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## Election Profile: Florida

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# Congressman Bill Chappell challenged by zero-growth Democratic candidate

by Susan Kokinda, Washington Correspondent

A fourteen-year veteran of the U.S. Congress, Democratic Congressman Bill Chappell of Florida, is facing his strongest challenge ever in an Oct. 5 Democratic primary run-off against multi-millionaire challenger Reid Hughes. Chappell is the latest target of political forces within the Democratic Party associated with Democratic National Committee Chairman Charles "Banker" Manatt, who have been targeting traditional Democrats around the country for political elimination. An earlier victim of this political gaggle, which has been frustrated and forced to go slow in its attempts to impose total party discipline within the House of Representatives, was maverick Ohio Congressman Ron Mottl, an adamant opponent of Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker and his high interest rates. Mottl ostensibly had the support of the DNC and the House Democratic leadership of Speaker Tip O'Neill in his race, only to see O'Neill pronounce his defeat a "lesson" to Democrats with ideas independent of his own.

Chappell faces the Oct. 5 primary run-off after falling short of a majority of the votes in the regular Sept. 7 primary in a three-way race. Chappell garnered 47.3 percent to 45.1 percent for Hughes, David Lee Davis, a former Daytona Beach city policeman, polled 7.6 percent. While Davis has officially thrown his support behind Chappell, the danger is that a low voter turnout could put Hughes, who is backed by a number of single-issue activist groups like the environmentalists, over the top.

### A sharp contrast on economics

Chappell and Hughes present a sharp contrast in economic and philosophical orientation. Chappell, who has been a staunch supporter of programs fostering agricultural progress, advanced energy development, infrastructural investments such as water management and transportation, and the promotion of capital-goods exports, is a spokesman for programs crucial to substantive economic growth and development, an instinctive supporter of "American System" or nation-building economics. Serving on the House Appropriations Committee where he has assignments to the Subcommittees on Energy and Water, Defense, and Military Construction, Chappell has received ratings from the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) of 100 percent on

crucial energy votes such as nuclear and fusion energy, and 100 percent on key water development and infrastructure votes. Besides supporting a strong national defense, Chappell is a supporter of advanced weapons systems that maintain the "science driver" aspect of military spending crucial to productivity growth in the civilian economy.

Like many Democrats caught up into attacking budget deficits as a major cause of our economic ills, however, Chappell has shown weakness in this area as evidenced by his support for the balanced-budget amendment. Unlike many others however, he understands the problem with the credit policies of the Federal Reserve and has cosponsored H.R.228, (to get credit out of speculative investment), and H.R.211 (addressed to getting interest rates down). While he has insisted behind the scenes that interest rates must drop, a weakness with voters is that he has not carried this effort forth publicly.

### Hughes a proclaimed Malthusian

Hughes on the other hand is an epitome of the rottenness of those sections of the Democratic Party promoting an explicit Malthusian or zero-growth outlook, population control policies, environmentalism, and an increasing shift of our economy into the post-industrial society service sector employment. Hughes is a promoter of the political line of the "Paul Volcker Protection Squad" in the Congress—that budget deficits are the cause of high interest rates.

According to Hughes's aide, Geoff Ely, Hughes is an explicit Malthusian. "If you're asking whether he believes in the Malthusian view," Ely said to *EIR*, "I guess he believes that would probably be the trend unless we can learn to limit population ourselves." Hughes stated to *EIR* that "My philosophy is we must control world population." This outlook converges with his plan for jobs creation in "new areas of endeavor" including "the service-oriented industries" which is where Hughes made his money: commercial leasing, shopping centers, convenience stores, self-service oil distribution, etc. While Hughes has the AFL-CIO endorsement, this post-industrial-society orientation has reinforced the effort of some of the building trades unions to quietly work for Chappell.

One of the striking features of the race has been the Hughes campaign tactics. Hughes has made an issue of Chappell's accepting PAC contributions for his race. Yet Hughes, a multi-millionaire through Hughes Developments has personally financed almost his entire campaign effort, with a few contributions from Texas oil-related interests thrown in.

Hughes has also insinuated that Chappell is for nuclear holocaust because of his support for the "Broomfield resolution" which passed the House, endorsing the achievement of nuclear weapons parity between the United States and Soviet Union before implementing a nuclear weapons freeze. The alternative called for an immediate freeze. Hughes outlines, to *EIR*, his support for 15 percent cuts in advanced weapons systems and a conventional warfare buildup "so we can fight a conventional war which we can't do today." This orientation not only eliminates the "science driver benefit" of military spending, but has been condemned by the NDPC as oriented toward fighting genocidal wars against the developing sector nations.

### Who's supported by 'big business'?

Hughes, while claiming that the DNC is "technically" neutral in his race, refers to the destruction of Mottl to *EIR* as having been "we" who "got him." Aside from employing regular DNC pollster Pat Caddell as his own, Hughes is explicit on his business connections and professional associations with the notorious Charter Oil Co. Charter Oil was intimately involved in the organized crime, drug, and dirty money networks involving Billy Carter and Libyan madman Muammar Qaddafi.

It is one of the ironies of this race that while Hughes is accusing Chappell of being supported by "big business," Hughes is being backed by the ultimate "big business," the international financial and political networks currently controlling the DNC who are promoting policies that will end the role of the United States as a world power, and are leading to the deaths of hundreds of millions of people in the developing world.

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### Interview: Opponent Reid Hughes

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## 'We must control world population'

*From an interview with Reid Hughes, challenger to incumbent Rep. Bill Chappell (D-Fla.) in the Oct. 5 Democratic primary runoff in the Fifth Congressional District, which includes part of Jacksonville and the area to the south of it:*

**EIR:** Your campaign reminds me a bit of the campaign won against Ron Mottl in Cleveland some months back. You have AFL-CIO support, backing of three major newspapers. . . .

**Hughes:** From the National Education Association, the Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters. . . . This will be the first boll weevil in the South to be defeated. Mottl wasn't really a full-blown boll weevil at the time we got him.

**EIR:** How is the Democratic National Committee orienting toward your campaign?

**Hughes:** Neutral.

**EIR:** You have Pat Caddell as your pollster.

**Hughes:** Right.

**EIR:** That would tend to indicate they're not exactly neutral.

**Hughes:** I'd say they're technically neutral.

**EIR:** One of the issues you are interested in is education.

**Hughes:** Right. Education, the economy, the environment, social security, and senior citizens' protection.

**EIR:** What do you see as the biggest need in education?

**Hughes:** First of all, restoration of education cuts. And secondly, some innovative concepts including the emergence in the training of technical skills as well as languages and other skills that would provide people the opportunity to get into new areas of endeavor.

**EIR:** Do you mean areas like computer technology?

**Hughes:** The technological as well as the service-oriented industries.

**EIR:** Do you say that because that is the way the economy is shifting?

**Hughes:** Sure. I think we're having a change into the new era of service, technological orientation in industry.

**EIR:** Have you addressed interest rates?

**Hughes:** We think interest rates are obviously directly attuned to the huge deficits and we're proposing deficit reductions through plugging the tax loopholes that benefit higher incomes and corporate entities, as well as reduction of the nuclear controversial hardware thrust in the military budget.

**EIR:** There have been several initiatives over the last year that criticize Paul Volcker directly for the interest rate problem. Would you endorse that type of action?

**Hughes:** Yes, I would.

**EIR:** What do you think Volcker should be doing that he's not?

**Hughes:** I think Volcker has made statements that he is