

corruption where it does the most damage—among key justice and security officials.”

Running parallel to Gore’s efforts is an evil, privately financed operation, known as “Transparency, International, Inc.” (TI), which works closely with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and Gore intimate James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank. Though Gore and TI deny that the Vice President’s conference is being run by TI, the intricate connections tell another story.

Some observers report that Wolfensohn, who addressed a meeting of TI in Peru in September 1997, may have been the godfather of Gore’s “anti-corruption” brainstorm.

The *Journal* quoted Nancy Boswell, the Washington, D.C. representative of Transparency International, about its efforts against corruption, including the bizarre “Corruption Perceptions Index” developed by TI’s Count Johann von Lamsdorff of Göttingen University in Germany. This index is a hit-list that rates 85 countries for corruption on a scale from 0 to 10. At the bottom of the list, in the *Wall Street Journal*’s chart, are Cameroon, Paraguay, Honduras, Tanzania, Nigeria, Indonesia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Russia (the lower the rating, the worse corruption in the country, according to TI).

The head of TI is Peter Eigen, a former World Bank executive, and at the TI’s conference last January, the keynote was given by Camdessus, who specifically targeted President Suharto of Indonesia, as well as Korea and Thailand, as countries where the governments should be overthrown because of “corruption.” Within a few months, Indonesia was in flames and President Suharto had resigned, as a result of the economic crisis caused by the IMF and derivatives speculator George Soros, another Gore intimate. The campaign against President Suharto of Indonesia continues to this day.

Labor says Gore is reinventing ‘Dark Ages’

As aides to Vice President Al Gore were boosting his Washington, D.C. “Global Forum on Reinventing Government,” they bragged that Gore had eliminated 351,000 Federal jobs between 1993 and 1998. While Gore may be proud of the large number of “pink slips” he handed out, the overall scheme is part and parcel of the slave labor and “labor recycling” that marks the policies of austerity and economic depression. After Gore “reinvented” employment into the trash bin, Federal agencies turned, in many cases, to “outsourcing,” where workers are no longer full-time employees with pensions and health benefits, but have to paste together their wages with several short-term, temporary, and part-time jobs, none of which have benefits.

Gore’s policy has drawn labor opposition. On Jan. 15, 1999, Kenneth T. Lyons, national president of the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), announced that he had notified key Congressional members that NAGE will “fiercely oppose” Gore’s proposal to “re-invent” the Federal government personnel system. NAGE is an independent union which affiliated with the AFL-CIO in 1982, as part of the Service Employees International Union.

Lyons’s opposition was noted in a *Washington Post* column on Jan. 21 under the title “NAGE Leader Is No F.O.A.” (Friend of A.I.). The *Post* reported that a couple of years ago, “while other unions were cheering the humane way agencies were eliminating jobs and promotion opportunities, Lyons demanded that Gore resign. He said ‘RE-GO’ was wrecking the government.”

In a Jan. 15 press release issued from Boston, Lyons stated: “For more than 40 years I have fought—and this organization has fought—to remove favoritism and patronage from the Federal civil service system, and now once again under the guise of meritocracy, the Vice President proposes sending us back to the Dark Ages where if you don’t genuflect when your boss walks by, you won’t get a raise.

“It is simply outrageous that he calls his re-invention proposal a new idea. It is the oldest of ideas, a system that was discarded for the best of reasons; because it was widely abused and good, hard-working Americans suffered as a result of mean-spirited bosses who were put into positions of power by people like the Vice President.

“If the Vice President really wanted reform we urge him to empower the system that’s already in place. He could begin by making the Federal Labor Relations Authority . . . independent . . . rather than the rubber-stamp that it now is . . . [with] agendas which, in fact, change with each administration. . . .

“ . . . [Our] members are model employees and citizens. These are the people behind the scenes who ensure our nation’s defense, the men and women who take care of our veterans, and the scientists and engineers who develop solutions to our nation’s problems.

“If the Vice President truly had courage, he would address the problems that actually exist instead of continuing to use Federal employees as scapegoats to anchor his political agenda. NAGE will continue to vigorously and vocally fight the Vice President’s so-called ‘reinventing’ program, even when it would probably be more politically expedient to remain silent, an option other unions have exercised, in the event that he becomes the nation’s next President.”

While other unions have not come out as strongly, reports in the *Washington Post* show that Gore’s pushing of “performance pay” for Federal workers provoked a hostile reaction from trade union leaders who were at the meeting. Bobby Harnage, head of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), said that Gore’s proposal is just “political fodder.”