easter Bunny.

By Tom Burghardt / Global Research

While expectations may be high that the incoming Obama administration will reverse many of the worst features of the Bush regime — from warrantless wiretapping, illegal detention, rendition torture, “targeted assassinations” and preemptive war — now that the cheering has stopped, expect more of the same.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*,

(Nov. 11), “President-elect Barack Obama is unlikely to overhaul radically controversial Bush administration intelligence policies, advisers say, an approach that is almost certain to create tension within the Democratic Party.”

With hyperbolic “change” rhetoric in the air, Obama is relying on a gaggle of former intelligence insiders, warmed-over Clinton administration officials and “moderate”

Republicans, many of whom helped Bush craft his administration’s illegal policies.

With US street cred at an all-time low, due in no small measure to Washington’s hubristic fantasies that it really is an empire and not a rapidly decaying failed state, ruling elites have literally banked on Obama to deliver the goods.

During his run for the White House, the

CHANGE p. 8

\$700 Billion Bank Robbery

By Ellen Brown / WebOfDebt.com

The Stepfordville-like stability of the market may have been engineered for another reason: to divert Congress from reconsidering its \$700 billion bailout bill, which is proving to be as disastrous for the taxpayers as it is lucrative for the banks. The bankers are manning the lifeboats as the taxpayers go down with the *Titanic*. In an October 29 article in *The Nation* titled “Bailout = Bush’s Final Pillage,” Naomi Klein wrote:

“When the Bush administration announced it would be injecting \$250 billion into America’s

banks in exchange for equity, the plan was widely referred to as ‘partial nationalization’—a radical measure required to get the banks lending again. In fact, there has been no nationalization, partial or otherwise. Taxpayers have gained no meaningful control, which is why the banks can spend their windfall as they wish (on bonuses, mergers, savings . . .) and the government is reduced to pleading that they use a portion of it for loans. . . .

“By purchasing stakes in these institutions, Treasury is sending a signal to the market that they are a safe bet. . . [b]ecause the government

won’t be able to afford to let them fail. . . . That tethering of the public interest to private companies is the real purpose of the bailout plan: Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is handing all the companies that are admitted to the program — a number potentially in the thousands — an implicit Treasury Department guarantee. . . . [F]or the banks, the best part is that the government is paying them — in some cases billions of dollars — to accept its seal of approval. . . .

“[T]he market is being told loud and clear

ROBBERY p. 4



Veterans Occupy National Archives

By David Swanson

This was the second time that a group of veterans opposed to illegal wars and in favor of the rule of law had taken over the National Archives building in Washington, D.C. The first time, several weeks ago, a group of them had climbed onto a ledge on the front of the building with flags and banners. This time, they aimed higher.

Mike Ferner gave me a report over the phone at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 15. He said that at 7:45 a.m. he and others had arrived at the Constitution Avenue side of the Archives. There had been no police presence on this side because the Pennsylvania Avenue side had been swarming

with police focused on blocking traffic for G-20 delegates’ endless limousine motorcades. That remained the case throughout the day, as world leaders burned oil and produced hot air.

Eight people, including six members of Veterans for Peace, one member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, and one member of Military Families Speak Out got around a construction fence, went up the Archives steps, and climbed 90 feet of scaffolding. From the top of the building they unfurled giant banners, the first at about 8:15 a.m. and the second around 8:45. The first read: “Defend Our Constitution, Arrest Bush and Cheney, War Criminals!” The second said: “We Will Not Be Silent.”

VETERANS p. 7

Fed Hides \$2 Trillion in Bailout Money

By Paul Joseph Watson / PrisonPlanet.com

The Federal Reserve is facing a lawsuit after it failed to comply with congressional demands for transparency and disclose the destination of at least \$2 trillion dollars in bailout funds, underscoring once again the failure of top down socialism and the folly of trusting the foxes to guard the henhouse.

“The Federal Reserve is refusing to identify the recipients of almost \$2 trillion of

emergency loans from American taxpayers or the troubled assets the central bank is accepting as collateral,” reports *Bloomberg*.

“Fed Chairman Ben S. Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said in September they would comply with congressional demands for transparency in a \$700 billion bailout of the banking system. Two months later, as the Fed lends far more than that in separate rescue programs that didn’t require

approval by Congress, Americans have no idea where their money is going or what securities the banks are pledging in return.”

Bloomberg has requested details of the Fed lending under the US Freedom of Information Act and filed a separate lawsuit in an effort to find out where the money has gone.

President-elect Barack Obama, who in a September 22 campaign speech promised to

BAILOUT p. 4

Federal Funding for Child Sex Slavery

Orwellian Twist: Funding Disguised as Anti-Sex-Slavery Program

By Wayne Madsen / WayneMadsenReport
Perhaps it is not surprising from an Attorney General like Michael Mukasey who favors Inquisition-era torture tactics such as “waterboarding,” but the “Attorney General’s Annual Report to Congress and Assessment of the US Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons Fiscal Year 2007,” dated May 2008, a copy of which has been obtained

by WMR, is heavy on millions of dollars paid to various public and private entities in the cause of combating trafficking but light on law enforcement to shut down the international pipelines that see thousands of children sold into sex slavery every year.

The Attorney General’s report covers what the Justice Department is doing to enforce the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000,

which expands the crimes and enhances the penalties available to prosecutors to combat the trafficking of persons domestically and globally.

The report quotes President George W. Bush in its introduction: “Human trafficking is an offense against human dignity, a crime in which human beings, many of them teenagers

SLAVERY p. 5

The Creek Wins Project Censored Award

Among this year’s winners of the Project Censored award is our very own *Rock Creek Free Press*. The *Creek* was recognized in *Censored 2009* for its coverage of one of the year’s 25 most censored news stories: “Japan Questions 9/11 and the Global War on Terror,” February 2008. The *Creek* strives to publish the stories the corporate media refuses to cover, and we will continue to print the stories you won’t find anywhere else.

Project Censored is a media research program working in cooperation with numerous independent media groups in the US. Project

Censored conducts research on important national news stories that are underreported, ignored, misrepresented, or censored by the US corporate media. Each year, Project Censored publishes a ranking of the top 25 most censored nationally important news stories in the yearbook, *Censored: Media Democracy in Action*, which is released in September.

Between 700 and 1000 stories are submitted to Project Censored each year from journalists, scholars, librarians, and concerned citizens around the world. With the help of more than 200 Sonoma State University faculty, students,

and community members, Project Censored reviews the story submissions for coverage, content, reliability of sources and national significance. The university community selects 25 stories to submit to the Project Censored panel of judges, who then ranks them in order of importance. All 25 stories are featured in the yearbook, *Censored: The News That Didn’t Make the News*.

Rock Creek Free Press is proud and honored to be recognized by Project Censored for our coverage of America’s most censored stories.

— the Editor

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The Creek

Everything You Know About AIDS is Wrong

AIDS from p. 1

Research challenging the consensus that HIV is the cause of AIDS. After that his funding dried up and he was dismissed as a misguided contrarian by those with careers and billions in funding riding on the view that HIV is the cause of AIDS.

The views of Dr. Duesberg, Dr. David Crowe, Dr. Charles Geshechter, and other dissidents who dispute the infectious model for AIDS are summarized below.

1) All viruses are harmless after antibody immunity. Disease is caused before the antibodies are created, because it is the antibodies that neutralize the pathogen and enable the host to recover. When people test positive for the antibodies, that means they have developed resistance, ‘immunity’ to the virus. No microbe causes disease *only* after antibodies have appeared, as HIV is claimed to do. Why develop a vaccine for people who already have the antibodies to the disease? Duesberg: “there is no virus in AIDS patients, only antibodies.”

2) Retroviruses, which are one type of virus, do not kill T-cells. They do not kill the cell they infect—ever. (AIDS is diagnosed partly by a deficiency of T-cells.)

3) HIV does not infect enough T-cells to cause disease.

4) No retrovirus causes disease and there is no logical reason why they should.

5) Viruses replicate quickly; there is no such thing as a slow virus. If a host cannot mount an immune defense quickly enough, the virus will overwhelm and kill the host in a matter of days or weeks. Yet we are told that HIV can cause up to 30 different diseases ten years after initial infection. None of these diseases are specific to AIDS; all existed prior to the “discovery” of AIDS.

6) HIV is not a new virus. When a virus is new in a population that has never been exposed to it, it explodes exponentially. But this is not what we see with AIDS. The number of AIDS cases hasn’t changed since 1985.

7) It fails Koch’s Postulates, which require four steps to verify that an infectious agent is the cause of a disease.

1. the agent must be found in all cases of the disease;

2. it must be isolated from the host;

3. it must cause the same disease when injected into a healthy host; and

4. it must then be found growing again in the newly infected host.

HIV fails all of these tests. Although theoretically it can be found and isolated from a host, this is in practice very difficult to do, since the HIV virus is not found in humans; only antibodies to HIV are found.

The history of medicine has many examples of diseases which were assumed to be infectious but later proved not to be. Scurvy is caused by a vitamin C deficiency, Beriberi is caused by a thiamine deficiency, and pellagra is caused by a niacin deficiency. All failed Koch’s postulates and all ultimately proved to be non-infectious dietary deficiencies.

8) AIDS has remained in its original risk groups and has not broken out into the general population. Outside of Africa, 97% of AIDS patients are homosexuals, IV drug users, hemophiliacs and transfusion patients.

9) The US Army tests recruits for HIV and finds the virus evenly divided between men and woman, yet AIDS is 90% a male disease.

10) With other infectious diseases, cases are always seen among the doctors and nurses who work with infected patients—but this has not happened with AIDS. Medical workers are actually *less* likely to become sick with AIDS than the general population.

11) AIDS behaves differently depending on geography. African AIDS appears to be a completely different disease. In part, this is because in Africa, no HIV test is necessary for diagnosis. A patient is considered to have AIDS if he exhibits three of the 4 symptoms: persistent cough, persistent fever, persistent diarrhea and weight loss. These also happen to be the symptoms of malaria, malnutrition

and tuberculosis, but there are no large funding programs for those diseases. If something is called AIDS, money pours in.

12) According to Dr. David Crowe, a tenured Professor in the Center for Molecular Biology of Oral Diseases at the University of Illinois at Chicago, HIV is not transmitted sexually. He quotes a study done in the 90s on seroconversion in couples where one partner was HIV positive and the other HIV negative. Not a single case was found where the HIV negative partner became positive, even after years of unprotected sex.

13) Different risk groups manifest AIDS in a different way. IV drug users get tuberculosis and wasting syndrome, gays get Kaposi’s Sarcoma. Yet these specific diseases also occur in high numbers among members of these risk groups who do not have HIV infection.

If an IV drug user has tuberculosis and no HIV antibodies, he is simply diagnosed with tuberculosis. If he has tuberculosis and does have HIV antibodies, he is diagnosed with AIDS. It is this method of defining AIDS that assures a high correlation between HIV infection and the constellation of diseases defined as AIDS.

14) HIV supposedly causes 30 different diseases. All other viruses cause only one disease. Duesberg: “There is no HIV specific disease anywhere.”

15) AIDS occurs without HIV infection, and 95% of those with HIV infection never get AIDS.

Despite all this, it is clear that people are sick and dying. If not HIV, what are they dying from?

AIDS is a condition of suppressed immunity, and there are many things that can suppress immunity. One of the worst is the HIV drug AZT, which destroys the bone marrow and which Duesberg describes as “the most toxic drug ever licensed for long term consumption in the free world.” Many people who test positive for HIV antibodies are told they must go on these dangerous drugs—even though they are completely healthy.

In a tragic case described by Celia Farber in the March 2006 *Harpers* magazine, Joyce Ann Hafford, a healthy 33 year old single mother, four months pregnant, was enrolled in an HIV drug trial, put on three anti-HIV drugs in June, and was dead by August 1. Although Hafford felt completely well prior to the drug trial and the drugs immediately made her violently ill, she stayed on them in the belief that she must, at all costs, prevent passing the HIV virus on to her unborn child. Hafford had only one HIV test prior to enrolling in the study, and was never told that pregnancy can cause a false positive HIV test.

According to Duesberg, recreational drug use also suppresses immunity and the gay community has, to some degree, brought their woes upon themselves. He points out that it is common knowledge that toxic foreign substances cause disease: alcohol causes cirrhosis of the liver and smoking causes emphysema. But gay activists typically dismiss it as homophobia to point out that drug use and sexual promiscuity can result in lowered immunity.

Crowe says that gay community leaders essentially had a choice between facing up to promiscuity in the gay population, or to the rampant use of recreational drugs such as inhalant nitrate poppers. They were willing to face up to the promiscuity, but not the drug use.

Because recreational drugs such as heroin, cocaine, speed and poppers suppress immunity, many gay men use large amounts of antibiotics to combat infections. Repeated antibiotic use eventually wears down the immune system.

If a gay man with a depressed immune system develops pneumonia and is found to be HIV positive, he will be diagnosed with AIDS and put on toxic HIV drugs, which will further destroy his immune system and virtually guarantee his eventual death.

According to AIDS dissidents such as Crowe and Duesberg, gay community leaders

have unwittingly contributed to prolonging the fiction of a viral cause of AIDS, due to their unwillingness to confront and change the behaviors that are destroying the immune systems of gay men. Instead, they have successfully clamored for more research dollars focusing on the infectious model, drawing a disproportionate amount of funding away from other, more prevalent diseases such as cancer and heart disease.

But what about Africa? Surely there are not large numbers of Africans inhaling poppers and overloading their immune systems with antibiotics? Yet we are told that AIDS is decimating Africa, and that Africa is teeming with AIDS orphans who have lost both parents to the disease.

Yes, say the AIDS dissidents, Africans are much sicker now than they were 25 years ago. Colonialism has destroyed traditional societies, and there is rampant malnutrition, malaria, war, poverty and a lack of clean drinking water.

According to Charles Geshechter, Ph.D., a three-time Fulbright scholar who teaches African history at California State University in Chico, the current explanation for the AIDS epidemic in Africa is based on racist beliefs about African promiscuity. In fact, says Geshechter, the European communities in South Africa are far more promiscuous than the Africans, yet AIDS is practically unknown among the Europeans, who are much richer, well-fed, and have access to clean drinking water.

Also, virtually all HIV testing in Africa is done at pre-natal clinics. Although pregnancy causes high numbers of false positives, statisticians extrapolate from the tiny numbers at the clinics to the continent at large, giving the impression of a vast epidemic. In addition to pregnancy, there are 70 different conditions—including use of cosmetics and skin lighteners—that can cause false positives for the HIV antibody.

“After 25 years of a so-called epidemic, with unlimited amounts of money being spent, there is absolutely nothing to show for it,” says Geshechter. He posits that there is not supposed to be an end to the AIDS epidemic in Africa – it is just supposed to keep going.

“To ask hard questions threatens the livelihood of the thousands of AIDS researchers, as well as the journalists who have won Pulitzer Prizes for conforming to the received wisdom about AIDS in Africa,” says Geshechter.

Geshechter says that humanitarian groups have a strong incentive to hide the truth about AIDS in Africa. “All the people with money in Africa are those in AIDS programs.” He goes on to explain that there is little money for organizations helping Africans build wells and improve their nutrition and sanitation—but billions upon billions poured into programs to fight AIDS.

As for journalists, Geshechter states baldly that those who report the truth about AIDS lose their jobs, while massive research organizations would shrivel up and die if it became known that HIV does not cause AIDS.

The pharmaceutical companies would be wiped out by lawsuits from the survivors of the millions of people who have died after taking toxic HIV drugs, if the truth were to come out.

It seems that everyone is making money from the AIDS epidemic – all at the expense of those who suffer and die from the constellation of diseases, many of them pharmaceutically induced, we call AIDS.

In 1990, Neville Hodgkinson, then medical and science correspondent of the *London Sunday Times*, wrote: “If HIV does not cause AIDS, then we will have witnessed the biggest medical and scientific blunder of this century.”

Eighteen years later, it seems all but certain that Hodgkinson was right.

Sheila Casey is a DC-based journalist. Her work has appeared in The Denver Post, Reuters, Chicago Sun-Times, Dissident Voice and Common Dreams. She blogs at sheilacasey.com

Austrian Health Agency Finds GM Food Harmful in Mice Genetically Modified Crops may Pose Danger to Humans as Well

By ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

According to a long-term feeding study commissioned by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, genetically modified (GM) corn seriously affects reproductive health in mice. In the study mice were fed a diet of 33% of a GM variety developed by Monsanto or a closely related non-GM variety. Statistically significant litter size and pup weight decreases were found in the third and fourth litters in the GM-fed mice, compared to the control group.

GM corn is modified with genes that produce a pesticide toxin, as well as genes that allow it to survive application of Monsanto’s herbicide Roundup. Author Jeffery M. Smith,

documents 65 serious health risks of GM products in his book *Genetic Roulette*. Mr. Smith is also the Executive Director of the Institute for Responsible Technology claims that “GM foods are likely responsible for several negative health trends in the US. The government must impose an immediate ban on these dangerous crops.”

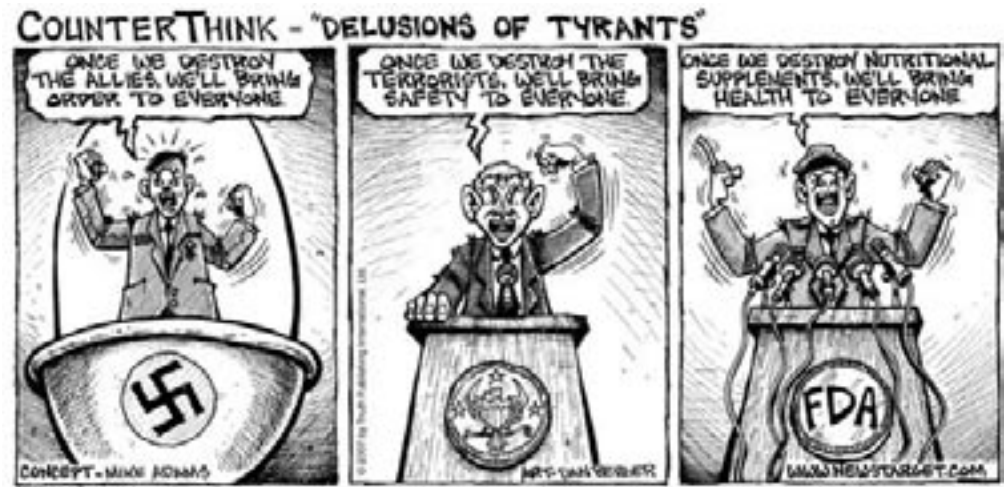
Other studies have shown an increase in infant mortality, lower birth weights, and the inability to reproduce in rats fed GM soy, as well as altered DNA functioning in the embryos of GM soy-fed mice. Male mice fed GM soy had damaged young sperm cells.

US farmers have reported sterility or fertility problems among pigs and cows fed

on GM corn and Indian investigators have documented fertility problems, abortions, premature births, and other serious health issues, including deaths, among buffaloes fed GM cottonseed products.

The principal GM crops are soy, corn, cottonseed and canola with GM sugar from sugar beets to be introduced before the end of the year. Readers can download a free Non-GMO shopping guide at www.healthiereating.org.

Elaine Sullivan is the Health Editor at the Rock Creek Free Press



FDA Extorts Money from Supplement Makers

By ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

For many years the FDA has been using Mob tactics to extort money from nutritional supplement companies, according to Mike Adams, the Health Ranger and editor of NaturalNews.com. Under the guise of protecting consumers from unsubstantiated health claims, the FDA has been leaning on health supplement companies and extorting hundreds of thousands of dollars from them and threatening the owners with imprisonment.

In a recent investigative article on NaturalNews.com, Adams explains how the FDA, using keyword-scanning software, searches the web pages of nutritional supplement companies and health product companies for words like: cancer, cures, treatment, remedies, and other words or phrases that might inform consumers of the health benefits of nutritional products. FDA employees also search these sites for any links either to other health sites or even scientific articles from peer-reviewed medical journals that might explain the health benefits of specific foods, supplements or nutrients. If the FDA finds pages containing any of these “forbidden” words the FDA contacts the “offending” company and issues a warning that the company must remove all information and links from their websites. This demand includes sites that have customer testimonials, even when those testimonials make absolutely no health claims. If the links and information is not removed, some company officials have been threatened with imprisonment.

Companies that refuse to comply have been threatened with arrest and seizure unless they sign the “consent decree” and pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to FDA contractors. This “consent decree” forces the company to pay for FDA contractors’ travel time, hotel rooms, per diem, storage fees for all products seized by the FDA and hourly wages (up to \$100.00 per hour). What does the company get out of this? The FDA contractors proceed to scrutinize the company’s records, products, manufacturing facilities, storage facilities, websites, product information, etc. looking for any “illegal” information.

According to Mike Adams, part of the FDA’s strong-arm strategy is to force companies to sign the “consent decree” where they admit to crimes they never committed. From NaturalNews’ investigation they were able to obtain a copy of a public court document the FruitFast Company signed due to FDA threats and extortion tactics. This document forced FruitFast to admit to crimes it did not commit; namely:

“Violating the Act, by introducing or delivering for introduction, or causing to be introduced or delivered for introduction, into interstate commerce articles of drug that are misbranded within the meaning of 21 U.S.C. SS 352(f)(1).”

“What ‘drugs’ did the FruitFast company introduce that were ‘misbranded?’ Cherries, it turns out. Cherry juice concentrate was being sold with the accurate statement that it helped eliminate gout (which it does). This, according to the FDA, was enough to magically transform cherry juice into an ‘unapproved drug’ and cause it to be ‘misbranded.’

This document also coerces the targeted company to contractually agree that they have:

“...removed all claims from Defendants’ product labels, labeling, promotional materials, websites owned or controlled by Defendants, and in any other media that cause that product to be a drug and/or contain unapproved or unauthorized health claims within the meaning of the Act; and

(ii) removed, from their product labels, labeling, promotional materials, and websites owned or controlled by Defendants, references to or endorsements of any other website that conveys information about Defendants’ products that cause those products to be a drug and/or contain unapproved or unauthorized health claims within the meaning of the Act.”

“This means, of course, that these companies can no longer even LINK to other websites, including websites of scientific journals that discuss the proven health benefits of such natural products (foods, herbs, etc.)” (Adams, NaturalNews.com).

Even after the company has complied with this decree and removed all educational information and links from their websites, they are then required to submit to severe measures of ‘censorship enforcement’ by the FDA. At the request of the FDA the company must submit a copy of any and all requested materials to the FDA and they must submit to a certification of compliance, signed by each of

the individually-named defendants stating that “...personally certifies that the product labels, labeling, promotional materials, and internet websites strictly comply with the requirements of the Act and its regulations and do not include unapproved or unauthorized claims that the products cure, mitigate, treat, prevent and/or reduce the risk of disease. Thereafter, Defendants shall submit certifications of compliance every three (3) months for a period of two (2) years.”

The company must also pay for an ‘expert’ to conduct surprise inspections of the company’s administrative offices, warehouses and fulfillment centers; to review the claims the company makes for all of their products on their product labels, labeling, promotional material, any internet websites owned or controlled by the company. At the end of this inspection the expert will analyze whether the company is operating in compliance with the Act and in particular, certify whether the company has “...omitted all claims from their product labels, labeling, promotional materials, websites owned or controlled by Defendants, and in any other media, that make any of their products drugs and/or constitute unapproved or unauthorized health claims within the meaning of the Act. The expert shall also review Defendants’ product labels, labeling, promotional materials, and websites owned or controlled by Defendants to determine whether these include any references to or endorsements of any other websites that convey information about Defendants’ products that cause those products to be a drug and/or contain unapproved or unauthorized health claims within the meaning of the Act, and certify in the written report whether Defendants have omitted any such references or endorsements.” The company must not only submit to this invasion; it must pay for it: hourly wages ranging from \$78.09 to \$93.61 per hour, \$0.485 per mile for travel, government rate for air travel, the published government per diem rate, per day per representative for subsistence expenses.

The company must also provide FDA with a list of “...all domain names and IP addresses they use to market or describe any product, regardless of whether such sites mention specific products Defendants sell.” If the company does not comply they must pay for damages per violations per day until they do comply and if the United States brings a contempt action against the company and wins, the company is liable for attorney fees, investigational expenses, expert witness fees, travel expenses, etc, etc.

And, last but not least; “All decisions specified in this Decree shall be vested in the discretions of FDA and shall be final.”

Interestingly the FDA does not force pharmaceutical companies to sign the “consent decree”. The FDA is partly funded by the drug companies through “user fees” which could potentially lead to a conflict of interest between the FDA and the pharmaceutical companies the FDA is supposed to be regulating.

Mike Adams, the Health Ranger and editor of NaturalNews.com makes several suggestions for what we the people can do. The first action is to sign the Reform the FDA petition, www.ReformFDA.org, second protest to your congressperson or senator. Rep. Ron Paul has sponsored the Health Freedom Protection Act, which you can read at www.StopFDACensorship.org. NaturalNews has also started an audio tips line, where FDA employees who wish to leak information to NaturalNews can anonymously call and leave a message: (323)924-1664.

This article was based on a longer article by Mike Adams; you can read the full text at: <http://www.naturalnews.com/024569.html>



Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

America’s Economic Crisis Is Beyond The Reach Of Traditional Solutions

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS
By most accounts the US economy is in serious trouble. Robert Reich, an adviser to President-elect Obama, calls it a “mini-depression,” and that designation might be optimistic. The Russian economist, Mikhail Khazin says that the “US will soon face a second ‘Great Depression’.” It is possible that even Khazin is optimistic.

I cannot predict the future. However, I can explain what the problems are, how they differ from past times of troubles, and why traditional remedies, such as the public works programs that Reich proposes, are unlikely to succeed in reviving the US economy.

Khazin points out, as have others, such as University of Maryland economist Herman Daly and myself, that consumer debt expansion is the fuel that kept the US economy alive. The growth of debt has outstripped the growth of income to such an extent that an increase in consumer credit and bank lending is not possible. Consumers are overburdened with debt. This fact takes monetary policy out of the picture. Americans can no longer afford to borrow more in order to consume more.

This leaves economists with fiscal policy, which, as Reich realizes, also has problems. Reich is correct that neither a reduction in marginal tax rates nor a tax rebate is likely to be very effective. Reich, a Keynesian, has an uncertain grasp of supply-side economics, but as one who has a firm grasp, I can attest that marginal tax rates today are not the stifling influence they were prior to John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. As Art Laffer said, there are two tax rates, high and low, that will produce the same tax revenues by expanding or contracting economic activity. Marginal tax rates are no longer in the higher ranges. As for a tax rebate, Reich is correct that in the present situation a tax rebate would be dissipated in paying off creditors.

Reich sees the problem as a lack of aggregate demand sufficient to maintain full employment. His solution is for the government to spend “a lot” more on infrastructure projects on top of a trillion dollar budget deficit -- “repairing roads and bridges, levees and ports; investing in light rail, electrical grids, new sources of energy.” This spending would boost employment, wages, and aggregate demand.

I have no opposition to infrastructure projects, but who will finance the baseline trillion dollar US budget deficit plus the additional red ink spending on infrastructure? Not Americans. The US savings rate is zero or negative. Home mortgage foreclosures are in the millions. Officially, US unemployment is 10 million, but if measured by pre-Clinton era standards, unemployment is much higher. Statistician John Williams, who measures the unemployment rate by the pre-Clinton standards concludes that the rate of US unemployment is about 15 percent. President Clinton “reformed” the unemployment statistics by ceasing to count discouraged workers as unemployed.

For years, the US government’s budget has been dependent on foreigners financing the red ink. Countries such as Japan and China and OPEC suppliers of oil to the US have huge export surpluses with the US. They recycle the dollars by buying US Treasury bonds, thus financing the US government’s red ink budgets.

The open question is: how much longer will they do so?

Foreign portfolios are overweighed in dollar assets. Currently the dollar’s value is benefitting from the financial crisis, as investors flee to the reserve currency. However, sooner or later the huge outpourings of dollar debts will cause foreign creditors to draw back. Already China, America’s largest creditor, has sent a signal that that time might be drawing near. Recently the Chinese government asked, as they do indirectly through third parties, “Why should China help the US to issue debt without end in the belief that the national credit of the US can expand without limit?”

Is the rest of the world, which has demanded a financial summit to work toward a new financial order, going to permanently allocate the world’s supply of capital to covering American mistakes?

If not, the bailout and the stimulus package will have to be financed by printing money.

And the bailout needs are growing. Car loans and credit card debt were also securitized and sold. As the economy worsens, credit card and car loan defaults are rising. Moreover, AIG needs more money from the government. Fannie Mae’s loss has widened to \$29 billion despite the \$200 billion bailout. General Motors and Ford need taxpayer money to survive. General Motors says that its GMAC mortgage unit “may not survive.” Deutsche Bank sees General Motors shares “as likely worthless.”

Shades of the Weimar Republic.

What Reich and the American economic establishment do not understand is that the recession paradigm does not apply. There are no jobs waiting at US manufacturers for a demand stimulus to pull Americans back into work. The problem is not a liquidity problem. To the contrary, there have been many years of too much liquidity. Credit has grown far more than production. Indeed, US production has been moved offshore. Jobs that used to support the growth of American incomes and the tax bases of cities and states have moved, along with US GDP, to China and elsewhere.

The work is gone. All that is left are credit card and mortgage debts.

Anyone who thinks that America still has a vibrant economy needs to log onto www.EconomyInCrisis.org and face the facts.

Economists associate economic depression with price deflation. However, traditionally, debts that are beyond an economy’s ability to service are inflated away. This suggests that the coming depression will be an inflationary depression. Instead of falling prices mitigating the effects of falling employment, higher prices will go hand in hand with rising unemployment — a situation worse than the Great Depression.

The incompetent Clinton and Dubya administrations, unregulated bankers and Wall Street criminals, greedy CEOs, and a no-think economics profession have destroyed America’s economy.

What is the remedy for simultaneous inflation and unemployment?

Three decades ago the solution was supply-side economics. Easy monetary policy had pushed up consumer demand, but high tax rates had curtailed output. It was more profitable for firms to allow prices to rise than for them to invest and increase output.

Supply-side economics changed the policy mix. Monetary policy was tightened and marginal tax rates were reduced, thus stimulating output instead of inflation.

Today the problem is different. The US has abused the reserve currency role, thus endangering its credit worthiness and the exchange value of the dollar. Jobs have moved offshore. The budget deficit is huge and growing. If foreigners will not finance the widening gap, the printing presses will be employed or the government will not be able to pay its bills.

The bailout funds have been wasted. The expensive bailout does not address the problem of falling employment and rising mortgage defaults. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson could not see beyond saving Goldman Sachs and his bankster friends. The Paulson bailout does nothing except take troubled assets off banks’ books and put them on the overburdened taxpayers’ books, thus endangering the US Treasury’s credit rating.

What the Bush Regime has done is to stick the taxpayers with the banks’ mistakes. An intelligent government would have used the money to refinance the troubled mortgages and stop the defaults. By saving the mortgages from default, the banks’ balance sheets would have been made secure. By failing to deal with the subprime crisis, Bush and Congress have added a financial crisis to the exhaustion of consumer demand and the problems of financing huge trade and budget deficits.

Belatedly, Paulson has realized his mistake. On November 12, Paulson announced, “We have continued to examine the relative benefits of purchasing illiquid mortgage-related assets. Our assessment at this time is that this is not the most effective way to use [bailout] funds.”

The financial crisis has cost taxpayers far more than the amount of the bailout. Americans’ savings and pension funds have been devastated. Americans in investment partnerships, who have been required by IRS rules to pay income taxes on gains in the partnerships’ portfolios, have had the accumulated multi-year gains wiped out. They have paid taxes on years of “capital gains” that have disappeared, thus doubling their losses.

America’s economic troubles will rapidly accumulate if the dollar loses its reserve currency role. To protect the dollar and the Treasury’s credit standing, the US needs to curtail its foreign borrowing by reducing its budget deficit. It can do this by halting its gratuitous wars and slashing its unnecessary military spending which exceeds that of the rest of the world combined. The empire has run out of resources, and the 700 overseas bases must be closed.

Can Americans afford massive infrastructure spending when they cannot afford health care? In Florida a Blue Cross Blue Shield group policy for a 60-year old woman costs \$14,100 annually, and this is a policy with deductibles and co-payments. Supplementary policies from AARP to fill some of the gaps in Medicare can cost retirees \$3,300 annually. When one looks at the economic situation of the vast majority of Americans, it is astonishing that the Bush Regime regards wars in the Middle East and taxpayer bailouts of Wall Street criminals as a good use of scarce resources.

US corporations, which have moved their production for US markets offshore in order to drive up their share prices and provide their CEOs with multi-million dollar bonuses, can be provided with a different set of incentives that encourage the corporations to bring employment back to the US. For example, the corporate income tax can be restructured to tax corporations according to the value-added in the US. The higher the value-added in the US, the lower the tax rate; the lower the value-added, the higher the tax rate.

Cutting the budget deficit by halting pointless wars and unnecessary military spending and reducing the trade deficit by bringing jobs back to America are simple tasks compared to confronting inflationary depression.

The world has had enough of American irresponsibility and is taking away the reins. At the November 15 economic summit, the world will begin the process of imposing a new financial order on the US in exchange for continued lending to the bankrupt “superpower.”

With bailouts eating up the world’s supply of capital, continued foreign financing for Washington’s wars of aggression is out of the picture.

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury during President Reagan’s first term. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal



A Ticket to The Hague for Dick Cheney?

By SCOTT HORTON

Gene Burns is one of the nation’s most popular talk radio hosts. For years he has dismissed accounts of torture; America, he has said, does not torture. But recently, after watching *Torturing Democracy* and realizing that he had not understood how important and serious an issue torture had become, Burns abruptly changed his tune. Here’s a transcript of his Novemeber 15 remarks:

I now believe that some international human rights organization ought to open an investigation of the Bush Administration, I think focused on Vice President Dick Cheney, and attempt to bring charges against Cheney in the International Court of Justice at The Hague, for war crimes. Based on the manner in which we have treated prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, and the manner in which we have engaged in illegal rendition that is, surreptitiously kidnapping prisoners and flying them to foreign countries where they could be tortured by foreign agents who do not follow the same civilized standards to which we subscribe.

I’ve always said that I’ve thought that even at Guantánamo Bay, the United States was careful to stay on this side of torture. In fact, you may recall that

on a couple of occasions we got into a spirited debate on this program about waterboarding, and whether waterboarding was torture. And I took the position that it was not torture, that it was simulated drowning, and that if that produced information which preserved our national security, I thought it was permissible.

And then I saw *Torturing Democracy*. And I’m afraid, now that I have seen what I have seen, that I was wrong about that. It looks to me, based on this documentary, as if in fact we have engaged in behavior and practices at Guantánamo Bay, and in these illegal renditions, that are violations of the international human rights code.

And I believe that Dick Cheney is responsible. I believe that he was the agent of the United States government charged with developing the methodology used at Guantánamo Bay, supervising it for the administration, and indulging in practices which are in fact violations of human rights.

A large part of the population still credits the Bush Administration’s absurd claim that it never embraced or applied torture to detainees as a matter of policy. Two recent documentaries, Alex Gibney’s Oscar-winning *Taxi to the Dark*

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Wall Street: Trillion Dollar Crime Scene Why Aren’t the Dems Doing Something About It?

By NAOMI KLEIN

The more details emerge, the clearer it becomes that Washington’s handling of the Wall Street bailout is not merely incompetent. It is blatantly criminal.

In a moment of high panic in late September, the US Treasury unilaterally pushed through a radical change in how bank mergers are taxed — a change long sought by the industry. Despite the fact that this move will deprive the government of as much as \$140 billion in tax revenue, lawmakers found out only after the fact. According to the *Washington Post*, more than a dozen tax attorneys agree that “Treasury had no authority to issue the [tax change] notice.”

Of equally dubious legality are the equity deals Treasury has negotiated with many of the country’s banks. According to Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA), one of the architects of the legislation that enables the deals, “Any use of these

funds for any purpose other than lending — for bonuses, for severance pay, for dividends, for acquisitions of other institutions, etc. — is a violation of the act.” Yet, this is exactly how the funds are being used.

Then, there is the nearly \$2 trillion the Federal Reserve has handed out in emergency loans. Incredibly, the Fed will not reveal which corporations have received these loans or what it has accepted as collateral. *Bloomberg News* believes that this secrecy violates the law and has filed a federal suit demanding full disclosure.

Despite all of this potential lawlessness, the Democrats are either openly defending the administration or refusing to intervene. “There is only one president at a time,” we hear from Barack Obama. That’s true. But every sweetheart deal the lame-duck Bush administration makes threatens to hobble Obama’s ability to make good on his promise of

change. To cite just one example, that \$140 billion in missing tax revenue is almost the same sum as Obama’s renewable energy program. Obama owes it to the people who elected him to call this what it is: an attempt to undermine the electoral process by stealth.

Yes, there is only one president at a time, but that president needed the support of powerful Democrats, including Obama, to get the bailout passed. Now that it is clear that the Bush administration is violating the terms to which both parties agreed, the Democrats have not just the right but a grave responsibility to intervene forcefully.

I suspect that the real reason the Democrats are so far failing to act has less to do with presidential protocol than with fear: fear that the stock market, which has the temperament of an overindulged 2-year-old, will throw one of its world-shaking tantrums. Disclosing

CRIME SCENE p. 5

President-elect Obama: Close Down Guantanamo!

By SHERWOOD ROSS

If Barack Obama is the humanitarian he appears to be, one of his first acts as president surely will be to shut down Guantanamo Bay prison and release its long-suffering inmates — nearly all of whom have spent years there without being charged with a crime.

President Bush’s idea of “compassionate conservatism” has been to punish human beings presumed to be innocent in solitary cells in which no self-respecting zookeeper would cage baboons. Since President Bush ordered military commission trials in November, 2001, only two dozen of the hundreds of detainees at Guantanamo have even been charged and only three have been convicted.

According to a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW), a non-governmental advocacy organization located in New York, more than two-thirds of the 270 detainees at Guantanamo Bay are being housed in inhumane conditions that are “reportedly having a damaging effect on

their mental health.”

This phrase is a generous understatement. The manner in which Gitmo prisoners are confined in a tiny cubicle with no sunlight, fresh air, books, family visits or contacts, and denied the company of other prisoners, reflects psychological sadism refined to its nth degree. Only vicious degenerates could contrive to inflict this living hell on other human beings.

“Guantanamo detainees, who have not even been charged with a crime, are being warehoused in conditions that are, in many ways, harsher than those reserved for the most dangerous, convicted criminals in the United States,” said Jennifer Daskal, senior counterterrorism counsel at HRW.

“Security measures don’t justify locking people in windowless cells...for months and years on end, with almost no opportunity for human interaction, physical exercise or mental stimulation,” she said.

Unless you happened to see the

Guantanamo cell replica Amnesty International put on tour in major cities, you cannot imagine the horror these prisoners are enduring. Let’s just say a Gitmo cell resembles a small bathroom with sink, toilet, and tiny sliver of a window a few inches wide that cannot truly be called a window. There’s room enough to stand, take two or three steps, and that’s it.

According to HRW, “These detainees have extremely limited contact with other human beings, spend 22 hours a day alone in small cells with little or no natural light or fresh air, are not provided any educational opportunities, and are given little more than a single book and the Koran to occupy their time.”

“Even though two hours of ‘recreation’ time — which is sometimes provided in the middle of the night — generally takes place in single-cell cages so that detainees cannot physically interact with one another,” the HRW report says.

HRW’s 54-page report, “Locked

GUANTANAMO p. 7

\$700 Billion Bank Robbery

ROBBERY from p. 1

that Washington will not allow the country’s financial institutions to bear the consequences of their behavior. This may well be Bush’s most creative innovation: no-risk capitalism. . . . Meanwhile, every day it becomes clearer that the bailout was sold on false pretenses. It was never about getting loans flowing. It was always about turning the state into a giant insurance agency for Wall Street – a safety net for the people who need it least, subsidized by the people who need it most.”

William Greider, writing in *The Nation* on the same day, discussed a stinging letter sent to Henry Paulson by Leo Gerard, president of the United Steelworkers, comparing the sale of very similar bank stock to the American public and to billionaire Warren Buffett, who got a much better deal. Greider wrote:

“The swindle of American taxpayers is proceeding more or less in broad daylight, as the unwitting voters are preoccupied with the national election. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson agreed to invest \$125 billion in the nine largest banks, including \$10 billion for Goldman Sachs, his old firm. But, if you look more closely at Paulson’s transaction, the taxpayers were taken for a ride — a very expensive ride. They paid \$125 billion for bank stock that a private investor could purchase for \$62.5 billion. That means half of the public’s money was a straight-out gift to Wall Street, for which taxpayers got nothing in return. . . .

“If the same rule of thumb is applied to Paulson’s grand \$700 billion bailout fund, Gerard said this will constitute a gift of \$350 billion from the American taxpayers ‘to reward the institutions that have driven our nation and it now appears the whole world into its most serious economic crisis in 75 years.’

“Is anyone angry? Will anyone look into these very serious accusations? Congress is off campaigning. The financiers at Treasury probably assume any public outrage will be lost in the election returns.”

And just to make sure that public outrage is buried, the Plunge Protection Team (PPT) has been busily painting the arid landscape of the US economy with roses and dewdrops.

The PPT Rides Again

For anyone who still doubts the PPT’s existence and ability to control markets, this article will expand on one I posted a week ago on the group and its behind-the-scenes activities. As noted in my earlier article, the PPT is formally called the Working Group on Financial Markets (WGFM) and was created by President Reagan’s Executive Order 12631 in 1988 in response to the October 1987 stockmarket crash. The WGFM includes the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Its stated purpose is to enhance “the integrity, efficiency, orderliness, and competitiveness of our Nation’s financial markets and [maintain] investor confidence.” According to the Order:

“To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of funds therefore, the Department of the Treasury shall provide the Working Group with such administrative and support services as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.”

In short, taxpayer money is being made available to manipulate markets. The shady history of the PPT was tracked by journalist John Crudele in a June 2006 *New York Post* series, in which he wrote:

“Back during a stock market crisis in 1989,

a guy named Robert Heller – who had just left the Federal Reserve Board – suggested that the government rig the stock market in times of dire emergency. . . . He didn’t use the word ‘rig’ but that’s what he meant. Proposed as an op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal*, it’s a seminal argument that says when a crisis occurs on Wall Street, ‘instead of flooding the entire economy with liquidity, and thereby increasing the danger of inflation, the Fed could support the stock market directly by buying market averages in the futures market, thus stabilizing the market as a whole.’

The PPT was to be the Roman circus of the twenty-first century, distracting the masses with pretensions of prosperity. Instead of fixing the problem in the economy, the PPT could just “fix” the investment casino. Crudele continued:

“Over the next few years . . . whenever the stock market was in trouble someone seemed to ride to the rescue. . . . Often it appeared to be Goldman Sachs, which just happens to be where Paulson and former Clinton Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin worked.”

For obvious reasons, the mechanism by which the PPT has ridden to the rescue is not detailed on the Fed’s website; but some analysts think they know. An antitrust group called GATA (the Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee) has been tracking the PPT’s moves for many years. Michael Bolser of GATA concluded in 2004 that PPT money is being funneled through the Fed’s “primary dealers,” a group of favored

I was deeply disappointed that Paulson’s bailout plan did not include firing squads.
- letter to the Austin American-Statesman

Wall Street brokerage firms and investment banks. The device used is a form of loan called a “repurchase agreement” or “repo,” which is a contract for the sale and future repurchase of Treasury securities. Bolser explained:

“It may sound odd, but the Fed occasionally gives money [‘permanent’ repos] to its primary dealers (a list of about thirty financial houses, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, etc). They never have to pay this free money back; thus the primary dealers will pretty much do whatever the Fed asks if they want to stay in the primary dealers ‘club.’

“The exact mechanism of repo use to support the DOW is simple. The primary dealers get repos in the morning issuance . . . and then buy DOW index futures (a market that is far smaller than the open DOW trading volume). These futures prices then drive the DOW itself because the larger population of investors think the ‘insider’ futures buyers have access to special information and are ‘ahead’ of the market. Of course they don’t have special information . . . only special money in the form of repos.”

With Paulson’s new \$700 billion credit card, the PPT obviously has access to much more money than in 2004 – enough money, no doubt, to buy large blocks of some key stocks. Those purchases, in turn, would trigger the program traders’ computers, which follow like robots according to pre-set formulae. Although thousands of stocks are publicly traded, only 30 stocks compose the Dow, making this trend-setting index fairly easy to manipulate.

While the Dow is being propped up by the PPT through massive buying, the gold market is held down by massive short selling, since gold is considered a key indicator of inflation. If the gold price were to soar, the Fed would have to increase interest rates to tighten the money supply, collapsing the housing bubble and forcing the government to raise inflation-

adjusted payments for Social Security.

Most traders who see this manipulation going on don’t complain, because they think the Fed is rigging the market to their advantage; but unwary investors are being induced to place risky bets on a nag on its last legs. The people become complacent and accept bad leadership, bad policies and bad laws, because they think things are still “working” for them economically. Worse, there are insiders to this scheme who must find it difficult to resist the temptation to capitalize on their favored positions. As Chuck Augustin observed in a June 2006 article titled “Plunge Protection or Enormous Hidden Tax Revenues”:

“Today the markets are, without doubt, manipulated on a daily basis by the PPT. Government controlled ‘front companies’ such as Goldman-Sachs, JP Morgan and many others collect incredible revenues through market manipulation. Much of this money is probably returned to government coffers, however, enormous sums of money are undoubtedly skimmed by participating companies and individuals.

“The operation is similar to the Mafia-controlled gambling operations in Las Vegas during the 50’ and 60s but much more effective and beneficial to all involved. Unlike the Mafia, the PPT has enormous advantages. The operation is immune to investigation or prosecution, there [are] unlimited funds available through the Treasury and Federal Reserve, it has the ultimate insider trading advantages, and it fully incorporates the spin and disinformation of government-controlled media to sway markets in the desired direction. . . . Any investor can imagine the riches they could obtain if they knew what direction stocks, commodities and currencies would move in a single day, especially if they could obtain unlimited funds with which to invest! . . . [T]he PPT not only cheats investors out of trillions of dollars, it also eliminates competition that refuses to be ‘bought’ through mergers. Very soon now, only global companies and corporations owned and controlled by the [financial] elite will exist.”

A research firm reporting on the unexpectedly high quarterly profits of Goldman Sachs in March 2004 wrote cynically:

“[W]ho does Goldman have to thank for the latest outsized quarterly earnings? Its ‘partner’ in charge of financing the proprietary trading operation — Alan Greenspan.”

Henry Paulson headed Goldman Sachs before he succeeded to Treasury Secretary in June 2006, following in the footsteps of Robert Rubin, who headed that major investment bank before he was appointed Treasury Secretary in 1995, just in time for Goldman and other investment banks to capitalize on the drastic devaluation of the Mexican peso. An October 2006 article in the conservative *American Spectator* complained that the US Treasury was being turned into “Goldman Sachs South.”

In his October 28, 2008 letter, United Steelworkers president Gerard wrote to Henry Paulson:

“The recipients of the first wave of gift-giving include Goldman Sachs. It has been widely reported that you have surrounded yourself with former Goldman employees as well as individuals from other Wall Street firms. Yet it has never been revealed whether in fact you and they have fully divested yourselves of your Wall Street holdings. Doesn’t it seem just a wee-bit of a conflict of interest for those setting the price of the investment to be either so directly linked to the firms receiving the investments or, even worse, direct beneficiaries of the decision to overpay with taxpayer money? . . .

“Out in the real economy, we need our government to invest in creating sustainable shared prosperity – not play Santa Claus to the scoundrels who have laid waste to the American Dream.”

Where is the public outrage? As the fog of the election lifts from our plundered nation, we wait to see.

Ellen Brown, J.D., developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In *Web of Debt*, her latest book, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and “the money trust.” She shows how this private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her eleven books include the bestselling *Nature’s Pharmacy*, co-authored with Dr. Lynne Walker, and *Forbidden Medicine*. Her websites are www.webofdebt.com and www.ellenbrown.com.

Washington, D.C.
has a 9/11 truth group.
dc 911 truth.org
killed
“Your government failed you.”



From the left: Allan Greenspan, SEC Chairman Levitt, Sen. Phil Graham (R-TX), Rep. LaFalce (D-NY), Sen. Sarbanes (D-MD), Pres. Bill Clinton (seated), Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA), Rep. Tom Bliley (R-VA), Far Right -Rep. John Boehner (R-OH).

Original Sin: the 1999 Repeal of Glass-Steagall

The Glass-Steagall act was a depression-era law designed to prevent banks from creating just the kind of risky ‘investments’ that have recently imploded. The bill that ultimately repealed the Act was introduced in the Senate by Phil Gramm (R-TX) and in the House of Representatives by James Leach (R-IA) in 1999. The bills were passed by a 54-44 vote along party lines with Republican support in the Senate and by a 343-86 vote in the House of Representatives, Nov 4, 1999: After passing both the Senate and House, the bill was moved to a conference committee to work out the differences between the Senate and House versions. The final bipartisan bill resolving the differences was passed in the Senate 90-8-1 and in the House: 362-57-15. Without forcing a veto vote, this bipartisan, veto proof legislation was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on November 12, 1999.

The banking industry had been seeking the repeal of Glass-Steagall since at least the 1980s. In 1987 the Congressional Research Service prepared a report which explored the case for preserving Glass-Steagall and the case against preserving the act.

The argument for preserving Glass-Steagall (as written in 1987):

1. Conflicts of interest characterize the granting of credit – lending – and the use of credit – investing – by the same entity, which led to abuses that originally produced the Act.

2. Depository institutions possess enormous financial power, by virtue of their control of other people’s money; its extent must be limited to ensure soundness and competition in the market for funds, whether loans or investments.

3. Securities activities can be risky, leading to enormous losses. Such losses could threaten the integrity of deposits. In turn, the Government insures deposits and could be required to pay large sums if depository institutions were to collapse as the result of securities losses.

4. Depository institutions are supposed to be managed to limit risk. Their managers thus may not be conditioned to operate prudently in more speculative securities businesses. An example is the crash of real estate investment trusts sponsored by bank holding companies (in the 1970s and 1980s).

The argument against preserving the Act (as written in 1987):

1. Depository institutions will now operate in “deregulated” financial markets in which

distinctions between loans, securities, and deposits are not well drawn. They are losing market shares to securities firms that are not so strictly regulated, and to foreign financial institutions operating without much restriction from the Act.

2. Conflicts of interest can be prevented by enforcing legislation against them, and by separating the lending and credit functions through forming distinctly separate subsidiaries of financial firms.

3. The securities activities that depository institutions are seeking are both low-risk by their very nature, and would reduce the total risk of organizations offering them – by diversification.

4. In much of the rest of the world, depository institutions operate simultaneously and successfully in both banking and securities markets. Lessons learned from their experience can be applied to our national financial structure and regulation.

The repeal of Glass-Steagall was pushed by CFR Chairman, Citigroup director and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, (now an Obama advisor) because the repeal enabled commercial lenders such as Citigroup, the largest U.S. bank by assets, to underwrite and trade instruments such as mortgage-backed securities and collateralized debt obligations and establish so-called structured investment vehicles, or SIVs, that bought those securities.

And we know how well that turned out. (Editors’ Note: I must also note that one of the greatest opponent of the repeal of Glass-Steagall was Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) We miss you, Paul!)



F.D.R. signs Glass-Steagall act in 1933. Sen. Carter Glass on the left, Rep. Henry Steagall to the right..

Fed Hides Destination of \$2 Trillion in Bailout Money

BAILOUT from p. 1

“Make our government open and transparent so that anyone can ensure that our business is the people’s business,” refused to comment on the story when contacted by *Bloomberg*, which is no surprise considering the fact that the man who guaranteed “change” has indicated he will not only follow the Bush administration policy of a socialized financial system, but radically expand it.

The Fed’s secrecy on the issue of where the bailout money is going underscores the age-old problem with top down socialism as a tool of re-shaping the economic landscape. The promise to fairly redistribute the wealth, with full accountability, to achieve a solution that will ultimately benefit everyone, is trumped by the cold reality of the fact that corrupt elites, once the taxpayers have been suckered into believing the lie, merely hoard all the money for themselves and don’t redistribute it to anyone apart from their own inner circle of cronies.

Indeed, the banks have admitted that they are hoarding cash and will keep on doing so while bigwigs reward themselves with fat bonuses as

the real economy sinks deeper into the toilet.

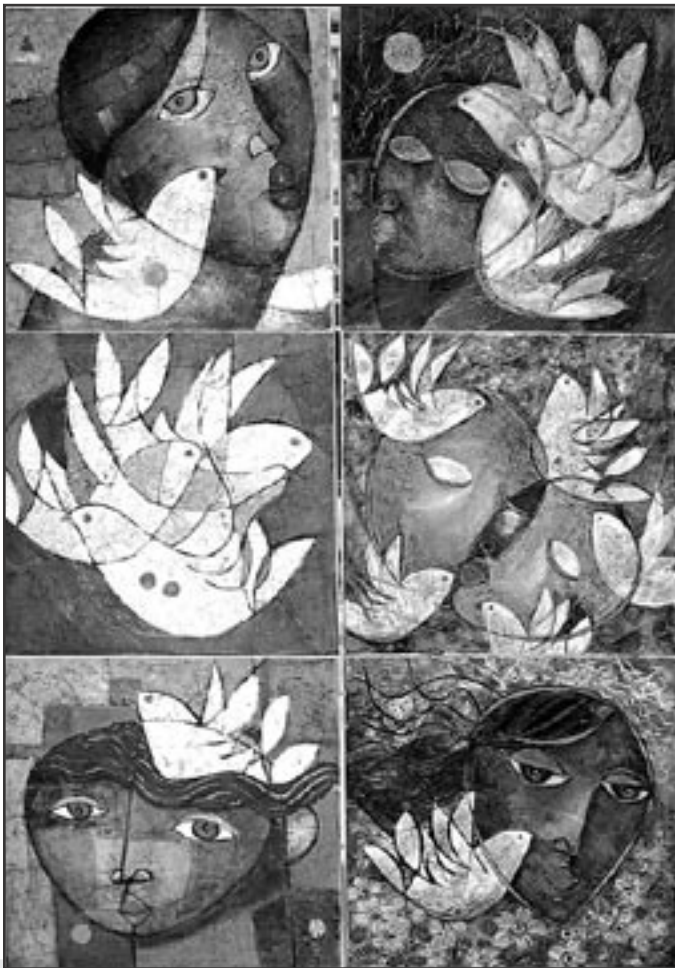
But what else could we have expected upon hearing that ex-Goldman Sachs executive Neel Kashkari was appointed by Paulson to dole out the ill-gotten gains of the bailout to the rest of the corporate crooks?

If you let the fox guard the henhouse, then he’s going to eat the chickens.

In this case, the Fed and the gaggle of bastard banker children sucking on its teat, gobbled up \$5 trillion plus in taxpayers’ money and then figuratively stuck the middle finger up when questions were asked about where that money was going.

Meanwhile, the bailout has had no effect whatsoever, increasing the severity of the financial downturn and allowing the same elite to exploit the crisis as a pretext for centralizing control of the world economic system and creating a new world order and a single global currency.

Paul Watson is an investigative journalist at www.PrisonPlanet.com. He is the author of *Order Out of Chaos* published in 2003.



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Interactive Peace Mural
Nov. 29th – Jan. 30th
3336 M Street, NW
Georgetown
Free and open to the public.
Sun-Thurs: 10am – 9pm
Fri & Sat: 10am – Midnight
Grand Opening Ceremony Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2pm

Internationally renowned artist Huong will display her interactive, 600-foot-long exhibit of more than 2,000 paintings known as the Peace Mural for the first time in the nation’s Capitol.

The Vietnam War refugee-turned-artist and peace activist will also unveil a new painting entitled If You Are during the Grand Opening ceremonies.

www.peacemural.org
contact: John Frank,
Peace Mural Foundation
(904) 705-4322 or email:
john.frank@peacemural.org

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Federal Funding for Child Sex Slavery

Funding Disguised as Anti-Slavery Programs

SLAVERY from p. 1

and young children, are bought and sold and often sexually abused by violent criminals. Our nation is determined to fight and end this modern form of slavery.”

However, as evidenced in the Attorney General’s report, the Bush administration has lined the pockets of a number of “faith-based” organizations and private contractors in its anti-trafficking program.

In addition, recipients of anti-trafficking money include organizations that have reported connections with perpetrators, including US intelligence agencies, particularly the CIA. The International Rescue Committee (IRC), which has had a long history of connections with the CIA and has counted Ronald Reagan’s Vice Chairman of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board Leo Cherne, Reagan CIA director William Casey, US Information Agency and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty head John Richardson, and Henry Kissinger among its principals.

The very same US intelligence community that has sponsored child prostitution networks in Southeast Asia and the Balkans is also involved in tracking the smuggling of children through its participation in the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC), described in the Attorney General’s report as a “joint venture of government experts from the prosecutorial, law enforcement, policy, intelligence, and diplomatic areas teamed to combat trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, and clandestine terrorist travel.” This center combines US Foreign Service personnel with CIA agents, the deadly combination that has seen US diplomatic outposts, particularly in Southeast and South Asia, used to provide cover for pedophile VIP visits for purposes of sex tourism and pedophile US diplomats.

Aid agencies, according to the Attorney General’s report, have received funds from the US government to combat child trafficking. Yet, according to the July 22, 1999 *Guardian*, an orphanage in Ethiopia founded by the Swiss charity Terres des Hommes Federation “became the target for pedophiles, men who knew how easy it would be to abuse their positions of power and trust.”

In 2007, Terre des hommes received \$443,000 from USAID for an anti-child trafficking program in Albania.

A recipient of anti-trafficking funds from the CIA cipher, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), is The Asia Foundation, a past CIA cover organization. The Asia Foundation is receiving money for an anti-trafficking program in five provinces of pedophile-plagued Vietnam. Other USAID funds have gone to Hagar International, a Swiss Christian organization based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for anti-trafficking activities in India, Nepal, and Vietnam.

In June 1987, Joseph Verbeeck, the head of the Belgian office of UNICEF, was arrested for involvement in a large pedophile and child pornography ring. USAID granted UNICEF funds to reintegrate boys and girls, forced into sexual trafficking, into their communities in Ituri in northeastern Congo. The area is plagued by Ugandan and Rwandan troops, backed by U.S. CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency agents, who are the main perpetrators in the child trafficking.

Justice Department Civil Rights Division personnel have used the anti-trafficking law to participate in boondoggles to other countries ostensibly to engage in “outreach” missions. Countries visited include Thailand, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Malawi, Tanzania, Austria, Bulgaria, and Hungary. Not to be outdone, attorneys for the Criminal Division, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, traveled to Nepal, Indonesia, and China to present “anti-human trafficking training” seminars. Boondoggling personnel of the Justice Department’s Office of Overseas

Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT), courtesy of funds from USAID and Justice, flew to Georgia, Indonesia, Russia, Latvia, Romania, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, Bulgaria, Nepal, and Azerbaijan for more “outreach.”

The dubious International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), a program with CIA fingerprints all over it, used anti-trafficking funds from the pedophile-plagued State Department, as well as USAID, to conduct training boondoggles in Albania, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Nigeria, Gabon, Gambia, Madagascar, Uganda, Tanzania, the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra, and Malaysia.

The same Department of Homeland Security attache office at the US embassy in Bangkok that provided John Mark Karr with the business class plane ticket and a phony story about his killing Jon Benet Ramsey to spirit him away from a Thai trial in a sex sting case had the temerity to give seven presentations to 270 members of the Royal Thai police on “forced child labor, sexual exploitation, the use of the internet to commit crimes against children, human trafficking and smuggling of women and children.”

More outrageous is a 24-hour hotline called the National Human Trafficking Resource Center that is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services. The prime contractor for the hotline is defense contractor Lockheed Martin Aspen Systems Corporation. The subcontractor is Covenant House. Covenant House was founded by Father Bruce Ritter, a Catholic priest, for homeless teenagers. Ritter resigned from the organization and the Franciscan order in 1990 after allegations that he had sexual relations with young teens at the Manhattan Covenant House, shelter.

World Hope International, a faith-based aid organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, received \$1,300,000 from USAID for anti-trafficking activities in Cambodia. Among its directors is Robert W. Clyde, Vice President of AIG, the insurance giant that is being bailed out by the American taxpayers and one that WMR previously linked to CIA activities in Asia and a retired President of Lockheed Martin Space Mission Systems.

The CIA-linked World Vision received \$300,000 for anti-trafficking efforts in Laos. World Vision has, for quite some time, been linked to CIA activities at Jonestown, Guyana; the Sabra and Chatila Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon (the site of the 1982 massacre of refugees by Israeli and Lebanese Phalangist forces); and Cuban refugee camps in the United States. The father of would-be Ronald Reagan assassin John W. Hinckley, Jr., John W. Hinckley, Sr. was the chairman of the board of World Vision and John Lennon assassin Mark David Chapman once worked at a World Vision-run refugee camp in Arkansas.

Creative Associates, described as a “privately-owned, nongovernmental organization” received \$1,480,000 from USAID to reintegrate trafficking victims in Albania.

A favorite USAID contractor, Chemonics International, started in 1976 by conservative Republican Gerald Murphy, in part, because as he told *The New York Times* in 1993, “I’ve always wanted a way to do two things: one, have my own CIA, and two, be helpful to people,” received \$500,000 to support USAID field missions, but nothing says the money, supposedly for use in combating child trafficking, was used for that purpose.

The Department of State gave \$51,000 to the Italian Union of Major Superiors to conduct an anti-child trafficking seminar for Catholic nuns in cooperation with the US embassy in Vatican City.

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John Podesta



Valerie Jarrett



Pete Rouse

Obama Team: All Wall Street and Political Insiders

TEAM from p. 1

and notorious for murderous rampages against Palestinians and political assassinations of Swedish UN mediator Count Folke Bernadotte and British diplomat Lord Moyne. Lehi was formally dissolved and integrated into the Israeli Defense Forces on May 31, 1948, its



Rahm Emanuel and Barack Obama

leaders getting amnesty from prosecution or reprisals as part of the integration.

Obama’s transition team is led by three co-chairmen, John Podesta, Valerie Jarrett and Pete Rouse. Called the Obama-Biden Transition Project, it is an assortment of Washington insiders, former Clinton administration officials, corporate and banking executives, and Chicago Democratic Party politicians.

John Podesta, was chief of staff for Clinton from 1998-2001; he will serve as the Transition Project’s leader. Podesta is head of a lobbying firm, the Podesta Group, which counts among its clients oil giant BP, defense industry corporations Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics, biotech firms Genentech and Amgen, Swiss pharmaceuticals corporation Novartis International AG, and Wal-Mart.

Next on the list is Valerie Jarrett, part of the Chicago connection, she began her political career in 1987 under then-Chicago Mayor Harold Washington. She became deputy chief of staff for Mayor Richard Daley and later served as Chicago’s commissioner of the Department of Planning and chair of the Chicago Transit Board.

Rounding out the chairmanship is Peter Rouse; former chief of staff to Tom Daschle, the former Democratic leader in the Senate. In 2004, after Daschle lost his seat, Rouse took the position as chief of staff for Obama, then just beginning his first term in the Senate.

According to their press release, “The Transition Economic Advisory Board will help guide the work of the Obama-Biden transition team in developing a strong set of policies to respond to the economic crisis.”

Members of the board include: David Bonior (Member House of Representatives, 1977-2003) Warren Buffett (Chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway)

Roel Campos (former SEC Commissioner) William Daley (Chairman of the Midwest, JP Morgan Chase; Former Secretary, US Dept of Commerce, 1997-2000) William Donaldson (Former Chairman of the SEC, 2003-2005) Roger Ferguson (President and CEO, TIAA-CREF and former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve) Jennifer Granholm (Governor, State of Michigan) Anne Mulcahy (Chairman and CEO, Xerox) Richard Parsons (Chairman of the Board, Time Warner) Penny Pritzker (CEO, Classic Residence by Hyatt) Robert Reich (University of California, Berkeley; Former Secretary, US Dept of Labor, 1993-1997) Robert Rubin (Chairman and Director of the Executive Committee, Citigroup; Former Secretary, US Dept of Treasury, 1995-1999) Eric Schmidt (Chairman and CEO, Google) Lawrence Summers (Harvard University; Managing Director, D.E. Shaw; Former Secretary, US Dept of Treasury, 1999-2001) Laura Tyson (Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley; Former Chairman, National Economic Council, 1995-1996; Former Chairman, President’s Council of Economic Advisors, 1993-1995) Paul Volcker (Former Chairman, US Federal Reserve 1979-1987)

Let’s take a closer look at a few of these advisors. First, there’s former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin. Rubin was the chairman of Citigroup Inc.’s executive committee when the bank pushed phony analyst research and helped Enron Corp. alter its books, and then got caught falsifying their own books. Rubin was also a



Robert Rubin

director from 2000 to 2006 at Ford Motor Co., which also committed accounting mistakes and now wants bailout cash. Two other Citigroup directors on the Obama

board are Xerox Corp. Chief Executive Officer Anne Mulcahy and Time Warner Inc. Chairman Richard Parsons. Mulcahy and Parsons were also once directors at Fannie Mae when that company was committing accounting fouls. Another member of Obama’s new economic board, former Commerce Secretary William Daley was also a past director of Fannie Mae. Daley is now a member of the executive committee at JPMorgan Chase & Co., which, like Citigroup, is among the nine large banks that just got \$125 billion of Treasury’s bailout budget.

Laura Tyson has been a director at Morgan Stanley for about 10 years. Morgan Stanley got slapped for accounting violations by the SEC in 2004 and in October 2008 got \$10 billion from Treasury.



Penny Pritzker

Penny Pritzker, the Obama campaign’s national finance chairwoman, is heiress to one of the richest families in the world. She was on the board of the holding company for subprime lender Superior Bank FSB the Chicago-area thrift, that was seized by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in 2001. The thrift’s owners agreed to pay the government \$460 million over 15 years but the Pritzkers got to keep millions they made on the deal.

William Donaldson, former SEC Chairman, was on the audit committee at a provider of free e-mail services called Mail.com Inc. from 1998 to 2001. Before he left the SEC, in 2005, the agency disciplined the company over accounting violations that had occurred on his watch. Donaldson was chairman when the SEC voted in 2004 to let Wall Street banks, including Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and Bear Stearns Cos., prop up their balance sheet.

Paul Volcker served as an economic adviser for Obama during the campaign. Volcker was Chairman of the Federal Reserve under Presidents Carter and Reagan (from August 1979 to August 1987) and was a founding member of the Trilateral Commission.

The names, influences and misdeeds remain the same – is there any hope for change?

Wall Street: Trillion Dollar Crime Scene Why Aren’t the Dems Doing Something About It?

CRIME SCENE from p. 3

the truth about who is receiving federal loans, we are told, could cause the cranky market to bet against those banks. Question the legality of equity deals and the same thing will happen. Challenge the \$140 billion tax giveaway and mergers could fall through. “None of us wants to be blamed for ruining these mergers and creating a new Great Depression,” explained one unnamed Congressional aide.

More than that, the Democrats, including Obama, appear to believe that the need to soothe the market should govern all key economic decisions in the transition period. Which is why, just days after a euphoric victory for “change,” the mantra abruptly shifted to “smooth transition” and “continuity.”

Take Obama’s pick for chief of staff. Despite the Republican braying about his partisanship, Rahm Emanuel, the House Democrat who received the most donations from the financial sector, sends an unmistakably reassuring message to Wall Street. When asked November 9th on “This Week With George

Stephanopoulos” whether Obama would be moving quickly to increase taxes on the wealthy, as promised, Emanuel pointedly did not answer the question.

This same market-coddling logic should, we are told, guide Obama’s selection of treasury secretary. Fox News’s Stuart Varney explained that Larry Summers, who held the post under Clinton, and former Fed chair Paul Volcker would both “give great confidence to the market.” We learned from MSNBC’s Joe Scarborough that Summers is the man “the Street would like the most.”

Let’s be clear about why. “The Street” would cheer a Summers appointment for exactly the same reason the rest of us should fear it: because traders will assume that Summers, champion of financial deregulation under Clinton, will offer a transition from Henry Paulson so smooth we will barely know it happened. Someone like FDIC chair Sheila Bair, on the other hand, would spark fear on the Street — for all the right reasons.

One thing we know for certain is that the

market will react violently to any signal that there is a new sheriff in town who will impose serious regulation, invest in people and cut off the free money for corporations. In short, the markets can be relied on to vote in precisely the opposite way that Americans have just voted. (A recent USA Today/Gallup poll found that 60 percent of Americans strongly favor “stricter regulations on financial institutions,” while just 21 percent support aid to financial companies.)

There is no way to reconcile the public’s vote for change with the market’s foot-stomping for more of the same. Any and all moves to change course will be met with short-term market shocks. The good news is that once it is clear that the new rules will be applied across the board and with fairness, the market will stabilize and adjust. Furthermore, the timing for this turbulence has never been better. Over the past three months, we’ve been shocked so frequently that market stability would come as more of a surprise. That gives Obama a window to disregard the calls for a seamless transition and do the hard stuff first. Few will be able to blame him for a crisis that clearly predates him, or fault him for honoring the clearly expressed wishes of the electorate. The longer he waits, however, the more memories fade.

When transferring power from a functional, trustworthy regime, everyone favors a smooth transition. When exiting an era marked by criminality and bankrupt ideology, a little rockiness at the start would be a very good sign.

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GUESTS OF THE NATION

by Mike Palecek

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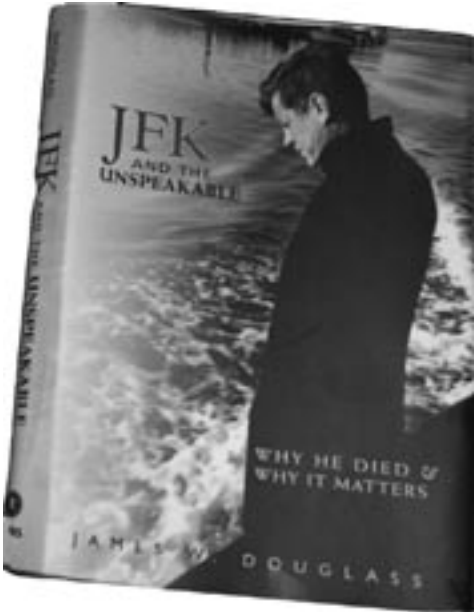
“Astounding, astonishing, and haunting, “Guests of a Nation” offers an intriguing alternative to what the late George Carlin called the 9/11 “consensus reality.” Philip K. Dick would love how this deft American novel captures our imagination and never lets go. Mike Palecek has graced us with a sparkling gem you’ll read non-stop and more than once.

— Karen Kwiatkowski, retired Lt Col, USAF, Ph.D., and working at the Pentagon on 9/11.

www.MikePalecek.com

Book Review

JFK And The Unspeakable



JFK And The Unspeakable
By James W. Douglass
Orbis Books, 2008

BOOK REVIEW, BY MIKE PALECEK
I waited my whole life to read James W. Douglass’ new book, “JFK And The Unspeakable.”

The wait was not worth it.
I should not have had to wait, at all.
This is supposed to be America, but it is not.
That is why I was made to wait.
Americans should not have to wait.
We like to have it right now. We want what we want when we want it.
Now.
Please.

Sister Ellen walked into our third grade classroom, hands tucked neatly into the opposite brown sleeve.

She was the principal at Sacred Heart elementary, and she only came to the classrooms to announce that the poorest kid in our class and his large family had run off a bridge this morning on the way to school, or lead us down to the gym for the Christmas movie and extra chocolate milk.

So on Nov. 22, 1963, when lean, tall, straight Ellen floated in just after lunch recess — pre-Vatican II sisters had no feet, legs, arms, no hair — we saw the Franciscan specter of death.

Later, Mom ironed while she watched the caisson and “Black Jack,” the riderless horse, on the black and white television in the front room.

This was Norfolk, Nebraska.
The *Norfolk Daily News* and WJAG told us it was Oswald. We just assumed, along with the Omaha World-Herald, that the Warren Commission had been commissioned by God.

Hometown hero Johnny Carson grilled an actual hero, attorney Jim Garrison, because Garrison had the gall to think for himself.

Then followed days and decades of lies.
My mother and I watched out the back door at the turn of the ‘70s, toward the railroad track, to see if Dad might go past, while grandma Josie sat in her room in the dark, afraid to speak at all.

My dad died to open the ‘80s, the day before Ruth and I were married.
Football on TV, and lies.
Pot roast on Sunday, with lies.

Turkey and dressing for Thanksgiving. White lies? Dark lies?
Most recently Peter Jennings and ABC News felt the need to cement the lies some forty years after the Kennedy coup.

The program includes a computer-generated reconstruction of the shooting that confirms that Oswald was the lone gunman. And it finds no persuasive evidence of a conspiracy to kill the president.

Through it all, through the fog of American cultural propaganda, some persisted, some wanted the truth, some like Oliver Stone in “JFK” in 1991, hit hard enough to make the ground quiver for a moment, crack in some places.

But the cracks were quickly filled by volunteers with footballs, turkey, dressing, cranberries, credulity.

Now comes James W. Douglass, long-time peace activist, professor, Catholic Worker.
Why is his book the one I’ve been waiting for? Maybe it’s because of the flood of new information, at least new to me.

Maybe it’s the way Douglass lays it out, on the line, straight and true, brick by brick, looking us in the eye and telling us it was the CIA who killed John F. Kennedy.

And that it was because of money.
Of course.
Is there something else?

I’m not an assassination expert.
I am an expert in living in America.
I am a Ph.D in suffering through America, its propaganda, its holiday dinners, football afternoons, coffee conversations, newspaper articles, television news shows, entertainment shows.

If there were one thing worth listening to or hearing out of all those, there would be no need to excuse oneself to go stand in the garage smoking hidden cigarettes, holding the knife at your neck, then putting the cigarettes back into the hiding spot and the knife as well, and going back, to try once more to think and live and act

as an American.

I happen to hold several advanced degrees in American Culture — years and decades spent sitting in comfortable chairs wearing new Christmas pajamas, balancing a Jethro Bowl of cherry black walnut ice cream in my lap, seeking enlightenment by watching Johnny Carson, Don Rickles, Dean Martin, Ed McMahon.

And then going to bed convinced beyond any reasonable doubt there is nothing more.

This is what there is.
This is life.

All there is to see and know is what I can see in my peripheral vision while watching Big Red Football, Gunsmoke, Mayberry RFD, Happy Days, Survivor.

That is all our Norfolk High School “U.S. History” books, all my parents, Isabel and Milosh, the parish priests, mailman have to tell us.

They were my Socrates and I was their Plato, and in our daily discourse I learned not to ask certain questions.

Over the years and decades I had it drilled into me the beauty and wonderment and majesty that the rain was good for the farmers and that it would get cold again this winter.

In the Athens that I imagined Norfolk to be, with its Central Park band pavilion and its “world’s largest stockyard,” which was also a lie, I learned not to learn.

But now ... an unknown stone falls from the sky.

Well ... someone pick it up.
What’s this?
There is more?
A lot more.

The land of the free and the home of the brave murders its own presidents when they threaten the men with the money, like the ones who contributed to the schools we grew up in and the newspapers and the ...

Oh, my.

The amber waves of grain will roll right over you, your children, your house if you stand in their path in any meaningful way.

Murder, Inc.
The business of America is business.
To protect and to serve.

We will kill you and you and your sons and daughters, grandmothers to get what we want.

What we want is to eat and watch television in the dark.

While we grow wrinkles trying to figure out two plus two, those who have made that their profession, manipulate ... everything.

We vote and we work and we study and we worry about our children having Ho Ho’s in their lunchbox and friends on the bus.

And we pay money earned on our knees to hire men and women to kill leaders and overthrow governments to make more money for those who built our schools and run our newspapers, and ...

And if those people also decide that our president should die, then we can do that too.

And we pay to have that done. Like having the carpet cleaned, the lawn mowed, the oil changed.

And no newspaper or radio station or TV station will ever talk about it.

Unless telling us that it never happened.

And we will believe them.

Because not believing them means figuring out something else to believe.

And we have things to do. We have lives ... to live.

And those lives mean nothing, less than nothing, because they are built, constructed ... days laid down unevenly, brick by brick ... on lies and murder.

Lies. Murder.
Lies. Killing.
Lies. Death.

And it goes on and on as if it will never stop.

And then one unexpected day, along comes a brave man, like those brave men murdered, who is not like the weak men with the lies.

And everything changes.

A revolution without guns.
A cultural revolution, an undelicate purging of turkey and cranberries, a detoxification.

A new enlightenment, like the one that spawned the men who made this country — that the recent men have destroyed.

And the time does not seem quite so long.

Then and now are connected. Brought together.

Come together.
And now maybe.

Maybe our children will not live within lies, houses of lies, schools of lies, lives of lies.

Just maybe.

Mike Palecek is the author of *Guest of the Nation*, *Iowa Terror*, and other books. His email is: mpalecek@rcconnect.com

History’s Lessons

The Lusitania:
A Classic Example Of War Profiteering

By Dave Dionisi

What are the top reasons for war? At first thought, imperial governments or self-defense may come to mind. The truth is most wars are ultimately about money, oil, and power. To prevent and end war, peacemakers need to understand the money system that war-profiteers use to make a “killing.”

The same “banksters” or money trust that designed the Federal Reserve have, for over two centuries, profited from war. Senator Louis McFadden (1876-1936) documented direct involvement in wars in the 19th century. The list of 20th century involvement in promoting wars is long and includes the *Lusitania* operation in World War I, funding both Germany and England during WW II, helping to create the conditions for the Korean War in 1953 (Korea was intentionally divided in 1945), and beating the drums for war in Vietnam, just to name a few. For dozens of current examples on how war debt is driven up by corporations such as Halliburton, see the documentary “Iraq for Sale,” www.iraqforsale.org.

Should it be a surprise to anyone that international bankers scheme to profit from wars?

The cycle of debt often starts with selling weapons. Governments assume debt to buy weapons. The weapons manufacturers make money on the sale and the bankers profit from interest on the weapons-generated debt. The weapon sales accelerate if the weapons buyer, usually a government, is faced with a perceived or real threat. The country that buys the most weapons is the US (total weapons purchases exceed the combined sum of purchases by all other nations). Not surprisingly, government officials, paid experts (often former government officials), and corporate owned media promote calls for war as agents of this agenda to drive up US debt.

Bankers profit from wars

President George Washington and other founders of our country had first-hand experience with how banking families in Europe bankrolled military actions for their personal gain. In his farewell address on September 17, 1796, George Washington warned Americans to be on guard against alliances with Europe. The history of how bankers have started and continued wars is painfully long. We need only look at past wars, to see a trail of blood money. In the Middle Ages, the Knights Templars, most known primarily as a military arm for expanding Christianity, performed the role of private central bank for the Crusades. Relatively few Knights Templars were soldiers. Most members worked in their banking business.

The Knights Templars and other financiers of war are not representative of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, or Hinduism. The financiers of war are international and value money more than human life. The Rothschild banking dynasty is highlighted in this article because they became the leading banking force as a result of Wellington’s war with Napoleon, have profited from numerous conflicts, and led the creation of the Federal Reserve. Their involvement in World War I is a classic example of war profiteering.

How World War I started

As with most wars, World War I started many years before the first shot was fired. In 1870, the Franco-Prussian War resulted in France’s defeat by Germany. After that war, the triple alliance was formed, consisting of Germany, Austro-Hungary and Italy. Factors such as the imperialist policies of Kaiser Wilhelm, the Moroccan crisis of 1905 to 1911, and conflicts with Serbia led to increasing tension and set the stage for war.

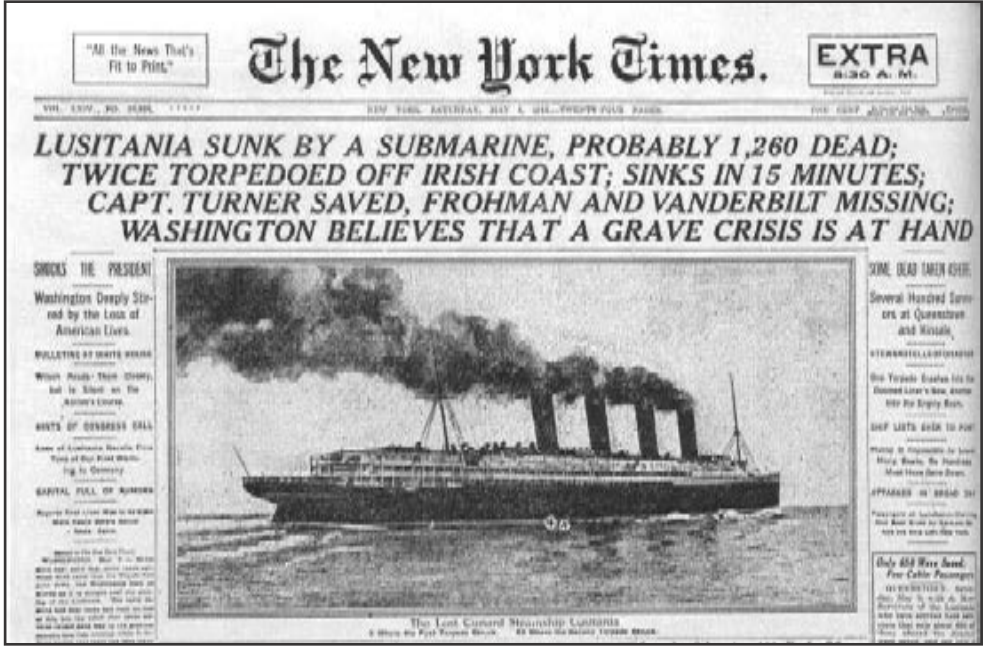
The spark came on June 28, 1914, the assassination of Austro-Hungarian heir Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo. The Black Hand Serbian secret society, with connections to powerful English and French intelligence, took credit. World War I had begun. France, England and Austria took on the war debt. While many paid the price with at least 20 million killed, war profiteers made a financial killing.

While historians still debate the causes of World War I. President Woodrow Wilson claimed the main cause was that the wealthy had too much control over Germany, Russia and Austria. Lenin went on record that the banking merchants orchestrated the war. We now know that, at least at this high level, both Wilson and Lenin were correct. Financial interests, cloaked in good intentions and nationalism, fueled World War I.

False flag operation Lusitania

The US was successfully fooled into entering into the war in 1917 by a series of cleverly orchestrated efforts. President Woodrow Wilson was directly involved in these deceptions and formally sanctioned the US participation in the war in a secret agreement with England on March 9, 1916. We know about this agreement today because the agreement was leaked and confirmed by Sir Edward Grey, Ambassador Walter Hines Page, C. Hartley Grattan, and Colonel Edward Mandell House.

The focus of this article is on the centerpiece of the pro-war propaganda which preceded the 1916 secret agreement and involved sinking a



passenger ship named the *Lusitania*.

Winston Churchill and Woodrow Wilson, in an operation financed by the major banking houses, arranged for the shipment of weapons on the *Lusitania* in May of 1915. The *Lusitania* luxury ocean liner was owned by the Cunard Steamship Line Shipping Company and officially part of the British auxiliary navy. The ship’s owners were paid £218,000 a year (£150,000 for reserve military service and £68,000 to carry Royal mail). As an auxiliary naval ship, the *Lusitania* was under orders from the British Admiralty to ram any German ship seeking to inspect her cargo. In 1915, it was against US law to put weapons on a passenger ship traveling to England or Germany.

Three German spies attempted to confirm



that the 90 tons of unrefrigerated butter destined for a British naval base were weapons and ammunition. The spies were detained on the ship. The weapons loaded on the *Lusitania* were seen by the German dock workers and reported to the German embassy. To warn Americans about the weapons shipment, the Imperial German Embassy attempted to place an advertisement in 50 East Coast newspapers. The ads were printed with a date of April 22, 1915, but the US State Department blocked all the ads except one. George Viereck, the man who placed the ads for the embassy, protested to the State Department on April 26 that the ads were blocked. Viereck met with Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan and produced copies of the *Lusitania*’s supplementary manifests. Bryan, impressed by the evidence that the *Lusitania* had carried weapons, cleared publication of the warning. Someone higher than the Secretary of State, likely Colonel House and President Wilson, overruled Bryan. Nonetheless, one ad slipped past the State Department censorship into the Des Moines Register (and is shown on the left).

The warning read: “NOTICE! Travellers intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial

German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk. IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 22, 1915.”

Captain Dow, the *Lusitania* captain immediately before Captain Turner, resigned on March 8, 1915 because he was no longer willing “to carry the responsibility of mixing passengers with munitions or contraband.” Captain Dow had had a close call just two days earlier and was aware the rules of naval warfare changed in October, 1914 when Churchill issued orders that British merchant ships with munitions or contraband must ram U-boats. Prior to this change by Churchill, both England and Germany adhered to Cruiser Rules. Cruiser Rules enabled crews and passengers to escape in lifeboats before being fired on. With the new Churchill ram rules, the German U-boats could no longer surface to issue a warning and fired while submerged. Churchill explained his ruthlessness with:

“The first British countermove, made on my responsibility...was to deter the Germans from surface attack. The submerged U-boat had to rely increasingly on underwater attack and thus ran the greater risk of mistaking neutral for British ships and of drowning neutral crews and thus embroiling Germany with other Great Powers.”

The above combined with the next Churchill quote speaks volumes about what really happened and why.

“There are many kinds of maneuvers in war...There are maneuvers in time, in diplomacy, in mechanics, in psychology; all of which are removed from the battlefield, but react often decisively upon it...The maneuver which brings an ally into the field is as serviceable as that which wins a great battle.”

Operation Lusitania

On May 7, 1915, the *Lusitania* slowed to 75% speed hoping the English escort vessel, the *Junco*, would arrive. Unknown to Captain Turner of the *Lusitania*, Winston Churchill had ordered the *Junco* to return to port. Churchill’s order left the *Lusitania* alone and unprotected in a known area with U boats. To put this in perspective, England had deciphered the German communications code on December 14, 1914. The level of detail known by the British Admiralty was so precise that U boat names and general locations were known. For example, the British Admiralty knew U-30 left the area for Germany on May 4th and the U-27 left the area because of jammed blow planes.

In a 1981 book, *Seven Days to Disaster: The Sinking of the Lusitania* by Des Hickey and Gus Smith, they reported that one of the crewmen on the U-20 responsible for passing the order to fire to the torpedo room was Charles Voegele. Voegele refused to kill civilians of a neutral country, and upon returning to Germany was court-martialed and imprisoned for three years. One torpedo was fired on May 7 and the warhead’s 300 pounds of explosives detonated upon contact with the *Lusitania*. The *Lusitania*’s Captain Turner reported the first explosion sounded “like a heavy door being slammed shut” and was followed by a much larger explosion that rocked the ship. Turner wrote in the log “an unusually heavy detonation.” The *Lusitania* sank 15-18 minutes later.

On May 28, 1915, Germany’s official response to the US government’s protest states the German government has no intention to attack US vessels that are not guilty of hostile acts and that war contraband was on board, which explains the second explosion.

Despite British denials, weapons are recovered

The banking families involved and Britain’s leaders, even a century later, still fear the negative repercussions from Americans when they learn they were tricked into World War I.

For decades, the British and American governments have denied that there were weapons on the *Lusitania*. The site was declared a protective site, denying divers access. To

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Six Held at Guantanamo After Plot Claim Is Dropped

By ROBERT FISK / The Independent.
In the dying days of the Bush administration, yet another presidential claim in the “war on terror” has been proved false by the withdrawal of the main charge against six Algerians held without trial for nearly seven years at Guantanamo prison camp.

George Bush’s assertion in his 2002 State of the Union address — the same speech in which he wrongly claimed that Saddam Hussein had tried to import aluminium tubes from Niger — was that “our soldiers, working with the Bosnian government, seized terrorists who were plotting to bomb our embassy [in Sarajevo].” Not only has the US government withdrawn that charge against the six Algerians, all of whom had taken citizenship or residence in Bosnia, but lawyers defending the Arabs — who had already been acquitted of such a plot in a Sarajevo court — have found that the US threatened to pull its troops out of the NATO peacekeeping force in Bosnia if the men were not handed over. According to testimony presented by the Bosnian Prime Minister, Alija Behman, the deputy US ambassador to Bosnia in 2001, Christopher Hoh, told him that if he did not hand the men to the Americans, “then let God protect Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

That such a threat should be made — and the international High Representative to Bosnia at the time, Wolfgang Petritsch, has also told lawyers it was — shows for the first time just how ruthless and unprincipled US foreign policy had become in Mr Bush’s “war on terror.” By withdrawing their military and diplomatic support for the Bosnian peace process, the Americans would have backed out

of the Dayton Accord which they themselves had negotiated. Then the Bosnian government would have lost its legitimacy and the country might have collapsed back into a civil war which claimed the lives of tens of thousands of civilians and involved mass rape as well as massacre. The people of Bosnia might then have endured “terror” on a scale far greater than the attacks of al Qaeda against the United States.

When the Bosnian court was preparing to release their six prisoners, Prime Minister Behman was informed that Mr Bush, Vice-President Richard Cheney and the Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, had been personally briefed and the White House had decided that, if they were freed, US troops in the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia would seize them, using “whatever force is necessary.” So, despite a three-month investigation by the Bosnian police, their clearance, and a specific demand by the Dayton-established Bosnian Human Rights Chamber that they should not be forced to leave Bosnia, US forces seized all six, shackled and blindfolded them, and put them on a plane to Guantanamo.

Mustafa Idir, Mohamed Nechla, Hadj Boudella, Lakhdar Boumedienne, Belkacem Bensayah and Saber Lahmar have remained there since, the only European citizens still in Guantanamo. Five of their wives are still waiting for them in Bosnia along with 20 of their children, two of whom their fathers have never seen. Their case will be put to a habeas corpus district court hearing in Washington in November — the six will appear in a live transmission from Guantanamo — where their lawyers will point out that another critical

charge has also been withdrawn by the US government.

The administration has withdrawn evidence given by a federal prisoner, Enaam Arnaout, against Boudella — that he trained at an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan — when lawyers were about to discover that the US Justice Department had said five years earlier that an FBI interview with the man was “not reliable.”

Even stranger is that the six prisoners are claimed by the US to be “enemy combatants” when — with the dropping of the embassy bomb-plot charge — there is no evidence they have ever fought US troops or planned to attack US interests anywhere in the world. Part of the case against Bensayah involved the alleged discovery of a piece of paper at his home, bearing a telephone number for an al Qaeda operative, Abu Zubayder. “The Bosnian police couldn’t get this number to work in Afghanistan or Pakistan,” one of the prisoners’ lawyers, Stephen Oleskey, says. “Now we believe an announcement that the paper had been discovered was made before it was ‘found.’”

Mr Oleskey says Clint Williamson, the US war crimes ambassador, met Bosnia’s Prime Minister, Nicola Spiric, this week. “There’s only one reason he makes these visits,” he said. “To negotiate the return of people in Guantanamo.” The White House may intend to save itself further embarrassment by ending the torment of six more apparently innocent young men.



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The Lusitania: A Classic Example Of War Profiteering

LUSITANIA from p. 6

further frustrate the ability to determine what the *Lusitania* carried, since 1946 the Royal Navy repeatedly dropped depth charges on top of the *Lusitania* as a site for target practice. In 1968, to keep the truth secret, the British Secret Service unsuccessfully attempted to buy the salvage rights to the *Lusitania*. In 1993, PBS Online visited the wreck and found previous visitors had tampered with the evidence. While the British government aggressively worked to distort the truth, weapons were confirmed in July 2006, when Victor Quirke of the Cork Sub Aqua Club found 15,000 rounds of .303 bullets in the bow section of the ship.

The first casualty of war is the truth
Authors have written for many years that 1,201 people were sacrificed on the *Lusitania* to create a reason for the US to enter World War I. Historian Howard Zinn wrote in *A People’s History of the United States*, that the *Lusitania* carried 1,248 cases of 3-inch shells, 4,927 boxes of cartridges (1,000 rounds in each box), and 2,000 more cases of small-arms ammunition. Colin Simpson, author of the book *The Lusitania*, claims Churchill conspired to put the *Lusitania* in danger with the hope of sparking an incident to bring America into World War I. Historian Patrick Beesley supports Simpson’s assessment. Christopher Hitchens’ book, *Blood Class and Nostalgia*, further proves the responsibility of First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, in a deliberate action to pull America into World War I. History professor, Ralph Raico and senior scholar of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, notes Churchill wrote the week prior to the *Lusitania* sinking that it was “most important to attract neutral shipping to our shores, in the hopes especially of embroiling the United States with Germany.”

Many are willing to be “fronts” and “bagmen” for a price

The “Business Above All” condemns JP Morgan and his work as a frontman for the Rothschilds. Lessons like the French Revolution taught global banking families that a lasting presence requires an ongoing disinformation campaign to conceal their wealth and the true nature of their operations. JP Morgan (1837-1913) partnered with George Peabody, who worked with London banks, including Barings and Rothschilds. In 1845, George Peabody was personally involved in previously secret conspiracies including bribing the famous orator, Daniel Webster, to make speeches supporting debt repayment because Maryland, Pennsylvania and other states terminated interest payments to European banks. The expensive terminated interest payments resulted in the creation of American “fronts” for the great banking families of Europe.

JP Morgan led what became the largest American banking dynasty. He profited greatly during the Civil War: one scandal involved selling government rifles that he bought from the government for \$3.50 back at \$22 per rifle. Another profitable trade was selling his personal yacht, the *Corsair*, to the US during the Spanish-American War. JP Morgan did not need the *Corsair* as his interest grew to acquiring larger ships including the White Star Line. In 1934 the White Star Line merged with Cunard and was renamed Cunard White Star Line. In 1950, the company was renamed Cunard Line. JP Morgan’s son, JP Morgan, Jr. (1867 - 1943) was a key owner of both the White Star Line and the Cunard White Star Line (including the *Lusitania*).



J.P. Morgan yacht Corsair

JP Morgan, Jr. was a Rothschild frontman when he helped create the Federal Reserve and bring the US into World War I. For example, in 1914, he loaned \$12,000,000 to Russia and in 1915, he loaned \$50,000,000 to France. A key reason, beyond preventing terminated interest payments, that banking families want “fronts” and “bagmen” is that war profiteering sometimes leads to revenge. In 1915, JP Morgan, Jr. was almost murdered by Frank Holt. Holt claimed he wanted to stop the war profiteering that fueled, World War I. Holt’s condemnation of JP Morgans, war profiteering was correct, as almost all weapons purchased by the U.S. and Britain were acquired through a JP Morgan company. JP Morgan loans to the Allies in World War I are estimated at \$500,000,000.

In 1857, the Peabody and Morgan American banking partnership was directly influenced by the Bank of England. The Bank of England provided an £800,000 bailout package in return for concessions to curtail competition. Over time, the Rothschilds acquired stock and gained control. A similar strategy enabled the Rothschilds to take the helm of the Rockefeller flagship bank, Chase Manhattan. The Rothschilds signaled the Rockefellers were subordinate when, in 2000, JP Morgan executives assumed the key management positions of JPMorgan Chase. Today, the lead Rothschild American front man is JPMorgan Chase’s chief executive Jamie Dimon. Dimon is ultimately subordinate to N M Rothschild & Sons Limited chairman David de Rothschild.

How does this relate to current wars?

In the 1930s, the identities of the Federal Reserve designers began to surface. On May 23, 1933, Congressman Louis T. McFadden brought formal charges against the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank system, accusing them of war profiteering.

He said: “Some people who think that the Federal Reserve Banks are United States Government institutions. They are private monopolies which prey upon the people of these United States for the benefit of themselves and their foreign customers, foreign and domestic speculators and swindlers, and rich and predatory money lenders. In that dark crew of financial pirates, there are those who would cut a man’s throat to get a dollar out of his pocket; there are those who send money into states to buy votes to control our legislatures; there are those who maintain International propaganda for the purpose of deceiving us into granting new concessions which will permit them to cover up their past misdeeds and set again in motion their gigantic train of crime.

“These twelve private credit monopolies were deceitfully and disloyally foisted upon this Country by the bankers who came here from Europe and repaid our hospitality by undermining our American institutions. Those bankers took money out of this Country to finance Japan in a war against Russia...Mr. Chairman, there should be no partisanship in matters concerning banking and currency affairs in this Country, and I do not speak with any.”

On November 21, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had been President Woodrow Wilson’s assistant secretary of the Navy, wrote to Colonel House: “The real truth of the matter is, as you and I know, that a financial element in the larger centers has owned the Government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson, and I am not wholly excepting the administration of W.W. (Woodrow Wilson). The country is going through a repetition of Jackson’s fight with the Bank of the United States — only on a far bigger, broader basis.” Colonel House knew the truth of the matter because he and his father, Thomas William House, were confidential American agents of Rothschild banking interests in London. Colonel House is famous in history for being the person that selected Woodrow Wilson to be the 1913 Democratic Party candidate for president.

The Federal Reserve private banking cartel enforced by public law was replicated on a global scale with the creation of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). The BIS was established by the Hague agreements of 1930 and is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland. The privately-owned BIS coordinates with 55 member central banks, including the Fed. The BIS owners facilitate global monetary control by helping manage Gresham’s Law that bad money drives out good. Bad money refers to fiat money that is not backed by assets with value such as money backed by gold or silver.

In summary, the people who profit from war make a “killing”

The Federal Reserve evolved as a “front” for European banking families following failed past attempts to seize control of the Bank of the United States and the refusal in 1845 when several states elected to discontinue repaying debt to foreign banks. The European banking families needed their private banking cartel to be enforced by US law and achieved this with their design of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.

The cycle of debt often starts with selling weapons. Governments go in debt to buy weapons. The weapons manufacturers make substantial money on the sale and the bankers make a financial “killing” on the interest from the weapons-generated debt. The weapon sales accelerate if a government is faced with a perceived or real threat. False reports are produced, often by the hidden hand of war profiteers, to trick the citizens of a country to support the call for war. The country in the world that buys, manufactures and sells the most weapons is the US. To understand how debt is driven up by war today, see the documentary “Iraq for Sale,” www.iraqforsale.org.

Not surprisingly, we are heading toward a cliff due to a privately-owned central bank with owners that benefit from military spending. When people understand that without economic justice, peace is not possible, a brighter future is possible.



Dave Dionisi is a former senior officer at Metlife and led personal financial planning for Prudential and Direct Advice. He is the author of Perfect Money Planning. His education in finance includes a BA, MBA, ChFC, and CLU. His earlier experience as an Army intelligence officer has helped him accurately explain US foreign policies well in advance of the corporate media. In his book, American Hiroshima, he explained the Bush administration may manufacture a catalyst to justify attacking Iran and the solutions needed to protect our democracy. He does not support nationalizing banks or the \$700 billion wealth transfer scheme but does support fiscal responsibility including the issuance of money by the US government.

President-elect Obama: Close Down Guantanamo!

GUANTANAMO from p. 3

Up Alone: Detention Conditions and Mental Health at Guantanamo,” describes the impact on two detainees — Mohammed Jawad and Mohammad El Gharani — who were teenagers when taken into custody. Jawad has attempted suicide at least once and El Gharani at least seven times.

HRW says several prisoners reportedly are “suffering depression and anxiety disorder, and some reported having visions and hearing voices.” Requests by attorneys for outside psychiatric evaluations and improvements in conditions “have generally gone unanswered,” the human rights agency says.

Last March, the Pentagon said it would allow detainees to make phone calls home but so far only 40 have been able to do so.

Similarly, prison officials told HRW they planned to increase recreation time, allow prisoners to interact, and start language classes, but “No schedule for these improvements,” HRW said, “has yet been announced.”

HRW called on the government to allow videoconferencing with family members and to provide detainees with educational opportunities “and materials to promote mental engagement and reduce depression,” such as additional books and writing and drawing materials.

The Bush regime’s practice of imprisoning suspects without charges, as it has done with hundreds of prisoners at Gitmo and tens of thousands of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan, strongly suggests the Pentagon has no real case against them, and that the “War on Terror” is largely fraudulent, just as Bush’s attack on Iraq was based on lies.

If there is any justice in the world, the Pentagon and CIA officials who designed Guantanamo will be prosecuted and imprisoned themselves for this crime. Once he takes office, President Obama cannot move fast enough to rectify this national disgrace.



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Corporate Media Lies Exposed (again)

MEDIA LIES from p. 1

wing commander, will testify that, before the Russian bombardment began, Georgian rockets and artillery were hitting civilian areas of South Ossetia every 15 or 20 seconds.

In August Americans were subjected to relentless propaganda and disinformation from news and political leaders who knew full well that the Bush administration version of events was absolutely false.

President George W. Bush criticized Moscow’s “harsh military crackdown”, saying the violence is “unacceptable and Russia’s response is disproportionate” while Secretary of

State Condoleezza Rice warned that Moscow’s attacks on Georgia jeopardized its integration into international institutions.

The British officers’ testimony, which is corroborated by many other accounts and other evidence, demonstrates once again that the US news media and political leaders can not be trusted to tell the American people the truth, especially when it comes to matters of war and peace.

What are the chances that we will see a retraction or correction of these grave misstatements from our political leaders or the media?



Veterans Occupy National Archives

VETERANS from p. 1

The enormous banners stayed up until about 2:30 when it started to rain, hail, and blow. Many hundreds of people stopped by. One man, who said he’d seen the banners from blocks away, said he’d come over imagining the Archives had opened an exhibit on freedom of speech. The vets took a sound system up with them, and all day blasted music and speeches by Martin Luther King Jr. Down below, allies passed out flyers and talked to reporters, including representatives of NBC News, German television, Argentinean television, and KPFA.

As the banners were being unfurled Saturday morning, a few security guards came out and said that they might call the police and fire departments to come and get the activists down, but that they hated to deprive citizens of the city of needed services. Ferner found this ludicrous, given the thousands of cops working overtime to wait on G-20 delegates. Later the guards threatened to arrest everyone on the sidewalk. Nobody took these threats very seriously, and they turned out to be empty.

“Our goal is to have the Bush administration tried for war crimes no matter how long it takes. There is no statute of limitations on war crimes,” the veterans said in a press release.

The same messages were also displayed at demonstrations in Santa Monica and Long Beach, California on Saturday.

“The offenses of Bush, Cheney, and their accomplices are appalling,” said Kim Carlyle, a VFP member and Army veteran. “Their misdeeds have killed or maimed more than a million people – American soldiers, innocent civilian children, women, and men. They have displaced almost five million people, with millions seeking refuge in other countries. Their total disregard for international agreements has

severely tarnished the reputation of America in the world. Their unlawful wars have squandered billions of dollars that could have bolstered a troubled economy.”

The veterans are demanding Bush administration be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes against peace; asking the media to clearly inform the public of the administration’s crimes; and encouraging citizens to take similar nonviolent actions.

According to Tarak Kauff, a VFP member, “People say Bush and Cheney will be gone soon so what’s the point? The point is, there is no statute of limitations on war crimes, and if not held accountable, criminality will continue regardless of who is in office. We either are or we are not a nation of law.”

These individuals took part:

- Elliott Adams VFP: 61, Sharon Springs, NY, VFP Pres. and former Army paratrooper, Viet Nam
- Ellen Barfield VFP: 52, Baltimore, MD, former Army Sgt.
- Kim Carlyle VFP: 61, Buncombe County, NC, former Army Spec 5
- Doug Zachary VFP: 58, Austin, TX, VFP staff, former USMC Lance Cpl.
- Tarak Kauff VFP: 67, Woodstock, NY, former PFC, Army Airborne
- Will Covert VFP: 63, San Diego, CA, VFP lifetime , former E4 Navy
- Elaine Brower MFSO: 54, Staten Island, NY, Military Families Speak Out, National Steering Committee, mother of USMC Sgt. James Brower on third tour in Iraq
- Matthias Chiroux I/IAW: 24, Army Sergeant, served in Afghanistan, refused deployment to Iraq

And these people provided support on the ground:

- Mike Ferner VFP: 57, Toledo, OH, former Navy corpsman
- Debbie Tolson VFP: 52, Potomac, MD, associate member of VFP
- Michelle White MFSO: 24, Clarksville, TN, Military Families Speak Out, wife of Iraq war vet currently serving in Afghanistan
- Michael Marceau VFP: 59, Rockville, MD, VP VFP Chapter 16, former Army, Viet Nam
- Bruce Berry VFP: 62, Minneapolis, MN, former SPC 4 Army, Viet Nam
- Fred Nagel VFP: 65, Rhinebeck, NY, former SPC 4 Army
- Jay Wenk VFP: 82, Woodstock, NY, former rifleman, 90th Inf. Div., WWII
- Tony Teolis VFP:



David Swanson is the founder of After Downing Street.

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Obama to Persue ‘War on Terror’ Fiction

No Investigation of Bush Administration Law Breaking Likely

CHANGE from p. 1

Illinois senator may have mildly criticized some of the administration’s so-called “counterterrorism” policies including the Bushist penchant for secrecy, the disappearance of “terrorist” suspects, driftnet surveillance of American citizens and legal residents, CIA “black site” gulags and the crushing of domestic dissent.

But in the few weeks since the November 4th general election, the contours of what Democratic Party corporatist grifters will roll out come January 20, 2009 are taking shape. Citing Obama’s carefully-crafted public relations blitz on the campaign trail opposing illegal spying, the *Journal* reports:

“Yet he ... voted for a White House-backed law to expand eavesdropping powers for the National Security Agency. Mr. Obama said he opposed providing legal immunity to telecommunications companies that aided warrantless surveillance, but ultimately voted for the bill, which included an immunity provision.

The new president could take a similar approach to revising the rules for CIA interrogations, said one current government official familiar with the transition. Upon review, Mr. Obama may decide he wants to keep the road open in certain cases for the CIA to use techniques not approved by the military, but with much greater oversight.” (Siobhan Gorman, “Intelligence Policy to Stay Largely Intact,” *The Wall Street Journal*, November 11, 2008)

The “current government official” cited by the *Journal* fails to specify precisely what it means to “keep the road open” when it comes to torturing prisoners of war in violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Considering that top Bush administration officials “repeatedly discussed and approved specific details of exactly how high-value al Qaeda suspects would be interrogated by the Central Intelligence Agency,” as ABC News reported back in April, and that “high-level discussions about these ‘enhanced interrogation techniques’ were so detailed ... some of the interrogation sessions were almost choreographed — down to the number of times CIA agents would use a specific tactic,” one is left to ponder what “much greater oversight” would actually mean.

Perhaps such “oversight” entails a cosmetic shake-up at the top rungs of US intelligence agencies? The *Washington Post* reports that “The nation’s top two intelligence officers expect to be replaced by President-elect Barack Obama early in his administration, according to senior intelligence officials.”

But would the replacement of Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell, a former admiral who oversaw spooky Booz Allen Hamilton corporate contracts with the “intelligence community,” and CIA Director Michael V. Hayden, an Air Force general who implemented Bushist warrantless wiretapping programs while NSA Director, represent “change” or continuity?

While some Democrats may oppose retaining America’s top spooks because of their public support of Bushist policies, “other Democrats and many intelligence experts,” according to the *Post* “give high marks to the current cadre of intelligence leaders, crediting them with restoring stability and professionalism to a community rocked by multiple scandals in recent years.”

With a subtext arguing in favor of retaining McConnell and Hayden, *Post* journalists Walter Pincus (who has a dubious history of collaboration with the CIA as researchers Daniel Brandt and Steve Badrich note) and Karen DeYoung, cite unnamed “intelligence officials” who think their early departure “could be seen as politicizing their offices and setting a precedent for automatic turnover when the White House changes hands.”

Hilariously (though I’m not laughing), Pincus and DeYoung cite the case of Bush’s retention of George J. Tenet as CIA Director as a “stabilizing move,” one viewed favorably within the Agency. Tenet, a Clinton appointee and political insider, was a primary architect of intelligence forgeries, along with Bushist minions in the Pentagon and the Office of the Vice President when “the intelligence and the facts were being fixed around the policy,” prior to the 2003 US invasion and occupation of Iraq.

According to the *Post*, both men have expressed interest in keeping their perches atop the US “intelligence community.” And why wouldn’t they? According to *Secrecy News* the October 28 release by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence revealed that the 2008 budget for the National Intelligence Program amounted to \$47.5 billion, not counting an additional \$10 billion in spending on the Pentagon’s Military Intelligence Program.

It should be kept in mind the \$57.5 billion doesn’t include the Pentagon and other intelligence agencies’ “black budget” for undisclosed programs and “special operations” hidden within ultra-secretive “special access programs” (SAPs) kept off the books. According to defense and security analyst William M. Arkin:

‘There are also additional categories ‘above’ Top Secret called “special access programs” that are used to protect presidential, military, intelligence, anti-terrorism, counter-drug, special operations, and “sensitive activities,” as well as

classified research and development efforts where it is deemed that extraordinary secrecy is needed to protect capabilities and vulnerabilities. Special access programs are regulated by statute and are defined as deliberately designated programs where ‘need-to-know’ or access controls beyond those normally provided to classified information are created. The clearance and access requirements are identical to, or exceed, those required for access to sensitive compartmented information, and SAPs require special (and expensive) security, access, and communications measures.” (William M. Arkin, *Code Names: Deciphering U.S. Military Plans, Programs, and Operations in the 9/11 World*, Hanover, NH: Steerforth Press, 2005, p.18) .

Additionally, we have no way of determining what other secret slush funds are available to the “intelligence community” from a welter of illegal ventures such as the laundering of illicit funds by CIA intelligence assets in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Balkans, Colombia and Mexico, as well as funds and profits generated by CIA proprietaries — secret CIA-controlled commercial fronts. Derived from the international narcotics trade and “cleansed” as they pass through a series of off-shore banks and US financial institutions, far-right narco trafficking assets involved in the murder of trade unionists, journalists, leftist opponents or indeed, the 9/11 attacks which kick-started America’s “war on terror,” are readily available for planetary-wide US “special operations.”

The Obama intelligence transition team is led by former National Counterterrorism chief John Brennan and former CIA intelligence analysis director Jami Miscik, according to the *Journal*. But what the *Journal* fails to mention however, is that Brennan was a former president and CEO of the The Analysis Corporation (TAC) and the first chairman of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA), as investigative journalist Tim Shorrock reported in his essential book, *Spies For Hire*.

Much of TAC’s business is with with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) where Brennan worked for three years. As Shorrock points out, “In fact, the NCTC is one of the company’s largest customers, and TAC provides counterterrorism support to ‘most of the agencies within the Intelligence Community,’ according to a company press release.”

During the 1990s, TAC developed the US government’s first terrorist database, called Tipoff, for the State Department. In 2003, management of the database was transferred to the NCTC which Brennan managed. By 2005 Tipoff had morphed into the Terrorist Ident,ities Datamart Environment (TIDE), the mother of all federal counterterrorism databases and the “wellspring” for watch lists distributed to airlines, law enforcement, border posts and US consulates world-wide. According to Shorrock, in 2005 TAC won a \$2.3 million contract in partnership with CACI International “to integrate information from the Defense Intelligence Agency into the TIDE database.”

INSA, according to Shorrock is one of three “business associations representing intelligence contractors” and the “one with the closet ties to the government,” which “primarily represents contractors working for the NSA and the CIA.” And SourceWatch reports that among INSA’s leading members can be found such corporate heavy-hitters as the scandal-plagued BAE Systems, Booz Allen Hamilton, Computer Science Corporation, General Dynamics, Hewlett-Packard Company, Lockheed Martin, ManTech International Corporation, Microsoft and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Indeed, current DNI Mike McConnell, was INSA chairman between 2005-2007 before heading up the Office of National Intelligence.

According to the *Washington Post*, Brennan “is one of several names that have surfaced, including Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.), as possible replacements for McConnell or Hayden.” One can almost hear the clink of glasses amid popping corks in corporate suites across Virginia and Washington!

What do we know about Jami Miscik, Obama’s other intelligence transition team leader? According to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Miscik “served as Director for Intelligence Programs at the National Security Council during the Clinton Administration from 1995 to 1996.” In the run up to the Iraq war, Miscik played a key role in concocting fake intelligence about Iraq’s alleged “weapons of mass destruction” and “links” to al Qaeda that were used by the Bush administration to sell the war to the American people. During this period, as head of the CIA’s analytical division, she suppressed reports from Company analysts that rejected Bushist claims as unfounded.

More recently, Miscik was “the Global Head of Sovereign Risk at Lehman Brothers” according to the CFR. “In this capacity,” Miscik’s biographers write with a straight face, “she assesses geopolitical and economic risks for the firm’s senior management and clients.” But with the multi-billion dollar collapse of Lehman Brothers amid allegations of massive fraud and management corruption, the failed firm is now under investigation for dodgy “structured products” and “mini-bonds.” One can only wonder what advice the incoming Obama administration would seek from Miscik or indeed from CFR!

Once the Obama team is in place come January 20, will the crimes of the Bush regime

be investigated by Congress or will gross criminality be prosecuted by a new team at the Department of Justice? Don’t hold your breath.

The *Washington Post* reports that while “political considerations affected every crevice of the department during the Bush years,” Ron Klain, Al Gore’s former chief of staff who now occupies that position for Vice President-elect Joe Biden, dismissed calls to overhaul the Department and compared “preelection brainstorming sessions of Democrats” to “an escalating composition of woes.” *Post* reporter Carrie Johnson writes.

Obama will have to do a careful balancing act. At a conference in Washington in mid-November former Justice Department criminal division chief Robert S. Litt asked that the new administration avoid fighting old battles that could be perceived as vindictive, such as seeking to prosecute government officials involved in decisions about interrogation and the gathering of domestic intelligence. Human rights groups have called for such investigations, as has House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.).

“It would not be beneficial to spend a lot of time calling people up to Congress or in front of grand juries,” Litt said. “It would really spend a lot of the bipartisan capital Obama managed to build up.” (Carrie Johnson, “Obama Team Face Major Task in Justice Dept. Overhaul,” the *Washington Post*, November 13, 2008)

But as we’ve come to expect from the corporate media, Johnson failed to investigate Litt’s own conflicts of interest when it comes to probing Bushist crimes by CIA and other intelligence officials. As Glenn Greenwald observes, “This brazen defense of lawlessness articulated by Litt is now as close to a unanimous, bipartisan consensus across the political establishment as it gets.”

Indeed, Litt’s argument in favor of impunity for mass murder, torture and lawless spying by high political officials, particularly the President and those closest to him such as Vice President Richard Cheney, mean they literally are exempt from the rule of law.

Greenwald reports that during his tenure at the Justice Department as the head of the criminal division under Bill Clinton, Litt:

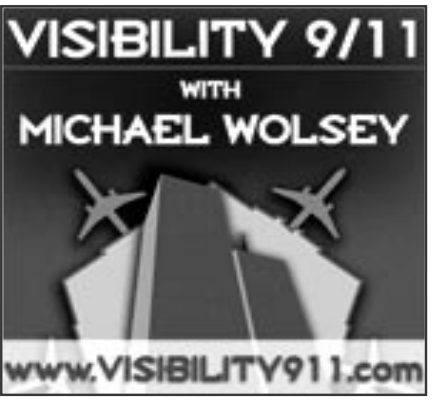
“...spent much of his career as a federal prosecutor, aggressively prosecuting and imprisoning all sorts of ordinary Americans. He was one of the most vocal advocates for prohibiting government-proof encryption technology in order to preserve the Government’s ability to access people’s computer communications as part of criminal investigations, and was part of a Clinton DOJ that very aggressively pursued even garden-variety drug cases and used mandatory sentencing guidelines to ensure harsher sentences for common criminals.” (Glenn Greenwald, “Post-Partisan Harmony vs. the Rule of Law”, *Salon*, November 13, 2008) .

While prosecuting and imprisoning low-level drug offenders and the poor is an absolute moral obligation for Litt and his ilk, hauling lawbreaking corporate and political clients before a court of law, like the impeachment of felons occupying high-office, is “off the table.” Greenwald points out that as a partner at Arnold & Porter, an “up-armored” corporate legal behemoth, the company brazenly announced on Litt’s Arnold & Porter page that he represented several employees of intelligence agencies “in connection with criminal investigations. None has been charged.”

While the *Post* may depict him as an objective analyst, Litt is no more than a shill for well-heeled, “covered” clients. Indeed, if he represents CIA, NSA or White House officials involved in illegal intelligence and surveillance programs, Greenwald writes, “that obviously motivates his insistence that investigations not be pursued.” And so it goes...

Memo to Obama supporters: the new product roll-out is a smashing success, “change” has come to Washington, the corporate grift continues. Any questions?

Tom Burghardt is a researcher and activist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to publishing in CovertAction Quarterly and Global Research, an independent research and media group of writers, scholars, journalists and activists based in Montreal, his articles can be read on Dissident Voice, The Intelligence Daily and Pacific Free Press. He is the editor of Police State America: U.S. Military “Civil Disturbance” Planning, distributed by AK Press.



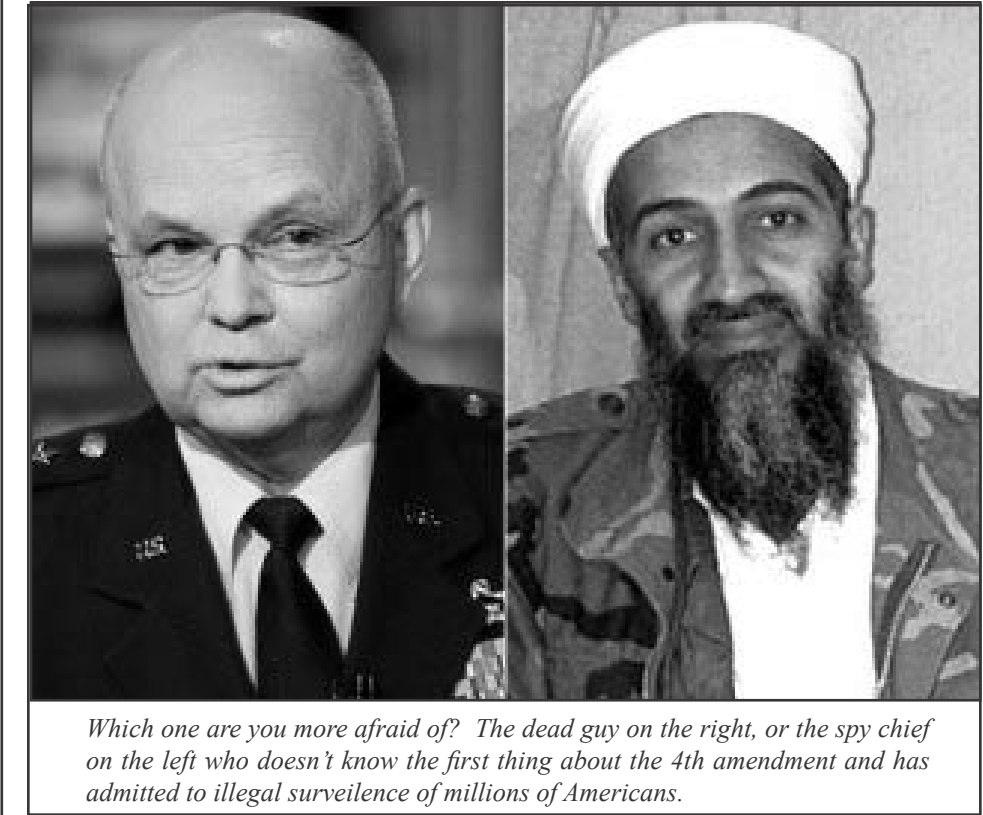
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Who is Scarier?

Hayden or Osama



By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP
General Michael Hayden, the military leader of the previously civilian Central Intelligence Agency, made a statement to the press in mid-November saying that Osama bin Laden is alive and well and living in Pakistan but that the al Qaeda leader is increasingly worried about his personal security. The CIA had recently directed a series of missile attacks, fired from remote controlled drone airplanes, into the Pakistan tribal areas.

Hayden also claimed, without providing details, that the intelligence agency had disrupted an attack “that would have rivaled the destruction of 9/11.” Hayden went on to say that al Qaeda is “is a determined, adaptive enemy unlike any our nation has ever faced.”

The Washington Press Corps, incredulous as always, went off to write glowing accounts of our nations military intelligence triumphs. I suppose no one in the press thought to ask why, if Hayden knows so much about the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, they don’t just go pick him up. Osama, if he were still alive, has been on the loose for over seven years since 9/11 and the CIA hasn’t laid a glove on him. Makes you wonder how we ever got by with second-rate enemies like the

Third Reich and the Soviet Union for so long. As for Hayden’s statement about the Plot that would have “rivaled” 9/11; when questioned about this claim a senior intelligence official said Hayden was referring to the 2006 “liquid bomb plot” in London. That plot, you may recall, is the excuse used by TSA for not letting you bring your coffee, or shampoo or baby formula onto your last flight. Of course, what was not mentioned in any of the glowing accounts of General Hayden’s heroic agency, is that in the more than two years since the London “liquid bomb plot,” it has been completely and thoroughly debunked. It turns out that the accused “plotters” didn’t have a plan, had no tickets, no passports, no chemicals, no “bomb materials” and the whole thing has been quietly dropped by the British authorities. As for the “plotters,” they were either released or charged with minor offences.

The real reason for Hayden’s press conference, so soon after a new presidential election, is not that Osama (r.i.p.) is in fear for his security, but that apparently Hayden is concerned for his own security—job security that is.




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