

The ‘ghost’ of Roy Cohn stalks the Clinton campaign

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The ghost of Roy Marcus Cohn—Red-hunter, mob-lawyer, swindler, pervert, and political fixer extraordinaire—is stalking the corridors of the Clinton White House and the President’s re-election campaign headquarters; and it spells potential disaster for Bill Clinton, for the United States, and for the world as a whole.

The ghost in question is no apparition or seance guest. It’s the Clintons’ Rasputin-like campaign strategist, Dick Morris. Since Morris’s recent re-emergence as the President’s chief campaign adviser (at a reported monthly salary of \$20,000), the establishment media have described him as a “Republican pollster,” as the guru of the “New Democrats,” and as the architect of President Clinton’s “triangle” strategy—of positioning himself in the political center, distant from both the Republican right wing, and the Democratic left. Anyone in their right mind evaluating this Morris “election strategy” would realize that it spells political isolation and disaster for the President, pitting him against his own party, for the sake of appearing “more Republican mainstream than the Republicans.”

So strong is Morris’s current influence with the President and the First Lady, that, in *Washington Post* managing editor Bob Woodward’s new book, *The Choice*, on the 1996 Presidential race, Dick Morris’s name appears almost as often as Bill Clinton’s.

For their part, President Clinton’s most loyal White House staffers and advisers have had less kind words for Morris, labeling him a “Republican mole,” a “double agent,” and a “Rasputin.” One reporter described him as “the Aldrich Ames of American politics,” a reference to the CIA agent who became a double agent of the Soviet KGB, and sold out his country to Moscow, for a reported several million dollars in cash.

The real story

But all of these characterizations miss the boat. The single most important, universally ignored, fact, is that “Dickie” Morris is a product and an asset of the corrupt Roy Cohn machine. Morris is a blood relative of the late New York City Red-baiter and mob lawyer. His father, Eugene Morris, now 85 years old, was a lifelong political ally of Cohn, operating inside the most corrupt segment of the New York political establishment (see article, p. 56).

Americans of the “Baby Boomer” generation or “Generation X” may not fully grasp the importance of the Morris-Cohn relationship, but older Americans, who lived through the horrors of the post-war Joe McCarthy “Red Scare,” will readily grasp the implications of Dick Morris as the incarnate of the late Roy Cohn.

To summarize: Roy Cohn was installed into the Justice Department, and later onto Senator Joe McCarthy’s (R-Wisc.) staff, to be the front man and alter ego of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in the anti-Communist witch-hunts. When McCarthy’s venom was finally directed against the U.S. Army, both Cohn and McCarthy were ultimately reined in.

Cohn returned to New York City, where he was installed into a powerful “fixer” law firm, courtesy of former Gov. Tom Dewey, and his father, Judge Albert Cohn. From that point on, until his 1986 death from AIDS, Roy Cohn was in the middle of practically everything sleazy that occurred inside both the Democratic and Republican parties. Before his death, he was disbarred for fraud and corruption. He was the lead attorney for Meyer Lansky’s National Crime Syndicate, occasionally helping to set up mob executions, according to law enforcement reports and news accounts. Cohn’s name surfaced in the investigation of the role of the British-Perminex apparatus in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Beginning in the late 1970s, Cohn was Henry Kissinger's chief ally, along with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, in the decade-long campaign to eliminate Lyndon LaRouche. A Cohn-controlled New York City weekly throw-away sheet, *Our Town*, published a 13-part libel against LaRouche, by Dennis King. Cohn used the *Our Town* slander to unleash a Jewish Defense League hit-squad against LaRouche (LaRouche was travelling, when the would-be killers attempted to storm his New York City apartment in late 1979). King's smear-job later appeared in book form, and, to this day, whenever LaRouche's policies begin to get a serious airing around Washington, D.C., copies of the Cohn-King trash job "miraculously" appear on the desks of prominent D.C. policy-shapers.

The Cohns and the Morrises

Dick Morris's father, Eugene Morris, was Roy Cohn's first cousin. For 30 years, the elder Morris was also the political right-hand man of Cohn protégé Jerry Finkelstein, publisher of the *New York Law Journal*, an instrument for controlling New York judges and attorneys. Finkelstein inherited the powerful "newspaper of record" of the New York Bar, courtesy of Judge Albert Cohn, Roy's father.

At the point that Dick Morris was getting his degree from Columbia College, Finkelstein was the head of the New York Democratic Party. Morris, and a group of fellow young political hooligans, who dubbed themselves "the Special Forces," started out as aggressive anti-Communists, in the Roy Cohn mold, but soon shifted profile, and became ultra-leftists. During this period, courtesy of his father and the Cohn team, Dick Morris got a job doing "research" for the Citizens Budget Commission, a front group set up by the major New York City banks, to peddle austerity, community control, and other unwholesome policies.

By 1974, Morris had been set up as a "political consultant" and had landed jobs with some of New York's most powerful and dirty politicians, including Off Track Betting czar Howard Samuel. By the early 1980s, perhaps, courtesy of Cohn and William F. Buckley's East Side Conservative Club, Morris found himself working for a wide range of Republicans.

Friends of Bill Clinton should take special note of the Cohn, Buckley, East Side Conservative Club. It was this Cohn apparatus, that, in 1980, helped install Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) in the U.S. Senate. "Senator Pot-Hole," as he has been branded, is President Clinton's leading Senate enemy, the biggest spreader of slanders against the First Family. When he arrived in Washington, D.C. in the early 1980s, D'Amato's sole "adviser" was Thomas Bolan, Roy Cohn's law partner, and the head of the East Side Conservative Club.

Morris's GOP clients

It is now publicly documented, that Dickie Morris—in the spirit of his mentor and alter-ego Roy Cohn—has betrayed President Clinton, to some of his most rabid Republican, "Conservative Revolution" enemies, at every turn. He has

been caught passing confidential White House data and personality profiles on to some of his prominent Republican clients, including current Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.). In another recent incident, reported by Woodward, Morris leaked a confidential White House election poll to the President's presumed Republican rival, Bob Dole. When he got caught, and the story surfaced in the *Washington Post*, Morris first, tried to explain it away as an effort to induce Dole to accept a budget compromise that would benefit the President. Later, he tried to shift the blame to senior White House aide George Stephanopoulos, accusing him of "leaking" the incriminating document to the *Post*, in to "hurt" Morris. That, too, was proven to be a big lie.

During the 1994 mid-term elections, Morris not only steered Trent Lott's re-election campaign. In a briefing to Republican candidates, all of whom, at Lott's insistence, had hired Morris as their pollster-strategist, Morris lit into President Clinton, and urged the GOP'ers to publicly slam the President, at every opportunity, as "Slick Willie." The "Slick Willie" imagery was the work of Floyd Brown, the Republican dirty-trickster, who, since 1993, has earned millions of dollars, in league with Jerry Falwell, and the Hollinger Corporation's Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, libeling the First Family.

Another one of Morris's 1994 clients, Massachusetts Republican Gov. William Weld, was encouraged by Dirty Dickie to seek the 1996 Republican Presidential nomination. According to news accounts, Morris told Weld that the 1996 election would hinge on President Clinton's personal morals, and he, Morris, was certain that Clinton "would be indicted" around the Whitewater affair. Among Morris's other GOP clients: Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, a man who has singled himself out as a genuine Nazi by removing 220,000 elderly from the medical safety net, in order to chop \$250 million from the state budget. According to estimates published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Ridge's actions will cause over 3,300 early deaths in the next six months, if they are not reversed. Ridge is being touted as a possible vice presidential running mate for Bob Dole.

In 1990, Morris was the mastermind of Sen. Jesse Helms's (R-N.C.) come-from-behind victory over Harvey Gantt, the first Afro-American ever elected Mayor of Charlotte. In the final weeks of the campaign, Morris designed a series of race-baiting TV ads, accusing Gantt of reverse discrimination. The charges were fabricated, but Gantt never had the opportunity to counter the massive, eleventh-hour media blitz.

Lyndon LaRouche, in a radio interview with "EIR Talks" on June 27, called for the immediate ouster of Morris. The President of the United States is the factor on which the world relies to take the initiatives which are needed to solve the world's problems, he said. "Clinton's the guy who has to do it. Admittedly, he's not doing it now; but, if we can turn him around, by getting rid of that Dick Morris problem he's got, that Rasputin problem in his family residence, I think he can do a good job—at least a passable job, enough to get us through."