

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr

City of Boobs



Washington, alas, can only focus on one story at a time. And so it focuses on boobs: Monica, her pompous lawyer William Ginsburg, and Sidney Blumenthal and

his scourge of private investigators. The investigators are “digging up dirt” on the “Clintons’ enemies.” Digging up dirt? I thought that was what the “Clintons’ enemies” did.

Well, so much for the boobs. The prospect of a president involved in perjury, subornation of perjury, offering jobs for sex or silence, and widespread obstruction of justice is a major news story. And the press is showing due diligence. Yet there are other aspects of the Clinton scandals and the Independent Counsel’s investigations that ought to be borne in mind. As we reported a few months ago, Arkansas’ former Governor Jim Guy Tucker, himself a member of the Arkansas political machine, has been cooperating with the Independent Counsel. In February he copped a plea and was reportedly given an eighteen-month suspended sentence. Apparently he is a very cooperative witness, as is another convicted member of the Arkansas machine whose cooperation I recently reported on, former Arkansas pol David Hale. What might this mean?

Well, Hale has been Bill Clinton’s chief accuser in arranging an illegal \$300,000 loan to a shell company owned by Susan McDougal. Tucker was Hale’s lawyer—yes, that is right, Hale’s lawyer. Tucker has been privy to much of the

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financial high jinks of the Arkansas machine lo these many years. He is now, I believe, singing about the funny business involved in at least two famed Arkansas projects: Flowerwood Farms and Castle Grande. They involved Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, for one, and for another Seth Ward, Webb Hubbell’s father-in-law. What if Hillary guaranteed an illegal loan (my sources say from Stephens Security Bank in Stephens, Arkansas)? The regulators were moving in on the Stephens Security Bank. The president of the bank imposed on James McDougal to retire the loan. In a panic the Clintons leaned on Hale for an illegal loan to help pay off the Stephens Security Bank loan. Remember that \$300,000 loan? What if the Clintons have been lying about this under oath for years and as recently as just months ago? It looks like more charges of obstruction of justice to me—actually conspiracy to obstruct justice, perjury, bank fraud, deceiving federal officials, and a few more charges best left to a seasoned team of prosecutors.

I have been writing about such matters for several years. Now we have Tucker coming forward. In him the Independent Counsel has another key witness, maybe *the* key witness. Could this dramatic turn of events, which has been in the works for several weeks, explain the fury of the attacks on the Independent Counsel and on everyone connected with the story—reporters, prosecutors, innocent bystanders possessed of an unhappy observation on the Clintons and their boobs? For my reports on Hale I have been accused of felonies by the learned Senator Robert (Teets) Torricelli. He wants the Justice Department to investigate *The American Spectator*, its lawyer Ted Olson, Richard Mellon Scaife, perhaps even the owner of that white Fiat that sped away from Princess Di’s accident scene. The learned Senator Torri-

celli, by the way, failed to point out that he had been exposed in *The American Spectator*’s January issue for having links to the radical Iranian Mujahedin-e Khalq, whose money he has accepted and whose positions he has defended in Congress.

Ever the loyal Clinton servitor, Senator Torricelli shares Hillary and Sidney’s view of a “vast right-wing conspiracy” closing in on the present corrupt administration. Is it possible the Public Broadcasting Service is in on the conspiracy? In late February PBS broadcast a two-part documentary on the life of President Ronald Reagan. It gave him credit for ending the Cold War without a shot. It even gave him credit for the country’s economic recovery. It was tasteful, balanced, and left those of us who admired him through all the years of his momentous presidency confirmed in the notion that we had seen a great man in action. It even quoted his old adversary and even-

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25 YEARS AGO IN
The American Spectator

When the uninformed talk of “conservatism,” they tend to list it along with liberalism, radicalism, Communism, Fascism, and other isms, as if it too were an ideology. Peter Witonski observed that Frank Meyer “recognized that American conservatism was not ideological in character, and it is this discovery that caused so much trouble among the ideologized intellectuals of our day....” Thus, to some of the over-ideologized, Frank stood for nothing that they could appreciate.... He knew no reason why anyone with eyes to see could not discern that American conservatism was both its traditional evolution and its enduring emphasis on liberty. Since by definition a tradition evolves, it can never be complete, at an end, enshrined once and for all.

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—David Brudnoy
“The Living Legacy of Frank S. Meyer”
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tual friend Mikhail Gorbachev esteeming him "a very great political leader."

The Old Cowboy is out of action now. His exact opposites, the Clintons, soon will be too. Can Washington begin focusing on a more promising future? Actually, I have just read a book by Michael Reagan, *The City on a Hill*. In it, using his dad's words and ideas, Michael talks of a future the president had hoped for. The

son notes the present squalor that the Clintons have brought down on the office that so many prior presidents brought credit to. It is a good book inspired by a man whose greatness is coming to be realized. As the PBS documentary suggests, Reagan's greatness will be made ever more apparent by the Clintons' puniness. And keep your eye on the Tucker story. ❀

ducible number of women are going to act batty around him."

Conason is as much of a sap. Attacking Stuart Taylor, the distinguished legal writer, for an authoritative essay Taylor wrote on the Paula Jones case last year, the vacuous Conason whined, "Mr. Taylor portrays the Clinton defense as prevaricating and inconsistent. He complains that the president has never 'personally, publicly denied' Ms. Jones's allegations.... What he doesn't observe is that Mr. Clinton might be struggling to preserve the dignity of his office."



Not Worth a Lick

The latest scandal to befall this, our most scandal-prone president, is now the subject of sober reconsideration. Both the friends of the president and the growing number of skeptics are trying to discern what precisely brought together the Boy President and Beverly Hills High's most famous student for quiet meetings in the secure confines of his office. Has philately been considered?

Is the president a philatelist? Is Monica a philatelist too? If this unlikely duo was drawn together by a shared interest in philately it might explain a lot. Both the president and the sultry Monica are known for their unruly appetites. Surely no one would be surprised to discover that both were philatelomaniacs. Such a disclosure would go far in getting the middle-aged president off the hook morally without costing him the admiration of his prime-time television audience. That audience doubtless accounts for his high—though, alas, evanescent—ratings.

Prime-time television is replete with mildly salacious jokes about sexual irregularities heretofore rarely discussed beyond the laboratories of the late Dr. Alfred Kinsey and his fellow scientists of the libido. As with such lascivious prime-time themes as masochism, necrophilia, and Boy Clinton's now famous exculpatory fellatio, philately has a slightly risqué sound to it. Yet is philately all that bad when practiced between consenting adults—Monica was fully 21 at the time? After all, the word merely denotes the relatively harmless pursuit of stamp collecting. Yes, stamp collecting!

Of course if the Boy President actually practices philately it probably is not a "harmless pursuit," not if practiced with a nubile cutie like Monica. Nonetheless, were crafty White House aides to claim that Bill and Monica were merely swapping stamps in the president's personal office adjacent to the Oral Office on Saturdays when the first lady was not around, Washington's dwindling ranks of Clintonites would be roused from their melancholy. Possibly they would even join with the Republic's last two trained Clinton apologists, Gene Lyons and Joe Conason, in railing against the "vast right-wing conspiracy," "Clinton haters," the media, Cruel Fate.

After the White House unveils its philatelomaniac gambit, one can well imagine Lyons and Conason crowing in triumph. "Ha, ha," Gene exults, "it was only a harmless stamp collection that drew these two remarkable human beings together. FDR practiced stamp collecting in the White House too, and no one was indecent enough to accuse him of adultery. How far we have fallen from the Age of Roosevelt." Lyons is already peddling the line once used to defend the late Warren Gamaliel Harding; to wit, Warren's beauty drove women mad. Said Lyons on "Meet the Press" to the guffaws of columnists across the country, "If you take someone like the president, who a lot of women would find attractive... make him the president of the United States... and you sexualize his image with a lot of smears and false accusations so that people think he's Tom Jones or Rod Stewart, then a certain irre-

Ah, yes, the dignity of the Clinton White House—did you see the Commander-in-Chief's exhortation to the troops the other day? There was his line lifted from the movie *Patton*. "You are the best-prepared, best-equipped, best-trained fighting force in the world," our anti-military, draft-dodging president intoned, echoing George C. Scott's exhortation to his troops while playing the role of General George Patton. And the Boy President also suffered this inscrutable lapse. He was describing Saddam's "palaces." They must not be confused with "the White House complex," he noted. Then the amazing blunder: "We're not talking about a few rooms here with delicate personal matters involved."

What did this weird man mean by "delicate personal matters" in a supposedly serious speech uttered at the threshold of grave events? Was he preparing the public for his philatelist defense? You laugh? White House spokesman Mike McCurry may also be setting the stage for this defense. Speaking of the Clinton-Monica relationship he told the *Chicago Tribune*, "I think it's going to end up being a very complicated story, as most human relationships are." Well, fellows, not in FDR's White House—the thirty-second president attended to his stamp collection alone. But that was before the 1960's and this colossal collection of frauds. May retirement fetch them quickly. ❀

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A Heinous Procedure

The GOP's civil war over partial-birth abortion.

The writer Jack Hitt described a partial-birth abortion in a recent *New York Times Magazine*:

He pulled firmly. A back appeared, then with the flick of a forefinger, a small arm fell out and then another. The anesthesia had relaxed the natural paisley curl of the fetus into something linear and flaccid. A 10-inch homunculus, its head locked into the cervix, hung in full view, motionlessly toward the floor, its long tapered legs disturbingly elegant.

It happened quickly. The back of the fetus's skull was punctured. There was a tiny spurt of blood into a stainless steel waste can that sat on the floor beneath. A curette was inserted, a hose was attached and the deep rumble of the suction machine near me kicked on. Into a clear plastic jar at my feet there appeared instantaneously about a half inch of pinkish fluid marked by tiny whitish-gray globules. On some animal level, deep in my own brain stem, I knew what it was and leapt back in fear.

Murder, is what it was. The infant was within a few inches of drawing its first breath. Instead, it was stabbed in the back of the head by the attending "doctor." They don't want to be called abortionists. They don't want to admit the truth about themselves, that they went to med school and became killers. They are the American successors to Mengele, who performed medical experiments in Nazi Germany. (And Mengele did become an abortionist.) There is no precise information as to the number of partial-birth abortions, but they may be one or two percent of the total,

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now 1.2 million a year in the United States. (The decline, from a peak of 1.5 million abortions, is attributed primarily to "improved contraceptive use.")

In January, in Palm Springs, California, the Republican National Committee considered Texas national committeeman Tim Lambert's resolution to deny party funds to candidates who support partial-birth abortion. When he heard about it, Virginia national committeeman Morton Blackwell fired off a memo to supporters including Gary Bauer of the Family Research Council and Colleen Parro of the Republican National Coalition for Life. "It appears we are headed for a disaster for the pro-life cause at the RNC meeting," he wrote. No groundwork had been done. "If this matter had been handled properly, every member of the RNC would have received by now hundreds of postcards and letters and dozens of phone calls from voters in his or her state. But that hasn't happened." The failure of the resolution would be a blow to the pro-life cause, he said.

It was the RNC's 1997 donation of \$1.5 million to Christie Whitman, the pro-abortion New Jersey governor, that had spurred Lambert to action. Whitman had been narrowly re-elected, but her veto of a partial-birth abortion ban had been overridden by the state legislature. This told any half-awake pol that the procedure was unpopular. Perhaps 75 to 80 percent of the people nationwide oppose partial-birth abortions. The GOP was being asked to embrace a winning issue.

Nonetheless, the leadership, including Speaker Gingrich and Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, a leading abortion opponent in Congress,

hurried to Palm Springs to defeat the resolution. Also opposing Lambert were: California Attorney General Dan Lungren, Texas Governor George W. Bush, House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, former vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp, and Senators Phil Gramm and John McCain. Former president Gerald Ford, who spends his time playing golf in Rancho Mirage, urged the GOP to abandon its "preoccupation" with abortion. Only "zealots" oppose it, he said.

In the end, an uncontroversial resolution was substituted for Lambert's. It affirmed "principled opposition to partial-birth abortions," and committed the GOP to "banning this heinous procedure forever," and was brought to the floor by (pro-life) Betsy DeVos of Michigan. Lambert's supporters courageously opposed it. In so doing they were able to identify most of those who were afraid to deny party funds to supporters of a "heinous procedure." The vote was 114-43 in favor of the DeVos substitute.

So, why did the leadership oppose the resolution, and why did so many on the committee vote against it? None of the arguments made any sense. Henry Hyde's office had no statement, but he has been quoted as saying that politics is "about addition, not subtraction.... The worst thing that you can do for the pro-life cause is to lose our majority." But Nixon in 1966 refused to endorse John Birch Society members, and more recently the party "litmus tested" David Duke: No party funds for that former Klan member. Some litmus tests are okay, then. The real opposition was to substance, not procedure. As far as the Republican Party is concerned, near-infanticide is more acceptable politically than preferring your own race to another race. As Blackwell said, a resolution denying funds to racists would have been approved unanimously.