

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

Lady Hills



London

Here I am, thousands of miles from home, and that lady will not leave me in peace. The lady I refer to, of course, is the lady who for several years now has

been menacing truth and right reason as she spreads poppy and cock hither and yon—Hillary Clinton. Or is she calling herself Hillary Rodham Clinton or, perhaps, H. Rodham Clinton, Esq., or is it simply Hills? She is forever renovating herself. Now the London newspapers report she has emerged as a defender of the American Navy. She is castigating the press for hounding Admiral Jeremy Boorda, the recently deceased chief of naval operations, into his grave. Well, Madame First Lady, where were you when your fellow critics of the military were exploiting the Tailhook scandal, inflating its significance, and setting out on a campaign against the Navy that has, in the view of former secretary of the Navy John Lehman, impaired its effectiveness, to say nothing of its spirit?

Yet, as I say, Mrs. Clinton (I shall call her Mrs. Clinton) is forever in a state of personal renovation. Having recently researched her stormy life, I can tell you she was once very anti-military. That would be during the Vietnam war, when she was also actively defending the Black Panthers. Alas, for her there is, as they say, a paper trail exposing all this. Then her anti-military fevers went dormant, though doubtless as with her husband she opposed our position in the Gulf War. And, as with her husband, I am sure she can be counted on to lie about it.

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

Exactly when her pro-military juices began to flow is unclear. Surely one does not have to be a historian to remember the row in the Clintons' first year at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue when a White House aide—allegedly one loyal to the first lady—insulted an officer at the White House, telling him, "I don't talk to the military." Then there was the scandal arising when Mrs. Clinton used uniformed military personnel as White House waiters. Well, back in Little Rock the Clintons could use inmates from the state prison as waiters at the Governor's Mansion. Why not use a Marine or two to pass the canapés up in Washington?

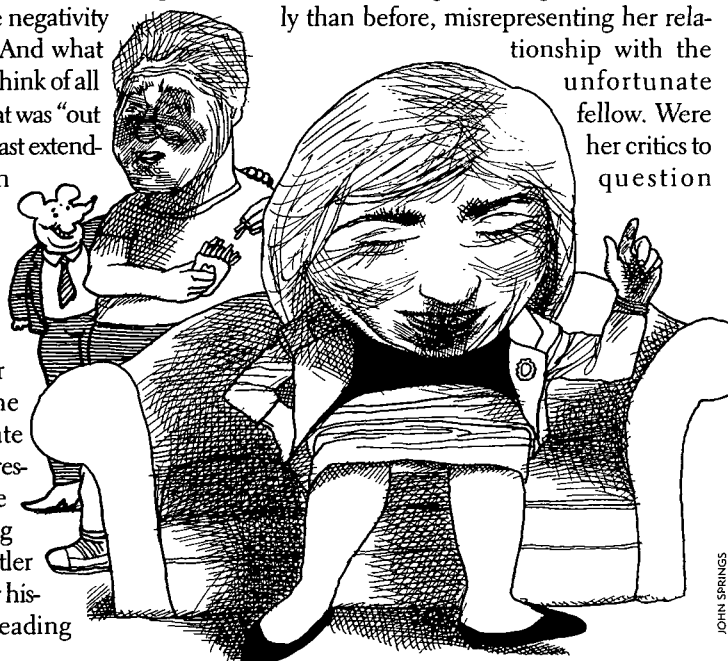
But now Mrs. Clinton has undergone another personality quick-change. This happens for her so frequently and with such speed that we might consider her the Houdini of personality escapes, the escapes always being from personalities that have become public relations disasters. So now she is defending Admiral Boorda against the press. Before attending a memorial service for the admiral at the National Cathedral she lashed out at what she called the "apathy and cynicism" of Washington that stem from "all the negativity that's out there." And what did Mrs. Clinton think of all the "negativity" that was "out there" during her last extended assignment in Washington?

That would have been at the end of the Nixon years, when she was a young lawyer on the staff of the House Watergate committee. The president at that time was regularly being compared with Hitler and other unsavory historical figures. Leading

Democrats were doing the comparing, and they were hardly more polite to Mr. Nixon's predecessor, Mr. Johnson. Then came all the "negativity" toward Messrs. Ford, Carter, and Reagan. Remember?

Whatever is Mrs. Clinton whining about? A troubled naval officer takes his own life in anticipation of the bad publicity he's about to get in *Newsweek*, and this cynical political operator leaps to exploit his suffering. After blaming the admiral's death on the press she brings up her own alleged suffering at the hands of the press (all of it deserved): "I feel like I should wear a flak suit and a hard hat." Then she makes a boast that I can remember no other adult ever making in public. She quotes her mother as saying, "When you were growing up, you never gave your father or me a sleepless night. Now that you and Bill are in the White House, we hardly ever sleep at night." Really, Mrs. Clinton, did you have to spoil my London trip with such ignominious sniffings?

Mrs. Clinton then had the gall to wring political advantage out of Vince Foster's suicide once again, though more brazenly than before, misrepresenting her relationship with the unfortunate fellow. Were her critics to question



his death, Mrs. Clinton would be indignant that the poor man was not being allowed the peace of the grave. Yet when there is political advantage to be derived, no sadness is too sad for the Clintons' opportunism. Think of the television clip aired a few months back showing Bill Clinton at a service for Ron Brown, laughing

and joshing until he spied the cameras. Instantaneously he was chewing his lip and fighting back the tears. Members of the press corps that Mrs. Clinton now wishes to intimidate actually praised his sentiment. The Clintons are the first presidential couple in American history to transform a tragedy into a political coup. ❀

the early 1970's been endeavoring to merge some twenty-five ancient European nations into one European superstate. Goldsmith certainly thinks many of these bureaucrats are corrupt.



More to the point, he feels that the "artificial state" they would perpetrate will lead to years of rancor, the opposite of the bureaucrats' intentions. Equally bad, the European superstate will take decisions out of the hands of free people and put them into the hands of insensitive bureaucrats whose vision of the future is that of yesteryear's social engineering socialists.

From the age of 16, when he left school, until 1991 when he turned 58, Goldsmith made several billion dollars in business both in England and France, as well as in other parts of the world—notably, America. He is a man of intellect who regularly repairs to a vast estate in Mexico to cogitate with thoughtful persons from different walks of life. He has concluded that the movement for European unity has gone too far. My expeditions into these wilds suggests that he is right. The European Community's treatment of the British over Mad Cow disease is a graphic example of how much freedom will be lost to independent nations if the move toward the European superstate goes further. But the Europeanists' meddling on a more paltry level is even more alarming. From Brussels, the European Community's headquarters, comes word that the famous grill on the Rolls Royce is going to have to be abandoned because some bureaucrat calculates that it is responsible for 200 deaths a year.

Such marplots, Goldsmith says over lunch, would "force twenty-five ancient nations into a superstate controlled by twenty unelected commissioners who have both legislative and executive power." Already the nations of Europe "have largely given up the right to make their own laws." Thousands of "directives" from the Brussels bureaucrats override them. Goldsmith cites polls that indicate a majority of Europeans believe the movement towards the superstate has gone too far. He would settle for a free-trade zone and has founded a political movement in France and Britain—he holds dual citizenship—to stop the move toward a superstate. The European establishment is in a state of alarm. Establishments deserve worse. ❀

All in the Family

Paris
Revolution is in the air! Grasping, selfish establishments are under siege! From Arkansas comes the welcome news that one of America's oldest and most corrupt establishments is being threatened by a jury of ordinary people and by a rarity in them there parts, an apparently incorruptible judge. Here in Paris a new and until now burgeoning establishment is being threatened by an enormously wealthy self-made man wielding ideas that sound strangely American, Sir James Goldsmith.

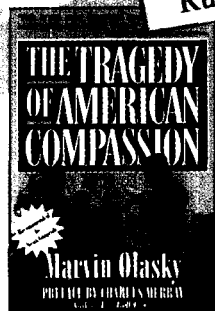
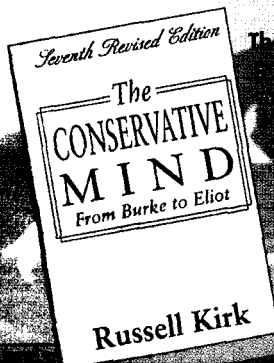
First, review the glad tidings from Little Rock. The Clintons' partners in the Whitewater scam, James and Susan McDougal, and President Clinton's successor as Arkansas governor, Jim Guy Tucker, have been found guilty of fraud by an Arkansas jury. As readers of this column might know I followed this case with utmost attention. Why other journalists have been so neglectful mystifies me. The case is very important, though its outcome has been uncertain. For weeks my agents in and around Little Rock have sent me conflicting reports. One reliable source insisted that the judge was dishonest, the jury frivolous, and the case a botch, badly mishandled by lead prosecutor W. Ray Jahn. Other reliable sources insisted that the judge, George Howard, Jr., was an honorable man and that the case was being handled very professionally.

Whatever the case, I expected the jury to arrive at its decision in a day or two. When it went for over a week without a decision, I took heart. When the major American media saw the jury's sluggishness as bad

news for those of us who wanted a conviction, I became still more optimistic. Soon our suspicions were confirmed. Once again the major media is stupendously and gloriously wrong about Whitewater and the Clintons. The jury has found the McDougals and Tucker guilty. Justice is served. What this means is that, in Arkansas, that establishment of grafters and bullies known as the "machine"—or, as referred to in the trial, "the political family"—is no longer above the law.

It also means that President Clinton's testimony on the defendants' behalf was not believed. What is more, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr now has encouragement to proceed with whatever prospective cases he has developed against other members of the family. I need not mention what political couple now living out of state is most prominent in that family. But when journalists tell you that the array of scandals lumped under the catch-all term Whitewater are too complicated for ordinary citizens to understand, remember Judge Howard and this diligent jury. They seem to have gotten the drift of corruption within the Arkansas establishment, and now reform might set in. (France's leading newspaper, *Le Monde*, called the jury's decision "a serious political reversal" for the president.)

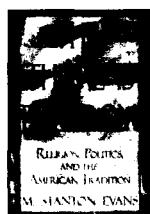
Here in Paris the establishment under assault is a much newer phenomenon than Arkansas' political family. Of its corruption I know very little. But Jimmy Goldsmith is opposing it both here and in other European countries. I am speaking of the establishment of Europeanists who with amazing speed and hamfistedness have since



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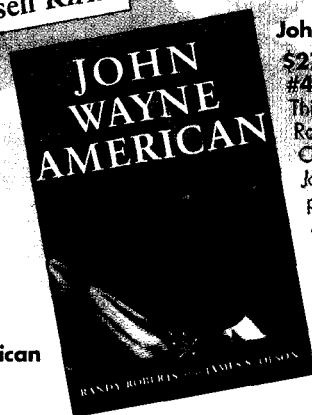
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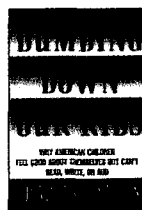
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He Keeps on Ticking

The modern world's losing war on God.

I have been reading Paul Johnson's new book, *The Quest for God* (Harper-Collins, 288 pages, \$25), and trying to think about God myself. As we all should: especially about where we are headed. The question has obviously been on Johnson's mind. As a rule we try not to think about it, or we tolerate an easygoing muddle of disbelief. The popular notion that people turn to religion as a self-deluding comfort strikes me as quite wrong. More true, I think, is that we skirt serious thought about religion because that liberates us from God's law. The burden of willfulness may in the end prove heavy, and *his* burden light, but that is not the way it seems at the outset. Anyway, we should all try to pray to be able to believe in God, and "those who should pray the hardest are precisely the agnostics and atheists," as Johnson says. If that is a contradiction, so be it.

We seem to be living at a time of growing interest in religion, although that has been said many times before. God was supposed to be "dead" by now. As Johnson says, a remarkable feature of the twentieth century has been his failure to die. In the U.S., we may in consequence be approaching a time of more open antagonism to religion, Christianity in particular. The animus has been there all along, but it might become more direct. The reaction to Supreme Court Justice Scalia's recent speech at a Baptist prayer breakfast in Mississippi was interesting. American society is dominated by secular, "worldly wise" enemies of Christianity,

he said. He enjoined his audience to "pray for the courage to endure the scorn of the sophisticated world."

"At issue," a *Washington Post* writer replied a few days later, "is whether Scalia's impassioned and remarkably personal defense of Christianity ... clashed with his sworn duty to impartially interpret U.S. laws." They would like nothing more than to nail him on a technicality.

An end to religion was one of the main goals of the whole horrid progressive-evolutionary program. Starting with the *philosophes* of the Enlightenment, the idea was that humans could be re-educated, human nature itself be improved, and eventually we would become superior beings. Along the way we would discard our outmoded superstitions. The faith in evolution was an accompaniment to this ideology, and had little to do with science. At least, scientists were not able to find out much about evolution, despite their bluster to the contrary. It was all just one more campaign in the war on God.

Re-education camps were set up and the Soviet Union became the laboratory for the experiment in its most extreme form. Its failure has provoked a crisis for those of the progressive faith, although few will admit it openly. Some may have quietly resumed a more conventional faith. Many more are searching for new worldly idols. Johnson describes an acquaintance of his, identified only as a former Marxist, who not long ago "expressed himself undaunted by the intellectual collapse of Communism as a system for promoting prosperity combined with equality." Its economic theory had been a handicap anyway. "What we

can now turn to," he said, "are far more attractive and exciting forms of action—race politics, sexual politics, environmental politics, health politics. There are other forms of action which will emerge in due course whereby we will transform and overthrow existing society."

It's rare to hear people talk like that. (Wasn't "environmental politics" meant to help the environment?) What we are dealing with here is an attempt to set up "alternatives to God," as Johnson says. "The radical agenda my acquaintance listed, with its strong appeal to the idealistic, as well as the materialistic instincts of mankind, especially among young people, does constitute an alternative religion."

Sometimes think that the most serious rift is not so much between belief and non-belief as between submission and rebellion. True atheists often seem to cause little trouble. They don't experience their lack of faith as a void and don't need substitutes (as in "building a new society"). Often, they seek only a modest redemption in libertarian anti-politics. The philosopher David Hume may have been the prototype. Johnson identifies him as the first well-known European figure who not only proclaimed himself an atheist but died as one (in 1776). (When told by Boswell that on his deathbed Hume was undisturbed by the thought of his own extinction, Dr. Samuel Johnson said: "It was not so, Sir. He had a vanity in being thought easy.")

Those who make trouble in the political arena are not so much atheists as rebel believers. They think God did a lousy job; humankind can improve on his creation. (He made men and women different? Outlaw that!) Lucifer and the fallen angels were the original rebels and presumably must be believers. Ex-seminarians and

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