

The Elmer Ganttrys behind Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr

by Edward Spannaus

“To me, it’s appropriate to be here,” Kenneth Starr told his audience on Oct. 4, 1996, as he delivered the keynote address at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Regent University School of Law in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The school whose anniversary Starr was celebrating, had been founded by Pat Robertson as the Christian Broadcasting Network School of Law, ten years earlier.

Starr spoke at Regent, despite widespread criticism of his participation appearance at an event so closely associated with Robertson, one of President’s Clinton’s most virulent critics, the founder of the Christian Coalition, and someone who had called Clinton’s inauguration “a repudiation of our forefathers’ covenant with God.”

But that didn’t bother Starr. “I’m proud to be here,” he said, calling the event “intellectual refreshment.”

And, as we shall see, this is only one of the most visible instances where Starr has associated with some of President Clinton’s worst enemies.

Starring . . . Larry Nichols

Starr has been more cautious about openly associating with Jerry Falwell, the founder of the now-defunct “Moral Majority” who now runs Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia—although sources report that, in fact, Starr is quite close to Falwell as well.

Falwell himself has no such caution. Take, for example, the March 1998 issue of Falwell’s *National Liberty Journal*. On the front page, right next to the masthead, is a color picture of Kenneth Starr, asking whether Starr will “be the man who brings down the Teflon President?” Inside is a laudatory feature, with the title “The Man Who Could Topple the President,” superimposed over another color photo of Starr. The article lavishly praises Starr as a man of “deep faith” and a devout Christian; Falwell urges his readers to “keep Kenneth Starr in our prayers.”

Prayer is the least of what Falwell has done to assist Starr in trying to bring down the President. Besides having boosted Paula Jones’s phony lawsuit against the President, Falwell has also promoted and circulated the scurrilous *Clinton Chronicles* videotape, which, for starters, accuses Clinton of

murder. The video stars Larry Nichols, a disgruntled former Arkansas state employee who was fired in 1988, when Clinton was Governor, because Nichols was spending most of his time working for Ollie North’s Contras.

While Falwell was mass-marketing the *Clinton Chronicles* video, the star of the show, Nichols, was running around the country brandishing a handgun and threatening Bill Clinton.

Is it any wonder, that when President Clinton met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Jan. 20, he reportedly blasted Netanyahu for meeting with Falwell, and for giving an interview to Pat Robertson on the Christian Broadcasting Network’s “700 Club” program? Robertson’s “700 Club” regularly features Clinton’s enemies, including British spook-journalist Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, and “Diamond Pat” Robertson has regularly promoted the Paula Jones case as well.

The real story of Pepperdine University

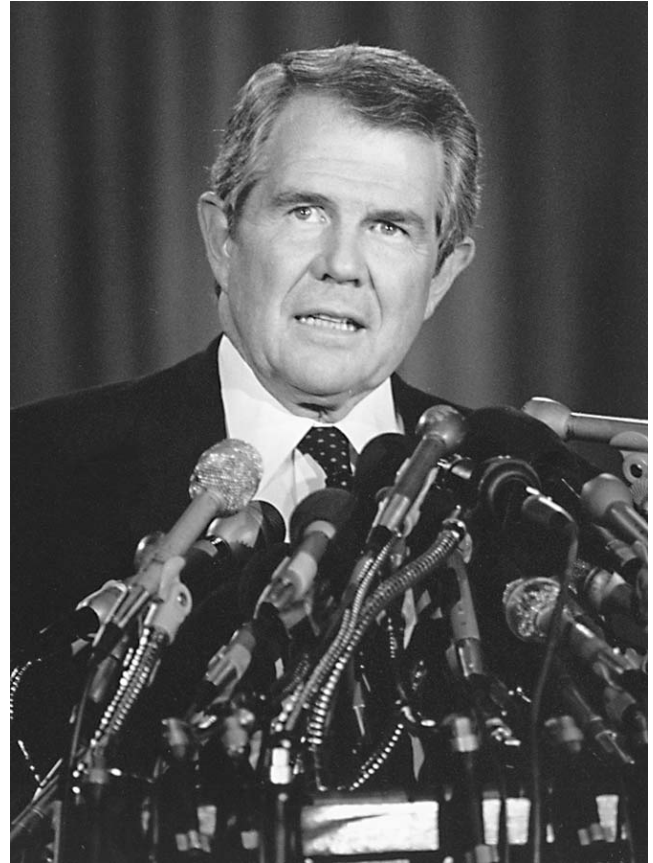
Starr’s own “devout Christian” background also bears looking into. His father was a part-time preacher in the sect known as the Church of Christ, and was a fanatic Anglophile, as is Kenneth. As described by a former member, the Church of Christ (particularly the “mainline” branch with which Starr is associated) reject anything not found, literally, in the Bible—including the Nicene Creed, and the use of musical instruments in worship; they believe themselves to be the only true Christians, and not a few even believe that someone who uses musical instruments in church is on his way to hell.

Starr attended Harding College (now Harding University) in Searcy, Arkansas for his first two years of college, and, upon his completion of his current assignment as independent counsel, he will take up a position at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. Harding and Pepperdine are two of the 18 colleges and universities operated by the Church of Christ in the United States.

Pepperdine College was founded by George Pepperdine, who also founded Western Auto Supply stores. Pepperdine was an activist in the Church of Christ, in the same circuit within that denomination as the Starr family and the long-



Jerry Falwell's magazine lavishly praises prosecutor Kenneth Starr, "the man who could topple the President."



Pat Robertson's "700 Club" regularly features Clinton's enemies, including British operative Ambrose Evans-Pritchard.

time president of Harding College, George S. Benson. George Pepperdine personally financed the start-up of Benson's career in missionary work in the Philippines, in the 1920s. George S. Benson and George Pepperdine were both associated with U.S. and British intelligence operations, in the orbit of the Dulles brothers, J. Edgar Hoover, and "Austrian school" economist Friedrich von Hayek. (*EIR* will have more to report on this in future issues.)

In the 1950s and 1960s, Harding College ran a "National Education Program," featuring a hard-line right-wing curriculum of "anti-communism" and "free enterprise," whose tax-exempt status was targeted by the Kennedy administration in 1962. The program produced "educational" films and materials for use by corporations and by the U.S. military.

Some liberal watchdog groups that monitor far-right-wing organizations, consider today's secretive Committee for National Policy (CNP) to be the successor to the right-wing organizations and programs such as that of Harding College in the early post-war decades. While the perspective of these "watchdog" organizations is generally narrow and distorted, there is unquestionably a continuity which exists here with the CNP.

The Committee for National Policy

If there is any one organization which can be seen as encompassing the constituency behind Kenneth Starr and the attacks on the President, it is the Committee for National Policy. Never heard of it? You are not alone; the CNP does its best to conduct its activities in secrecy—although many of its officers and members are well-known public figures.

Remember Kenneth Starr's address to Pat Robertson's Regent University Law School? That was also addressed by former Attorney General Edwin Meese, who happened to be the president of the CNP at the time. Pat Robertson was president of the CNP in 1985-86. Other past presidents include: evangelist Rev. Tim LaHaye, businessman Nelson Bunker Hunt, Rich DeVos of Amway Corp., and Tom Ellis, a top aide and money-man for Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

Today, CNP functions as an umbrella for the hard-core Christian right and evangelicals, including R.J. Rushdoony and the Christian Reconstructionists, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Gary Bauer (Family Research Council), James Dobson (Focus on the Family), Phyllis Schlafly (Eagle Forum), Ralph Reed and Donald Hodel (the past and current heads of the Christian Coalition), Mike Farris (home schooling

and Christian Solidarity International)—combined with a small number of elected officials, representatives of think-tanks and foundations associated with the Mont Pelerin Society of von Hayek and billionaire Richard Mellon Scaife, plus assorted intelligence spooks and asteroids. Most of the key figures behind the Promise Keepers are members or officials of the CNP. And almost everyone pushing the Paula Jones case is found here, including John Whitehead, the head of the “Christian Reconstructionist” Rutherford Foundation, which is financing the Jones lawsuit and paying her current lawyers.

Of five U.S. Senators known to be members, two of them, Jesse Helms and Lauch Faircloth, had lunched with Judge David Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, immediately before the three-judge panel led by Sentelle appointed Starr to replace the previous Whitewater independent counsel.

Although Richard Mellon Scaife, the bankroller of such operations as George Bush’s “secret government” and the “Get LaRouche” Task Force of the 1980s—and most of the anti-Clinton propaganda of the 1990s—is not known to be a member, many of those who live off his largesse are, including Edwin Feulner, whom Scaife brought in to head the Heritage Foundation in the late 1970s, and who is now international president of the Mont Pelerin Society; Paul Weyrich of the Free Congress Foundation; Reed Irvine of Accuracy in Media; Joseph Farah of the Western Journalism Center; Paul Craig Roberts of the Cato Institute; and Robert Poole of the Reason Foundation.

The prominent involvement of the Christian Reconstructionists is particularly notable, and also highly unusual. Howard Ahmanson, a California businessmen who is a 20-year trustee of Rushdoony’s Chalceon Institute, is a member of the CNP Board of Governors; Rushdooney and his sidekick Gary North are members, and of course its offshoot, the Rutherford Institute, is represented as well.

The Contra connection

The CNP was founded in 1981, at the home of conservative huckster and direct-mail kingpin Richard Vigerie, by a group which included Rep. Larry McDonald, Tim LaHaye, and Nelson Bunker Hunt. It is almost impossible to find out anything about the CNP from the organization itself. According to published accounts by its adversaries—which seem to be borne out—its meetings are closed to the public or the news media, and it has no public activities.

Lest one begin to think that, “Well, maybe the CNP does have a religious purpose,” we will look a little further at its unofficial membership list.

On its Executive Committee is Oliver North, plus another Contra-lover, Woody Jenkins, the very controversial and recently defeated candidate for U.S. Senate from Louisiana, who is not exactly known for his piety.

Although founded in 1981, the first time that CNP came

to public attention was in 1986, when the *Washington Post* obtained a tape-recording of Ollie North making a fund-raising pitch for George Bush’s drug-running Contras, to a secret meeting of the CNP in Nashville, attended by 500 people, including Falwell.

Other CNP members identified with the covert Contra effort are former general Jack Singlaub (a Contra fundraiser and supporter), Faith Whittlesey (who headed the White House Office of Public Liaison which arranged North’s speaking engagements), and Andy Messing of the National Defense Council.

Clinton-hater Larry Pratt, head of Gun Owners of America, shows up as a CNP member.

Another member is Jack Wheeler, a soldier-of-fortune type who is associated with British oligarch Lord William Rees-Mogg and Mogg’s sidekick James Dale Davidson in their *Strategic Investment* newsletter; Wheeler put out the “Waco II” scenario—four weeks before the Oklahoma City bombing—predicting an imminent declaration of martial law and a bloody assault on private militias by Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno.

When First Lady Hillary Clinton recently cited a “vast right-wing conspiracy,” the Council for National Policy may be exactly what she had in mind.

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