



FROM THE WILDERNESS

*A Nonpartisan, Non-sectarian, MAP from the Here That Is,
Into the Tomorrow of Our Own Making*

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Wheels Come Off U.S. War Plans for Iraq

Administration Making Riskier, More Volatile Moves to Begin “All or Nothing” Gamble for Iraqi Oilfields

- **Reported Coup Attempt in Qatar Threatens Base**
- **Worldwide Attacks on U.S. Interests**
- **Massive Domestic/International Protests**
- **U.N./Foreign Political Opposition Proves Effective**

Oct. 28, 2002, 18:30 PST (FTW) -- **A**ll over the world, both internationally and here at home, the wheels are coming off of the Bush Administration's plans for the invasion and occupation of Iraq. And Bush Administration responses to recent events appear to be moving a tense international situation into a new phase where chaotic, scattered and increasingly bloody violence may spread risk to civilian populations and the estimated 80,000 to 100,000 U.S. troops that have been forward-deployed in anticipation of the attacks for months. U.S. troop deployments in Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Djibouti, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan and a Kurdish controlled region of northern Iraq -- once offensive staging points or strategic postings -- are now becoming vulnerable defensive liabilities as world sentiment mounts against the U.S. invasion. Britain is also reported to have troop deployments in Oman on the Southeast tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

At stake is a nation which holds 11 percent of the world's oil and which is one of only two nations capable of quickly increasing production in time to avert a major economic collapse for the U.S.

A recently reported coup attempt in Qatar, perhaps the most vital country to a successful U.S. invasion plan, has raised serious questions about whether the administration can afford to wait much longer without risking the entire collapse of both its prestige and a plan which has recently been shown to be years in the making.

The assassination today of the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Amman, Jordan follows on the heels of recent attacks in Kuwait, the Philippines, South Korea, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bali, most of
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From The Wilderness

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COLUMN

The Unseen Conflict

War Plans, Backroom Deals, Leverage and Strategy -- Securing What’s Left of the Planet’s Oil Is and Has Always Been the Bottom Line

by Michael C. Ruppert

Oct. 18, 2002, 17:00 PDT (FTW) -- What started out as a blitzkrieg, the Bush agenda for the invasion of Iraq is now producing a world picture that can only be described with one word -- confusing. It is becoming apparent that outraged world opinion, guided by shrewd public relations efforts of foreign governments (including Iraq), has thrown a curve ball to the Bush military plan for a pre-election invasion and occupation .

But one curve ball is not a strikeout. The continuing military build up, more frequent air strikes, and the risky covert deployment of combat troops in supposedly neutral regions shows the degree of Washington’s commitment to war. These troops are going to be used.

Russia, France and China are only stalling for time, hoping to cut the best backroom deals possible. They’re perhaps also hoping that the American Empire will make a fatal mistake or a delay will break Bush’s political, popular, and economic support.

Wall Street’s 500-plus point rally on the two days of shameless congressional votes authorizing the use of force last week clearly signaled what world leaders have known for some time, and what the American public is seriously beginning to grasp -- the whole thing is about Iraqi oil.

The Associated Press ran a story yesterday indicating that the U.S. had been overwhelmed by global opposition to the invasion of a country second only to Saudi Arabia for its known oil reserves. Iraq is capable of quick production increases even if Saddam tries to destroy his oil fields, as former CIA director James Woolsey recently acknowledged. The story’s lead sentence read, “Facing strong opposition from dozens of nations, the United States has backed down from its demand that a new U.N. resolution must authorize military force if Baghdad fails to cooperate with weapons inspectors, diplomats told The Associated Press on Thursday.”

However, a Reuters story released hours later clearly indicated that the U.S. was playing hardball behind the scenes. “Iraq’s main opposition group says a post-Saddam government would review existing oilfield development deals with French and Russian companies and could favour U.S. firms instead.

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Colin Campbell on Oil

Perhaps the World's Foremost Expert on Oil and the Oil Business Confirms the Ever More Apparent Reality of the Post-9-11 World

by Michael C. Ruppert

Oct. 23, 2002, 17:30 PDT (FTW) -- Colin Campbell is both an academic and a businessman. Educated at Oxford and holding a Masters degree he has served as a geologist for Oxford University, Texaco, British Petroleum and Amoco (prior to the BP Amoco merger). He has served in executive positions with Shenandoah Oil, Amoco, Fina and was Chairman of the Nordic American Oil Company. He has served as a consultant on oil for the Bulgarian government as well as for Statoil, Mobil, Amerada, Total, Shell, Esso and for the firm Petroconsultants in Geneva. He is the Convener and Editor of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and a Trustee of the Oil Depletion Analysis Center in London.

As a member of The American Society of Petroleum Geologists, The Geological Society of London, and the Petroleum Institute of London he has delivered more than 35 lectures on oil depletion on three continents. His hosts have included universities, governments, and auto manufacturers. He has been published more than 150 times in the field including the 1997 book "The Coming Oil Crisis" (Multi-Science Publishing Co. & Petroconsultants).

Before beginning this interview it is necessary for the reader to understand several critical factors about oil and oil production. All of these factors affect how much you or industry pays for oil, how much is available, and what this life-essential commodity can do. Almost every current human endeavor from transportation, to manufacturing, to plastics, and especially food production is inextricably intertwined with oil and natural gas supplies. Commercial food production is oil powered. All pesticides are petroleum based, and all commercial fertilizers are ammonia based. Ammonia is produced from natural gas.

All oil production follows a bell curve, whether in an individual field or on the planet as a whole. On the upslope of the curve production costs are significantly lower than on the downslope when extra effort (expense) is required to extract oil from reservoirs that are emptying out. The best and easiest to produce oil is always extracted first to maximize profits. In 100 years mankind has used half of all the oil on the planet, oil that took billions of years to produce and is the result of climatic conditions that have existed at only one time in the earth's 4.5 billion-year history. Oil is a non-renewable resource.

The key event in the Petroleum Era is not when the oil runs out, but when oil production peaks, especially as demand and population are rising. World per capita oil production peaked in 1979 and has been in decline since. The peak in volume of total world oil production is upon us right now, even as the demand or better said -- the need -- for oil is increasing rapidly.

Several things are a given. First the total remaining conventional oil on the planet is estimated to be around 1 trillion barrels. Second, at present rates (not those of five or 10 years from now), the world is using close to 80 million barrels per day. At the current rate there would be only enough oil to sustain the planet for another 35 years under the best of scenarios. But the oil that remains is going to be increasingly expensive to produce and it will tend to be of a lesser quality, necessitating higher refining costs, than what has already been used. All of those costs will have to be passed on in the form of price hikes or -- in some cases -- spikes. Oil price spikes invariably lead to recession. The world's economy is based upon the sale of products that are either made from oil or which need hydrocarbon energy (including natural gas) to operate, either via internal combustion or via electricity.

Different regions of the world peak in oil production at different times. The U.S. peaked in the early-1970s. Europe, Russia and the North Sea have also peaked. However the OPEC nations of the Middle East peak last. Within a few years they -- or whoever controls them -- will be in effective control of the world oil economy, and, in essence, of human civilization as a whole. Two of the nations that will peak last are Saudi Arabia and Iraq, both of which will not peak until the middle of the next decade. Saudi Arabia contains 25 percent of all the oil on the planet. Iraq contains 11 percent of all the oil on the planet.

Science and the oil industry have confirmed that there is very little oil left to be found, certainly not enough to make a difference in this grim picture, a picture which goes a long way toward explaining the events of 9-11 and since.

FTW: What will be the likely effects of hitting the downslope of production?

Campbell: Big question. Simply stated: war, starvation, economic recession, possibly even the extinction of homo sapiens, insofar as the evolution of life on earth has always been accomplished by the extinction of over-adapted species (when their environmental niche changed for geologic or climatic reasons) leaving simpler forms to continue, and eventually giving rise new more adapted species. If Homo sapiens figures out how to move back to simplicity, he will be the first to do so.

FTW: How soon before we start to feel the effects of dwindling oil supplies?

Campbell: We already are -- in the form of the threatened U.S. invasion of the Middle East. The U.S. would be importing 90 percent of its oil by 2020 to hold even current demand and access to foreign oil has long been officially declared a vital national interest justifying military intervention. Probable actual physical shortage of all liquid hydrocarbons worldwide won't appear for about 20 years, especially if deepening recession holds down demand. But people are coming to appreciate that peak is imminent and what it means. Some places like the U.S. will face shortage sooner than others. The price is likely to soar as shortage looms, which itself may delay peak.

If the U.S. does invade there will likely be a repeat of Vietnam with many years of fruitless struggle in which the U.S. will be seen as a tyrant and an oppressor, killing all those Arabs. It can't hope to subjugate the place in perpetuity as the people don't surrender easily -- as the Palestinians have shown. So when the U.S. has finally gone, Russia and China will likely be welcomed there to produce whatever is left in the ruins.

FTW: Are the major oil companies currently downsizing? If so why?

Campbell: The majors are merging and downsizing and outsourcing and not investing in new refineries because they know full well that production is set to decline and that the exploration opportunities are getting less and less. Who would drill in 10,000 feet of water if there were anywhere else easier left? But the companies have to sing to the stock market, and merger hides the collapse of the weaker brethren. The staff is purged on merger and the combined budget ends up much less than the sum of the previous components. Besides, a lot of the executives and bankers make a lot of money from the merger.

FTW: How much oil is really left?

Campbell: You have to think of different categories of oil. Speaking of conventional, which is the easy cheap stuff that has supplied most uses to date and will dominate all supply far into the future, there is about 1 trillion barrels left. To this you have to add:

- A) Oil from coal, "shale," tar sands, heavy oil -- the resource is very large, but extraction rate is low and costly, sometimes giving negative net energy.
- B) Deepwater oil -- (from a depth of greater than 500 meters) about 60 billion barrels
- C) Polar -- about 30 billion, maybe.
- D) Natural gas liquids -- about 300 billion barrels

FTW: I take it that it is a given that in any particular oil field, or globally, costs of extraction increase as one progresses down the curve. What is the usual nature of these increased costs? Do they usually require additional investment of capital for infrastructure? Is there a chart which shows how costs increase as production declines?

Campbell: Yes of course costs go up and every situation is different. In Texas they can still profitably use wells producing 5 b/d. But offshore the threshold is higher. It is more complex because they have the sunk costs of the platform and also face substantial abandonment costs. Furthermore tax distorts the picture, with most operating cost being written off against taxable income either in the host or home country or both. But reserves are defined as recoverable under current or foreseen economics, so non-economic tail-end theoretical production is not included anyway. I think the key issue is not so much the economic cut off but when production of even highly profitable oil heads into decline. The tail end, which is susceptible to economic constraints, is small and not very relevant. Oil has a polarity being either there in profitable abundance or not there at all -- mainly because it is a liquid that flows to accumulate somewhere, unlike coal where extraction is a matter of concentration in seam thickness and access.

FTW: Is all oil in the ground recoverable? If not, why not?

Campbell: Only a fraction of the oil in the reservoir is recoverable because it does not sit in one big cavern down there but in the very small pore spaces between the grains of sand. These grains are coated in water and when it coalesces, it blocks the pore spaces preventing the further movement of oil. Also there are many nooks and crannies in the rocks that are not in communication. Obviously light oil is easier to extract than heavy. You can pump in steam etc. to try and move it, which is now routinely done where feasible.

It is said that recovery has increased from 30 percent to 40 percent thanks to technology and is set to rise from more technology in the future. But most of this improvement has nothing to do with technology. It is an artifact of reporting. The industry has always made conservative initial estimates (liking to build an inventory of unreported reserves to tide them over bad years and also reduce taxes) so reserves naturally grow over time.

Besides, extracting a bit more has a minimal impact on peak, which is the critical turning point, much more important than eventually running [completely] out, which we may never do as the tail end can drag on.

FTW: What would you say to the people who insist that oil is created from magma, or that there's really so much that we don't have to worry?

Campbell: Oil sometimes does occur in fractured or weathered crystalline rocks, which may have led people to accept this theory, but in all cases there is an easy explanation of lateral migration from normal sources. Isotopic evidence provides a clear link to the organic origins. No one in the industry gives the slightest credence to these theories: after drilling for 150 years they know a bit about it. Another misleading idea is about oilfields being refilled. Some are, but the oil simply is leaking in from a deeper accumulation.

FTW: Will Central Asian-Caspian pipelines have an impact on the crisis? How long will it take them to come on line?

Campbell: There was talk of the place holding over 200 Gb [billion barrels] (I think emanating from the USGS [U.S. Geological Survey]), but the results after 10 years of work have been disappointing. The West came in with high hopes. The Soviets found Tengiz onshore in 1979 with about 6 Gb of very deep, high sulfur oil in a reef. Chevron took over and is not producing it with difficulty. But offshore they found a huge prospect called Kashagan in a similar geological setting to Tengiz. If it had been full, it could have contained 200 Gb, but they have now drilled three deep wells at huge cost, finding that instead of being a single reservoir it, like Tengiz, is made up of reefs. Reserves are now quoted at between 9 Gb and 13 Gb. BP-Statoil has pulled out. Caspian production won't make any material difference to world supply. There is however a lot of gas in the vicinity.

To put it in perspective this would supply the world for a little over a year, but it is broadly the same as U.S. potential.

It is quite possible that the Afghan war was about securing a strong point in this area. But interest in it has now dwindled along with Caspian prospects as the U.S. turns to Iraq, which does have some oil. It is curious that these two U.S. military exercises had different pretexts:

A) Afghanistan was to find the supposed architect of Sept. 11 -- in which it failed; and

B) Iraq is about a sudden and unexplained fear that it might develop some objectionable weapons that might pose a threat to someone in the future. North Korea, which already has nuclear weapons and long range missiles -- and isn't exactly a friendly place -- is not deemed a threat. The cynic can be forgiven for thinking there is some other motive for these military moves: could it be oil?

FTW: When and how was it discovered that the Central Asian reserves were much smaller than anticipated?

Campbell: I guess you could say over the past 24 months as the different pieces in the jigsaw fell into place. There is no single event or date, but rather an evolving picture.

FTW: What about replacement sources and alternative energy? Tar sands?

Campbell: Of course there is a range of alternatives from wind, sun, tide, nuclear, etc. but today they contribute only a very small percentage, and do not come close to matching the oil of the past in terms of cost or convenience. No doubt production from tar sands and heavy oils can be stepped up in the future but it is painfully slow and expensive, carrying also environmental costs. It will help ameliorate the decline but has minimal impact on peak. The simple solution is to use less. We are extremely wasteful energy users. But it involves a fundamental change of attitude and the rejection of classical economic principles, which were built on endless growth in a world of limitless resources. Those days are over, exacerbated by the soaring population, itself now set to decline partly from energy shortage.

FTW: Has anyone determined what percentage of oil is used for military purposes worldwide? If so, how much?

Campbell: I don't know how much is used for military purposes, but it must be considerable. The U.S. has built a huge stockpile in the Middle East for the war.

FTW: Is China the end game of competition for oil?

Campbell: Yes, China is in desperate need of imports as its own supply depletes. It has been very thoroughly explored. It will be vying with the U.S. for access to foreign oil. It is already well established in Iraq.

That is about how I see it.

[A more detailed discussion of the world oil crisis, its connections to 9-11, and its implications for the future will be contained in **FTW** Editor Michael C. Ruppert's forthcoming book, "Across the Rubicon: 9-11 and the Last Empire," scheduled for release by Feral House in spring 2003.]

(continued from page 2, The Unseen Conflict)

“Sharif Ali Bin Al Hussein, spokesman for the main Iraqi opposition group the Iraqi National Congress (INC), told Reuters in an interview that his group would open the oil sector to all companies, including the U.S. majors.

“We would have to review all contracts which have been signed by this regime to make sure it is in the interest of the Iraqi people and not just for Saddam Hussein,” Hussein said.”

Nobody is asking who controls the INC. It’s a given.

The stakes are incredibly high for Russia. Major press organizations are now acknowledging what **FTW** has been saying for months. The Bush objective is to drive the price of oil down and simultaneously drive a stake through OPEC, forestalling a further and perhaps catastrophic crash in the U.S. economy. News analyses from Pravda to Fox News have foreseen that a successful U.S. invasion will result in crude oil prices of between \$12 and \$16 per barrel. Oil currently costs \$30 per barrel.

That would destroy Russia’s economic recovery as it sells hand over fist its own diminishing reserves -- oil that is more expensive to produce and of a lesser quality than Mideast crude, while prices are at \$30. Iraq owes Russia \$7 billion in debt from the Soviet era.

And on Aug. 19, Russia and Iraq signed a \$40 billion infrastructure development deal, which, as reported in the Tehran Times, saw a team of Russian engineers on their way to what may soon be targets of U.S. bombing raids.

Both Russia and France have development interests in major Iraqi oil fields. The Reuters story reported, “Although [France’s] TotalFinaElf has no contract, it has been earmarked by Saddam’s government to develop the Majnoon and Bin Umar fields with reserves totaling 26 billion barrels. [Russia’s] Lukoil has signed a contract for the 15 billion-barrel West Qurna field.”

The back room deals and implied threats are getting hot and heavy. On Sept. 5, the Asia Times reported that Russia was considering an expensive trans-Siberian pipeline to service China. This would compete with post-9-11 pipeline deals that have been negotiated to send Caspian and Central Asian oil through Afghanistan for the Chinese market under U.S. control.

As **FTW** noted last month, the World Bank has opened offices in Kabul to facilitate the financing of the U.S.-backed projects. Russia’s move may not be much of a threat because Russian oil is inferior to Caspian oil. Also, Russia has long passed its peak of production, which means that as time passes it will be increasingly expensive to produce. The message is clear, however, and a coalition of nations opposed to U.S. Imperial behavior could pull it off.

In the meantime Stratfor, a geopolitical analysis firm, reported that the U.S. is quietly offering a quid pro quo to Russia in the form of a trade off. If Russia will sanction the U.S. invasion, the U.S. will allow Russia a free hand in Georgia to deal with Chechen and Islamic rebels and presumably a piece of the profits from the new Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project that just broke ground. It seems like a very little quid for a lot of pro quo.

And in Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal made a second about face on Monday and once again categorically withdrew any Saudi support for the U.S. war. The timing was possibly influenced by a Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) report released today that was exceptionally critical of the Bush Administration for not cracking down on Saudi Arabia’s extensive financial ties to al Qaeda. The CFR investigation, directed by Maurice “Hank” Greenberg, CEO of American International Group (AIG), was chartered by the CFR to be an intelligence analysis of terrorist financing. Greenberg, a staunch Israeli supporter, is well qualified for this task. In 1996 Bill Clinton floated his name to replace John Deutch as the director of central intelligence.

Greenberg and AIG have been connected by **FTW** in previous investigations to suspected money laundering through the Arkansas Development Financial Authority and to the drug trade. AIG’s San Francisco legal office recently employed the wife of convicted Medellin Cartel co-founder Carlos Lehder.

The CFR criticism of Bush is significant for many reasons. First, it signals that the CFR is anxious to pursue an agenda that will likely result in the demise of the Saudi kingdom and the division of that country, with the U.S. simultaneously occupying both Iraq and the oil producing regions of Saudi Arabia. **FTW** predicted this scenario last month. The significance of a move that would give the U.S. military control of 36 percent of the world’s oil is not lost on the rest of the world and it suggests the presence of a much deeper reality.

So flimsy are the Bush Administration’s frequently changing justifications for war that the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Jay Bookman wrote a Sept. 29 editorial called “Pax Americana,” in which he openly called the U.S. an empire.

“The official story on Iraq has never made sense,” Bookman wrote. “The connection that the Bush administration has tried to draw between Iraq and al-Qaida has always seemed contrived and artificial. In fact, it was hard to believe that smart people in the Bush administration would start a major war based on such flimsy evidence.”

He continued to make the point that the administration had no Iraqi exit strategy because it didn’t intend to leave. Period. His premise seemed to be, ‘Hey, let’s stop kidding ourselves. We are an empire and we should go out and act like it.’

But perhaps the most critical element of the post-9-11 landscape, which is made clear by the CFR report, is a sense of urgency held by major financial players. As **FTW** has been saying for a year now, the only way both the urgency and the frenzy and the near desperation of these moves to carve up the world’s oil can be explained is with one simple concept: the world is starting to run out of oil.

Coming cataclysmic global oil and natural gas shortages are about to become very real, certainly within the next two years, to everyone on the planet. Those countries that have access to what oil remains will survive and dominate and those that do not will atrophy and disintegrate. This is a deadly game of musical chairs. It is the kind of unspoken crisis that would compel

the U.S. Congress to worship Caligula's horse, forget the Constitution and international law, and sell out completely.

Many have almost worshipped the progressive, seemingly unassailable credentials and leadership of Sen. John Kerry from Massachusetts, who is a possible 2004 Democratic nominee for the White House. However, many have charged him with being a privileged member of an elite ruling class. He was educated at Yale and belonged to the secretive Skull and Bones Society, of which both Bush presidents are members.

What one believes about Kerry's background is not significant. What is significant is that he voted for the use of force resolution last week without even a whimper. That vote was noticed and so were many others.

These are strange times.

Yesterday's announcement by the State Department that North Korea has a nuclear weapons program is troubling for two reasons. First, it raises all of the obvious questions about whether, if the U.S. isn't really concerned about oil, it will now drop all Iraqi plans and go invade Korea instead. They seem to be closer to building a bomb than Iraq is. But secondly and perhaps most importantly is the fact that, as reported by Stratfor, Pyongyang told the Bush Administration about the nuclear program two weeks ago. Why didn't we hear about it then?

Stratfor suggests that reason is a pending summit between the U.S. and China where one country might be traded for another. But instead it is likely the announcements earlier this year that the two Korea's might unite scares the White House infinitely more. What, then, would be the need for massive U.S. troop deployments in the former South Korea, right next to China? And isn't it also strange that a number of pipeline plans involving both U.S. and Russian companies that might go around China and make oil marketable to Japan and South Korea seem to pass through North Korea?

Go figure.

We are already being prepared for the Bush Administration's fallback position if it cannot get the war it wants, when it wants it. Yesterday, CIA director George Tenet sounded the clarion call in the last public hearing of the Joint House-Senate Intelligence Committee examining the 9-11 attacks. "Al Qaeda has reconstituted itself...It is capable of multi-theater operations." Tenet made no bones about the fact that another major attack -- one that will be very convenient for the White House -- is on the way.

The Oct. 12 bombing of a nightclub in Bali that killed many Australians has not seemed to impact widespread anti-war sentiment among the people down under. That might well be an omen for the outcome of the next terrorist attack in the U.S.

We now know that Bush et al knew enough about the last one to prevent it but did not. It has already been shown that CIA-linked members of the Pakistani intelligence service helped to fund it; that five of the hijackers received flight training at U.S. military installations; that no fighters were scrambled in time to do anything; and that President Bush lied when he said he had no idea that planes could be used as weapons. We know that it is a state secret as to whether the intelligence agencies told Bush what we now know that they knew.

I hope that this government fully understands how numerous, well-informed, now-seasoned and capable citizens will be watching an attack this time, and how quickly the worldwide networks that have formed in the last year will expose the first scintilla of untruth in the government's actions. I hope this government understands that the "sleeping giant" of the American people is beginning to stir and unite with peoples all around the world who are already awake.

But, as my dear friend Catherine Austin Fitts loves to say, "Those who win in a rigged game get stupid." And that is perhaps the most frightening thing of all.

Analysts: Stock Market Heading Toward Crash; Present Rally Called 'Comic Relief'

by Joe Taglieri, *FTW* Staff

Oct. 23, 2002, 16:30 PDT (FTW) -- The Dow Jones Industrial Average will plummet 50 percent within six months and several years from now will trade below 1,000, according to Wall Street research firm Elliot Wave.

The Dow closed today at 8,494.27, up more than 1,000 points since the end of September. But a CBS MarketWatch report by columnist Thom Calandra warns that Elliot Wave's forecast will prove correct, and the rally will be remembered as "comic relief on a battered fiscal stage."

"By far the greatest threat facing the United States in the next three to five years is a deflationary depression," the Georgia firm's senior analyst Steve Hochberg told Calandra. "The mere mention of this elicits a reaction of either total disbelief or complete derision from most mainstream analysts. We certainly understand that initial reaction, because a deflationary depression is so rare. But the evidence for just such an occurrence now is overwhelming, in our estimation."

Robert Prechter, Elliot Wave chief, pointed to several signals indicating the first phase of a deflationary depression has begun. He mentioned the rapid decline of the stock market this year, and a large drop in bank lending to corporations.

"The last major area will be a fall in real estate," Prechter told Calandra during a video interview. "And my guess is that the real estate frenzy we saw this summer was a replay of the stock frenzy we saw in the first quarter of 2000." He noted the real

estate market historically has peaked within two years of a stock market peak.

The recent rally also fits a historic trend. Since the end of World War II the market has spiked upward during election years, notably in the month prior to a November election day.

However, this is definitely a short term phenomenon subject to the overall economic context of a given point in time.

"The important point is that this is a bear-market rally and that the advance will be completely retraced," said Hochberg.

Stan Chadsey, a New York-based money manager, had a similar take on today's economic climate. "The reason the market has really had an upswing...is that primarily, it has been oversold," he told *FTW*. "Over the previous several weeks a lot of news came out that depressed investors."

Chadsey said that news included the uncertainty surrounding the push toward a U.S. invasion of Iraq, and corporate scandals centered around the breakdown in the financial reporting system. "All of those things made people very pessimistic and therefore there was a lot of selling," he said. "That got somewhat overdone, and I think we saw an adjustment."

Late last week hedge fund Beacon Hill announced massive losses. The company lost 54 percent of its investors' capital, totaling more than \$400 million in only a few months.

Powerhouse investment bank JP Morgan is also reported to be on shaky ground, adding to the atmosphere of uncertainty on Wall Street. The company last month reported a 91 percent drop in earnings and holds \$26 trillion of the \$110 derivatives market.

Standard & Poor's downgraded JP Morgan's credit rating and lists the company as a risk for more downgrades.

MSN Money Markets Editor Jim Jubak in an Oct. 9 column constructed a "disaster scenario" based on JP Morgan's recent downgrades and its massive holdings in derivatives.

"The downgrades are enough to encourage some of JP Morgan's customers to take their business elsewhere," wrote Jubak. "That -- plus the other big problems at the bank that are part of the general carnage among investment banks and its portfolio of bad telecommunications loans -- takes another bite out of earnings; which leads to a further credit rating downgrade; which leads to more earnings declines; which leads to more credit rating downgrades."

During this process, wrote Jubak, JP Morgan would discover it has more at risk in derivatives than cash. At this point "something bad happens," and "whether it's an outright failure or simply a near-failure that requires a Federal Reserve-led buyout, the event would certainly send shock waves through the financial markets," Jubak wrote.

He cautioned that the scenario outlined above would be too orderly and predictable to lead to an all-out market crash. Only an "irrational and unpredictable event" that calls into question the basis of the market's operation would have such a disastrous effect. [Ed. Note: *FTW* has been calling into question the basis of the market's operation since its inception in 1998.]

According to Jubak, a JP Morgan collapse is not as dangerous to the market's survival as mounting investor fears. This fear is what many analysts cite as the primary force driving the present stock market deflation, and as far as Elliot Wave sees things, a coming depression.

Democrats Twice As Likely to Die In Crashes

Was Paul Wellstone Murdered?

- History Suggests It
- Crash Inconsistencies Suggest It
- Many, Including Some Members of Congress, Believe It

by Michael C. Ruppert

Nov. 1, 2002, 15:00 PST (FTW) -- The air crash deaths of Sen. Paul Wellstone, his wife, daughter, three staff members and two pilots at approximately 10:25 a.m. on Oct. 25 in Eveleth, Minn. has given rise to the widespread belief -- shared by at least two members of the House of Representatives who spoke on condition of anonymity -- that the crash was a murder.

Just as important as the known details of the crash, in many cases contradicting mainstream press reports, is the fact that the belief is so widely held. It says something about America that cannot and should not be ignored.

A HISTORY TOO FULL OF COINCIDENCES

From a historical standpoint Democrats are twice as likely to die in air crashes as Republicans. Frequently, those who have died were known to have been either involved in the investigation of covert operations or to have taken highly controversial

positions in opposition to vested government interests.

Sam Smith of the Progressive Review (www.prorev.com) published an Oct. 25 story titled "Politicians Killed In Plane Crashes." For his source he used a wonderful database found at <http://politicalgraveyard.com>. Of 22 air crashes involving state and federal officials, including one ambassador (Arnold Raphael) and one cabinet official (Ron Brown), **FTW** found that 14 (64 percent) were members of the Democratic Party and 8 (36 percent) were members of the Republican Party. If the list was limited to only elected members of Congress, the total was eight Democrats and four Republicans.

Six of the fatalities occurred during election campaigns. Of those, four were Democrats and two were Republicans. Maybe Democrats can't afford the same type of planes that Republicans can. That certainly was not the case with Paul Wellstone who was killed in a Beechcraft King Air 100, twin turboprop. The King Air is a favorite of many politicians and is widely regarded as the "Cadillac" of twin-engined propeller driven airplanes. The state of Minnesota owns two of them. And as **FTW** reported in October 1999, a Beechcraft King Air owned by the state of Texas was a personal favorite of then-Gov. George W. Bush. That particular King Air had a sordid past however. It had previously been owned by the legendary drug smuggler Barry Seal. (The Associated Press picked up our story of the plane's history). To read our story on the Bush/Seal airplane connection, please visit: http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ciadrugs/W_plane.html.

Several names on the list are readily connected to intrigue.

Rep. Hale Boggs, D-La., was killed in 1972 and had been an outspoken member of the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of JFK. Various sources reported that he had openly expressed doubts about the commission's findings.

Rep. Jerry Litton, D-Mo., was killed while campaigning for a U.S. Senate seat from Missouri nearly two months before the 1976 election. This was exactly the same fate that was to befall Missouri Democratic Gov. Mel Carnahan 24 years later.

Rep. Larry McDonald, D-Ga. and the national chairman of the John Birch Society and creator of a private intelligence operation called Western Goals, was killed on KAL 007 after it had mysteriously veered off course on a flight to South Korea and ventured several hundred miles into Soviet territory. The plane was shot down by the Soviet air force. At the time, McDonald's Western Goals was being exposed in an LAPD intelligence scandal linked to massive domestic spying, the CIA and covert operatives like Gen. John Singlaub.

Rep. Larkin Smith, D-Miss. was killed in a private plane crash in 1989. At the time he had been working with veterans of U.S. Army Special Forces looking into the deaths of five Green Beret colonels, all of whom had been connected to a covert CIA drug operation known as Watchtower. [Details of Smith's death are included in the **FTW** package "The Tyree Papers."]

Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, a Democrat, was killed in a plane crash in Croatia on April 3, 1996. There are many unresolved mysteries with this incident, not the least of which is a color photograph of a post mortem Brown, which is frequently displayed by comedian/activist Dick Gregory, clearly showing a bullet wound in the back of his skull.

John Tower, a recently retired Republican senator from Texas known for his heavy drinking, was writing a book about the Iran-Contra affair when he was killed in a plane crash in 1991. Tower had reportedly been extremely unhappy when he had been denied an appointment as secretary of defense by President George Herbert Walker Bush. Tower had also been the chairman of a Reagan-appointed independent commission investigating Iran-Contra.

THE WELLSTONE CRASH

Perhaps no member of the Senate ranked higher on the Bush Administration's enemies list than Minnesota Democrat Paul Wellstone. And the enmity goes back years to when Bush's father was president. The Nov. 4 issue of Time recounts an encounter between Wellstone and the elder Bush after which he referred to Wellstone as "this chickenshit." And it is known that there has been at least one prior reported attempt on Wellstone's life.

In the months before his death Wellstone had voted against several key Bush agendas including Homeland Security, the Iraqi use of force resolution and many of Bush's judicial nominees. In a Senate controlled 50-49 by the Democrats, Wellstone was perhaps the single one-man obstacle to Bush's fervent and stated desire to secure passage of the Homeland Security measure prior to a U.S. invasion of Iraq.

When the Senate reconvenes after the Nov. 5 election the balance will be 49-49 with one independent, Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont. Jeffords has been caucusing with the Democrats. If there is a tie vote, Vice President Dick Cheney, as president of the Senate, will decide the outcome.

Of special interest now is the Missouri Senate race, where the victor will be seated immediately after the election. Jean Carnahan -- whose husband Mel was killed in a similar plane crash two years ago -- seeks to hold on to a seat she gained by filling in for her husband after his death just days before the 2000 election. Under Missouri law, because of the death, the seat is only legally occupied until a new election is held.

So what happened to Paul Wellstone?

A check of more than 50 of the world's leading news organizations three days after the Wellstone crash left one clear impression: the crash had been caused by "freezing rain and snow," limited visibility, and likely icing of the wings. One CNN report on Oct. 24 described the plane as flying in "snowy, frozen rain."

None of these conditions, which did not exist as just described, had anything to do with the crash.

Icing can be ruled out for a number of reasons. First, as reported in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on Oct. 29, "Another pilot who landed a slightly larger twin engine plane at the airport on Friday, a couple of hours before Wellstone's plane crashed, said in an interview that he experienced no significant problems.

"Veteran pilot Ray Juntunen said there was very light ice, 'but nothing to be alarmed about. It shouldn't have been a problem.'

"He said he ran into moderate icing conditions at 10,000 feet and requested permission to drop to 5,000. At that altitude, he had only light icing. When he dropped to 3,400 feet, to begin his approach, 'the ice slid off the windshield,' he said.

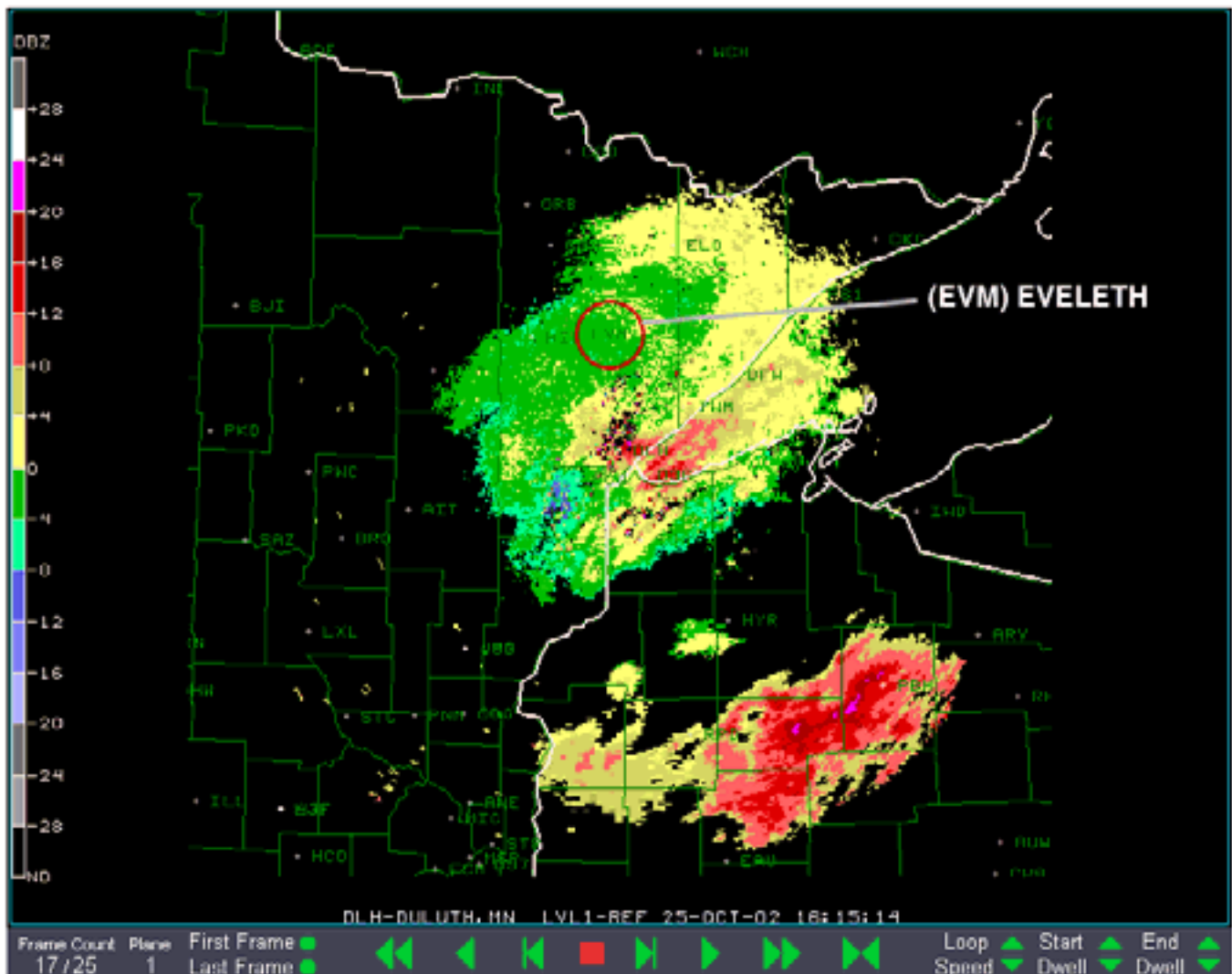
"According to the NTSB [National Transportation Safety Board], Wellstone's pilots received warnings of icing at 9,000 to 11,000 feet and were allowed to descend to 4,000 feet. Juntunen said he was able to see the airport from five miles out, and another pilot landed a half-hour later and told him the clouds were a little lower, but still not bad."

Various local press reports state that the weather conditions at the time of the crash were overcast, with visibility of three miles and a ceiling of 700 feet.

An argument that the weather worsened immediately after these two pilots landed and before Wellstone crashed is belied by the fact that a contemporaneous Doppler weather radar map of the region obtained by **FTW** from the National Weather Service shows no major storm activity and the same basic conditions as reported previously.

To further clarify this, **FTW** interviewed a retired commercial airline pilot who still maintains full current FAA certifications. The pilot, who asked not to be identified by name, provided **FTW** with copies of his pilot's license, his current FAA medical certificate, and his gold membership card in the Airline Pilot's Association.

Upon reviewing the radar map he stated that there was nothing inherently dangerous in what he saw depending upon what



(Note: Image shows time in GMT. Duluth, MN is GMT -6.)

additional conditions might be prevalent at the time like ceiling and visibility. When advised that the reported visibility was three miles with a ceiling of 700 feet he stated, "That shouldn't be any problem, especially if you have planes taking off right before and even at the time of the crash."

In various press reports the King Air was described as an excellently powered aircraft, and that de-icing equipment was standard.

And the Pioneer Press reported on Oct. 26 that Gary Ulman, the assistant manager of the Eveleth-Virginia Municipal Airport, "jumped into his own private plane and took off in search of the missing aircraft" after noting the Wellstone plane's delayed arrival. Therefore, the icing conditions could not have been a contributing factor in the crash, or else the airport manager would not have taken off.

What has been disclosed by various local press sources, including stories in the Oct. 28 and 29 Pioneer Press, is the following:

- The plane, although it was required to have only one, had two fully licensed commercial pilots. The lead pilot had 5,200 hours of flying time and the highest possible certification. No physical problems had been reported with either pilot;
- The plane was not required to and did not have either a flight data recorder or a cockpit voice recorder;
- Wellstone's plane had notified the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that it was on approach to the airport and had activated the runway lights;
- The time from the last radio contact with the FAA when everything was normal until the crash was approximately 60 seconds;
- The pilots -- as is standard procedure for unmanned airports -- had sent a radio signal from their airplane to equipment at the airport which turned on the runway lights and activated a directional beacon that would align the plane with the runway. [Note: The Eveleth airport was not equipped with a more sophisticated remotely activated instrument landing system that would have provided feedback to the pilots on speed, rate of descent and above ground altitude];
- The FAA found that "an airport landing beacon, owned and maintained by the state...[was]...out of tolerance Saturday and was retesting Sunday." This was later confirmed by the acting chairwoman of the NTSB, Carol Carmody; [Note: According to the NTSB web site Carmody formerly worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.]
- The runway selected ran directly east to west and that Wellstone's plane was on final approach from the east;
- According to FAA records as reported Oct. 29 in the WWorkers Daily, at 10:19 a.m. at an altitude of 3,500 feet the plane began to drift away from the runway toward the south;
- According to the same source, the plane was last sighted at 10:21 a.m. flying at 1,800 feet;
- Wellstone's plane was found approximately two miles south of the eastern half of the runway, facing south. [Early press reports placed the crash site at between two and seven miles east of the runway. Subsequent television reports, accompanied by maps, placed the crash site at this location. **FTW** is continuing to investigate the exact location of the crash site.];
- The propellers were turning at the time of the crash;
- The angle of impact was 30 degrees (extremely steep), indicating the plane was out of control;
- The wing flaps, which should have been fully extended for landing were only extended to 15 degrees (a setting used for initial approach descent)
- The plane had been traveling at approximately 85 knots.

One quote from the Pioneer Press is interesting. "Radar tapes indicate the plane had descended to about 400 feet and was traveling at only 85 knots near the end of its flight. It then turned south, dove at an unusually steep angle and crashed."

Aside from the aircraft's sudden change in direction and the setting of the flaps, the airspeed is perhaps the most intriguing known element in the crash. A number of factors, if the data which had been released by the NTSB is to be believed, indicate that the Wellstone plane stalled just before crashing. A stall usually occurs when an aircraft's nose is raised too steeply for the throttle setting of the engine.

One account of a King Air's stall characteristics can be found at http://www.ainonline.com/Features/Pilotreports2000/AIN_pr_kingair.html.

This text described a situation where the stall warning horn (an alert that warns if airspeed is too slow) was activated under landing conditions (gear down with full flaps) at 85 knots. This writer has been in several small aircraft and experienced the noise. It is intentionally loud, distracting and unmistakable. The account stated that the actual stall did not occur until the aircraft being tested reached 69 knots. That's 16 knots slower than what was reported.

Other factors like the plane's total weight and center of gravity might have changed these outcomes. The FAA lists the standard approach speed for a King Air B 100 (the type carrying Wellstone) as 111 knots. Therefore the crash speed was significantly below the recommended approach speed which is generally estimated at 1.3 times the manufacturer's listed stall speed.

The fact that the plane's flaps were extended only 15 degrees would have raised the stall speed.

SPECULATION

This writer has spoken to several pilots who have flown high-risk covert missions for the CIA or the Department of Defense. One of them related to me once that it would be easy to cause an aircraft to fly right into the ground by recalibrating the airport's IFR approach equipment and resetting the altitude. In fact, such a scenario was used in the movie Die Hard II.

But the Eveleth airport was equipped with only a directional beacon to line the plane up with the runway. It has already

been established that this equipment was not “properly calibrated” and yet there are no reports of any deviations by either of the two pilots who landed safely shortly before the crash. That might have been what caused Wellstone’s plane to veer off to the south.

Several press reports have described small hills around the airport.

Given that the ceiling was only about 700 feet and the plane’s rate of descent would have been between 300 and 500 feet per minute, it is possible that the plane emerged from the clouds close to the ground and the pilots, seeing that they were off course, initiated a sharp left turn toward the south to initiate a go-around. They would not have turned right because that would have taken them at an angle over the center of the runway, something pilots are trained not to do to avoid collisions.

From this point, answers are hard to come by. A physical examination of the crash site might reveal a large hill that would have been immediately in front of the aircraft when it emerged from the clouds. **FTW** has not found any press reports that address this point.

An imminent head-on crash into a hillside would have prompted a “Hail Mary” yanking back of the control yoke and an instant move to full throttle. **FTW** has seen no press reports indicating the throttle settings of Wellstone’s plane -- only statements that the propellers were turning.

Mechanical sabotage of flight controls that would only be triggered under certain conditions or an incapacitating gas might also offer explanations as to why a stall warning horn was not responded to. King Airs have pressurized cabins.

There are many questions, but the circumstances of the crash, as known thus far, do not lead to conclusions of pilot error, mechanical failure or bad weather. What does that leave? It leaves us with three dead Democratic senatorial candidates (Litton - 1976, Carnahan - 2000, and Wellstone - 2002) who all died in small private airplanes just days before critical elections.

ARGUING WITH BLITZER OVER THE DEATH OF A KNOWN TARGET

Many experienced internet researchers, especially post-9-11, understand the importance of immediately securing local press reports and eyewitness statements to pivotal events in the moments after they occur. Several keen observers were able to transcribe the following live dialogue between an on-the-scene reporter and CNN’s Wolf Blitzer.

Reporter: There is no evidence that weather had anything to do with the crash.

Blitzer: But the plane was flying into some sort of ice storm, was it not?

Reporter: There is no evidence that the weather had anything to do with the crash.

According to these observers CNN immediately cut away from the on-scene reporter who was not heard from again. Other watchers noted a crawl along the bottom of the screen which, they said, ran only one time, “Weather not a factor in crash.”

Yet the stories currently posted on the CNN site still suggest that the crash was caused by bad weather and icing.

Paul Wellstone had been a target of an assassin once before. He was strident opponent of Plan Colombia, a U.S. military aid package which involves massive aerial spraying of lands believed to be growing cocaine and the use of private military contractors employed by companies like DynCorp. Wellstone had traveled to Colombia to evaluate the program.

Shortly after his arrival on Dec. 1, 2000, as reported by a number of news sources including the AP, a bomb was found along his route from the airport. Although the State Department later downplayed the incident, the general opinion was, and remains, that as an outspoken critic of CIA and covert operations, Wellstone had indeed been a target.

Those suspicions gained credibility the next day when Wellstone and his staff were sprayed with glyphosate, a chemical that has been routinely documented as the cause of a variety of illnesses in the local population. It has left certain regions of Colombia, as one native put it, “Without butterflies or birds.”

One anonymous author, using the pen name Voxfux, actually predicted Wellstone’s assassination in spring 2001. The story can be read at www.voxnyc.com. In that missive the author predicted, “If the death occurs just prior to the midterm senatorial elections, expect it to be in a state with a close race. Expect a ‘Mel Carnahan’ style hit.”

INSIDE SOURCES

FTW was able to receive comments on the crash from two Democratic members of the House of Representatives. Both, who spoke on condition of anonymity, stated that they believed that Wellstone had been murdered.

One said, “I don’t think there’s anyone on the Hill who doesn’t suspect it. It’s too convenient, too coincidental, too damned obvious. My guess is that some of the less courageous members of the party are thinking about becoming Republicans right now.”

It is a rare occurrence when this writer refers to a quote from an unnamed CIA source. I have demonstrated in at least four interviews with the staffs of both the Senate and House Intelligence committees established that I know sources who have worked for the CIA in some very nasty covert operations.

The day after the crash I received a message from a former CIA operative who has proven extremely reliable in the past and who is personally familiar with these kinds of assassinations. The message read, “As I said earlier, having played ball (and still playing in some respects) with this current crop of reinvigorated old white men, these clowns are nobody to screw around with. There will be a few more strategic accidents. You can be certain of that.”

Quo Vadis?

Lawsuit Challenges McKinney Primary Defeat

by Joe Taglieri, *FTW* Staff

Nov. 1, 2002, 17:30 PST (FTW) -- Voters in Georgia's 4th Congressional District filed a federal lawsuit Oct. 4 that disputes Rep. Cynthia McKinney's defeat to Denise Majette in the Aug. 20 Democratic primary.

The suit's court filing contends the central issue in the case is that Republicans carried out an organized effort which resulted in "malicious crossover voting," where a disproportionate amount of Republicans from DeKalb and south Gwinnett counties voted in the Democratic primary.

Georgia uses an "open" or "blanket" primary system, where voters have a choice as to which party's race they participate in.

However, the plaintiffs' lead counsel J.M. Raffauf said, "The issue here is whether there was what we call a malicious crossover. That is, put the blanket open primary aside, can one party interfere in another party's primary? This is the first time that I've ever known there to be a planned crossover, or a crossover that was promoted by people of the opposing party."

Raffauf's complaint, filed in U.S. District Court in Atlanta, cites the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution, and a recent Supreme Court decision as the legal basis for the suit.

In 2000, the Supreme Court with a 7-2 decision struck down a California proposition that established an open primary system. The court held the state's open primary for that election year was illegal and unconstitutional, "permitting nonparty members to hijack the party."

Defendants named in the suit are the Georgia and DeKalb Republican parties, the Georgia Democratic Party, Majette, Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox, and the DeKalb and Gwinnett election supervisors.

Republican strategist Mark Davis candidly admits to organizing a crossover effort for the 4th District race. But according to Georgia law, he said, there was nothing illegal about it.

"Number one, it's an open primary state, and there's absolutely nothing illegal or immoral about choosing which primary you want to cast your vote in," said Davis. "What's good for the goose is good for the gander, you really can't have it both ways."

Davis claimed Majette's victory over five term incumbent McKinney was indeed largely the result of his and other Republicans' organized effort promoting the crossover vote. According to Davis' analysis of the race, nearly 24,000 crossover votes were cast for Majette, who topped McKinney by 19,554 votes overall.

McKinney won 61 percent of Democratic votes totaling 49,058. More than 50 percent of Majette's 68,612-vote total came from Republicans or registered Democrats who tend to vote Republican.

Another key component to the lawsuit is the allegation that election results indicate a "racially polarized bloc vote." The court filing states, "The result was that the white bloc vote, of both Republicans and Democrats, in the Democratic primary greatly diluted the black Democratic vote, rendering it impotent."

Theresa Roseboro, an attorney representing Majette, said Georgia's election system has been approved by the Justice Department, so "the system that Georgia has of inviting people to come to the polls and select the ballot of the party that they would like to vote in for purposes of that election cycle absolutely does not violate the Voting Rights Act."

Responding to the suit's charge of racial polarization, Davis said, "How can you claim that we were behaving like racists when we crossed over to vote for another black female?" According to Davis, voters chose between Majette, "a moderate who was educated at Duke and at Yale," and McKinney, "a whacko liberal who was educated at UC Berkeley."

But Linda Dubose, one of five black voters from the 4th District listed as a plaintiff in the suit, said McKinney's defeat had the effect of disenfranchising blacks. "The result of the primary is that our candidate will not be on the ballot," she said. "And there's something wrong with that because we, the Democratic voters of the 4th Congressional District, chose Cynthia McKinney, and yet she's not going to be on the ballot."

Dale Ranta, the DeKalb GOP chairman, echoed Davis' "what's good for the goose" comment, saying Democrats have crossed over into Republican primaries for decades. He also said the DeKalb and Georgia Republican parties never officially promoted crossover for the 4th District race.

"Our message had been throughout the time before the primary for all Republicans to vote in the Republican primary," said Ranta, "We've been on television, on radio, and in print form saying exactly that same message. Maybe if Ms. McKinney spent more time keeping all of her constituents happy, she wouldn't have had that problem," said Ranta.

In addition to Republican culpability in the alleged sabotage of the Democratic primary, Dubose also pointed a finger at the Georgia Democratic Party. "The Democratic Party didn't decide to step up to the plate and stand for itself, to stand for the fact that the party has been violated," she said. "We're not hearing any outcry from anybody except black voters from the 4th District as individuals. I don't know why there isn't a greater concern all the way up through the entire party because if the Republicans can do it once, they can do it again."

"We don't need to think that the Republicans like us. They haven't in the past, and they don't now. That's not what happened," Dubose continued. "They were shrewd. And there's something wrong with the system that allows their shrewdness

to cost me my vote.”

Raffauf surmised the suit will be resolved sometime next year, and depositions will likely begin in December.

The suit seeks permanent injunctions against the Aug. 20 election and its certification by Georgia’s secretary of state. It also requests that the crossover votes be declared “unconstitutional and invalid and McKinney declared the winner.”

The court filing also lists a request “to enjoin the Nov. 5 general election until this case is resolved,” but Raffauf said he will not attempt to prevent this election from taking place.

“We want a primary vote where the Democrats of the 4th District pick their candidate,” said Raffauf. “By legislation, by court order, by a new election, however we need to reach that end, that’s what we want.”

SUBSCRIBER NEWS

Is *FTW* Being Blocked By Your Internet Service Provider (ISP)?

Over the past month we have received hundreds of e-mails and phone calls from people who cannot get *FTW*'s e-mails. Whether it's for password retrieval, order confirmation, or other types of communications, certain ISPs have filtered *FTW* out of the online fray.

It is important to note that people who use America Online or access the Internet through a corporate firewall have experienced problems getting to our website or receiving our e-mails.

Our tech department says that the only explanation for this is: filtering. Because of the dramatic mis-use of email advertising (SPAM) there are ways an ISP can block a known SPAMer. However, these tools can also be used to filter out legitimate e-mail and websites, which may be the case with our site's recent problems.

If you have trouble getting our site online or through e-mail, contact your ISP or corporate IS department and tell them *FTW* is definitely not SPAM! We only send emails to our subscribers.

Our websites are: www.copvcia.com www.fromthewilderness.com

***FTW* Graffiti Draws Legal Ire**

FTW supporters in San Francisco have taken to scrawling "copvcia.com" on advertising sites owned by National Promotions & Advertising, Inc. (NPA). Saul C. Janson, an attorney for the firm, has sent letters alerting us to the situation and asking that we publish a public notice discouraging our readers from defacing NPA's property.

From The Wilderness does not condone or encourage this type of activity.

So, if you feel the need to tag copvcia, please do so in a legal manner, and *not* on billboards or private property.

***FTW*'s Town Action Groups**
Start a TAG in YOUR Community...and Make A Difference!



Log on to: www.fromthewilderness.com and click on the Town Action Group logo.

(continued from page 1, Wheels Come Off U.S. War Plans for Iraq)

which have been reportedly linked to terrorist organizations sympathetic with Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network. An interpretation not offered by the administration, but which has been voiced by some Islamic foreign nationals contacted by **FTW**, is that the flimsy justification for invasion offered by the U.S., along with what is perceived as successful international opposition leading to vacillation by the administration, have encouraged attacks from some quarters that have had minimal or no connections to Al Qaeda.

These events are reminiscent of a warning issued by Pentagon hawk Richard Perle, who stated in an Aug. 18 Washington Post story, "Timing is everything when you do this. If you launched [a public campaign] too far in advance and nothing followed, that would raise questions and fuel a debate that would not be helpful to the administration...If you join the debate now, but don't act for months, you pay a worse price." Perle's prediction is coming true just two months after he made it.

In spite of routine denials USAID has regularly been linked to the Central Intelligence Agency and has reportedly served as a cover for CIA operations. Jordan remains a particularly sensitive country for the U.S. because of its geographic position between Israel and Iraq, its perceived status as a U.S. ally, and the fact that as many as 6,000 U.S. troops have been positioned in Jordan since late-August in anticipation of the U.S. invasion. **FTW** reported on Aug. 21 that the total number of U.S. troops, as reported by the Jordanian news agency Petra and other Mideast news sources, had topped 6,000 and included light armor, medical detachments and Special Forces troops. An on-the-record eyewitness statement confirmed visual sightings of U.S. troops in the country.

[For additional coverage on troop deployments and war plans please visit: http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/082102_deployment.html.]

Jordan, like many other countries in the region, has been sending ambiguous signals about the role it will or will not play in the U.S. invasion. These mixed and often changing positions, shifting like the sands of the desert, clearly reflect the tectonic pressures that are mounting in the region each day that an invasion is not executed. A Reuters story on Aug. 12 indicated that Jordan was being considered as a launch point for the Iraqi invasion at a time when the Jordanian military was engaging in joint exercises with U.S. troops. However, a July 10 Associated Press story indicated that Jordan would not participate in any U.S.-led invasion.

Amid repeated stories that the U.S. intends to "Balkanize" the region, splitting Iraq and possibly Saudi Arabia into several kingdoms divided between Hashemite, Sunni Arab, Kurdish and Shiite ethnic groups, tensions between Muslim countries in the region have been steadily mounting. [For more information: http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/082102_saudi_arabia_1.html].

On Oct. 22 Reuters reported that a Jordanian journalist had been sentenced to death in Qatar for allegedly spying for Jordan and reporting on U.S. troop deployments in that country. Qatar is home to the multi-billion-dollar, state-of-the-art Al Udeid air base. According to numerous press reports and published photographs, Qatar is virtually sinking under the weight of U.S. military equipment, including M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks, which have been positioned there for the Iraqi invasion. That move came after Jordan recalled its ambassador in August from Doha, the Qatari capital, and closed the Amman offices of Al Jazeera, the feisty Arab news organization based in Qatar.

A COUP ATTEMPT IN QATAR?

On Oct. 16 the Arabic News issued a story stating that reports from Cairo and several Persian Gulf states had resulted in the Oct. 12 arrest of "scores of Qatari army officers" after an attempted coup by pro-Taliban elements against Qatari leader Sheikh Hamad bin Khaleifah al-Thani. The coup was reportedly suppressed with the assistance of "American personnel in civilian costumes." An Oct. 24 New York Times story clearly stated the Qatari position. It carried the headline: "A Tiny Gulf Kingdom Bets Its Stability on Support for U.S." Stories about the massive Al-Udeid air base and its intended use as the headquarters of the U.S. Central Command for the Iraqi invasion have been circulating for months. On Sept. 12, the Washington Post's Vernon Loeb reported that Central Command had announced a plan to send 600 personnel in November from Florida to Qatar for a readiness test of the headquarters facility.

A Reuters story dated just 10 days after the reported coup attempt stated that the planned exercise had been moved from November to an unspecified date in December. While making no mention of the coup attempt the story did state that, "The Gulf region is bristling with U.S. troops and weaponry..."

Upon learning of the coup attempt, **FTW** made an immediate request to the White House asking for comment. In a rare return call, which took place within two hours, a spokesperson for the National Security Council stated, "We [the NSC] are not even aware of a coup attempt. No comment." A spokesman for the Department of Defense said, "We don't know anything about any coup attempt, and U.S. forces were not involved."

The subscription intelligence service Stratfor stated in an Oct. 24 story that it received confirmation of the coup attempt from Qatari and Russian intelligence sources. It also added some twists which indicate the quicksand-like nature of Middle Eastern alliances. Translating from the Egyptian daily al-Joumhoreyah, Stratfor reported that members of the Qatari ruling family had been taken into custody and that that they had recently expressed opposition to the regime's pro-U.S. policy. As it turns out Sheikh al-Thani took power in a bloodless coup in 1995 from his father who remains a good friend of Saudi Arabian elements that oppose the invasion of Iraq.

Tensions between the two countries reached a high point in September when Riyadh recalled its ambassador from Doha. Saudi Arabia remains the ultimate ambiguity in its support for the U.S. invasion on a measure equal with glaring recent contradictions in stated U.S. support for the kingdom which contains 25 percent of all the oil on the planet. [For additional information: http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/082102_saudi_arabia_1.html].

Withdrawal of support for the U.S. invasion in Qatar would most likely make the invasion of Iraq an impossibility. The support offered by other Middle Eastern nations, already under intense pressure from their populations, would likely evaporate

completely. Even Turkey, a staunch NATO ally has been strongly signaling its reservations in recent weeks, and it is not capable of single-handedly hosting the invasion.

DIPLOMATIC POWER PLAYS DEEPEN CRISIS

Moves by Russia, France and China to delay a U.N. vote favorable to the U.S. plan have been extremely successful on the world stage. Prolonged negotiations and a delayed vote in the U.N. Security Council on a resolution needed by the Bush Administration to keep its fragile alliance together are producing responses from the administration that sound more like whining than leadership. Over the weekend, Chinese Premier Jiang Zemin arrived late -- a major diplomatic snub -- for a summit at President George W. Bush's Crawford, Texas ranch and failed to give him the endorsement for action against Iraq that Bush so desperately needs. This move apparently gave strength to continuing opposition from France and Russia in the U.N. Security Council.

And the backroom arm-twisting, carrot-offering, wheeling and dealing of the administration to divide the spoils of an Iraqi conquest has also failed to produce the desired outcome: a global blessing for the Empire to do what it wants to do. [For additional information, please visit: http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/101802_the_unseen.html.]

American major media, trying desperately to put a positive spin on what is increasingly a major diplomatic defeat, continue to report that the U.N. is making progress in getting what it wants. But each minute of delay weakens the U.S. position economically, politically and militarily. Today the president was seen almost whining that the U.S. would act without U.N. approval if necessary even as CNN wrote, "The U.S. game plan on Iraq was encountering significant Security Council resistance." Bush's position today is on its face no different from what he said in his speech to the U.N. Sept. 12, yet no action has been taken.

AT HOME AND ABROAD

In the meantime major demonstrations took place on Oct. 26 all over the United States and around the world protesting the U.S. invasion of Iraq. In Washington, D.C. a crowd estimated by police at in excess of 100,000 loudly protested the war on which the administration is betting all of its political chips. In San Francisco an estimated 75,000 people turned out while other large demonstrations were reported in cities all over the country. Following on the heels of previous anti-war crowds of 400,000 in London and more than 1 million in Italy, protestors filled the streets in Berlin, Frankfurt and Amsterdam to establish that the U.S. and the world are anything but united over this war.

This is the first time in modern American history that there has been a vocal anti-war movement before the war even started.

In Brazil yesterday, former Marxist and Workers' Party candidate Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva scored a landslide victory with 61 percent of the vote, becoming president of the largest democracy in South America. Da Silva's victory, another political slap in the face to the Bush Administration, follows on the heels of a second recent, failed coup attempt against Venezuela's independent President Hugo Chavez, an often vocal critic of many U.S. policies in South America.

It is clear that global and domestic opposition to the invasion of Iraq is growing. But it is not a given that these developments have rendered the administration impotent or weakened its resolve. As **FTW** has been saying consistently since the administration took office -- and especially since 9-11 -- the degree of criminal, unconstitutional and aggressive behavior by the administration only serves to guarantee that its future moves will only be more illegal, more dangerous and more costly of human lives.

Some activists and analysts have openly speculated that the recent tragic death of Sen. Paul Wellstone, perhaps the administration's most vocal and committed critic in the Senate, was a murder perpetrated by a ruthless regime capable of stealing a presidential election and complicit in allowing the attacks of 9-11 to take place in order to provide it with a pretext for what is happening now. Last week this writer had conversations with two Democratic Party members of the House of Representatives and both unhesitatingly expressed their belief that Wellstone was probably murdered.

Recently an anti-war activist was asked why no one was making a point of the now documented and glaring inconsistencies in the Bush Administration's actions, statements and conduct since the attacks of 9-11. "It's irrelevant," the activist said. An angry response came from the internet, "If you had paid attention to all the warnings and evidence of administration complicity in 9-11 we would not be looking at the coming murder of tens of thousands of people in the Middle East."

The point, well taken, was that the people in control of the U.S. government are capable of anything. And while these recent developments show that the administration is not omnipotent, it does not make it any less dangerous, any less capable of horrific actions, either overseas or right here at home. And the rest of the world, following the U.S. example, is showing increasing signs of instability that could unleash a variety of conflicts, the outcomes of which cannot be predicted.