

## Joseph Lieberman, The 'New Empire' Presidential Candidate

by Susanne Rose

With a resounding war-whoop, Al Gore's former Vice Presidential candidate, Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman, effectively announced his availability for the 2004 Presidential nomination with a speech given at Georgetown University on Jan. 14. His egg-head persona set aside, Lieberman was blood-curdlingly pro-war in his maiden Presidential pre-candidacy "lecture" on "Afghanistan and the Next Steps in the War Against Terrorism."

Sounding like the most bellicose war hawks of the conservative revolutionaries—Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (Calif.) comes to mind—Lieberman delivered a widely-covered lengthy "policy" lecture, and promised more to come on economics and other subjects. It unambiguously promoted the religious warfare agenda of the "clash of civilizations," including a vicious attack on Iraq, a bid for a new "imperialist" U.S. foreign policy, and a call for a new Cold War initiative against a "theological iron curtain," about to be imposed by radical Islam. He apologized to the students for the length of this "major policy speech," and compared himself to Bill Clinton.

The speech followed Lieberman's return from a Congressional trip to Afghanistan and Central Asia; and mention in the Jan. 11 *New York Post* by columnist Robert Novak, that Lieberman, rather than Al Gore, was considered to be the Presidential choice of the Democratic Leadership Council—a promoter of both Democrats' careers. Additional fodder for speculation about Lieberman's Presidential ambitions could be found in ubiquitous media soundbites all week, in which he maneuvered to take center stage in the Enron "cleanup," threatening to bring the scandal-ridden energy pirate and its Andersen accounting firm to justice.

There are more than 10 separate Congressional investigations into Enron now going on, but Lieberman intends to

use his position as Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Senate to bash Enron's executives for criminal activity. His committee will be the first to take testimony when Congress returns in late January.

Democrats in the House and Senate expect to use the Enron debacle to tar the Bush administration during the run-up this Fall's Congressional elections. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Cal.) has already announced such intentions from the House side. Lieberman said, when he announced his committee's investigation in early January, "It's a matter of public record that executives of Enron had close relationships with people who are now in the Bush Administration." He said it would be fair to investigate Enron's role in crafting the Bush energy policies.

But Lieberman refused to investigate Enron or other energy pirates at the height of the California price gouging. In June, he preferred to pose the question, whether the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was carrying out its responsibility to ensure just and reasonable prices. The current fervor for investigations is suspicious; for example, since Sen. Charles Schumer, (D-N.Y.), who received large political contributions from Enron, has just returned more than \$68,000 in Enron money to the emergency fund for former Enron workers who lost their jobs *and* pensions. Lieberman's own Senate chief-of-staff was a top Enron lobbyist.

By unmistakably escalating the "clash of civilizations" rhetoric from his position within the Senate, Lieberman is positioning himself to lead the effort, from within and around Congress, for the confrontation with Islam sought by Zbigniew Brzezinski, Henry Kissinger and others promoters of religious war. This, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 coup attempts, is in opposition to the efforts of President Bush



*Sen. Joseph Lieberman (left), with his role-model, British imperialist Sir Winston Churchill. It is Lieberman, not Al Gore, who is now the Presidential horse of the Democratic Leadership Council. Lieberman is leading the current craze of Congressional posturing on Enron; but he held no hearings on Enron while it was looting California, a year ago.*

and Russian President Vladimir Putin, to promote a peace in the Middle East, and to contain U.S. response to limited targets.

Lieberman demanded U.S. support for the discredited Iraqi National Congress, to overthrow Saddam Hussein while the U.S. applies force from outside. But the Bush administration just suspended funding for this rag-tag grouping, based on allegations of misuse of funds and corruption; the White House is not seeking a military confrontation with the Iraqi regime and further destabilization of the Mideast. Even the war-mongering Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz is temporarily silenced in his open support for a renewed assault on Iraq.

But Lieberman left no claim unsaid on Saddam Hussein. He concluded, "Of course, it's always better to build coalitions and act collaboratively when engaging in conflict for a cause, but in this case, the unique threat to American security by Saddam Hussein's regime is so real, so grave and so imminent that even if no other nation were to stand with us, I believe we must be prepared to act alone."

There were further indications in the Georgetown speech that Lieberman is currying favor from, and intends to support, the new imperialists using "policies of Sept. 11" to promote new U.S.-led global wars.

### **In Praise of Churchill**

First, Lieberman confirmed his belief that the U.S. should have an ongoing presence in Central Asia similar to its presence in the Pacific, a policy clearly provocative to Russia and to the new relationship between President Bush and Vladimir Putin. In the classic language of imperialism, Lieberman said that a U.S. presence is necessary to protect countries in the region from their neighbors. The frequent use of the word "geopolitics," and equally-frequent references to Winston Churchill, underscore his wish to be included in elite company of the post-Sept. 11 new imperialists.

Quoting Churchill's 1947 speech at Fulton, Missouri in-

augurating the Cold War, Lieberman said that fanatical Islamists are about to drop a "theological iron curtain" across the world. He urged a policy of aggressive intervention into the affairs of the traditional Muslim and Arab allies of the United States in particular: "We must act now proactively and aggressively to help the millions of moderate Muslims in the world who are being besieged by isolation and intolerance, because if the curtain should someday fall, it would constitute a great and grave danger to our country and much of the rest of the world on the other side of it, and would bring awful repression to hundreds of millions of Muslims trapped behind it, as hundreds of millions of people within the former Soviet Union suffered decades of repression brought on by a few fanatical extremists who were communists."

Foreign policy toward the Arab and Muslim countries should be reoriented against their sovereignty, for human rights and free trade, Lieberman said. He attacked the majority of Muslim nations as undemocratic, repressive, and opposing globalization. He laid the blame for terrorism on Muslim extremists, rather than acknowledging the role played by western politicians such as Zbigniew Brzezinski in cynically fostering Islamic militancy as a tool in their "Great Game" against the Soviet Union.

Lieberman's political roots are in the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC); he is a past co-chairman of these so-called centrist Democrats. The DLC is notoriously modelled on the "third way" policies of the British Fabian Society—an organization founded by the Liberal imperialists in the late 19th Century to make the aims of empire palatable to the working man. That the Fabians and the DLC are virtually sister organizations, is clear from their websites. Both promote the privatization of public services, government decentralization, and globalization.

So Joe Lieberman seeks religious wars to reestablish global imperialism, rather than deal productively with the greatest financial collapse in world history, by using the proven policies of the American System of economy.