

Eye on Washington by Nicholas F. Benton

Scandals decimate 1988 political options

Revelations in the April 11 *Atlanta Constitution* from the wife of black activist Julian Bond's reports of her husband's severe cocaine dependency are only the latest in a cascade of scandals that is permanently altering the American political landscape, and will have deep implications for the 1988 presidential election.

The Bond scandal, which, according to the *Constitution*, is only the tip of the iceberg of a much bigger problem among big names in his Atlanta-based political machine, is a body blow to the gameplan Paul Kirk and his Democratic Party political mafia was counting on to control the 1988 election by, among other things, choosing Atlanta as the site of the Democratic convention.

The Bond scandal will hurt the DNC scenario for a brokered convention that will choose Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn as the party presidential nominee, as it will cripple the role Jesse Jackson, in particular, has been scripted to play in the premeditated scheme.

The Bond scandal broke shortly after the indictment of two nephews of former Rep. Parren Mitchell (D-Md.) cut deeply into the clout of the same black machine.

In New York, the unraveling of the criminal activities of key players in the Democratic political apparatus

there have already kept Gov. Mario Cuomo from even daring to run.

But of course, it is not only the Democrats who are taking a beating. National Public Radio reported with editorial outrage on April 10 that one of the shell organizations used by Spitz Channell to raise money from unsuspecting conservatives to finance Col. Oliver North's illegal, clandestine operations had on its payroll a list of "ghost employees" who never showed up for work, but instead turned out to be Channell's personal homosexual partner and a clique of his homosexual friends.

It was bad enough for conservatives to learn that Terry Dolan, the head of the leading right-wing fundraising organization in the nation for almost a decade, the National Conservative Political Action Caucus (NCPAC), was an active homosexual and died of complications from AIDS earlier this year. Now, they learn that their money has been used to pay for homosexual trysts.

This tops even the heavily publicized Jim and Tammy Bakker scandal that has shattered the political influence of the so-called "religious right," which had evolved into a major factor in American politics by the early part of the decade.

With all the "dirt" that has already come out, as the Special Prosecutor, the media and the congressional committees start digging into the material contained in the *EIR's* new *Special Report* on Project Democracy for their continued investigations into the "Iran/contras scandal," the best, as they say, is still yet to come.

As for the American population, feeling more and more as if it is being forced to sit through a pornographic movie, it is reacting with appropriate revulsion. That's good, because it is not the filth that is new—just the revelations.

U.S. dissidents make anti-Pope plans

An odd foursome of a Jesuit, a Dominican, a feminist, and a "liberation theology" Hispanic woman held a press conference here April 9 to announce plans to disrupt the tour of Pope John Paul II to the U.S. in September.

All are activists who have protested the Pope's intervention during the past year against priests and theologians who had become soft on issues of abortion and homosexuality in the U.S. Church.

Their operation, called "Catholics Speak Out," is collecting names on a petition to the Pope "inviting" him to "reduce the length of your talks by half and spend at least half of your time in each city listening to the voices of the Catholic people."

One spokesman conceded to this reporter that the chances of the Pope accepting the "invitation" to "shut up and listen" are extremely slim.

But, he added, "the benefit of this effort is that it will get more of the faithful to speak out." Others said this could supplement some of the mass demonstrations planned against the Pope, including one being organized by "gay" activists in San Francisco. But while admitting all this, they were very eager to avoid being branded as schismatics.

"The polarization in the Church is already there. The dialogue we seek heals rather than splits the Church," one said.

In fact, the polarization he is talking about involves only a small, vocal grouping of mostly feminists and "gay" activists. When they insisted that the "people of God" have as much authority in the Church as the Pope, they were baffled when I asked them if they felt a witch doctor had as much authority on medical matters as a physician.