

Promoting Bloomberg, Setting Obama's Trap

During the month of February, the media in Britain (especially) and the United States have been devoting increasing space to bolstering Michael Bloomberg's political stock and tearing down that of Barack Obama, providing further evidence of a not-yet high-gear campaign to send Obama packing after he has completed his assigned task of denying Hilliary Clinton the Presidential nomination, while a way is cleared for the "post-partisan" austerity "manager" Bloomberg.

Here is a selection of the coverage:

Syndicated columnist Armstrong Williams, "An Independent Obama," Feb. 14.

"...The Obama campaign is now realizing that Clinton is willing to fight nasty by pushing for Michigan and Florida delegates to be included and by persuading superdelegates by all available means. Well, the Obama camp is not sitting idly by and allowing the Clintons to do what they do best: continue their trail of corruption, and total disregard for rules and guidelines.

"The word on the street is that the Obama campaign and New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg have already met and devised an incredible plan if Clinton wins the nomination. Mayor Bloomberg would give nearly \$1 billion to Obama's campaign after which Obama would bolt from the Democratic Party and run as an independent candidate with king-maker Bloomberg as his running mate.

"The Obama campaign realizes that Obama is too new at this game and doesn't have the political weight of the Clintons to bring in the true heavy-hitters of the party's hierarchy. So, according to sources, it was Bloomberg himself who suggested this cunning strategy. It's mind boggling that the Clintons are willing to destroy the entire Democratic Party, and potentially in the process lose the White House and seats in Congress, for their own selfish thirst for power and glory."

New York Times editorial, "In Search of a Real Urban Policy," Feb. 19.

"... Urban policy does not get a billing.

"It's not like there is no leadership on these issues, it's just not coming from Washington or the presidential candidates. In fact, they might take note with some concern that the national leader on handgun control and a range of other urban issues from environment to public health is Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York, who has presidential aspirations of his own.

"Like other mayors and governors, Mr. Bloomberg has been forced to step into the yawning gaps left by a feckless federal government. He has sued out-of-town gun dealers in an effort to combat violent crimes; advocated congestion pricing and green buildings and mandated hybrid taxis to help the environment; and banned smoking in public places to fight cancer. Without much spending, he is changing things for the better.

"Of course, that is just one city, and it does not change the sad truth that states and cities have been forced to assume more fiscal obligations from Washington while getting fewer of their citizens tax dollars. There can be no substitute for national leadership. The president must provide it, and Americans deserve to know how the candidates would step up to the challenge."

"Barack Obama criticised over 'cult-like' rallies," London Sunday Telegraph, Feb. 24.

The article compares Obama's political rallies to "the hysteria of a cult, or the fervour of a religious revival."

"The week the Obama backlash started," London Sunday Observer, Feb. 24.

"A media backlash is now showing clear signs of gathering pace," and "all over America, reporting teams are now investigating Obama's record."

"America starts to sober up from a heavy dose of Obamania," The Times of London, Feb. 25.

"Barack Obama embarrassed by billionaire link to home deal ... Exclusive: British-Iraqi billionaire lent millions of dollars to Barack Obama's fundraiser just weeks before an imprudent land deal," The Times Online, Feb 25.

The story raises the question of whether an earlier \$3.5 million loan from Iraqi-British billionaire Nadhmi Auchi to indicted Chicago political fixer Antoin Rezko in May 2005, "made it possible for the Obamas to purchase a mansion they could otherwise not afford."

Al Kamen, "Vice Presidential Contest Heats Up—at Least Here," Washington Post "In the Loop" column, Feb. 27.

"New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg is emerging as consensus pick for vice president among both Republicans and Democrats.

"Well, not exactly, but, based on a perusal of the nearly 600 entries in our contest to pick a running mate for Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and the 2,600 entries to select one for Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), a fair number of Loop fans speculated that either candidate might pick Bloomberg as his No. 2."

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, "I'm Not Running for President, but..." New York Times op-ed, Feb. 28.

"Watching the 2008 presidential campaign, you some-

times get the feeling that the candidates—smart all of them—must know better. They must know we can't fix our economy and create jobs by isolating America from global trade. They must know that we can't fix our immigration problems with border security alone. They must know that we can't fix our schools without holding teachers, principals and parents accountable for results. They must know that fighting global warming is not a costless challenge. And they must know that we can't keep illegal guns out of the hands of criminals unless we crack down on the black market for them. . . .

"As a businessman, I never believed that either party had all the answers and, as mayor, I have seen just how true that is. . . .

"I believe that an independent approach to these issues is essential to governing our nation, and that an independent can win the presidency. I listened carefully to those who encouraged me to run, but I am not—and will not be—a candidate for president. I have watched this campaign unfold, and I am hopeful that the current campaigns can rise to the challenge by offering truly independent leadership. . . .

"If a candidate takes an independent, nonpartisan approach, and embraces practical solutions that challenge party orthodoxy, I'll join others in helping that candidate win the White House."

Republican Party strategist Richard Whalen, "Obama and the Billionaire," *Congressional Quarterly's* online political newsletter, Feb. 28.

"A new headache for Senator Obama has surfaced that could have devastating impact on his presidential campaign. According to *The Times* of London a British-Iraqi billionaire lent millions of dollars to Obama's fundraising effort only weeks before an imprudent land deal." After quoting extensively from the Feb. 26 *Times* of London story, and noting the pro-Obama bias of the U.S. media coverage of Obama's duel with Hillary Clinton, Whalen concludes, "We know less about Barack Obama and his political connections than we have known about any other candidate for the presidency in the past half century. . . . Obama's media honeymoon may be over. A veteran journalist who covers Obama regularly provided this snapshot: 'He's not at all as he appears on television. He's cold, distant, and tightly wound. But when the red light goes on the TV cameras, he's all charm, and self-discipline in his choice of words.'"

"This story is not going away. The Rezko-Auchi connection is sure to trigger overdue press scrutiny when Rezko's trial begins on March 3. Obama's name could figure in the trial although he is not accused of any wrongdoing."

LaRouche Said Giuliani Was Set Up for Bloomberg

Lyndon LaRouche released a statement on Nov. 10, 2007, forecasting that New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg would be run as a "surprise" Presidential candidate, saying: "The build-up of former New York Mayor Giuliani as a 'hot prospect' for the man to beat Hillary Clinton in the coming U.S. Presidential election, was a crafted set-up, designed . . . for the present New York Mayor to emerge, as if 'miraculously,' as Senator Hillary Clinton's really intended Republican challenger.

"All of the relevant Republican king-makers had known fully in advance of the scandal which would bring Mafia creation Giuliani down, using the case-in-preparation against Bernard Kerik to spring the trap being set against Giuliani. To make Mayor Michael Bloomberg a serious contender, Giuliani had to be brought down, but only after



Former New York Mayor Rudolf Giuliani

. . . Giuliani's brief trip to euphoria had cleared the deck. . . . [Bloomberg would be] a 'man on a white horse' . . . 'People's Choice' . . . a politically saleable product under the presently shattered reputations of both the Republican Party, and a Pelosi-discredited Democratic pack.

"Giuliani must be built up to the degree that his sudden, disastrous fall into a political 'Black Sox' scandal, would wreck [and] . . . discredit both Giuliani and all his leading current rivals for the Republican nomination. That is exactly what has been done, as (obviously) pre-scripted.

"The standard, expert method for bringing a dictator, such as Mussolini or Hitler, to power by popular acceptance

of a duped electorate, is to stun that electorate with a shocking scandal against the leading, existing party systems."

On Nov. 23, 2007, *EIR* published "The Rudy Bomb, Defused," exposing the financiers' intention to dump Giuliani's candidacy in favor of Bloomberg, and noting, "We intend to help make such an outcome impossible, by reporting, 'prematurely,' what would have inevitably come before the general public."