

Age, can and do make staggering incomes. And, where the opportunities to make big incomes on a production line are dwindling all the time. . . . The sort of production line income that made the man who was making automobiles in Detroit among the wealthiest citizens of the world, that age is over and it isn't going to come back. It doesn't mean that there will be no work for people to do, but the distribution of income will be different.

Q: Do you think the Information Age, with a 5% elite and 95% underclass, will come to the United States soon?

Rees-Mogg: It's happening faster in the United States than anywhere else, because the United States is more advanced in technology. . . .

Q: I believe you hold that, as this occurs, the welfare state and the public school system will collapse.

Rees-Mogg: Yes, I think that we've got a welfare state which has just grown and grown and grown, along with bureaucratic functions. Unfunded pension systems are likely to be viable for a few more years. Different kinds of pension systems are likely to be viable in more fortunate countries for a while longer, according to the pattern of funding. . . . But, the demographics are against it, the populations are aging, the finances are against it, cumulative debt. . . .

Q: You've been writing a lot about Whitewater. You've been writing almost as much lately as Ambrose Evans-Pritchard at the *Sunday Telegraph*. Is one of your concerns that Clinton has undermined the U.S.-British "special relationship?"

Rees-Mogg: . . . Basically, I'm a columnist. But the evidence that seems to have been turned up by journalists such as Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, but also other journalists as well, suggests that something, or things that were very serious and bad, took place in Arkansas in the 1980s. The feeling is that the mainline American press has deliberately turned its eyes away from this. . . .

Q: It seems that Clinton is ending the U.S. special relationship with Britain to build one with Germany.

Rees-Mogg: Well, I think Clinton does not understand Europe at all well, doesn't understand what's happening. I think the Germans, apart from anything else, do not want to have an exclusive German-U.S. relationship, because that doesn't fit in with what they are trying to achieve in Europe. . . .

But, I don't worry about the Anglo-American special relationship, because it seems to me that it functions when it's needed, and I don't think Clinton is going to be around for more than two years, when we shall have someone else to deal with. . . .

Mike Royko calls Lord Rees-Mogg a 'scumbag'

In an article in the Feb. 16 *Chicago Tribune*, entitled "Rupert Murdoch's Scumbag Connection," columnist Mike Royko takes aim at Lord William Rees-Mogg for his scurrilous attack on the office of the U.S. President. Royko wrote:

"The English have a knack for making Americans feel clumsy and self-conscious. They seem . . . so very civilized. . . . So it is always jarring to look at the English press and find that the journalists seem to be a bunch of scumbags. . . . In this case, the scumbag is one William Rees-Mogg, a featured writer for the *Times*, the big, influential English newspaper. . . .

"Anyway, a few days ago this William Rees-Mogg wrote a column in the *Times* that set out to reveal how much trouble President Bill Clinton is really in. . . . Why does William Rees-Mogg know all this, and we don't? He explains that, too:

"There is no lack of people who do not want this ugly truth to emerge. The name national media—the

Washington Post, the *New York Times*, the television network news programs—have done their best to turn a blind eye. . . ."

"So there you have it. But just what do you have? Not much really, Rees-Mogg doesn't go in for details and specifics. . . . It's as if I wrote, 'All members of the royal family are cross-dressing gays who have orgies and eat little roasted babies snatched from orphanages. Believe me, I wouldn't kid you.' . . .

"So why would he write something that is so off the wall? A hint:

"His paper is owned by journalism's No. 1 scumbag—Rupert Murdoch, the international media tycoon . . . [and] a billionaire, who loathes Democrats. He prefers Republican politicians to whom he can give multimillion-[dollar] book advances. . . . If Rees-Mogg's story is true, the Murdoch empire has the resources to dig it out and give us the facts. Instead, his lackeys nip at the heels."

Royko, himself no stranger to scurrilous journalism, attacks Rees-Mogg's intentions, which Rees-Mogg outlined in a Feb. 6 article: "President Clinton is trapped by a process of inquiry from which he would be unlikely to escape even if he were wholly innocent of any wrongdoing."