



## Democrat Power Couples

by Rebecca Borders

After Newt Gingrich's wife Marianne obtained a job as vice president of the Israel Export Development Company, Democrats were in an uproar. Clinton political consultant Paul Begala said, "When someone who was a city planner in Ohio gets hired as an expert in Middle East trade it raises eyebrows. It's laughable." But was it as laughable as a car salesman becoming an ambassador?

Sidney Williams, a former professional football player, was appointed ambassador to the Bahamas by Bill Clinton in 1994. Williams met with only mild opposition during his confirmation with the then-Democratic controlled Senate, even though, as one congressional aide told the *Los Angeles Times*, "The best justification that he has for being ambassador is that he traveled to the Bahamas on vacation." No one lobbied harder for Williams than California Rep. Maxine Waters. In a letter to White House senior adviser Bruce Lindsey, she wrote: "This letter is to alert you of my support of Sidney Williams for the position of Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Sidney's public relations and diplomatic skills have been well honed over the years." It was not until the fourth paragraph of her letter that Waters acknowledged that she happens to be married to Williams. Her husband's nomination, of course, was a crucial payoff to Waters for her early and crucial support of the 1992 Clinton campaign.

Still, Waters has her own sense of integrity. When Newt Gingrich was installed as Speaker in January, she was one of a handful of members who refused

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to stand when he entered the House chamber. "From time to time I give myself permission to exercise some integrity with respect to my feelings," she said. "I was not feeling any sense of pleasure or joy." Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) has a lot in common with Waters. For instance, she responded to Newt and the Contract With America by parading around the Capitol with a "sold" banner. And, wouldn't you know it, she secured a prime political appointment for her husband in the Department of Agriculture. When it comes to cashing in on political careers; Democratic couples, it seems, have a lot to teach Mr. & Mrs. Gingrich.

James W. Schroeder was appointed by President Clinton as a deputy undersecretary for farm and foreign agricultural services. Schroeder now oversees international trade and development programs. Before joining the administration, he worked as an international trade attorney in the Washington office of Whitman and Ransom, a New York-based law firm. Whitman and Ransom has represented a number of Japanese interests, including the Japan External Trade Relations Organization and the city of Osaka. Schroeder will have made some profitable business connections by the time the Clinton Administration is over. Who has been "sold," Congresswoman Schroeder?

Two North Dakota couples are major players in Washington. When the state's two Democratic U.S. senators, Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad, worked hand-in-hand to defeat the Balanced Budget Amendment in February, they gained national media attention with their last minute posturing and deal-making.

Working behind the scenes in the drama was Sen. Dorgan's chief of staff, Lucy Calautti, who happens to be married to

Sen. Conrad. "She's really something," Joseph Dill, editor of the Fargo Forum newspapers, told the *Hill* newspaper. "She's a power. She's definitely the brains behind Conrad. She got him elected, and she ran Dorgan's campaign when he was elected to Congress. She's married to one senator and chief of staff to another."

Sen. Dorgan's wife, Kimberly Olson Dorgan, is a registered Washington lobbyist. Mrs. Dorgan's clients include the Children's Television Workshop, the National Captioning Institute, and America's public television stations.

In 1992, the year he was elected to the Senate, Dorgan wrote on his financial disclosure form that "by agreement, [my wife] does not contact me, my office or those serving with me on committee in Congress in any work she does."

Yet on May 9, Dorgan, along with Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex.), introduced the Television Violence Report Card Act of 1995. The legislation, if passed, would provide for the secretary of commerce to award grants to universities to assess television violence. The assessments, according to the legislative announcement press release, will "describe and categorize the nature and extent of violence in the program and identify the sponsor and sponsors of the programs covered under the assessment."

Presumably, programs produced by the Children's Television Workshop would rank as the most non-violent and therefore gain valuable publicity and enormous goodwill under such an arrangement. Good work, Mrs. Dorgan.

Tom Daschle of South Dakota is the Senate Democratic leader. He is married to Linda Hall Daschle, a former registered lobbyist for the American Association of Airport Executives, a trade association that rep-

resents 800 airport managers and personnel. In 1993, President Clinton appointed Mrs. Daschle to the Federal Aviation Administration as the deputy administrator, the number two post at the agency. According to her official biography, Mrs. Daschle's prior FAA experience was working as a weather observer while attending Kansas State University.

Both Senator and Mrs. Daschle have run into ethical problems concerning his intervention with federal regulators on behalf of a company which, not surprisingly, operates a small airline charter company. According to the *New York Times*, government investigators are looking into Mrs. Daschle's role in the scandal. Mrs. Daschle had pledged to recuse herself from issues that involved her husband; however, fellow FAA officials have reported that she was a player in the case. Gary M. Baxter, an FAA inspector, has said that documents were destroyed to protect the Daschles.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman is a Democrat from New Mexico. His wife, Anne K. Bingaman, was appointed by President Clinton to head the Justice Department's antitrust division. Prior to her appointment as assistant attorney general, Mrs. Bingaman was a partner in the Washington office of the Atlanta law firm of Powell, Goldstein, Frazer and Murphy. The firm is registered as a foreign agent and current partners include former U.S. Senator Wyche Fowler (D.-Ga.).

According to her official biography, Mrs. Bingaman has "served as antitrust counsel to an association of leading U.S. computer manufacturers. Mrs. Bingaman's clients have included Fortune 50 and 500 companies, plaintiff classes and state governments." As head of the antitrust division, Mrs. Bingaman also led the Justice Department's negotiations in the Microsoft computer antitrust case, personally negotiating with Microsoft chairman Bill Gates.

Powell, Goldstein, Frazer and Murphy have lobbied for Hewlett Packard, Lockheed, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, and the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT). According to the Office of Government Ethics, Mrs. Bingaman did not file a recusal statement when she was appointed to the Justice Department. Mrs. Bingaman and her office have not responded to requests for comment.

Sheila Anthony was the Clinton administration's assistant attorney general for legislative affairs before she resigned in early 1995. As the wife of former Rep. Beryl Anthony (D.-Ark.), Mrs. Anthony had long been involved in Washington politics before her appointment.

Mr. Anthony now works as a lobbyist and partner with the Washington office of the law firm of Winston and Strawn. He also represents the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Other clients include the American Hospital Association, American Insurance Association, American Trucking Association, Alltel Corporation, Entergy Corporation, and the Public Securities Association.

Mr. Anthony's Little Rock, Arkansas clients, the Entergy Corporation and Systematics Information Systems, a division of Alltel, have been picked by Sec-



retary of Commerce Ron Brown to join him on profitable foreign trade missions. Mrs. Anthony worked briefly as an assistant secretary of commerce in early 1993 before transferring to Justice. And Mr. Anthony was the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee while Mr. Brown headed the Democratic National Committee.

Other Clinton spousal appointees include Deborah Stark, wife of Rep. Pete Stark (D.-Calif.), as the special assistant to the commissioner on Children, Youth and Families for the Department of Health and Human Services. Ruth Harkin, wife of Sen. Tom Harkin (D.-Iowa), is the powerful president of the Overseas

Private Investment Corporation. Doris Matsui, wife of Rep. Robert Matsui (D.-Calif.), is the deputy director of public liaison for the White House.

As the pollster for the 1992 Clinton campaign, Stanley Greenberg established himself as a top Democratic adviser. He is married to Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D.-Conn.). Judy Fazio, wife of Rep. Vic Fazio (D.-Calif.), previously worked as the finance director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which was headed by her husband. Kate Carr, wife of former Rep. Bob Carr (D.-Mich.), served as the finance director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Other spouses work on the Hill. Judy Bonior is a staff assistant in the office of her husband, House Minority Whip David Bonior (D.-Mich.). Because of the House rules, Mrs. Bonior may receive her \$47,000 salary because she worked for Bonior before their marriage. Under House rules, members of Congress are allowed to hire spouses for their staff, but not to pay their salaries unless they were employed in the same office before the marriage. Thus Beth Kennedy, who was working as a scheduler for Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D.-Mass.) before they were married, continues in that title and still draws a \$36,000 annual salary. By contrast, Rep. Bernard Sanders, the Vermont socialist, employs his wife, Jane O'Meara Sanders, as his unpaid chief of staff. They were married before he joined Congress, but you get the feeling that she wouldn't draw a salary even if she could. "We've always worked together," Mrs. Sanders said. "We met when he was mayor. It's been a very strong basis of our relationship. . . . If I didn't work for him I'd never see him."

Finally, there is Deborah Dingell, wife of Rep. John Dingell (D.-Mich.), who remains a registered lobbyist for General Motors. Mr. Dingell is the once-powerful chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees many matters affecting the automotive industry. When last seen, a glum Rep. Dingell was swearing in Newt Gingrich as Speaker. Now that he's been defanged, you wonder whether Mrs. Dingell's GM job is even worth her showing up. □



## Defunding the Left

by Grover G. Norquist

Phyllis Schlafly is the president of Eagle Forum, the national grassroots organization that over the years has battled the Legal Services Corporation over the Equal Rights Amendment and dozens of other issues. Schlafly knows whereof she speaks when she calls the current congressional effort to defund the LSC an "acid test to demonstrate whether the new Republican majority really intends to reform and reduce big government."

Signed into law in 1974, the Legal Services Corporation is the crown jewel of the taxpayer-funded liberal establishment. Its \$412 million budget understates both its value to the left and its cost to taxpayers. Howard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus and Peter J. Ferrara of the National Center for Policy Analysis note that the court cases brought by Legal Services lawyers have increased taxpayer spending on welfare, prisons, disability, Medicaid, and housing benefits. "A total of more than two trillion of the Federal government's five trillion dollar debt can reasonably be ascribed to the efforts of federally-funded Legal Service activists," they write, "whether by litigation, procuring of grants and contracts, grassroots organizing, lobbying, or legislative impact."

When Legal Services lawyers sued to stop welfare reductions, alleging a right to welfare under the Ohio constitution, that might have been the last straw for Ohio Rep. John Kasich, chairman of the House Budget Committee. He's determined to "zero out" such politicized spending programs as the LSC, and by that he means total elimination—not some scheme that would allow the corporation to be cut back, phased out, or "reformed." Phil Gramm has promised to work in the Senate to kill all funding for the LSC. As well as anyone, these men understand that federal tax dol-

lars are fungible, and once sent out from Washington, they can be essentially laundered from one foundation to a second and then a third. Dues can be paid by lawyers to the National Lawyers Guild or the American Bar Association to further finance political activity with what began the day as non-political tax dollars.

Assembled behind the LSC are legions of federally financed lawyers, an American Bar Association that collects dues from these lawyers, and their allies in and out of Congress. Two of these are the predictable Texas Rep. Charlie Stenholm, who never fails to provide the liberal Democratic leadership with "moderate" cover, and former New Hampshire Senator Warren Rudman (R-N.H.), who in the 1980s saved Legal Services from Reagan's budget cutters time and again. (So much for Rudman's work for the Concord Coalition, a group that rails against federal deficits and runaway spending.)

After forty years of ever more generous congressional funding to predominantly liberal groups, the debate over the future of the Legal Services Corporation is just part of a larger debate over defunding the left.

Marshall Wittmann, who heads the Heritage Foundation's Government Integrity Project, likes to quote Jefferson's admonition: "To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical." According to Wittmann, the federal government should not be in the business of funding any political activities—whether of the right or the left.

For a conservative that's an easy argument to make. Given that congressional funds rarely flowed to conservative groups in recent decades, conservatives and liberals alike understand perfectly well that any effort to remove taxpayer money from politics will *ipso facto* defund the left. As the

right contemplates legislative battles and congressional elections against a left reduced to financing itself through voluntary donations, the left will have little to fall back on other than cries of witchhunt and enemies lists.

Still, there's a huge funding machine that needs dismantling. Using IRS statistics, Wittmann calculates that fully \$39 billion of taxpayer money is dispersed annually to "organizations which may use the money to advance their political agendas." In 1993 alone, the Friends of the Earth received \$35,000 from taxpayers; the World Wildlife Fund, \$789,692; the Environmental Defense Fund, \$341,000; and the National Resources Defense Council, which fanned the flames of the Alar apple scare, \$75,000.

While labor unions continue to defy the Supreme Court's *Beck* decision to collect compulsory union dues that fund their political activity, big labor also pulls down big bucks from taxpayers who have avoided joining unions. A Heritage Foundation scan of the Federal Assistance Awards Data System found that for the period July 1993-June 1994, the AFL-CIO received \$2 million from taxpayers; the Teamsters, \$3.5 million; and the United Auto Workers, big backers of government-run health care, \$805,000. The National Education Association, a Clinton loyalist from the start, received at least \$385,000.

During the same period, the LSC's friends at the American Bar Association received \$2.2 million in federal grants.

The 60 Plus Association, a conservative organization of senior citizens, has pointed out that the National Council of Senior Citizens, originally started by retired labor union officials and the Democratic National Committee, now receives 96 percent of its total funding from the federal government—more than \$68.7 million in 1993-1994.

The NCSC has been particularly active

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