

Conservatives Suckered Into Rocky's Panama Canal Diversion

Richard Viguerie, the Rockefeller-Buckley axis's "conservative" Judas-goat, is at it again.

For the last two weeks Viguerie has been energetically fanning conservative hysteria about the proposed Panama Canal treaty, in his latest effort to sidetrack U.S. Whigs from any effective fight against the Carter-Mondale Administration and its Rockefeller policies. Working through the American Conservative Union, the Conservative Caucus, and his own direct-mail fundraising outfit, Viguerie has put together a propaganda drive that has succeeded in suckering Ronald Reagan and Senators Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond into the center of the completely bogus Canal squabble.

Prodded by Viguerie, the duped Helms and Thurmond, and the numerous Rockefeller submarines on his staff, Reagan has fallen hook, line and sinker for the Canal gambit after deliberately holding back on this divisive issue since last year's Republican primaries. With star billing in the *New York Times*, Reagan has sworn to do "everything I can" to rally conservatives for opposition to the treaty.

Following a briefing by Linowitz and Bunker on the treaty in New York Aug. 25, Reagan gave a jingoistic speech that evening at the Young Americans for Freedom Conference in which he declared: "I do not think that we should ratify this treaty ... Will turning over the canal be seen as yet another sign of America's longing to withdraw? Will it create a power vacuum in the Caribbean which Fidel Castro and his patron, the Soviet Union, will seek to exploit? What does this say to our allies around the world about our leadership intentions, our international role, about our own view of our national defense capability?" Lest any YAF member be left in doubt, Reagan concluded with a parable from the days of Teddy Roosevelt's "Big Stick" Gun Boat Diplomacy, ending: "America has for too long sought to be loved ... We've been the pussycats of the world. What we need now is respect."

Reagan has been manipulated on this issue by Buckley agent Lyn Nofzier, head of Reagan's Citizens for the Republic, and by Viguerie crony Bruce Eberle who handles mailings and fundraising for this organization, to raise the Panama Canal issue in a way that will further fissure the Republican Party. According to an Aug. 24 issue of the *New York Times*, Citizens for the Republic has already sent out a memorandum to California Republicans urging them to "protest" the decision by Senator S.I. Hayakawa to endorse "President Carter's proposed giveaway of the Panama Canal." This stab in the back attack against Hayakawa, an emerging anti-Wall Street leader, shows precisely how Buckley and

Viguerie's "conservative" plumbers crew plan to use the Panama Canal issue to divert and destroy Whig forces.

What is astonishing is that honest conservatives continue to give Buckley protégé Viguerie even a scrap of credibility. Not only did Viguerie organize for Rockefeller's own Jimmy Carter in last year's presidential elections — and publicly admit it. Reliable sources report that this crook skims off the first 50 percent of all funds he raises for conservative causes to go to the only "cause" he has any loyalty to, namely his own pocket. Yet for all his flagrant piggery, "50 percent" Viguerie is now successfully leading conservatives into the Carter crew's Panama Canal trap.

Acting the liberal Dr. Jekyll to Viguerie's right-wing Mr. Hyde is Sol Linowitz, one of the two negotiators of the Canal Treaty. Linowitz was deployed directly out of Coudert Bros., the main Wall Street law firm handling the Buckley family's international oil interests. Coudert Bros. has also been identified by knowledgeable insiders as a coordinating center with the apparatus known as the "left CIA" (the Institute for Policy Studies nexus) for the same right- and left-cover terrorists that may be let loose at any moment to further fire up the Panama issue, in the U.S. and internationally.

Fanning the Fire

With Rockefeller standing behind both sides of the liberal-conservative Panama fight, it isn't surprising that still another Rockefeller employee has been trotted out to preview the terrorist scenarios that are doubtless already on the drafting boards. In the Aug. 22 *Wall Street Journal*, Roger Fontaine, the author of Nelson Rockefeller's Commission on Critical Choices report on Latin America, made a bid to provoke maximum paranoid reaction from U.S. conservatives by painting the following grim possibilities: "The potential does exist for small urban terrorist squads, recruited from Panama's large student population, to make lightning raids into the zone...U.S. military and police units would find it tempting to chase these raiders back into Panamanian territory...(raising) the spectre of another Vietnam."

Any such scenario would probably call for terrorists "sheepdipped" through left-CIA penetration networks into Cuba, to give a suitable "Communist-backed" tone to the project. But Cuba's Fidel Castro has recently shown himself to be more "conservative" on this issue than the U.S. Whigs, urging Panamanian leader Torrijos to play down the whole Canal issue just as Cuba does the continued presence of the U.S. military base on Cuba's Guantanamo Bay.