

mythical 63% to 87% being bandied about in Congress.

- The report gives estimated quarterly and annual earnings—still well below poverty levels—that are projections from an hourly wage. There is no evidence in the seven state reports used for the GAO study that these former welfare recipients actually worked 13 weeks in a quarter, or ever worked full time, let alone a full year.

Any reader, Congressman, or public official who fell for Trent Lott's, Al Gore's, and Newt Gingrich's "snake oil" spiel that "welfare reform" is working, has already failed LaRouche's "Economics I.Q. Test." But, now is the time to save yourself and the nation from the onrushing new dark age of this economic collapse.

Al Gore, Dick Morris: The unholy alliance

by Scott Thompson

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During the 1996 Clinton reelection campaign, Lyndon LaRouche, then a candidate in the Democratic Presidential primary elections, warned President Clinton to purge the White House of so-called political consultant Richard "Dirty Dick" Morris. Morris, the cousin-once-removed and protégé of the late gangster attorney and closet homosexual Roy Cohn, slithered between the White House and his clients among the President's arch-enemies, the Republican Confederates, especially Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), collecting and passing on bits of gossip and compromising information on Clinton.

For a time, Morris was President Clinton's chief reelection campaign strategist. Some in the White House labelled him a "GOP double agent" and a "Republican mole." In a June 27, 1995 Knight-Ridder story, Sandy Grady wrote that "some Clinton loyalists compare Morris to Rasputin, the 19th-century Russian mystic and faith healer who led the Tsar's family to destruction."

Morris was ousted as a campaign adviser in August 1996, during the Democratic nominating convention, when details of his affair with a call girl, and his foot fetish—especially sucking the toes of his sexual partners—broke in *The Star* supermarket tabloid and was then reported on the front page of the *New York Post*.

In two interviews with this author, corroborated by other published sources, Morris made a remarkable revelation: While he had a lot of opposition in the White House, he also had an ally—Vice President Al Gore, Jr.

Fact: Gore and Morris ran a "Mutt and Jeff" routine

against President Clinton, to force him to break with the "liberal wing" of the Congressional Democrats, who were engaged in political combat against House Speaker Newt Gingrich and his Conservative Revolutionaries.

Fact: Gore and Morris teamed up to ram through the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, over White House and Cabinet objections, in order to "out-Gingrich Gingrich." It was President Clinton's capitulation to this deal which jettisoned the Franklin Roosevelt coalition of traditional Democratic constituencies, and kept the Gingrichites in power in the Congress in both the 1996 and 1998 elections.

In listening to Morris, one is struck by the image of a "world class," deceitful self-promoter in action. Morris talks a lot. He maintains a toll-free phone number with a pager and forwarding function, so he can never miss a chance for publicity. But, *EIR* presents here only those things that we have been able to cross-check:

Q: From reading your book, *Behind the Oval Office*, it seems that you were being iced out by . . . the White House Staff.

Morris: Right. . . .

Q: And, you turned to Vice President Al Gore, who was suffering a similar problem, and made an alliance—

Morris: Yep. . . . I think the White House staff tried to sort of—froze Gore's staff out. And, one of the things I did [was to align] myself with Gore, and sort of reoriented the center of the White House back from staff toward the Vice President—

Q: You reoriented it back from the Congressional Democrats like Ted Kennedy—

Morris: Yep.

Q: Now, what issues did this exactly put on Gore's plate?

Morris: Well . . . the balanced-budget speech. The decision to give the balanced-budget speech was really the beginning of the period of Gore's ascendancy [starting in June 1995]. . . .

'The deal'

Morris repeatedly references the latest paperback edition of his book, *Behind the Oval Office: Getting Reelected Against All Odds* (Los Angeles: Renaissance Books, 1999), as the definitive source on how the Faustian bargain was cemented.

"Until mid-April 1995, I worked with the President without anyone outside the White House knowing about it. It was the happiest time of my life," Morris writes about being named chief strategist to the 1996 campaign.

But soon afterward, Morris writes (pp. 115-116): "I felt like a stranger. . . . I needed allies desperately, and *the vice president came to my rescue*."

"We met in mid-March in the office of Jack Quinn, Gore's chief of staff at the time and later White House counsel. . . . I explained my ideas and theories for about half an hour with little or no interruption. *I could sense that the vice president agreed with most of what I was saying*. He listened intently.

I stressed that I needed his help to get anything done and underscored how frustrated I had been.

“He grasped what I was saying and offered his full support, subject to two conditions: first, that I respect his priorities, such as the environment, and include them in my planning, and second, that I promise not to divulge anything related to the campaign to Lott. I readily agreed to both, and made clear that my talks with Lott were focussed on government issues, not on campaign issues.

“Gore told me that he had been increasingly troubled by the drift of the White House and badly shaken by the defeat in ’94. He said that he had tried, in vain, to move the administration toward the center, but the White House staff had shut him out. . . . But, he said, ‘We need a change around here, a big change, and I’m hoping and praying that you’re the man to bring it.’ We shook hands on our alliance” (emphasis added).

Morris confesses that he did tell Lott that, with the support he now had in the White House, the right-wing Republicans could push the welfare reform bill without fear of a veto, which, Morris said, is exactly what the Congressional Republican leadership did.

Documentation

They’ve taken out a contract on you!

The following is excerpted from a Special Report in EIR (Feb. 17, 1995), “Phil Gramm’s ‘Conservative Revolution’ in America,” p. 69. It has been slightly edited.

It is no surprise that in his Jan. 20 [1995] speech before the Republican National Committee, Newt Gingrich cast himself in the role of the chief prosecutor of the Jacobin Terror, Robespierre. Gingrich’s preference for the French Revolution is consistent with his faction’s “Contract on America,” a document that, if implemented, will drive down the living standards of more than 80% of the American people.

The crafters of the GOP’s “Contract” peddle a trashing of the living standards of senior citizens under the name “The Senior Citizens Fairness Act,” wipe out all civil rights and poverty assistance programs under “The Family Reinforcement Act” and “The Personal Responsibility Act,” establish a privatized prison slave-labor system under the name “The Taking Back Our Streets Act,” and dismantle the Federal government and force the states to administer draconian tax hikes under the misnomer “The Fiscal Responsibility Act.” Under the guise of “job creation and wage enhancement,” the

Contract delivers a whopping tax break to the richest 10% of the population.

Victims of the ‘Contract’

If you are a member of any of the following constituency groups, here’s what the Gramm-Gingrich Contract will mean for you:

Senior citizens. Forty-three million elderly Americans receive Social Security. Gingrich and his cohorts propose recalculating the inflation rate and thus lowering the cost of living increase (COLA), which could cost the elderly \$20 billion per year. There is talk of scrapping Medicare. The philosophy is expressed by Daniel Callahan in his book *Setting Limits*, in which he states, “Age-based standards for the termination of life-extending treatment would be legitimate.”

School-age children. There are 45 million children enrolled in primary and secondary public schools. Under plans such as House Majority Leader Richard Armey’s (R-Tex.) “Parent and Student Empowerment Act,” schools would be privatized as an interim step toward the elimination of public education. In some proposals, instead of being in the classroom, high school students would work at low-skill jobs, which would fulfill a significant share of their high school credits.

Prisons. The Contract hails prison slave-labor as a “growth industry” in America. Nearly 30% of all young black men between the ages of 20 and 29 are either in jail, on probation, on parole, or awaiting trial. America has the highest incarceration rate in the world. The model for the slave-labor policies is the Federal Prison Industries, Inc., or Unicor program, a private profit-making corporation run by the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice. The pay is minimum wage, out of which have to be paid fines, prison room and board, upkeep of one’s family, and any victim restitution. The prisoner keeps what is left over, on average, \$1 per hour.

Poverty. Thirty-four million Americans are below the poverty level: 20 million whites, 9.5 million blacks, and 4.5 million Hispanics. Roughly 28 million of them use food stamps. Conservative Revolutionists plan to cut food stamp payments by 5-10% immediately and phase out the program entirely. Those people below the poverty line are seen as an ultra-cheap labor pool. In a pilot project in five Mississippi counties, the women are paid the minimum wage in sweatshops, in which the state turns their welfare checks over to the employer, comprising \$3.25 out of the \$4.25 per hour that the employer pays the women. If the women refuse speed-up or any feature of the job, they are fired, and lose both welfare benefits and food stamps.

Where are ‘The Disappeared’?

Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) made the following statements to his colleagues in the U.S. Senate on May 25, 1999. He was given 20 minutes by the Senate Republican leadership to introduce an amendment, debate, and have a vote, which came within one vote of being passed.