



When Maddy Gets Mad

As Richard Holbrooke



inched toward confirmation as U.S. ambassador to the U.N., none other than **Madeleine Albright** launched a last minute bid to sabotage his chances. It's no secret the ambitious Holbrooke tried hard for Albright's current job. More recently, he even tried to use her old boss and mentor, former National Security Adviser **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, to undercut Albright. Though Brzezinski went easy on his former student, he became a vocal critic of the Clinton administration's inept Kosovo policy. Albright was said to be livid that Holbrooke would try to play Brzezinski against her. According to a source on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and another in the State Department, Albright declined an opportunity to defend Holbrooke on Capitol Hill in the weeks leading up to his confirmation hearings. "Holbrooke is clearly Clinton's boy, and we wanted to give her a chance to

either support or not support his nomination more so than she has in the past,"

says the Senate source. "She didn't want to speak on the subject either way, and made it clear her decision not to speak should be interpreted for what it was: a noncomment on nonsupport for the nominee."

Campaign Secrets

Hillary Clinton's Senate campaign manager in waiting, **Harold Ickes**, has quietly been searching for a campaign press secretary, but with little success. It appears one of the job's requirements would be clearing any press requests with the White House press office, which would then determine whether or not the first lady would comply with them. To handle such queries, the first lady's press office intends to bring in a temporary aide at a salary of \$45,000, according to a White House press office associate. The salary isn't the only Senate campaign-related bill U.S. taxpayers will be footing. Secret Service officials in New York were asked to assess the costs of running security details throughout the state for a period of eight months. While the New York office is still budgeting, a Treasury Department source says that already it's estimating at least six additional agents (average salary: \$90,000) will be needed to protect the first lady on the campaign trail as well as perform background checks and provide security assess-

ments at campaign and fundraising sites.

King Maker

There he goes again. CNN chatterbox, *USA Today* columnist, and Al Gore shill **Larry King** now claims that



in a luncheon conversation with the late Washington power lawyer **Edward Bennett Williams**, Williams told him how enamored he was of a certain Hillary Rodham Clinton and how he'd tried to hire her for his Williams & Connolly law firm, but that she had chosen to stay with her husband in Arkansas. There are a few problems with the story: Williams died in 1988, before the Clintons became household names, and certainly before King—a man who claims to never read books or study bios of people who might be on his shows—would have been aware of them. A former associate attorney at Williams & Connolly, who worked closely with Williams on several cases, claims that even if Hillary would have caught the firm's eye, Williams would have nixed her hiring.

"Williams was a devout Catholic and in many ways a politically conservative man," says his former law partner. "But most of all he's never hire attorneys who might bring undue attention to the firm or someone who was overly active ideologically and politically. King doesn't know what he's talking about." A CNN Washington bureau off-air reporter claims that King's Hillary thing is the talk of the office. "He seems to be always angling to get her on the air. If it isn't her, it's Al Gore or someone else in the administration. He wants to help them any way he can. It's getting kind of embarrassing."

Billy the Kid

Movie star **Billy Baldwin**,

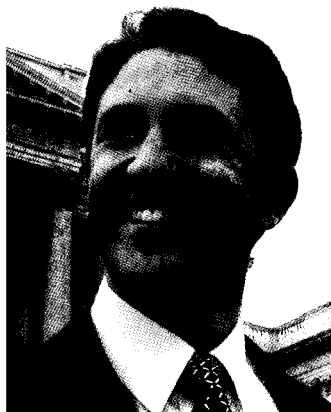


younger brother of loud-mouthed and increasingly rotund method actor **Alec Baldwin**, recently met with House Judiciary Committee Chairman **Henry Hyde**. During impeachment hearings late last year, Alec made history when, on national TV, he called for Hyde and

his family to be stoned to death. Though he has yet to turn in such a memorable performance himself, Billy is no political slouch either. In town to lobby Capitol Hill for his coalition of wind-bag lefty actors, Billy asked Hyde's staff to arrange a private meeting with Hyde, according to a Hyde aide. "He wanted to apologize for his brother's boorish behavior. It was a pleasant meeting, no punches thrown or threats exchanged." But what was Billy really up to? Seems that after a string of box-office duds, his only career may be in Hollywood politics. In apologizing to Hyde, Baldwin hoped to smooth things over enough with moderate Republicans and conservative Democrats to receive a fair hearing on such issues as NEA funding and movie violence. "He needed us more than we needed him," said the Hyde aide.

King of Long Island

What's gotten into Rep. **Peter King** now? Currently most of the New York Republican establishment is working hard to help fundraise for longshot Senate candidate Rep. **Rick Lazio**, who is



mullying a run for Daniel Patrick Moynihan's seat regardless of what **Rudy Giu-**

liani decides. Lazio's main benefactor is Gov. **George Pataki**, who has pressed the GOP's Long Island bosses into service for Lazio. One long-time campaign consultant in New York can't figure out why King, who represents western Long Island, is now talking up his own candidacy for the Senate. "There won't be any money, Lazio has it all tied up," he says. One theory is that the maverick King is trying to push Lazio out of the way, hoping his higher profile and name recognition will win out.

The Case for Reform

Could Patrick Buchanan be



mullying a switch to Ross Perot's Reform Party? Some inside-the-Beltway politicians aren't ruling it out. Though estimates vary, Buchanan is believed to have raised only about \$2 million for his campaign, not enough to muster a serious challenge to George W. (or anyone else) on the Republican front. By contrast, the Reform Party has about \$20 million in the kitty for its presidential candidate, and it also receives federal matching funds. That's more than enough to sustain a candidate through next year's abbreviated primary season. "Buchanan easily beats out **Lowell Weicker**

for the Reform nomination, then gets a national stage to debate Gore and Bush. It's win-win for conservatives," says a political operative, who is one of several Buchananites floating the idea past Pat, and who believes that a Reform ticket with Buchanan would force Bush to the right.

Rolling Over and Over

So much for **Dennis Hastert** and **Trent Lott** backing the



Congressional Budget Office in its seemingly endless war with the White House's Office of Management and Budget. When House and Senate appropriators saw CBO's cost breakdowns for several 2000-01 appropriations bills, committee chairmen went bonkers. Seems CBO's figures for congressional and White House programs were at least \$30 billion higher than OMB's. And that's without adding in an extra \$7 billion CBO estimated for defense appropriations. The appropriations committees have demanded that CBO revise its numbers to bring them in line with the favorable OMB figures. Why is this a big deal? First, rarely have the cost estimates by the two agencies varied so wildly. Second, OMB's figures are seen at CBO as far too optimistic, a clear sign the White House is cooking the num-

bers to pressure Congress into spending far beyond what revenues can support in the next couple of years. "Clinton has everyone buying into the rosy projections," said a Republican appropriations analyst in the Senate. "In the Reagan years we were constantly having to fight with Democrats over our OMB projections. Today, Republicans are just rolling over for Clinton."

Capitol High

While in Washington for a June 22 fundraiser, **George W. Bush** made a much anticipated stop on Capitol Hill, where he was treated like a sun king. Among the most enthusiastic greeters was Rep. **Jennifer Dunn**, who after a closed-door

meeting with Bush gushed like a giddy school girl to reporters about the man who will be prez. "It was magic in there," she said, dreamily. The same can't be said for Bush aide de camp **Karl Rove**, who made the rounds



of various conservative publications and think tanks. The seemingly unanimous verdict was that Rove and the New Bushies need to be taken down a couple of notches on the ego meter if they're to win every-one over. ☛

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

Albert Inexcusable



London

Every spring about this time the popular British historian Paul Johnson and his wife Marigold hold a garden party at his London home. The mix of politicians,

intellectuals, and businesspeople is unlike anything one would come upon in the United States. Political Correctitude is not yet a religion here.

At the Johnsons' party there are apt to be people from the left such as the playwright Harold Pinter and Lord and Lady Longford. Like me they are now war resisters. Then too there were authoritative, if divergent, students of the Balkan fracas, such as Noel Malcolm and John Keegan, the author of a very good history of World War I. The playboy philosopher Taki was there, postulating his tricky metaphysical theories. And there was even a London-based reporter from a mainstream American newspaper, who lived up to my expectations. He was very nice, very superior, and very convinced that this London crowd was so much wittier than any group of sophisticates one might find in America. Furthermore, no one at Paul Johnson's would be so gauche as to inveigh against Our President in the shocking way that the *Washington Post's* Sally Quinn and David Broder had. Allow me this footnote: Broder waited until the last minute to express his indignation over Clinton's transformation of the White House into animal house. When Broder did finally fall on Clinton he did it with the utmost restraint. It is a defect he can rectify the next time the 42nd president disgraces himself.

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

At any rate there were many diverse views expressed the other night, but most seemed to agree with the philosopher Taki that when Vice President Al Gore termed President Clinton's sex life "inexcusable" he committed a major political blunder. Better it would be for Gore and all Democrats up for election simply to stay the course. Continue to say that fellatio in the White House with a young intern is a private matter. Continue to say everyone does it. Continue to insist that every American president from George Washington to the present had a small harem somewhere behind the drapes.

Gore has been stalwart in defending the ithyphallic adulterer, obstructor of justice, and dog-wagger in the White House. On the very day Clinton was impeached for doing what any red-blooded American sexual deviant would do when brought before a grand jury—that is to say, commit perjury—Gore stood on the White House lawn and described the Boy Pedophile as "one of our greatest presidents." Now he says he was just being loyal and that voters should marvel at what a good, loyal vice president he is. Well, he should not be surprised that his sudden disparagement of the president triggered uncomfortable questions from the press. He gave them the provocation.

Had Gore stuck to his earlier lines that the president should be allowed his privacy and that presidents will be presidents, it is unlikely the press would have pounced. If the press did take issue with Gore, he could merely rely on the Democrats' party line. It did not get them into hot water in the past. Why should it get them into hot water now?

The Clintons have been successful in overcoming their scandals because they are reflexive liars. Even when caught with an abundance of evidence they merely

avoid the topic. Then they excoriate those who amassed the evidence and remind the world of the incipient Nazism of their political opponents. At best they are Clinton-haters or extremists—a term that has not been so effectively used since President Lyndon Johnson used it against Senator Barry Goldwater in the presidential campaign of 1964.

Rather than call Clinton's behavior "inexcusable" Gore should be laughing it off as the price Bill Clinton pays for being the handsomest Southern president since Jimmy Carter. Then the vice president should remind the journalists of their complicity in the Spanish American War and the Red Scare. He should repine over

25 YEARS AGO IN The American Spectator

There is nothing dreamlike about technology: It works—and because it works, it gives plausibility to the notion that modern man is uniquely in the position of being able to convert his idealized dreams into tangible reality. It also gives plausibility to the notion that, because the development of technology—of man's control over both nature and man—is progressive, therefore human history itself can be defined as progressive, as leading us from an imperfect human condition to a perfected one. The ancient Hebrews, the Greeks, the Christians, all felt there was a diabolical aspect to the power of technology; they saw no reason to think men would always use this power wisely, and thought it quite probable we would use it for destructive ends. But modern technology, emerging in a context of millenarian aspirations and rationalist metaphysics, was not bothered—at least not until recently—by such doubts. Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis* is the first truly modern utopia—a society governed by scientists and technologists....

—Irving Kristol
"Utopianism, Ancient and Modern"
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