

# BCA Dispatch

"The issue is not issues; the issue is the system"  
—Ronnie Dugger

Newsletter of the **January-February**  
**Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy** 2011

*Barack Obama is neither weak nor is he stupid. He knows exactly what he is doing. He is cynically carrying out the precise bidding of his corporate/military masters, while rhetorically faking-out everyday Black, White, Brown, Red, and Yellow people with his endless bait and switch tactics.*

—Larry Pinkney, *Black Commentator*

## COMMUNITY NOTES

Don't be left out! Join the BCA/NorthBridge planning group! Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, 4 January, 7:30**, in the AfD office at 760 Main St., **Waltham MA**. Info: 781-894-1179.

Current projects: ●bottled **water** ban in Concord ●supporting ousted city councilor **Chuck Turner** ●building support for Move to Amend (anti-corporate-personhood) and progressive **campaign finance** legislation ●**participatory budgeting** conference in April ●developing a **trade** advisory committee to seed and bird-dog the new MA citizen trade commission.

*Turn to Page 16 for notes on these and other local matters...*

## Pittsburgh Bans Gas Drilling

### Ordains Nature's Rights, XXs Personhood

*by Community Enviro Legal Defense Fund, 16 November 2010*

**T**ODAY, THE PITTSBURGH CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED an ordinance banning corporations from conducting natural gas drilling in the city.

Pittsburgh's first-in-the-nation ordinance confronts the threat of Marcellus Shale drilling—an activity permitted by the state which allows corporations to site drilling activities over the wishes of a community. The ordinance was drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) at the invitation of Councilman Bill Peduto, and was introduced by Councilman Doug Shields.

Energy corporations are setting up shop in communities across Pennsylvania, to drill for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation. The gas extraction technique known as "fracking" has been cited as a threat to surface and groundwater, and has been blamed for fatal explosions, the contamination of drinking water, local rivers, and streams. Collateral damage includes lost property value, ingestion of toxins by livestock, drying up of mortgage loans for prospective home buyers, and threatened loss of organic certification for farmers in affected communities.

Councilman Shields stated, "This ordinance recognizes and secures expanded civil rights for the people of Pittsburgh, and it prohibits activities which would violate those rights. It protects the authority of the people of Pittsburgh to pass this ordinance by undoing corporate privileges that place the rights of the people of Pittsburgh at the mercy of gas corporations."

Shields added, "With this vote we (Continued on Page 2 >>)"



*Barack Obama (right) with his mother Ann Dunham, step-father Lolo Soetoro, and infant half-sister Maya. Dunham worked in several CIA front groups in Hawai'i and Indonesia, and Colonel Soetoro helped overthrow Indonesia's president Sukarno in a CIA-sponsored coup. After graduating from Columbia University, Obama worked for a CIA-sponsored international business seminar group.*

## Obama-C.I.A. Links

### Self and Principal Relatives All Involved

*by Sherwood Ross, grantlawrence.blogspot.com, 2 Sep 2010*

**P**RESIDENT OBAMA—AS WELL AS HIS MOTHER, FATHER, STEP-FATHER AND GRANDMOTHER—all were connected to the Central Intelligence Agency—possibly explaining why the President praises the "Agency" and declines to prosecute its officials for their crimes, an investigative reporter says.

According to a published report in the September *Rock Creek Free Press* of Washington, D.C., investigative reporter Wayne Madsen says Obama's mother Ann Dunham worked "on behalf of a number of CIA front operations, including the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii, the U.S. Agency for International Development(USAID), and the Ford Foundation." The East-West Center had long been affiliated with CIA activities in the Asia-Pacific region, Madsen says.

What's more, Obama's father, Barack Obama Sr., arrived in Hawaii from Kenya as part of a CIA program to identify and train Africans who would be useful to the Agency in its Cold War operations against the Soviets, Madsen says. Obama Sr. divorced Ms. Dunham in 1964.

Ms. Dunham married Lolo Soetoro the following year, a man Madsen says assisted [as an Indonesian army colonel] in the violent CIA coup against Indonesian President Sukarno that claimed a million lives. Obama's mother taught English for USAID, "which was a major cover for CIA activities in Indonesia and throughout Southeast Asia," Madsen reports. That USAID was a cover for CIA covert operations in Laos was admitted by its administrator Dr. John Hannah on Metromedia News. Madsen says the organization was also a cover for the CIA in Indonesia.

Ms. Dunham worked in Indonesia at a time when Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities(MUCIA)—a group that included the University of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan State, Minnesota and Indiana—was accused of being a front for CIA activities in Indonesia and elsewhere. Ms. Dunham traveled to Ghana, Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Thailand "working on micro-financing projects" (Continued on Page 2 >>)

## PITTSBURGH BANS FRACKING (Continued from Page 1)

are asserting the right of the city to make critical decisions to protect our health, safety, and welfare. We are not a colony of the state and will not sit quietly by as our city gets drilled. We encourage communities across the region to take this step and join with us to elevate the rights of communities and people over corporations."

CELDF's Ben Price, who is engaging with communities across the state seeking to protect themselves from drilling, said, "Communities are coming to recognize that our state laws and government are not in place to protect their interests, but rather the interests of private corporations."

Price applauded the city for taking a stand on behalf of community rights. "Some will say that the municipality doesn't have the authority to ban this noxious practice associated with gas drilling. The only way that's true is if the state has the authority to strip the residents of their rights, and it doesn't."

Under the ordinance, corporations that violate the ordinance or that seek to drill in the city will not be afforded "personhood" rights under the U.S. or Pennsylvania Constitution, nor will they be afforded protections under the Commerce Clause or Contracts Clause under the federal or state constitution.

In addition, the ordinance recognizes the legally enforceable Rights of Nature to exist and flourish. Residents of the city shall possess legal standing to enforce those rights on behalf of natural communities and ecosystems.

*The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, based in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, has been working with people in Pennsylvania and other states since 1995 to assert their fundamental rights to democratic local self-governance, and to enact laws which end destructive and rights-denying corporate action aided and abetted by state and federal governments.*

*The Alliance for Democracy has partnered with CELDF in bringing rights-based ordinances to towns in New England, especially around water rights.*

## OBAMA-C.I.A. LINKS (Continued from Page 1)

for the CIA, Madsen reports.

And Ms. Dunham's mother, Madelyn Dunham—who raised Obama while his mother was on assignment in Indonesia—acted as a vice president of the Bank of Hawaii in Honolulu, which Madsen says was used by various CIA front entities. She handled escrow accounts used to make CIA payments "to U.S.-supported Asian dictators" including Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, South Vietnamese President Nguyen van Thieu, and President Suharto in Indonesia, Madsen says.

"In effect, the bank was engaged in money laundering for the CIA to prop up covertly its favored leaders in the Asia-Pacific region," Madsen writes. "It is clear that Dunham Soetoro and her Indonesian husband, President Obama's step-father, were closely involved in the CIA's operations to steer Indonesia away from the Sino-Soviet orbit after the overthrow of Sukarno."

"President Obama's own work in 1983-84 [just after graduating from Columbia University at age 22] for Business International Corporation, a CIA front that conducted seminars with the world's most powerful leaders and used journalists as agents abroad, dovetails with CIA espionage activities conducted by his mother," Madsen says. "There are volumes of written material on the CIA backgrounds of George H.W. Bush and CIA-related activities by his father and children, including former President George W. Bush. Barack Obama, on the other hand, masked his own CIA connections as well as those of his mother, father, step-father, and grandmother," Madsen points out.

A review of the influence on the Oval Office by the CIA, particularly since the presidency of Bush Sr., a former director of the Agency, it becomes apparent the Agency has played a major role in the shaping of U.S. foreign policy—a role that has been largely kept secret from the American public and one which most Americans would not have approved. The CIA's overthrow of the democratic government of Iran in 1953 is an example. The overthrow occurred after the Iranian government nationalized the oil industry following alleged cheating on payments by contractor British Petroleum, then known as Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. For another, the CIA's widespread use of illegal rendition and torture of suspects is repugnant to Americans who still believe in their Constitution.

*Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based investigative journalist, author and syndicated columnist. His latest books are Jaded Tasks: Big Oil, Black Ops & Brass Plates and Overthrow a Fascist Regime on \$15 a Day. You don't have to be a subscriber to read Madsen's 7000-word Special Report "The Story of Obama: All in The Company—Parts I-III" on his website: WayneMadsenReport.com (WMR). Read more about Madsen at the foot of the following article.*

*The following article provides detail about part of the story of President Obama's family connections with the CIA. It serves to illustrate the manner in which Madsen researches and interweaves related facts.*

## Obama's CIA Pedigree

### Family's Links w Coups, Terror, Development

by Wayne Madsen, opinion-maker.org, 6 August 2010

**W**AYNE MADSEN REPORTS (WMR) PREVIOUSLY REPORT-ED on President Obama's more than one year employment by a CIA front operation, Business International Corporation, Inc. (BIC) of New York after his graduation from Columbia University in 1983.

However, the State Department's recent revelation in response to a Freedom of Information Act request that the pre-1965 passport files of Obama's mother, Ann Dunham Soetoro, were destroyed in the 1980s, has re-ignited suspicions that Obama's mother worked for the CIA under non-official cover (NOC) cover in Indonesia while married to Lolo Soetoro Mangunharjo, a retired colonel in General Suharto's CIA-backed ranks. Soetoro and Dunham married in 1965 after meeting at the University of Hawaii. That same year, the CIA-backed Suharto launched an anti-Communist coup that saw leftist President Sukarno eventually ousted from power and up to one million suspected Communists, including many ethnic Chinese Indonesians, massacred by government troops. Obama recently lifted a ban on U.S. military support for the Indonesian Red Beret KOPASSUS special operations forces imposed after the unit committed human rights abuses in East Timor in the late 1990s. The 12-year ban, imposed by the Clinton administration, was maintained by the Bush administration.

In 1967, Dunham moved with six-year old Barack Obama to Jakarta. In 1966, as Suharto consolidated his power, Colonel Soetoro was battling Communist rebels in the country. Dunham moved back to Hawaii in 1972, a year after Obama left Indonesia to attend school in Hawaii, and she divorced Soetoro in 1980. Soetoro was hired by Mobil to be a liaison officer with Suharto's dictatorship. Soetoro died in 1987 at the age of 52. Ann Dunham died in 1995, also at the age of 52. Obama, Sr.

died in an automobile accident in Kenya in 1982 at the age of 46. Obama, Sr. attended the University of Hawaii courtesy of a scholarship arranged by Kenyan nationalist leader Tom Mboya. Obama Sr. and Dunham married in 1961, however, at the time, he had a wife back in Kenya. Obama Sr. and Dunham officially divorced in 1964, the same year Dunham married Soetoro.

Obama, Sr. met his old friend Mboya, the Kenyan Minister of Economic Planning and Development, shortly before Mboya was gunned down by an assassin in Nairobi in 1969. Kenya's autocratic president Jomo Kenyatta was viewed as being behind the assassination of Mboya, a would-be rival for the presidency. Mboya was 39 when he was assassinated. Obama, Sr. testified at the trial of Mboya's accused assassin and shortly thereafter, Obama, Sr. was the target of an attempted hit-and-run assassination attempt.

Files released by the State Department on Dunham's name-change passport application lists two dates and places of marriage to Soetoro: March 5, 1964, in Maui and March 15, 1965, in Molokai—almost a year's difference. In her 1968 passport renewal application, Barack Obama's name is listed as Barack Hussein Obama (Saebarkah). In passport renewal and amendment applications filed from Jakarta, Dunham uses two different names: Stanley Ann Dunham Soetoro and Stanley Ann Soetoro.

Dunham again applied for a passport from Jakarta in 1981 while working for the Ford Foundation. Her New York-based boss at the time was Peter

Geithner, the father of Obama's Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. Dunham also worked in rural villages in Java for the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which was and remains notorious for conducting CIA operations around the world.

Ann Dunham and President Obama's father, Barack Obama, Sr., a native of the British colony of Kenya, met in a Russian language class at the University of Hawaii in 1959. The teaching of Russian in Hawaii, which hosted a number of US military bases and intelligence operations, is significant since a Russian language class during the height of the Cold War would normally attract a majority of U.S. intelligence professionals.

At the time Dunham met Obama, Sr. in Russian-language class at the University of Hawaii, the CIA was engaged in major covert operations in Asia, including attempted assassinations of Asian leaders. In an August 1975 article in *Penthouse* by former New York Times reporter Tad Szulc reported on two high-level planned CIA assassinations that were turned down by the 'highest levels' at the White House in the late 1950s: '... senior CIA officials proposed the assassination of Indonesian President Sukarno as part of a broader plot to overthrow his left-leaning government. At least one American pilot, employed by the CIA, was captured by Sukarno's forces during the coup attempt. To kill Sukarno, the CIA, according to intelligence sources, planned to fire a shell from a ceremonial 105-mm cannon in front of the presidential palace while Sukarno spoke from a balcony.' The CIA finally succeeded in ousting Sukarno in 1965, with the help of Barack Obama's step father.

Szulc also wrote: "In 1958, a plot was concocted to kill China's Premier Chou En-lai during a visit to Rangoon, Burma. This was at the beginning of the Soviet-Chinese split, and apparently the CIA reasoned that Chou's death would aggravate the developing split. The notion was that Chou was a moderate and thus posed an obstacle to a possible Soviet-Chinese confrontation. Furthermore, intelligence sources said, the CIA planned, by the dissemination of 'disinformation' through intelligence channels, to lead the Chinese to believe that Chou was killed by the Russian KGB. This murder plot, which was also stopped by Washington, provided for a Burmese CIA agent to place untraceable poison in a rice bowl from which Chou was expected to be eating at a government dinner in his honor. This particular kind of poison, intelligence sources said, would have acted within forty-eight hours and there would be no trace of it if an autopsy were performed. The plan was countermanded at the last moment."

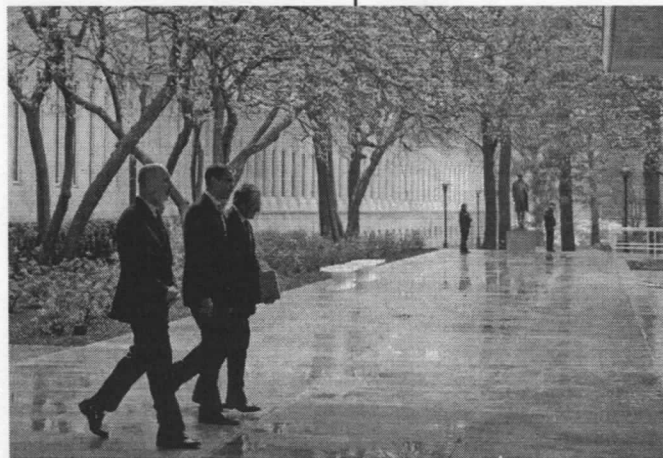
As WMR previously reported, "At the same time he was attending Occidental [College in Los Angeles, 1979-81], Obama, using the name Barry Soetoro and an Indonesian passport issued under the same name, traveled to Pakistan during the U.S. buildup to assist the Afghan mujaheddin. WMR has learned from informed sources in Kabul that Obama has been extremely friendly, through personal correspondence on White House letterhead, with a private military company that counts

among its senior personnel a number of Afghan mujaheddin-Soviet war veterans who fought alongside the late Northern Alliance commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

In 1981, Obama spent time in Jacobabad and Karachi, Pakistan, and appeared to have an older American 'handler,' possibly a CIA officer. WMR previously reported that Obama also crossed the border from Pakistan and spent some time in India. At the time of Obama's stay in Pakistan, the country was being built up as a base for the anti-Soviet Afghan insurgency by President Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and later by President Reagan's CIA director William Casey. Obama has sus-

piciously refused to release his transcripts from Occidental or Columbia University and he has remained cagey about his post-Columbia employment with BIC.

In early 2008, when employees of The Analysis Corporation, a CIA contractor headed up at the time by Obama's current deputy national security adviser John O. Brennan, a former CIA official, were illegally accessing Obama's State Department passport files, WMR reported: "An informed source has told WMR that Obama's tuition debt at Columbia was paid off by BIC. In addition, WMR has learned that when Obama lived in Indonesia with his mother and his adoptive father Lolo Soetoro, the 20-year-old Obama, who was known as 'Barry Soetoro,' traveled to Pakistan in 1981. He was hosted by the family of Muhammadmian Soomro, a Pakistani Sindhi who became acting President of Pakistan after the resignation of General Pervez Musharraf on August 18, 2008. WMR was told that the Obama/ Soetoro trip to Pakistan, ostensibly to go 'partridge hunting' with the Soomros, related to unknown CIA business.



*CIA Deputy Director Stephen Kappes, President Barack Obama & CIA Director Leon Panetta outside CIA headquarters, April, 2009*

The covert CIA program to assist the Afghan mujaheddin was already well underway at the time and Pakistan was the major base of operations for the CIA's support."

WMR also reported: "Dunham Soetoro was in Indonesia when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979. Barack Obama visited Lahore, Pakistan, where his mother worked as a 'consultant,' in 1981. According to a declassified Top Secret CIA document titled 'Worldwide Reaction to the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan,' dated February 1980, Indonesia became a hotbed of anti-Soviet students demonstrations after Moscow's invasion of Afghanistan. The report states, 'Indonesian students have staged several peaceful demonstrations in Jakarta and three other major cities. They have also demanded the recall of the Soviet Ambassador because of remarks he made to a student delegation on 4 January and have called for a severance of Soviet-Indonesian relations.'"

Obama's mother was in Lahore as a consultant for the Asian Development Bank, a perfect NOC job at the time the CIA, under William Casey, was beefing up its covert presence in Pakistan to battle the Soviets in Afghanistan.

Obama's grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, known to Obama as "Toot", began working for the Bank of Hawaii in 1960, a year after her daughter met Obama, Sr. and in 1970 she became one of the first female bank vice presidents. Madelyn Dunham retired from the bank in 1986. It is suspected that the Bank of Hawaii acted as a financial vehicle for CIA operations in Asia and the South Pacific.

The Bank of Hawaii has, according to published reports, been linked to a number of CIA-connected operations in the Asia-Pacific region, including links to the Indonesian Lippo Group and Mochtar Riady's contributions to the presidential re-election campaign of Bill Clinton; American International Group (AIG)—bailed out by Obama; the CIA's Nugan Hand Bank in Australia; another CIA-influenced bank, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and an affiliate bank in the Cook Islands, Commercial Bank of Commerce Cook Islands, Ltd. (CBCCI) in Rarotonga – which in the 1980s were funneling money to South Pacific islands to counter Soviet influence in the region; the USAID officer in Suva, Fiji, William Raupe, who was actually a CIA official cover agent; global bullion trader Deak International; European Pacific investments; and a CIA front company in Honolulu called Bishop Baldwin Rewald Dillingham Wong (BBRDW), Ltd., which maintained financial and political links to Asia-Pacific leaders, including Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, Suharto in Indonesia, the Sultan of Brunei, the chiefs of the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service—which acted on behalf of the CIA in South Pacific small island states, and maintained slush fund accounts in the Cayman Islands, the Cook Islands, Spain, and South America. The CIA cut-out, which took over the assets of the collapsed Nugan Hand Bank in Australia, also used actor Jack Lord, from Hawaii 5-0 fame, on its promotional material as a way to "open doors" and maintained close links with the US Pacific Command based in Hawaii.

In the 1960s, the Bank of Hawaii began opening up branches all over the Pacific: Palau, Guam, Yap, Ponape, and Kosrae. It also bought the Bank of American Samoa and the First National Bank of Arizona and had gained significant, if not fully controlling, financial stakes in the Bank of New Caledonia, Bank Indosuez in Vanuatu, National Bank of the Solomon Islands, Bank of Queensland, Bank of Tonga, and Bank Indosuez Niugini in Papua New Guinea, Bank Paribas Polynesia. The Bank of Hawaii also opened up branches in Suva, Saipan, and Tokyo.

By the time Madelyn Dunham retired in 1986, the bank was also deeply connected to John Waihee, the first Native Hawaiian governor of Hawaii, elected in 1986. The CIA's BBRDW and an affiliate, Canadian Far East Trading Corporation, also maintained close links with Waihee and Governor George Ariyoshi.

When Barack Obama graduated from the private Punahou High School in Hawaii in 1979 and transferred to Occidental College in Los Angeles, Eugene Welch was the CIA's station chief in Hawaii. Punahou High School was also the alma mater of another US Senator, Hiram Bingham III of Connecticut, who was said to be the inspiration for Indiana Jones, the movie character popularized by George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. At the time, the CIA was engaged in a major recruiting campaign, including on college campuses, after Admiral Stansfield Turner, the CIA director, was ordered by President Jimmy Carter to clean up the agency after previous scandals.

The CIA's Hawaii-based Asia-Pacific financial operation appears to have been the brain child of retired CIA deputy director for intelligence Ray S. Cline, a proponent of the CIA's paying pro-American strongmen around the world large sums of cash to ensure their loyalty, including Mobutu Seso Seko of Zaire, King Hussein of Jordan, Chiang Kai-shek in Taiwan, General Lon Nol of Cambodia, the Shah of Iran, Suharto, and Marcos. Helping to assist these operations was Madelyn Dunham who was in charge of the Bank of Hawaii's secretive escrow account business. During her grandson's presidential campaign in 2008, Madelyn Dunham refused all media interview requests. She died in Hawaii two days before her grandson was elected president. With the death of Toot, the early chapters of the life of Barack Obama, Jr, his father, mother, and step-father also went to the grave.

At the time Obama's mother and father met in Russian language class in Hawaii, the CIA was embarked on an aggressive covert campaign in Asia, one that involved starting a Soviet-Chinese war and aiming to assassinate Sukarno of Indonesia. The CIA was similarly involved in an aggressive covert war with the Soviets in Africa, vying for control of the continent's newly-independent states. In the world of the CIA there are no coincidences.

**Wayne Madsen** is a Washington, DC-based investigative journalist, author and syndicated columnist. He is a regular contributor on Russia Today. He has been a frequent political and national security commentator on Fox News and has also appeared on ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, and MS-NBC. Madsen has taken on Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity on their television shows. He has been invited to testify as a witness before the US House of Representatives, the UN Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and an terrorism investigation panel of the French government.



As a U.S. Naval Officer, he managed one of the first computer security programs for the U.S. Navy. He subsequently worked for the National Security Agency, the Naval Data Automation Command, Department of State, RCA Corporation, and Computer Sciences Corporation.

Madsen is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), Association for Intelligence Officers (AFIO), and the National Press Club. He is a regular contributor to Opinion Maker.

## The Truth Will Always Win

### Shooting at the Messenger—WikiLeaks

by Julian Assange, *The Australian*, 7 December 2010

IN 1958 A YOUNG RUPERT MURDOCH, then owner and editor of Adelaide's *The News*, wrote: "In the race between secrecy and truth, it seems inevitable that truth will always win."

His observation perhaps reflected his father Keith Murdoch's exposé that Australian troops were being needlessly sacrificed by incompetent British commanders on the shores of Gallipoli. The British tried to shut him up but Keith Murdoch would not be silenced and his efforts led to the termination of the disastrous Gallipoli campaign.

Nearly a century later, *WikiLeaks* is also fearlessly publishing facts that need to be made public.

I grew up in a Queensland country town where people spoke their minds bluntly. They distrusted big government as something that could be corrupted if not watched carefully. The dark days of corruption in the Queensland government before the Fitzgerald inquiry are testimony to what happens when the politicians gag the media from reporting the truth.

These things have stayed with me. *WikiLeaks* was created around these core values. The idea, conceived in Australia, was to use internet technologies in new ways to report the truth.

*WikiLeaks* coined a new type of journalism: scientific journalism. We work with other media outlets to bring people the news, but also to prove it is true. Scientific journalism allows you to read a news story, then to click online to see the original document it is based on. That way you can judge for yourself: Is the story true? Did the journalist report it accurately?

Democratic societies need a strong media and *WikiLeaks* is part of that media. The media helps keep government honest. *WikiLeaks* has revealed some hard truths about the Iraq and Afghan wars, and broken stories about corporate corruption.

People have said I am anti-war: for the record, I am not. Sometimes nations need to go to war, and there are just wars. But there is nothing more wrong than a government lying to its people about those wars, then asking these same citizens to put their lives and their taxes on the line for those lies. If a war is justified, then tell the truth and the people will decide whether to support it.

If you have read any of the Afghan or Iraq war logs, any of the US embassy cables or any of the stories about the things *WikiLeaks* has reported, consider how important it is for all media to be able to report these things freely.

*WikiLeaks* is not the only publisher of the US embassy cables. Other media outlets, including Britain's *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *El Pais* in Spain and *Der Spiegel* in Germany have published the same redacted cables.

Yet it is *WikiLeaks*, as the co-ordinator of these other groups, that has copped the most vicious attacks and accusations from the US government and its acolytes. I have been accused of treason, even though I am an Australian, not a US, citizen. There have been dozens of serious calls in the US for me to be "taken out" by US special forces. Sarah Palin says I should be "hunted down like Osama bin Laden", a Republican bill sits before the US Senate seeking to have me declared a "transnational threat" and disposed of accordingly. An adviser to the Canadian Prime Minister's office has called on national television for me to be assassinated. An American blogger has called for my 20-year-old son, here in Australia, to be kidnapped and harmed for no

other reason than to get at me.

And Australians should observe with no pride the disgraceful pandering to these sentiments by Prime Minister Gillard and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have not had a word of criticism for the other media organisations. That is because *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, and *Der Spiegel* are old and large, while *WikiLeaks* is as yet young and small.

We are the underdogs. The Gillard government is trying to shoot the messenger because it doesn't want the truth revealed, including information about its own diplomatic and political dealings.

Has there been any response from the Australian government to the numerous public threats of violence against me and other *WikiLeaks* personnel? One might have thought an Australian prime minister would be defending her citizens against such things, but there have only been wholly unsubstantiated claims of illegality. The Prime Minister and especially the Attorney-General are meant to carry out their duties with dignity and above the fray. Rest assured, these two mean to save their own skins. They will not.

Every time *WikiLeaks* publishes the truth about abuses committed by US agencies, Australian politicians chant a provably false chorus with the State Department: "You'll risk lives! National security! You'll endanger troops!" Then they say there is nothing of importance in what *WikiLeaks* publishes. It can't be both. Which is it?

It is neither. *WikiLeaks* has a four-year publishing history. During that time we have changed whole governments, but not a single person, as far as anyone is aware, has been harmed. But the US, with Australian government connivance, has killed thousands in the past few months alone.

US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates admitted in a letter to the US congress that no sensitive intelligence sources or methods had been compromised by the Afghan war logs disclosure. The Pentagon stated there was no evidence the *WikiLeaks* reports had led to anyone being harmed in Afghanistan. NATO in Kabul told CNN it couldn't find a single person who needed protecting. The Australian Department of Defence said the same. No Australian troops or sources have been hurt by anything we have published.

But our publications have been far from unimportant. The US diplomatic cables reveal some startling facts:

The US asked its diplomats to steal personal human material and information from UN officials and human rights groups, including DNA, fingerprints, iris scans, credit card numbers, internet passwords and ID photos, in violation of international treaties. Presumably Australian UN diplomats may be targeted, too.

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia asked the US Officials in Jordan and Bahrain [to] want Iran's nuclear program stopped by any means available.

Britain's Iraq inquiry was fixed to protect "US interests". Sweden is a covert member of NATO and US intelligence sharing is kept from parliament.

The US is playing hardball to get other countries to take freed detainees from Guantanamo Bay. Barack Obama agreed to meet the Slovenian President only if Slovenia took a prisoner. Our Pacific neighbour Kiribati was offered millions of dollars to accept detainees.

In its landmark ruling in the Pentagon Papers case, the US Supreme Court said "only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government". The swirling storm around *WikiLeaks* today reinforces the need to defend the right

of all media to reveal the truth.

Julian Assange is the editor-in-chief of WikiLeaks.

*Ed. Comment: This political storm is as predictable as thunderstorms in Kansas when certain atmospheric conditions occur. It requires systemic corruption and a brave prophet. The system suppresses prophets, using banal offenses for entrapment. But occasionally one is inspired to risk his livelihood or life. Julian Assange is one such, being charged with failure to use a condom, and going ahead with a reluctant or opportunistic partner. I am reminded of a waggish member of an undergraduate debating society in pre-feminist days who drawled, "What if Dean Finch caught a student who was not using the approved university contraceptive?" Even more speculatively, could the CIA have prompted the two copulating women to complain?*

*There have been many such principled system challengers—Thomas Paine, Eugene Debs, Dennis Kucinich, Marcy Kaptur, Eliot Spitzer (trapped on a sex charge). In Boston Chuck Turner has been another challenger, and the FBI trapped him with a staged "preacher's handshake".*

*An essential atmospheric condition is a frightened and credulous public, ready to take the official bait of wished-for righteousness—"lawful" behavior, never mind its origin or relevance. Never mind the elite and common ethic of "take whatever you can get away with" which guides the ambition and corruption of so many law-makers, protected by a systematic, complicitous media industry.*

#### WIKI LETTER

### Julian Assange Captured by World's Dating Police

7 December 2010

Dear Interpol:

*As a longtime feminist activist, I have been overjoyed to discover your new commitment to engaging in global manhunts to arrest and prosecute men who behave like narcissistic jerks to women they are dating.*

*I see that Julian Assange is accused of having consensual sex with two women, in one case using a condom that broke. I understand, from the alleged victims' complaints to the media, that Assange is also accused of texting and tweeting in the taxi on the way to one of the women's apartments while on a date, and, disgustingly enough, 'reading stories about himself online' in the cab.*

*Both alleged victims are also upset that he began dating a second woman while still being in a relationship with the first. (Of course, as a feminist, I am also pleased that the alleged victims are using feminist-inspired rhetoric and law to assuage what appears to be personal injured feelings. That's what our brave suffragette foremothers intended!)*

*Thank you again, Interpol. I know you will now prioritize the global manhunt for 1.3 million guys I have heard similar complaints about personally in the US alone—there is an entire fraternity at the University of Texas you need to arrest immediately. I also have firsthand information that John Smith in Providence, Rhode Island, went to a stag party—with strippers!—that his girlfriend wanted him to skip, and that Mark Levinson in Corvallis, Oregon, did not notice that his girlfriend got a really cute new haircut—even though it was THREE INCHES SHORTER.*

Terrorists. Go get 'em, Interpol!

Yours gratefully,

Naomi Wolf

## Greed and Catatonia

### Our Power Politics in a Nutshell

by Robert Reich, robertreich.blogspot.com, 9 December 2010

**A** PART FROM ITS EXTRAORDINARY COST AND REGRESSIVE TILT, the tax deal negotiated between the President and the Republicans has another fatal flaw.

It confirms the Republican worldview.

Americans want to know what happened to the economy and how to fix it. At least Republicans have a story—the same one they've been flogging for thirty years. The bad economy is big government's fault and the solution is to shrink government.

Here's the real story. For three decades, an increasing share of the benefits of economic growth have gone to the top 1 percent. Thirty years ago, the top got 9 percent of total income. Now they take in almost a quarter. Meanwhile, the earnings of the typical worker have barely budged.

The vast middle class no longer has the purchasing power to keep the economy going. (The rich spend a much lower portion of their incomes.) The crisis was averted before now only because middle-class families found ways to keep spending more than they took in—by women going into paid work, by working longer hours, and finally by using their homes as collateral to borrow. But when the housing bubble burst, the game was up.

The solution is to reorganize the economy so the benefits of growth are more widely shared. Exempt the first \$20,000 of income from payroll taxes, and apply payroll taxes to incomes over \$250,000. Extend Medicare to all. Extend the Earned Income Tax Credit all the way up through families earning \$50,000. Make higher education free to families that now can't afford it. Rehire teachers. Repair and rebuild our infrastructure. Create a new WPA to put the unemployed back to work.

Pay for this by raising marginal income taxes on millionaires (under Eisenhower, the highest marginal rate was 91 percent, and the economy flourished). A millionaire marginal tax of 70 percent would eliminate the nation's future budget deficit. In addition, impose a small tax on all financial transactions (even a tiny one—one half of one percent—would bring in \$200 billion a year, enough to rehire every teacher who's been laid off as well as provide universal pre-school for all toddlers). Promote unions for low-wage workers.

But here's the obstacle. As income and wealth have risen to the top, so has political power. Money is being used to bribe politicians and fill the airwaves with misleading ads that block all of this.

The midterm elections offered dramatic evidence. NBC news reported shortly after Election Day, for example, that Crossroads GPS, one of the biggest Republican secret-money organizations, got "a substantial portion" of its loot from a group of extremely wealthy Wall Street hedge fund and private equity managers. Why would they sink so much money into the midterms? Because they've been so strongly opposed to a proposal by congressional Democrats to treat the earnings of hedge fund and private equity managers as ordinary income rather than capital gains (subject to only a 15 percent rate).

In other words, the problem isn't big government. It's power and privilege at the top.

So another part of the solution is to limit the impact of big money on politics. This requires, for example, publically-financed campaigns, disclosure of all sources of political spend-

ing, and resurrection of the fairness doctrine for broadcasters.

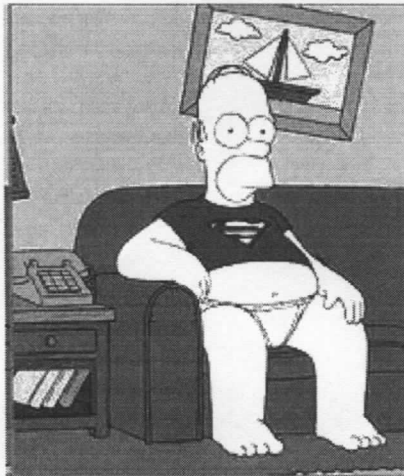
It's the same power and privilege that got the Bush tax cuts in the first place, and claimed the lion's share of its benefits. The same power and privilege that got the estate tax phased out.

Get it? By agreeing to another round of massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the President confirms the Republican story. Cutting taxes on the rich while freezing discretionary spending (which he's also agreed to do) affirms that the underlying problem is big government, and the solution is to shrink government and expect the extra wealth at the top to trickle down to everyone else.

Obama's new tax compromise is not only bad economics; it's also disastrous from the standpoint of educating the public about what has happened and what needs to happen in the future. It reenforces the Republican story and makes mincemeat out of the truthful one Democrats should be telling.

*Robert Reich is Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. He has served in three national administrations, most recently as secretary of labor under President Bill Clinton. He has written twelve books, including The Work of Nations, Locked in the Cabinet, and his most recent book, Supercapitalism. His "Marketplace" commentaries can be found on publicradio.com and iTunes.*

**Ed. Comment:** Here, Reich provides the perfect middle-run explanation of America's descent into catatonia—pathologically frozen behavior and prospects. The pathology began with Bush's stunning tax cut for the rich immediately after taking office in 2001. Obama has carried it over by appointing opportunistic Bush/Clinton-type chiefs. Recovery has barely begun with this month's refusal of the House Democratic caucus to go along with Obama's so-called compromise on extending this abnormal tax-boon for the rich.



Short-run explanations regarding unemployment relief and capital gains normalization are merely mechanical adjustments, like giving drugs to catatonic patients. Reich hints at long-term or systemic solutions when he advocates spending on education for all, with reinstatement and raises for teachers, free pre-school and college for low-income folks, and reinstating the fairness doctrine for broadcasters. An informed electorate is key.

The long-term solution for survival and thriving is the realization of democracy—rule by the people. Privilege is maintained and entrenched by narrow education and by continuous propaganda embedded in vicarious entertainment. It is manufactured by professionals paid by corporations and multi-millionaires, and wholesaled by politicians at all levels who want a secure career. It is retailed by broadcast giants who not only own mainstream TV, but want to control the internet—which has carried skepticism, revelations [like WikiLeaks], and alternative remedies for popular ills.

Thus transparency, participation, and especially multiple

options beyond Democrat vs. Republican are the long-term solution, not shrinking government and handing all control to market manipulators. To education and news fairness we must add ranked-choice voting (IRV) and, as Reich says, public finance of elections. This won't be done by the defensive Congress and the present Supreme Court. It can be done in liberal local enclaves, and can spread from there. We must have alternative party choices—Green or Socialist or Localist—to go to when we're sick of Democratic "compromise" with a party of compulsive privilege.

America can get over its catatonia when strong local leaders refuse the GOP medication, defy federal law manufactured by them, support the marginalized victims of the go-along-to-get-along system, and by their example instill confidence in folks willing to be citizens.

## FCC Caves to Industry

### Wireless Internet a Private Realm

by Amy Goodman, TruthDig.com, 22 December 2010

ONE OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S SIGNATURE campaign promises was to protect the freedom of the Internet. He said, in November 2007, "I will take a back seat to no one in my commitment to network neutrality, because once providers start to privilege some applications or websites over others, then the smaller voices get squeezed out and we all lose."

Jump ahead to December 2010, where Obama is clearly in the back seat, being driven by Internet giants like AT&T, Verizon and Comcast. With him is his appointed chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Julius Genachowski, his Harvard Law School classmate and basketball pal who just pushed through a rule on network neutrality that Internet activists consider disastrous.

Free Press Managing Director Craig Aaron told me, "This proposal appears to be riddled with loopholes that would open the door to all kinds of future abuses, allowing companies like AT&T, Comcast, Verizon, the big Internet service providers, to decide which websites are going to work, which aren't, and which are going to be able to get special treatment."

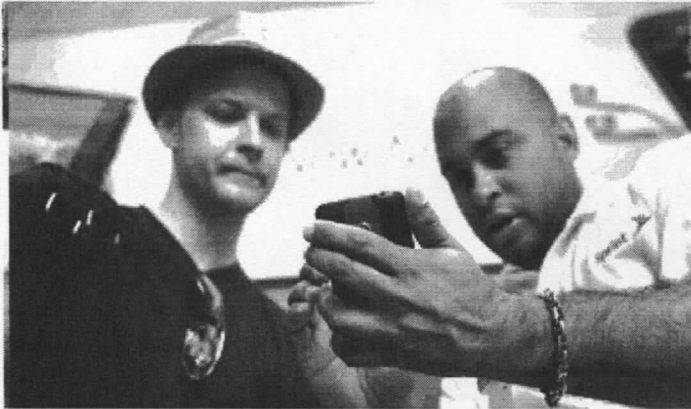
For comedian-turned-senator Al Franken, D-Minn., the new rules on Net neutrality are no joke. He offered this example, writing: "Verizon could prevent you from accessing Google Maps on your phone, forcing you to use their own mapping program, Verizon Navigator, even if it costs money to use and isn't nearly as good. Or a mobile provider with a political agenda could prevent you from downloading an app[lication] that connects you with the Obama campaign (or, for that matter, a tea party group in your area)."

AT&T is one of the conglomerates that activists say practically wrote the FCC rules that Genachowski pushed through. We've seen this flip-flop before. Weeks before his 2007 net neutrality pledge, then-Sen. Obama took on AT&T, which was exposed for engaging in warrantless wiretapping of U.S. citizens at the request of the Bush administration. AT&T wanted retroactive immunity from prosecution. Obama campaign spokesman Bill Burton told Talking Points Memo: "To be clear: Barack will support a filibuster of any bill that includes retroactive immunity for telecommunications companies."

But by July 2008, a month before the Democratic National Convention, with Obama the presumptive presidential nominee, he not only didn't filibuster, but voted for a bill that granted tele-

comes retroactive immunity from prosecution. AT&T had gotten its way, and showed its appreciation quickly. The official tote bag issued to every DNC delegate was emblazoned with a large AT&T logo. AT&T threw an opening-night bash for delegates that was closed to the press, celebrating the Democratic Party for its get-out-of-jail-free card.

AT&T, Verizon, cable giant Comcast and other corporations have expressed support for the new FCC rule. Genachowski's Democratic Party allies on the commission, Michael Copps and Mignon Clyburn (the daughter of House Majority Whip James Clyburn), according to Aaron, "tried to improve these rules, but the chairman refused to budge, apparently because he had already reached an agreement with AT&T and the cable lobbyists about how far these rules were going to go." Clyburn noted that the rules could allow mobile Internet providers to discriminate, and that poor communities, particularly African-American and Latino, rely on mobile Internet services more than wired connections.



*Poor Man's Computer.*

*If you don't have a decent place to live—with a wired desk top, AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon are going to make you pay more for your wireless service even though those companies get to use our airwaves rent-free.*

Aaron laments the power of the telecom and cable industry lobbyists in Washington, D.C.: "In recent years, they've deployed 500 lobbyists, basically one for every member of Congress, and that's just what they report. AT&T is the biggest campaign giver in the history of campaign giving, as long as we have been tracking it. So they have really entrenched themselves. And Comcast, Verizon, the other big companies, are not far behind."

Aaron added: "When AT&T wants to get together all of their lobbyists, there's no room big enough. They had to rent out a movie theater. People from the public interest who are fighting for the free and open Internet here in D.C. can still share a cab."

Campaign money is now more than ever the lifeblood of U.S. politicians, and you can be sure that Obama and his advisers are looking to the 2012 election, which will likely be the costliest in U.S. history. Vigorous and innovative use of the Internet and mobile technologies is credited with helping Obama secure his victory in 2008. As the open Internet becomes increasingly stifled in the U.S., and the corporations that control the Internet become more powerful, we may not see such democratic participation for much longer.

*Amy Goodman is the host of "Democracy Now!," a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on more than 800 stations in North America. She is the author of Breaking the Sound Barrier, now a New York Times best-seller. Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column.*

## Community Radio Unleashed

### Noncommercial Local FM to Mushroom

*by Amy Phillips & Ryan Schreiber, Pitchfork, 19 Dec 2010*

**Y**ESTERDAY, ON THE SAME DAY that Don't Ask Don't Tell was repealed, another significant bill was passed by both the House and Senate: the Local Community Radio Act. As the Huffington Post reports, this legislation allows for the creation of new non-commercial stations on American airwaves—a number that could reach to the hundreds or even thousands. In a press release, the Future of Music Coalition said, "The addition of more Low Power FM (LPFM) stations will increase local civic engagement, diversify the airwaves, support local music and culture, assist during emergencies, expand religious expression, and provide a platform for the voices of underrepresented communities to be heard."

The bill states that these stations must be FCC-approved "based on the needs of the local community," and that restrictions are in place to "prohibit any applicant from obtaining a low-power FM license if the applicant has engaged in any manner in the unlicensed operation of any station in violation of section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301)." There is also built-in protection for "full-power FM stations that are licensed in significantly populated States with more than 3,000,000 housing units and a population density greater than 1,000 per square mile," so low-power stations may be more difficult to acquire in those areas.

More than 500 LPFM stations have been given the green-light since 2001. According to the bill, "These stations are currently on the air and are run by local government agencies, groups promoting arts and education to immigrant and indigenous peoples, artists, schools, religious organizations, environmental groups, organizations promoting literacy, and many other civically oriented organizations." With the passing of this bill, we can now expect many more of these LPFM stations to proliferate.

*Ed. Comment: Although this new law is a step forward for democracy, it appears that commercialism-defying "pirates" broadcasting on cheap, low-power equipment from the attics of their homes will be banned from licensing. Similarly, solo journalists and densely populated urban neighborhoods, may be slighted.*

## Potato Famine Revisited

### Can Ireland Save Itself Like Argentina?

*by Dean Baker, The Guardian/UK, 22 November 2010*

**W**HEN A FIREFIGHTER OR MEDICAL TEAM MAKE A RESCUE, the person is usually better-off as a result. This is less clear when the rescuer is the European Central Bank (ECB) or the IMF.

Ireland is currently experiencing a 14.1% unemployment rate. As a result of bailout conditions that will require more cuts in government spending and tax increases, the unemployment rate is almost certain to go higher. The Irish people are likely to wonder what their economy would look like if they had not been rescued.

The pain being inflicted on Ireland by the ECB/IMF is completely unnecessary. If the ECB committed itself to make loans available to Ireland at low interest rates, a mechanism entirely



within its power, then Ireland would have no serious budget problem. Its huge projected deficits stem primarily from the combination of high interest costs on its debt, and the result of operating at levels of economic output that are well below full employment – both outcomes that can be pinned largely on the ECB.

It is worth remembering that Ireland's government was a model of fiscal probity prior to the economic meltdown. It had run large budget surpluses for the 5 years prior to the onset of the crisis. Ireland's problem was certainly not out of control government spending; it was a reckless banking system that fueled an enormous housing bubble. The economic wizards at the ECB and the IMF either couldn't see the bubble or didn't think it was worth mentioning.

The failure of the ECB or IMF to take steps to rein in the bubble before the crisis has not made these international financial institutions shy about using a heavy hand in imposing conditions now. The plan is to impose stiff austerity, requiring much of Ireland's workforce to suffer unemployment for years to come as a result of the failure of their bankers and the ECB.

While it is often claimed that these institutions are not political, only the braindead could still believe this. The decision to make Ireland's workers, along with workers in Spain, Portugal, Latvia and elsewhere, pay for the recklessness of their country's bankers is entirely a political one. There is no economic imperative that says that workers must pay; this is a political decision being imposed by the ECB and IMF.

This should be a huge warning flag for progressives and, in fact, anyone who believes in democracy. If the ECB puts conditions on a rescue package, it will be very difficult for an elected government in Ireland to reverse these conditions. In other words, the issues that Ireland's voters will be able to decide are likely to be trivial in importance relative to the conditions that will be imposed by the ECB.

There is no serious argument for an unaccountable central bank. While no one expects or wants parliaments to micromanage monetary policy, the ECB and other central banks should be clearly accountable to elected bodies. It would be interesting to see how they can justify their plans for subjecting Ireland and other countries to double-digit unemployment for years to come.

The other point that should be kept in mind is that even a relatively small country like Ireland has options. Specifically, they could drop out of the euro and default on their debt. This is hardly a first best option, but if the alternative is an indefinite stint of double-digit unemployment, then leaving the euro and default look much more attractive.

The ECB and the IMF will insist that this is the road to disaster, but their credibility on this point is near zero. There is an obvious precedent. Back in the 2001, the IMF was pushing Argentina to pursue ever more stringent austerity measures. Like Ireland, Argentina had also been a poster child of the neo-liberal crew before it ran into difficulties.

But the IMF can turn quickly. Its austerity programme lowered GDP by almost 10% and pushed the unemployment rate well into the double digits. By the end of the 2001, it was politically impossible for the Argentine government to agree to more austerity. As a result, it broke the supposedly unbreakable link between its currency and the dollar and defaulted on its debt.

The immediate effect was to make the economy worse, but by the second half of 2002, the economy was again growing. This was the start of five and a half years of solid growth, until the world economic crisis eventually took its toll in 2009.

The IMF, meanwhile, did everything it could to sabotage Argentina, which became known as the "A word". It even used

bogus projections that consistently under-predicted Argentina's growth in the hope of undermining confidence.

Ireland should study the lessons of Argentina. Breaking from the euro would have consequences, but it is becoming increasingly likely that the pain from the break is less than the pain of staying in. Furthermore, simply raising the issue is likely to make the ECB and IMF take a more moderate position.

What the people of Ireland and every country must realise is that if they agree to play by the bankers' rules, they will lose.

*Dean Baker is the co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). He is the author of The Conservative Nanny State: How the Wealthy Use the Government to Stay Rich and Get Richer and the more recently published Plunder and Blunder: The Rise and Fall of The Bubble Economy. At his blog, "Beat the Press," he discusses the media's coverage of economic issues.*

## NEWS OF THE EMPIRE

### SPP All Over Again?

#### Secret Security Deal Threatens Canada

by Jim Laxer, [blog.jameslaxer.com](http://blog.jameslaxer.com), 10 December 2010

**T**HE HARPER GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGED IN SECRET TALKS with the U.S. government to negotiate a sweeping Fortress North America security deal with Washington.

For over a decade, Fortress North America has been a favourite goal of the political right and continental business. The deal poses a major threat to Canadian sovereignty. Whatever proponents of the deal say, its implementation will force Canada to harmonize its immigration and refugee policies with those of the United States. And it will require Canadian government agencies to share much more private information about Canadian citizens and residents with American agencies than they already do. The deal will invite the FBI and the CIA right into our lives.

For those who think that this won't matter much, it is vital to remember that what happened to Maher Arar [Canadian citizen kidnapped by CIA with Canadian complicity, for torture in Syria] nearly a decade ago was precipitated by the Canadian government's sharing of information with the U.S. He was the canary in the mine shift—the warning that many more of us could be next.

Canada has already moved a long way down the road to defence arrangements with the U.S. that could conceivably allow the U.S. to effectively seize control of Canada during a global geo-political crisis.

The sweetener for the deal that is now in the works is that its ratification will mean quicker shipments of goods across the Canada-U.S. border. This is hardly a vital matter for Canada. It's true that over the past two years Canada's exports to the U.S. have plunged. But that's because the U.S. has a weaker economy than it did before the crash and its demand for our products has declined. Such a development should motivate us to find other partners for commerce around the world, not to climb ever more into a relationship with a country whose global economic power is in decline.

The only reason we know about the secret talks between Ottawa and Washington is because of media leaks. The plan is to unveil the deal with Washington in January. Then a joint ceremony is to be held with Stephen Harper and Barack Obama appending their signatures to the agreement. After that, the details of the deal are to be hammered out between officials

from the two countries.

In the meantime, the members of the Harper government refuse to say a word about this.

We know from WikiLeaks that CSIS is home to those who believe that Canadians are naïve about the threat of terrorism. We can expect the members of the Harper government to get lurid about the danger of terrorists when the deal with Washington is made public. The truth is that we now face a real threat to our nation's sovereignty from those who hold the highest offices in the land.

Canadians need to get loud right now to stop this covert attack on our national sovereignty. Despite the chest-thumping phony patriotism and flag waving of the Harperites and their friends, this government has always been committed to a deeper continental union with the United States, an idea that is profoundly contrary to the interests of Canadians, now and in the future.

All of us need to take on this fight. We can't leave this one to the tepid opposition parties in the House of Commons.

*Special thanks to Janet Eaton for this article. Note: "SPP [Security & Prosperity Partnership] is all but dead."—Greg Weston, CBC News*

## Faking Motives

### US Military's Public Relations Industry

*Associated Press, 5 February 2009*

*(latest analysis—no indication of change under Obama)\**

**W**ASHINGTON — AS IT FIGHTS TWO WARS, the Pentagon is steadily and dramatically increasing the money it spends to win what it calls "the human terrain" of world public opinion. In the process, it is raising concerns of spreading propaganda at home in violation of federal law.

An Associated Press investigation found that over the past five years, the money the military spends on winning hearts and minds at home and abroad has grown by 63 percent, to at least \$4.7 billion this year [2009], according to Department of Defense budgets and other documents. That's almost as much as it spent on body armor for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2004 and 2006.

This year, the Pentagon will employ 27,000 people just for recruitment, advertising and public relations—almost as many as the total 30,000-person work force in the State Department. "We have such a massive apparatus selling the military to us, it has become hard to ask questions about whether this is too much money or if it's bloated," says Sheldon Rampton, research director for the Committee on Media and Democracy, which tracks the military's media operations. "As the war has become less popular, they have felt they need to respond to that more."

Yet the money spent on media and outreach still comes to only 1 percent of the Pentagon budget, and the military argues it is well-spent on recruitment and the education [sic] of foreign and American audiences. Military leaders say that at a time when extremist [sic] groups run Web sites and distribute video, information is as important a weapon as tanks and guns. "We have got to be involved in getting our case out there, telling our

side of the story, because believe me, al-Qaida and all of those folks ... that's what they are doing on the Internet and everywhere else," says Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., who chairs the Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee. "Every time a bomb goes off, they have a story out almost before it explodes, saying that it killed 15 innocent civilians."

On an abandoned Air Force base in San Antonio, Texas, editors for the Joint "Hometown News" Service point proudly to a dozen clippings on a table as examples of success in getting stories into newspapers. What readers are not told: Each of these glowing stories was written by Pentagon staff. Under the free [sic] service, stories go out with authors' names but not their titles, and do not mention "Hometown News" anywhere. In 2009, "Hometown News" plans to put out 5,400 press releases, 3,000 television releases and 1,600 radio interviews, among other work—50 percent more than in 2007. The service is just a tiny piece of the Pentagon's rapidly expanding media empire, which is now bigger in size, money and power than many media companies.

#### Recruitment, "Public Affairs", and Propaganda

The biggest chunk of funds—about \$1.6 billion—goes into recruitment and advertising. Another \$547 million goes into public affairs, which reaches American audiences. And about \$489 million more goes into what is known as psychological operations, which targets foreign audiences. Staffing across all these areas costs about \$2.1 billion, as calculated by the number of full-time employees and the military's average cost per service member. That's double the staffing costs for 2003.

Recruitment and advertising are the only two areas where Congress has authorized the military to influence the American public. Far more controversial is public affairs, because of the prohibition on propaganda to the American public. "It's not up to the Pentagon to sell policy to the American people," says Rep. Paul Hodes, D-N.H., who sponsored legislation in Congress last year reinforcing the ban.

Spending on public affairs has more than doubled since 2003. Robert Hastings, acting director of Pentagon public affairs, says the growth reflects changes in the information market, along with the fact that the U.S. is now fighting two wars. "The role of public affairs is to provide you the information so that you can make an informed decision yourself," Hastings says. "There is no place for spin at the Department of Defense."

But on Dec. 12, the Pentagon's inspector general released an audit finding that the public affairs office may have crossed the line into propaganda. The audit found the Department of Defense "may appear to merge inappropriately" its public affairs with operations that try to influence audiences abroad. It also found that while only 89 positions were authorized for public

affairs, 126 government employees and 31 contractors worked there. In a written response, Hastings concurred and, without acknowledging wrongdoing, ordered a reorganization of the department by early 2009.

Another audit, also in December, concluded that a public affairs program called "America Supports You" was conducted "in a questionable and unregulated manner" with funds meant



*Soldier helps a boy love a warm gun and the Army*

for the military's *Stars and Stripes* newspaper. The program was set up to keep U.S. troops informed about volunteer donations to the military. But the military awarded \$11.8 million in contracts to a public relations firm to raise donations for the troops and then advertise those donations to the public. So the program became a way to drum up support for the military at a time when public opinion was turning against the Iraq war. The audit also found that the offer to place corporate logos on the Pentagon Web site in return for donations was against regulations. A military spokesman said the program has been completely overhauled to meet Pentagon regulations.

"They very explicitly identify American public opinion as an important battlefield," says Marc Lynch, a professor at George Washington University. "In today's information environment, even if they were well-intentioned and didn't want to influence American public opinion, they couldn't help it."

In 2003, for example, initial accounts from the military about the rescue of Pvt. Jessica Lynch from Iraqi forces were faked to rally public support. And in 2005, a Marine Corps spokesman during the siege of the Iraqi city of Fallujah told the U.S. news media that U.S. troops were attacking. In fact, the information was a ruse by U.S. commanders to fool insurgents into revealing their positions.

### Psych Operations

The fastest-growing part of the military media is "psychological operations," where spending has doubled since 2003. Psychological operations aim at foreign audiences, and spin is welcome. The only caveats are that messages must be truthful and must never try to influence an American audience.

In Afghanistan, for example, a video of a soldier joining the national army shown on Afghan television is not attributed to the U.S. And in Iraq, American teams built and equipped media outlets and trained Iraqis to staff them without making public the connection to the military.

Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, director of strategic communications for the U.S. Central Command, says psychological operations must be secret to be effective. He says that in the 21st century, it is probably not possible to win the information battle with insurgents without exposing American citizens to secret U.S. propaganda. "We have to be pragmatic and realistic about the game that we play in terms of information, and that game is very complex," he says.

The danger of psychological operations reaching a U.S. audience became clear when an American TV anchor asked Gen. David Petraeus about the mood in Iraq. The general held up a glossy photo of the Iraqi national soccer team to show the country united in victory. Behind the camera, his staff was cringing. It was U.S. psychological operations that had quietly distributed tens of thousands of the soccer posters in July 2007 to encourage Iraqi nationalism...

The emphasis on influence operations started with former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. In 2002, Rumsfeld established an Office of Strategic Influence that brought together public affairs and psychological operations. Critics accused him of setting up a propaganda arm, and Congress demanded that the office be shut down.

Rumsfeld has declined to speak to the press since leaving office, but while defense secretary he spoke bluntly about his desire to revamp the Pentagon's media operations. "I went down that next day and said, 'Fine, if you want to savage this thing, fine, I'll give you the corpse,'" Rumsfeld said on Nov. 18, 2002, according to Defense Department transcripts of a speech

he delivered. "There's the name. You can have the name, but I'm gonna keep doing every single thing that needs to be done and I have."

In 2003, Rumsfeld issued a secret Information Operations Roadmap setting out a plan for public affairs and psychological operations to work together. It noted that with a global media, the military should expect and accept that psychological operations will reach the U.S. public. "I can tell you there wouldn't be a single American disappointed with anything that we've done that might be out there, that they don't know about," says Col. Curtis Boyd, commander of the 4th PSYOP Group, the largest unit of its kind. "Frankly, they probably wouldn't care because maybe they are safer as a result of it."

In January 2008, a new report by the Defense Science Board recommended resurrecting the Office of Strategic Influence as the Office of Strategic Communications. But Congress refused to fund the program.

In February, the Army released a new eight-chapter field manual that puts information warfare on par with traditional warfare. The title of an entire chapter, Chapter 7: "Information Superiority."

*\*In a yearlong investigation, The Associated Press interviewed more than 100 people and scoured more than 100,000 pages of documents in several budgets to tally the money spent to inform, educate and influence the public in the U.S. and abroad. The AP included contracts found through the private FedSources database and requests made under the Freedom of Information Act. Actual spending figures are higher because of money in classified budgets.*

**Ed. Comment:** Because law requires publication of much of the Pentagon's budget, domestic propagandists may have to work harder than did Soviets or Chinese to counter, distort, and invent rather than just censor and romanticize. Legal requirements for truth are belied by WikiLeaks.

As "War Department" was falsified as "Defense Department" and now segues into "Empire Department", myth has replaced reality. The military propaganda mill deploys myth and Disneyish heroes and patriots who exemplify it. Eventually, the story of the dark satanic mills—Guantanamo, Quantico (where Bradley Manning rots), Gaza (supported by US military aid and State Dept nod), Baghdad's Rusafa (Abu Ghraib updated), US prison ship Peleliu (17 like it in operation since 2001), torture "renditions", 26,000+ imprisoned without charges—will grab a critical 15 percent of Americans who will actively resist. Their work coincides with the deterioration of US military morale and *raison d'etre*, and so will be celebrated, just as WikiLeaks is gaining popular support.

The corporate roots of our Empire will be exposed, and more than token Enron/WorldCom executives will go to prison. Some new fundamentalists will see devastating climate change as God's condemnation of imperial profiteers. Enough newly conscious congressmembers will be elected to consider congressional reformation and constitutional removal of corporate personhood, and new laws will promote constitutional amendment. The truth of Shay's Rebellion (Massachusetts, 1786-87) will be taught. Psychopaths will be driven from high places. The US government will finally prioritize ecology as Number One in policy and action, and our grandchildren—now grown—will heave sighs of relief, while making a new humane culture, where immigrants and emigrants are welcome everywhere... That's a prophetic myth worth realizing. ■

## Parsing Chomsky

### The Potential Controversy with Griffin

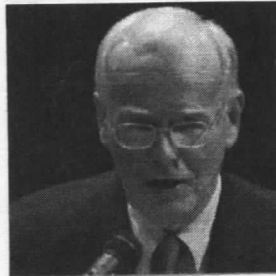
**M**ORE THAN EVER SINCE SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2001, now is the time for truth. We can sense this as we notice the increasing floods and freak storms. We tremble as we hear about the ill effects of genetically modified food crops and the bad mileage and production inefficiency of biofuels. We murmur "I knew it, I knew it..." We wonder at the insistence of war spending when the failure of the Afghanistan operation is obvious. It doesn't surprise us that homeless people are huddled in snowy streets. "More of the same Bush craziness is killing us!"

Our indignation about whipped and humiliated Palestinians is turning to fear and anger as FBI agents pay dawn visits to our anti-Zionist friends and haul away their books and computers—the thought police. Tea party people are ranting and cursing. Congressmembers are calling for the heads of whistleblowers. Attributing the 9/11 attacks to fanatical Muslims resulted in new laws that unleashed the military and internal security forces against our global neighbors, the environment, the public treasury, and democracy. Determining the true culprits could somehow reverse these disastrous trends—so it seems.

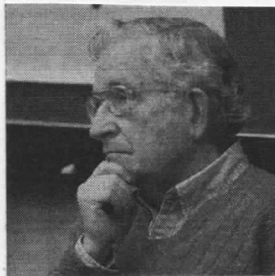
Now, finally, people are beginning to speak out about the fraud of 9/11. Congress finally passed a law helping "first responders"—people who braved deadly unknowns to rescue others at the World Trade Center, and payed with their health if not their lives. Will other witnesses be heard? The "Building What?" campaign in New York City (World Trade Center's Building 7, which collapsed without airplane impact) calling for an unbiased investigation has gained credibility through Geraldo Rivera's Fox News show wherein—following a blitz of "Building What?" TV ads—he interviewed a structural engineer and a father mourning his son's death at WTC on 9/11, both of whom urged a new, impartial investigation.

It would certainly be helpful if major opinion leaders also spoke out for a new investigation. Theologian-philosopher David Ray Griffin—well versed in logic and scientific method—has published nine books on the 9/11 disasters. Finding and sifting through masses of data accumulating over the years, he concludes that the official government report based on studies by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a fraudulent whitewash, and that all three buildings (WTC 1, 2, and 7) must have been brought down by explosives in an operation planned by Americans connected with government. The latest evidence for explosives is that products of nanothermite—a very powerful hi-tech explosive—have been found in the dust voluminously produced by the nearly instantaneous disintegration of the buildings. More than a thousand certified engineers and big-building architects have endorsed the drive for "9/11 truth", each briefly testifying at [www.ae911truth.org](http://www.ae911truth.org).

What's missing is evidence that insiders in fact planned and produced the alleged explosions. The world-renowned critic of US policy Noam Chomsky refuses to concern himself with the events of 9/11 until some evidence—not conjecture—appears concerning the motives of the putative insiders. Following con-



David Ray Griffin



Noam Chomsky

siderable correspondence with Chomsky, with whom I identify on most matters of political philosophy, it appears that he accepts no hypotheses as to who was behind the 9/11 disasters, and refuses to write on the subject. When orally queried at public events he may respond that motivational evidence is lacking, and that the issue is a distraction from important matters of US involvement in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Chomsky says he is not interested in "microscopic" details elaborated by David Griffin (presumably: how the WTC buildings fell, how the 9/11 commission was composed and functioned, how NIST worked, how cell phone calls from any airplane involved were or were not made, and so on and on). He never speaks of Griffin because he—Chomsky—is interested in the facts and dynamics of world affairs, presumably institutionalized interplay among governments and factions, while implying that Griffin does not focus on these matters, and that responding to Griffin would have very little consequence in

matters activists like himself apply themselves to. He believes that IF the Bushites had done the 9/11 deed they would have been insane to blame it on the Saudis rather than Saddam, because blaming it on Saddam would have provided much simpler entree into war with Iraq and capture of "the prize"—presumably oil—and not disturbed US relations with Israel.

In response to my guess, Chomsky denies that he may be protecting his credibility as a world affairs analyst by avoiding discussion of 9/11. Agreeing with Griffin would be "innocuous", without effect. This, presumably, because building dynamics and administrative shenanigans are not evidentially linked to world affairs dynamics. What bothers me is the absence in Chomsky's public addresses of a grand theory—a set of verifiable propositions—that account for the way the US behaves in this contentious, ecologically limited world.

I confess that I have not read Griffin's latest book relating to 9/11, *Cognitive Infiltration*, which may or may not contain discussion of world affairs dynamics in Chomsky's domain. Chomsky is more than annoyed at 9/11 skeptics hounding him to engage Griffin because, he implies, Griffin's data are irrelevant to Chomsky who claims no expertise in such [engineering?] matters, while Chomsky's data and inferences seem not to concern Griffin. Griffin has been concerned from the beginning with the official 9/11 Commission. I have no idea at present why Chomsky is not more interested in the failings of that commission, since its composition and chairmanship were clearly political.

Although Chomsky feels that no one should try to make anyone read someone else's work or engage that person in debate, I think it would be valuable to compile Griffin's relevant writings on current world affairs, identify his arguments at least hypothetically linking 9/11 insiders or insider groups or institutions to such affairs, determine where his arguments overlap Chomsky's, and confront Chomsky in areas where Chomsky has expertise. This would honor the rationality that Chomsky prizes, and if the arguments have significance for world dynamics, may elicit Chomsky's contribution. 9/11 Truth people might then have the support that Chomsky's prestige could lend. Or maybe not.

—D.L.

## Sacrificial Lamb, or Lion?

### Hypocrisy, Crimes of City Council Exposed

by Shirley Kressel, MySouthEnd.com, 17 November 2010

**News Note:** On 1 December the Boston City Council met behind closed doors at noon, and then at 3pm held an open meeting to vote on Chuck Turner's council membership. Chuck spoke in his own defense, followed by an angry supporting speech by Councilor Charles Yancey, and I-hate-to-expel-but-I-must speeches by freshman councilors Felix Arroyo Jr and Ayanna Pressley. Then the council voted 10-to-1 to expel.

Hundreds of shocked Chuck Turner supporters paraded out of City Hall chanting "Chuck, Chuck, Chuck..." and gathered on the steps outside for discussion.

So the week before Christmas, Chuck took steps to sue the Boston City Council for having no authority to expel him, and for depriving the people of his district of representation on the Council. Conservative (some say right-wing) attorney Chester Darling came out of retirement to handle the case pro bono. With an emergency filing for injunction in US District Court, a decision is expected before 25 January, when Chuck is due to be sentenced after being unjustly convicted for "extortion".

**A** BLACK BUSINESSMAN, TRYING TO EXPOSE the local pay-to-play culture, has ended up a paid FBI informant, exposed and betrayed by the federal government, and forced to testify, however reluctantly, against [black] City Councilor Chuck Turner in a liquor licensing investigation. A jury found Turner guilty of extortion and [lying to the FBI].

City Councilors have no power over liquor licenses, so charges of bribery and extortion are puzzling. According to the *Boston Globe*, Turner, learning about the businessman's difficulty in getting a license, scheduled a hearing on the lack of licenses in black neighborhoods. Then the FBI paid the informant to hand Turner money, which Turner had neither requested nor expected, to see if they could make him a criminal (why spend agency resources on this, when there were already so many named suspects to chase?). The informant told the *Boston Globe* in 2009 that Turner was "naïve," "not a thief, but a victim of circumstance." But the court proceedings excluded circumstance—intent, impact, the concept of entrapment—allowing only consideration of whether money changed hands.

It appears to be, at worst, an unlawful gift that Turner should have returned—yes, it's a bad thing to do, but let's get some perspective. For this one mistake, after a career of community service, Turner faces, effectively, life imprisonment. As a *Boston Phoenix* story puts it: "In unleashing its prosecutorial might against a local elected official who enjoyed more profile than power, the United States Department of Justice exhibited a lack of proportion that was...an insult to common sense."

I've spent lots of time among the City Councilors in my 15 activist years. Turner is one of the few to whom I could turn to call a hearing, to request public disclosure of information, to speak up against wrongdoing. He provided an affidavit supporting the citizens' Open Meeting Law suit against the Council (I was a plaintiff). He fought the bio-terror lab, led workers' organization and CORI [ex-convict jobs] reform, and held neighborhood meetings, some of which I attended, to discuss community problems. He voted against an unlawfully legislated City Council pay raise in 2006, and against a firefighters' pay raise for [accepting] drug and alcohol testing in 2010.

Chuck Turner has his flaws—the gravest of which, perhaps, is

not to have systematically exposed City Council roguery. But on balance, he's probably done more good than most of the others. Now, that august body contemplates an ouster vote. [See results in News Note above.] They are pensive—and with good reason.

The other Councilors know how lucky they are that they aren't the ones facing judgment—because most of them have committed worse transgressions against the public, although none involving blobs labeled "cash" on film.

A tiny sample:

- Council President Michael Ross, now leading this justice brigade, fixed 35 of his own parking tickets (totaling, coincidentally, \$1,000).
- Ross led Council to allow destruction of the historic Gaiety Theatre, and let the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) take from the taxpayers millions in Red Sox payments for privatizing Yawkey Way.
- The Council wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees falsely defending their 11 violations of the Open Meeting Law.
- They unwittingly perpetuated the BRA's eminent domain powers, used to confiscate city property.
- Councilor Maureen Feeney, in a secretive meeting, arranged to hire a staffer, for hundreds of thousands of dollars, to write a report recommending exemption of City Council from the Open Meeting Law.
- They voted to give away tens of millions of dollars in tax breaks to big corporations (e.g., Liberty Mutual, Manulife, JPMorganChase).
- They gave staff bonus pay (which the Ethics Commission declared illegal—but refused to prosecute).
- They let the mayor sell City land to insiders for pennies, including a \$100,000 property to a BRA staffer for \$5,000, and let him give the BRA hundreds of City properties (e.g., 24 Dorchester parcels worth \$2.4 million).

Why haven't these pillars of piety investigated how the liquor board awarded the license without a public hearing or vote? Despite evidence of back room promises by the board's chair, we can't get the [Suffolk] District Attorney (a former Boston City Councilor) to prosecute.

And most important: Why, though the FBI informant directly implicated Mayor Tom Menino, has no one at the Mayor's office been prosecuted? Maybe the answer is in one of the thousands of emails his aide, Michael Kineavy (the informant's mayoral contact), deleted, a crime Attorney General Martha Coakley excused because "Criminal statutes generally include an element of intent." This element [of intent] was not considered in Turner's trial.

Menino insists that the now-"shadowed" Turner quit. Menino, who signed away \$40 million in taxes from One Beacon Street buyers for \$3 million in slush funds via BRA shake-downs (bribery? extortion? Hello, FBI!), and who took Liberty Mutual's \$10,000 in campaign donations and gave them a \$24 million tax break, now guards City Hall's honor.

City officials self-righteously sitting in judgment on Turner have gotten away with terrible things. And they know it.

We got a video and a verdict. Did we really get justice?

*Shirley Kressel is a landscape architect and urban designer, and one of the founders of the Alliance of Boston Neighborhoods. She writes the column "City Streets" in the South End News and can be reached at Shirley.Kressel@verizon.net.*

MORE ON THE TURNER AFFAIR ON FOLLOWING PAGES....

## Why I Won't Resign

by Chuck Turner, Fenway News Online, 30 November 2010.

**R**EPORTERS KEEP ASKING ME why I won't resign since I have been convicted of the crime of extortion of \$1000 and three crimes of lying to FBI officials. I appreciate the Fenway News giving me the space to explain in detail why I think it would be absurd for me to resign from the City Council.

The first reason is that my constituents elected me last year, after I was indicted, with a larger plurality in my district than the Mayor received in the City and despite my conviction they have continued to support me. While the Boston Globe and Mayor Menino have tried to coax people in my community to stand up and speak out against me, they find themselves virtually standing alone.

The second reason that I would never resign is that I was found guilty of a crime that was planned by US Attorney Sullivan and executed by his paid agent, Ron Wilburn. Even though Sullivan tried to convince the public that there was a conspiracy between the Senator and me. At the trial, it became clear that the conspiracy was between Sullivan and Wilburn as they conspired to take me down.

Some may ask "Why". That is, what was Sullivan's purpose in using Wilburn to create the picture that I was a corrupt elected official? He knew there has never been even the hint of me being corrupt during my 33 years of activism and 11 years on the Council. Obviously, he did it because he and others wanted to silence me in my advocacy for the working class and poor of Boston.

At a time when the rich are getting richer in Boston and the working class and poor of all races are getting poorer, it is dangerous to have someone like me with my skills and experience urging people to stand up and fight back. Any doubt that Sullivan's objective was to silence me was wiped away on January 5, 2008.

On that date, Sullivan's protégé, McNeil, requested from the court and eventually received a gag order that said that if I accepted the evidence the feds had against me I had to stop talking about the case. Because of the order which I refused to sign while running for reelection, my lawyers didn't receive any of the evidence until a year after I was arrested. Since I know that the governmental attack on me was not about justice but about attempting to take me down, why would I cooperate by resigning?

The third reason, I would not resign is that I am innocent and the fourth reason is that I believe the jury's acceptance of the picture set up by the US Attorney can not eliminate the fact that during my eleven years on the Council I have been a pillar of moral and political integrity. I'm the only Council who finances from his salary and donations an office in his district that is open

a minimum of 40 hours a week. Records at the Office of Campaign Political Finance will show at the end of the year that my wife, Terri, and I have loaned my campaign, \$180,000 to maintain the district office.

In addition, Felix D. Arroyo and I were the only Councilors to vote against a pay raise in 2006. In 2008, after failing to persuade the Council to investigate Arthur Winn's machinations with the Columbus Center project, I voted against the project. This year, I was the only Councilor to vote against giving bond money to Liberty Mutual. I thought that it was absurd for us to help a corporation build a building in Boston when it had made a profit of 31 billion dollars (\$31,000,000,000) the year before. I also was the only Councilor to vote against paying Boston Fire Department employees for taking drug tests when the Administration was about to lay off hundreds of low paid City workers in libraries and schools.

The fifth reason is that by not resigning I am forcing the public to continue to look at the corruption perpetrated in this case by former US Attorney Sullivan. It is amazing to me how quickly the public forgets. Remember the fact that Bush's Attorney General Gonzalez, after Ashcroft, had to resign because of his involvement in the firing of 8 U.S. Attorneys because they wouldn't use their legal power to attack political enemies. Sullivan wasn't fired; in fact he received a promotion.

After the dust cleared, Sullivan was appointed to be director of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms unit, in addition to being the US Attorney. I also find it very interesting that former Atty General John "Patriot Act" Ashcroft, opened an office of his national law/lobbying firm in Boston with Sullivan as its operating partner.

People seem also to have forgotten that in January of last year, Sullivan was told by the Chief Justice Mark Wolfe of the Massachusetts Federal Court that he was tired of Sullivan's protégés lying in his court, causing cases to be thrown out based on the defendants not receiving fair prosecution. In fact, he demanded an affidavit from Sullivan explaining why he shouldn't censure him.

Have people forgotten that Wilburn's partner received through Sullivan's largess seven years probation for selling 200 grams of cocaine while the person who bought it from him was given ten years in prison. Interestingly, Wilburn signed his contract with feds four months after his partner received probation.

Fifty-five years ago, Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955 refused to give up her seat in the front of the bus rather than submit to the tyranny of the discrimination of the South. Fifty-five years later on December 1, 2010, I am refusing to give up my seat on the Council rather than submit to the prosecutorial tyranny of former US Attorney Sullivan.

District 7 City Councilor *Chuck Turner*



## Chuck Turner Merits Probation

21 December 2010

Hon. Douglas P. Woodlock  
United States District Judge  
One Courthouse Way, Suite 2300  
Boston MA 02210

Dear Judge Woodlock----

I sat through most sessions of your trial of Chuck Turner, a man I have known and worked with for ten years. You will be sentencing him in little more than a month, and I certainly hope you will ensure justice with respect to both Chuck and the whole community of Boston.

I'm sure you know the local issues on which Chuck led not just folks in his district, but people of conscience throughout Boston and suburbs-biosafety, schools, opportunity for ex-convicts, jobs, business opportunity, equity... But Chuck knows that such local issues are connected with national and even global issues, and he has worked tirelessly to improve the larger system so as to ensure decent and secure lives for people throughout New England as well as in Boston.

Chuck Turner supported our (Alliance for Democracy's) efforts to establish a citizen trade commission which finally, after ten years of churning in the legislature, became law a few months ago. He led the struggle within the city council for endorsement of the bill, and succeeded in persuading most of his fellow councilors. Thus Massachusetts is catching up with Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont in scrutinizing proposed trade agreements for their impact on state laws and regulations.

Chuck Turner for years has been on the board of the E. F. Schumacher Society-now New Economics Institute-in Western Massachusetts. His work there helps strengthen local government, popular participation, and environmental protection state-wide and nationally.\*

At my invitation, at his own expense, Chuck Turner drove in his serviceable old car to Burlington, Vermont, to participate in a select roundtable on Participatory Budgeting, with a dozen leaders from all around New England. He is helping to flesh out a special PB event in Boston or Cambridge this coming April, with trail-blazing Chicago alderman Joe Moore and local elected officials.

Chuck Turner has been the leading light in the Boston city council and civil society in bringing historical, social, and environmental context to city planning and government relations. His understanding of the relations among federal agencies, the BRA, the mayor's office, local organizations, and citizens is helping the city emerge from traditional insider dealings, though obviously we have a long way to go.

It may well be for Chuck's critical eye as well as his activism that the federal district attorney selected him for a sting operation. In contrast to many elected officials in Boston, Chuck has never been "on the take". The FBI had to create a crime, miniscule in comparison with willful corruption elsewhere on the council and in city government, to remove him from government and chill any others' challenge to business as usual.

Chuck Turner has been an asset to the people of Boston and beyond. He has never intended to take bribes, nor has he ever been accused of taking bribes, or committing any crime, before this sting operation. As a probationer, he would naturally be a model of adherence to law.

David W. Lewit, PhD

\*For introductory praise and Chuck Turner's 2007 address to the Society, see [http://www.smallisbeautiful.org/publications/Turner\\_07.html](http://www.smallisbeautiful.org/publications/Turner_07.html)

## Arrested at White House Fence

### Vets for Peace Condemn the War

by Bruce Gagnon, *space4peace*, 16 Dec 2010

**T**HERE WERE 131 ARRESTED AT THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY as hundreds turned out in the cold and snow for the Veterans for Peace action calling for an end to the occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We waited holding onto the fence for over an hour before the Park Police began arresting us. They loaded three city buses with the resisters and drove us about six miles to the headquarters of the DC Park Police where we were quickly processed and released. We were given two options: pay a \$100 fee and be done with it or instead plead not-guilty and be scheduled for a trial at some point down the road—likely in the spring. I chose the latter and all of us who plead not-guilty have to return to the Park Police HQ tomorrow to get our date to return for arraignment.

I then made my way back to the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House where I stayed last night and will stay again tonight. Also here are seven women from Northampton, Massachusetts (including 91 year old activist legend Frances Crowe) who all got arrested today as well.

In the beginning of the video you can see me in a blue jacket—I was one of the first to jump over the barrier that the police had put in place in order to try to keep us away from the fence. The police were actually quite good to us today, very gentle and friendly, with many of them smiling and putting our handcuffs on very loose. I was able to slip out of mine quite easily after I was put on the bus.

There was a lot of international and alternative media covering the action today but we saw no sign of any of the corporate network TV being there. No surprise really in America where information is tightly controlled.

The best speech of the day, at the rally that kicked off the event, was by award winning journalist Chris Hedges. He has often been criticized for his strong and direct analysis of the current situation in the U.S. (his book called "The Death of the Liberal Class" being one example) but today he challenged us using the word "hope" over and over again.



*Hedges and Jesse Perrier* He told us that civil resistance to the empire, at a time when reform is dead inside the halls of Washington DC, is the only way to create hope.

So essentially in answer to his critics Hedges is challenging them to either put up or shut up. You want hope he is saying, then get off your arse and go out and organize non-violent resistance to the war machine!

It was a special experience to be with so many veterans in this act of truth. Dan Ellsberg, who helped turn me into a peace activist with his release of the Pentagon Papers during the Vietnam War, was beaming like a lighthouse along the rocky Maine coastline as he hung onto the fence.

Our job now is to extend this energy into our local communities—places like Maine where the newly elected Republican controlled state legislature is going to cut \$800 million more out of the budget—most of it will come from social programs.

We've got to increase our efforts to connect the dots between war spending and social collapse. ■

**Highlights from Meeting notes, 15 December 2010**

*For details call office coordinator Barbara Clancy, 781-894-1179.*

Last year Jean Hill sponsored an ordinance which would **ban bottled water in Concord MA**. The bill passed town meeting, but later was ruled unenforceable. Now revised, Jean's son **John Hill** filled us in on some of the features of the rewritten article. The ban would be enforced by the Board of Health, with a fine for first offenses and a steeper fine for subsequent offenses. The town of Concord is concerned that bottled water companies might sue the town to overturn the law, and Jean has been talking to Food and Water Watch, which might help the town with pro bono legal assistance in the case of a challenge. Residents:

**Please attend open selectboard meeting on 3 Jan**, for the article's review. Info: Barbara Clancy at 781-894-1179.

**Dave Lewit** talked about the Chuck Turner trial and a push to get **letters supportive of Chuck and his work to the judge** who will be sentencing him on the 25th of January. See pages 13ff of this issue for resources.

January 21 is the 1st anniversary of the **Citizens United** decision. Several groups are planning events around the date to draw attention to **corporate personhood and the need for a constitutional amendment** abolishing it. The big east coast event will be a two to three day **action in DC the weekend of the January 21st**, consisting of rallies, speakers, and workshops, sponsored by the Backbone Campaign, Move to Amend, and the Coffee Party. Local groups are also encouraged to host events—these could be talks, organizational meetings to build support for passing local resolutions in favor of an anti-corporate personhood amendment, rallies, etc.

Dave suggested engaging students and constitutional law professors (this would also give us access to meeting space and/or an auditorium). **Michael Bleiweiss** volunteered to contact SoJust, a meetup group for humanists interested in social justice issues, and see if they would be interested in participating.

**Barbara** will contact the local Coffee Party, as well as **Charlie Derber**, who might be willing to speak. She will also touch base with **Move to Amend** about possibly having David Cobb or another steering committee person speak via computer or host a webinar. John Hill volunteered to help with organizing in Jan.

The group that hopefully comes together out of this event can also help with organizing around a **clean elections bill**, to be introduced by state senator **Jamie Eldridge**, who will also re-introduce a **revised state-level campaign finance disclosure bill**.

**Joe Moore**, the Chicago alderman who allocates city funds assigned to his ward through a citizen **participatory budgeting** process, can come to Boston to speak in April. Dave Lewit is willing to take a major role in planning a public event and/or smaller events with city councilors. Dave will write a proposal.

Dave gave a history of the **trade advisory commission** and explained how it would work and who would sit on it. **Dana Eidsness**, who's the executive director of the Forum on Trade and Democracy, has been organizing these kinds of commissions and has been in contact with Rep. **Byron Rushing** to help with legislative work to create the commission, and Dave thinks she should be able to help with getting board members seated and getting the board up and running. Dave also suggested forming a permanent citizens **committee to watchdog** the commission and to make recommendations as to who gets seated.

Barbara offered to look for an agriculture representative and to work with Dave on an alert to the national Alliance, Boston/Cambridge, and North Bridge lists asking for nominees for both the trade advisory board itself, and the watchdog group.

**Richard Krushnic**, a Latin America activist, has asked to be nominated for a **labor or environment seat** on the commission.

**Reminder:** Next meeting of local AfD planning group is **Tuesday, 4 Jan, 7:30pm**, Alliance office, 760 Main Street, **Waltham**.

**Tired of Pumping Uphill?**

The South End Technology Center @ Tent City has a project that can bring new jobs and a new company to the Massachusetts green economy. In collaboration with MIT, we have access to a **Green Wheel battery-powered bicycle technology** that can be used as the basis for a new employee-owned business. This would allow people to buy an electric battery-powered bike or have a battery installed on their personal bike.

The MIT Media Lab Design Studio has agreed to work with us on training of employees in the technology, as well as on its marketing and distribution. **We want to start with 25 unemployed and underemployed folks**. We hope to end up with 100 by the end of 18 months. Info: 617-578-0597



The "Green Wheel" electric battery-powered hub.

**JOIN THE BCA**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN BOSTON TO LOVE BCA**  
Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children — Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy. (Cut out or copy this form and send it to Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St. #2h, Boston, MA 02116.)

- BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE for DEMOCRACY PLEDGE
- \_\_\_ \$33/Year - "Count me in!"
- \_\_\_ \$66/Year - "Contributor" (We need to average this amount.)
- \_\_\_ \$111/Year - "Sustainer" (Helping us thrive.)
- \_\_\_ \$222/Year - "Community Steward"
- \_\_\_ \$500/Year - "Realize the vision"
- \_\_\_ What's fair for YOU? \_\$\_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street No./Box/Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

Town and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (for occasional contact): \_\_\_\_\_

**COLOPHON**

Dave Lewit, Editor 617-266-8687 dlewit@igc.org  
Visit the Alliance web site: [www.TheAllianceForDemocracy.org](http://www.TheAllianceForDemocracy.org)  
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