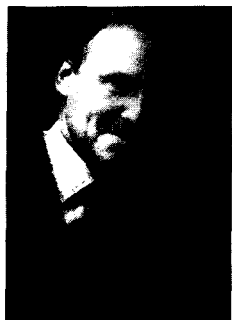


by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

Never Mind



October 30

And so the 1996 presidential blubbering contest is about to shut down. Our celebrity president is far ahead of the Gruff Gentleman Bob Dole. All of us in

our capacity as private citizens must now make our choice as to who will wear the boots of George Washington on Inauguration Day 1997. No doubt many will want to cast their vote for Bob Dole, and for good reason.

Only Bob Dole and his garrulous Sancho Panza, Jack Kemp, had the political acuity and the iron-clad integrity to recognize that there is not a grain of truth to all the scandals and controversies that have been heaved like mud balls at the Great Man whom the Democrats and our Indonesian friends have presented as their candidate. Two biographies have come out chronicling the Great Man's knowledge of drug trafficking at Mena, Arkansas, while he was governor. These best-selling books quote him implicating a financial supporter in the odious trafficking, and they note that the supporter was eventually and most unfortunately convicted on drug charges. Dole and Kemp knew the books were nonsense. After introducing drugs as an issue into the campaign, they dropped it after a week and never raised the embarrassment again. Good show!

Early in October several Arkansans came forward claiming that they either witnessed or did cocaine with this Great Man while he was governor. Their testimony—and the curious responses of two nurses queried about the Great Man's medical

history—seemed to fortify rumors that the Great Man's medical records were being kept from the press and the electorate because of a drug overdose. Was this the long-anticipated October Surprise? Well, neither press nor pols were buying it. And Dole and Kemp immediately dropped their request that the Great Man make public these records. Bravo! There was, alas, a dark moment in the second presidential debate when meanness overcame Mr. Dole. Inexcusably he raised the matter of Filegate "or whatever," whatchamacallit and so forth and so on (Dole calls this being plainspoken). Naturally the Great Man only sneered. Fortunately Mr. Dole got hold of himself and dropped the unwholesome subject. Such scandal-mongering was beneath him. Hear, hear!

He and his sidekick Mr. Kemp have recognized that Vice President Al Gore was right on the money on October 13's "Meet the Press" when he said, "The ethical standards established in this White House have been the highest in the history of the White House." And White House press secretary Michael McCurry was right, too, when he dismissed all the Great Man's critics as scoundrels and fantasists. Hardly anything negative that one might say against the Clintons could possibly be true. Dole and Kemp know this, and I do too. Let me now publicly admit that throughout the past four years I have done many shameful things. Every allegation against the Clintons published in *The American Spectator* was a fabrication, usually made up by me. There is nothing to them. Other allegations I have spread knowingly, though as the White House has carefully noted, the Clintons are as clean as a hound's tooth.

The Dole-Kemp winning team was brilliant in directing the debate away from every indicted Clinton pal, from every charge of illegality, unethical behavior, and scandal. They recognized this unholy hoax. I tip my

hat to them. And now let me formally apologize for any of the false charges that I was a party to. Troopergate? Mena? Allegations of money-laundering, real-estate flipping, sweetheart loans, election fraud? I made them all up. Arkansas State Troopers and nannies have never uttered a peep of scandal or irregularity against the Clintons. All were figments of my imagination, ably abetted by a vast conspiracy of dirty tricksters. Gennifer Flowers, Sally Perdue, Paula Corbin Jones, and the Excelsior Hotel? In truth, they do not exist.

There never were RTC criminal referrals, so how could the Clintons be implicated in Whitewater? In fact *New York Times* reporter Jeff Gerth contrived the whole story of Whitewater; the press just ran with it. The McDougals and Jim Guy Tucker should be set free, and pardons extended to the half-dozen small fry who have been convicted of what I must now admit was a *Times* hoax. Webb Hubbell is a wronged man. There never was an FDIC report charging Hillary Rodham Clinton with drafting a document that deceived bank examiners. Bank examiners never called Castle Grande a series of "sham transactions." Flowerwood Farm is not even a farm, and Billy Dale is still happily at work at the White House Travel Office. I personally wrote the conflicting testimony of Mrs. Clinton and her staff on Travelgate, Filegate, and the hiring of Messrs. Livingstone and Marceca, who are actually members of the Methodist clergy. They know Hillary from church work.

She had no defense against such vile perfidies. She was busy helping children. And all the questions surrounding Vince Foster, Ron Brown, Henry Cisneros, Federico Pena, Hazel O'Leary, and Mike Espy are the fictive creations of people like me. Call us Slick Willies. The Clintons are the victims of the most elaborate and vindictive smear campaign in the history of the world. I apologize. ❀

Adapted from RET's weekly Washington Times column syndicated by Creators Syndicate.

Seduced by Bill

Boy, did the liberals get David Brock wrong! His new book, *The Seduction of Hillary Rodham*, makes that stupendously clear. Once again seasoned students of the American political scene are right to ask, do the liberals ever get anything right?

Hitherto the liberal tag on Brock has been that "strong women" provoke him to emotional excess. He devotes essays, investigative reports, whole books, to flaying at them madly. Brock's ferocious misogyny has put liberal commentators on guard against any further attempt of his to destroy another liberal superwoman. Ever since Brock's diabolical publication of *The Real Anita Hill*, feminists and liberal columnists have with an amazing regularity given themselves over to diatribes against him. The most inveterate of the diatribists has been the theater critic Frank Rich, now thrashing about on the political commentary pages of the *New York Times*. Rich has quieted down of late, perhaps reminded of the unseemliness of his passion for Brock. Now comes Brock's book-length treatment of Hillary.

Actually the liberals' whole thesis that Brock opposes "strong women" seemed flawed on the paucity of their evidence alone. His first putative victim was Anita Hill. Now she might strike the liberals as a "strong woman," but is she really? Possessed of a pedestrian mind, no career achievement to speak of, no husband, no children, no coruscating social accomplishments, Hill was actually a mousy, social isolate, terrified by the common courtesies a gentleman once paid her. Through nearly ten excruciating years she transmogrified these courtesies into near rape, but even then it took congressional staffers and Washington hacks to make the thing public. Thereupon they surrounded her with lawyers, publicists, and God knows how many therapists. Now she has retreated to some backwater to sweat out the syllables of the book she vowed never to write and almost certainly will not unless someone assists her to the point of writing it for her.

Supposedly Brock's next victim was Hillary Clinton or Rodham, or Rodham Clinton, or whatever she is calling herself during this election year. (She has a habit of depositing discrepancies on the record, especially in election years.) Actually all Brock ever did to Rodham was quote the recollections of her former bodyguards back in Arkansas. Now Brock's biography of her is out, and he finds her rather sweet though highly ideological. Does that sound like the judgment of a woman-hater to you?

Truth be known, Brock has not set out to destroy Hillary but to destroy the Clintons' marriage. My White House sources tell me that Hillary's people are perfectly content with Brock's depiction of her in *The Seduction*. Bill's people, however, are alarmed, and Bill himself is in another of his snits. Writes Brock: "Hillary's story is that of an intelligent, talented, ambitious, and very determined woman who nevertheless succumbed to powerfully seductive forces...to the seductive attraction of Bill Clinton himself." And worse still: "It was Bill Clinton who brought her into contact with the gritty money-politics system of Arkansas, entangling her in a web of unsavory associations from which she attempted to distance herself..."

Now when was the last time Clinton duly accepted the blame for a series of charges like that? For that matter, when was the last time Clinton accepted blame for anything other than ending the Cold War, balancing the budget, and inventing ice cream? One hears him over in the Oval Office: "Hey, wait a minute. Ah never seduced anyone. Even back at Yale Law School it was her, not me. She wore those two-inch-thick glasses that drove me wild. And the baggy clothes and no make-up, not even deodorant. She knew it made me nuts. And at the protest demonstrations she wore pole-climber boots. She knew how Dick Morris and I went nuts over those boots." Up in the family quarters one sees Goody-Two-Shoes Hillary simpering across the dinner table at poor Bill: "There, truth will win out!" Brock's book, I am told by my spies, is a Hillary favorite. But Bill is furious. And poor Chelsea will

not know what to think; neither of them particularly impressed her.

There are some Washington hands who have suspected that the president's men have been setting Hillary up to take the rap, for instance, on Whitewater, Travelgate, Filegate, and lying to the independent counsel. Now she can call upon Brock to vouch for her spotless integrity. Who will vouch for Bill's? Brock marks him down as a fickle, pleasure-loving low-life. Clinton will not remain a stoic. At the San Diego debate last October I half expected him to point the finger at Hillary when Bob Dole suggested White House ethical lapses. After all, did not our Boy President blame Janet Reno for Waco and George Bush for Somalia (or was it Barbara Bush)?

The Clinton marriage has weathered many storms. Brock's clever attempt to embroil the country in vexed debate over Hillary seduced vs. seducer Bill is the greatest threat to their bond since Gennifer Flowers learned to use a tape recorder. It is time for liberals to rescue this marriage. Calm Bill down! Dissuade Hillary from rubbing it in. Surely they are moral equals, and no first family has ever divorced while awaiting indictment. ❄

25 YEARS AGO IN The American Spectator

Irony, isn't it, that many of the same people who defend seal pups and salmon eggs from harm see nothing wrong with the killing of embryonic human beings? Three powerful currents of contemporary thought have swept aside the concern for life: the sexual revolution, women's liberation, and the population crisis. Because many traditional constraints on human sexuality seemed illogical, all came to be questioned. Because many burdens are unfairly borne by women, some think that any burdens unique to women are unfair. As incentives to produce were weakened, and production failed to keep pace with population growth and rising expectations, those who once told us America had a "distribution problem" (rather than a "production problem") now are telling us that we have a "population problem." Hence, this justifies so drastic a method of popular reduction as abortion....

—Douglas Cooper,
"The Morality of Abortion"

DECEMBER 1971



No Nukes America

Can the U.S. afford to become a nuclear-free zone?

Over a period of several decades, the weapons in the U.S. nuclear arsenal were assembled at the Pantex plant, a few miles northeast of Amarillo, Texas. The components were fabricated elsewhere—at Rocky Flats, near Denver; at Hanford reservation, in Washington state; at the Savannah River reactor in South Carolina—but they were finally all put together at Pantex, 16,000 acres of parched scrub surrounded by steel fences and coils of razor wire. The plant is dotted with infrared motion detectors and armed guards in desert camouflage.

Today, the entire U.S. nuclear weapons assembly line is running in reverse. All the nuclear-weapons production facilities are closed down, and the bombs themselves, having been retrieved from silos and Air Force bases, are being brought back to the same Pantex plant at a rate of about 35 or 40 a week. They are transported across U.S. highways in unmarked, heavily guarded tractor-trailers; at Pantex they are disassembled, and their plutonium “pits” stored in bunkers. State officials have expressed concern that Pantex is fast becoming “an unlicensed plutonium dump.” The U.S. is said to be dismantling its arsenal at a rate of about 2,000 weapons a year.

The planned final size of the arsenal is secret, but some say the total may be no more than 1,000 weapons. Anti-nuke groups stationed outside the Pantex gates monitored the trucks as the completed weapons left the plant, and they continue to monitor them as they return.

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In the postwar period, the U.S. produced some 70,000 nuclear weapons, of about 75 different types. Annual production rates in the early 1960's reached about 5,000 a year, and a maximum stockpile of over 32,000 warheads was reached in 1967. Information provided by Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev implied that the Soviets' arsenal at its peak exceeded 40,000 warheads. France today has about 480 nukes, China about 450, Britain 200, Israel “probably 100 plus devices,” India 60-odd, and Pakistan 15-25, according to a guide published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Tracking Nuclear Proliferation*.

It seems undeniable that the quantity of Soviet and U.S. nukes at their peak defied logic on both sides. Misleading “perceptions,” inter-service rivalry, and the skewed incentives of government agencies contributed to a build-up that was vastly in excess of whatever could have been used. The elimination of superfluous arsenals by definition does not jeopardize security, and there is much to be said for the current “build down.” But it also has its disquieting aspects. Above all, it will be difficult to reverse the present course. In an emergency it could be done, but by then it would be too late, in view of the time required to build or re-start the industrial infrastructure. It is safe to say that the existing atomic-weapons production facilities will never be reopened. The enduring superstition surrounding all things nuclear will see to that: Not in my back yard, or anyone else's.

As the Cold War was coming to an end, the environmentalists gained a crucial and little remarked ascendancy over the military in the order-

ing of government priorities. It helped that George Bush was president when this happened, for he was willing to do almost anything to ward off accusation from environmentalists. Weapons plants were stigmatized as contaminated sites, “hot spots,” sources of hazardous waste. All of the major nuclear weapons facilities have since then been included on the Environmental Protection Agency's “Superfund” National Priorities List of the worst contaminated sites in America. “In preparing to fight a nuclear war with the former Soviet Union,” according to the Center for Defense Information's *Defense Monitor*, “America succeeded in ‘nuking’ itself.” It is an irony, surely, that the plants that arguably yielded a 50-year stretch of domestic peace rarely enjoyed by any nation should in the end have been so condemned.

The symbolic moment came in June, 1989, when Rocky Flats was raided by FBI agents. The nation's only source of purified plutonium for nuclear weapons, Rocky Flats manufactured the softball-sized plutonium cores at the heart of the weapon. The raid came as a surprise to the Department of Energy, which has responsibility for the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons. Until the mid 1980's the department successfully argued that the practices of weapons-plant contractors were exempt from federal environmental laws. But by 1992 it had in effect become a loyal subsidiary of the Environmental Protection Agency. In that year, Rockwell International, the Rocky Flats contractor, pleaded guilty to charges that it had violated hazardous waste and clean-water laws. The company was fined \$18.5 million. Today, according to the General Accounting Office, nuclear weapons facilities all across the country are closed “for environmental, health and