

by Jackie Mason and Raoul Felder

Who's Kidding Who?

Love it or Lieberman, or something like that.

Osbourne Chauncey de Pew the III was in a tizzy. Osbourne the III had nothing against Jews, especially if he got sick since every Gentile knows Jews are the best doctors. To Osbourne, Jewish lawyers were also OK, at least if it involved an accident case. And he didn't mind seeing a Jewish comedian on the stage or even buying shirts from a Jew. But it was like he was stabbed in the heart when Al Gore picked Joseph Lieberman as his running mate.

Now, Osbourne is no slouch when it comes to politics. He understood that Gore had problems. Gore had spent the last eight years down the hall from Clinton, giving out numbers to the girls as they lined up. When Clinton was caught with his pants down and his presidency was turned into one long dirty joke, Gore praised him as "one of America's greatest presidents." Most of America's religious leaders proudly went along with him. "He said he's sorry, we should forgive him and move on" seemed to be the mantra. Even Billy Graham offered an excuse for Clinton's behavior, saying that Clinton was a sexy man and just couldn't help himself. The unworthy thought crossed our minds that most rapists and degenerates could make this same argument.

Then Gore was caught raising money in a tax-exempt religious institution: a Buddhist temple. His explanation was that it never happened. Then they told him they had proof. "Oh, if you have proof, it's another

story. Why didn't you say so in the first place?" He then was able to remember sitting in a room with 200 men with their hair shaved off, all wearing sheets and handing him money. But as far as being in a Buddhist temple for a fundraiser, he had no such recollection. He thought he was either at a bald-headed men's KKK convention or a Macy's January White sale.

Gore admitted under oath that he attended one fundraiser in a government building. Fundraising in a government building is against the law. But it turned out it was not just one he attended, but 21 of them. So what, he said, a president doesn't have to be perfect in arithmetic.

Gore was also the author of the wee-wee school of jurisprudence. Whenever the subject of fundraising came up at one important meeting, Gore's answer was he didn't hear it because he wasn't in the room. He had a perfect alibi. He drank too much iced tea and had to respond to a call of nature at the very moment when they were talking about the things he came to discuss in the first place. After he gave this explanation, all over America criminals were running to supermarkets to buy iced tea.

When it came to making fund-raising calls from a government office, which is also a crime, Gore, just like Clinton, instantly became a linguistics expert doing pirouettes around the words "is" and "here." Gore, who is not a lawyer suddenly became an expert in interpreting the law, saying, "let me repeat that there is no controlling legal authority that says any of these activities violated the law."

Osbourne was smart and understood Gore's need to balance the ticket in such a way, that the very presence of a perceived-

to-be ethical person, on the ticket with him, a person identified with deeply religious principles, would, in itself, make a strong moral statement and make it difficult to tie Gore to Clinton's activities.

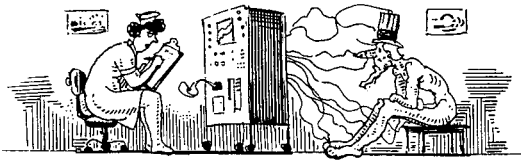
The Gore people reasoned that Jesse Jackson was too black, Billy Graham too old, and Louis Farrakhan too vile to be chosen as a running mate. Joseph Lieberman, on the other hand, seemed to be a divine inspiration. Considered to be a devoutly religious Orthodox Jew, he was one of the few Democrats in the Senate who openly condemned Clinton for his activities.

The Gore people, however, forgot about poor Osbourne the III, one of the twelve percent of Americans who, when polled, acknowledged being anti-Semitic. A Gore-Lieberman ticket upset Osbourne.

Putting his anti-Semitism aside, Osbourne tried to explain to anyone who would listen that placing Lieberman on the ticket would not sanitize Gore. It works the other way around. If John Gotti went into partnership with the Grand Rabbi of Jerusalem, Gotti would not be perceived as an honest figure, but rather the Rabbi would appear to be in partnership with a criminal.

Osbourne tried to explain that Lieberman has taken positions opposite that of Gore's on Social Security, school choice, affirmative action, and even the idea of moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Lieberman has attacked the movie industry, a base of economic support for Clinton-Gore, and was the author of a Senate report that criticized the 1996 Clinton-Gore campaign for taking monies from companies and people with ties to China. In brief, how can you trust a man who is prepared to make so many flip-flops just to get elected? But nobody would listen to Osbourne. It just seems like an anti-Semite can't get a break these days. ❧

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by John B. Roberts II

TWA 800's Final Dissent

The woman who called Al Gore and Jim Hall's bluff.

As the National Transportation Safety Board convened its final hearing into the TWA 800 case on August 22, Miami-based aviation safety activist Victoria Cummock boarded a transcontinental flight to take her oldest son across the country to start college. NTSB Chairman Jim Hall may have hoped the two-day hearing in Washington would close the TWA case, but it is Victoria Cummock who will have the last official word on the events surrounding Flight 800.

Thanks to a Court of Appeals decision supporting her lawsuit against Vice President Gore, Cummock has finally gained access to at least some security files withheld from her since 1996. Included in them are documents which show the commingling of politics and policy that from the start has clouded the TWA probe. Cummock is using the files to write a final dissent to the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security report issued in the wake of the TWA explosion.

"She always had the sense that a number of the people involved in the commission and some of the commissioners themselves were out campaigning for Clinton and Gore in the fall of 1996," says an attorney at the McKenna & Cuneo law firm handling her case. "Documents she's finding in the commission archives bear that out."

Four years ago, Victoria Cummock was invited by President Clinton to fly with him to New York to meet with grieving Flight 800 families. Aboard Air Force One, Clinton asked Cummock to serve on the

advisory committee he created to review airport security in the wake of the crash.

In the weeks before the Flight 800 explosion, Clinton's National Security Council had received credible terrorist threats against air travel. On the very day the aircraft was destroyed—July 17, 1996—NSC counterterrorism coordinator Richard Clark had convened an extraordinary interagency meeting to heighten security precautions against attacks on aircraft or airports.

Cummock, then president of the Families of Pan Am 103, was well-known as an aviation security activist. After her husband died on Pan Am 103, she worked tirelessly lobbying Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration to tighten aviation security. In 1996, she served on the FAA's Security Advisory Committee and held top-secret government clearances. It was natural for Clinton to ask for her help.

She readily agreed after learning that Vice President Gore would chair the new White House commission, giving it much-needed bureaucratic clout. In mid-September 1996, the commission issued a tough interim report calling for strict new security standards. But following the presidential election that November, the urgency of the commission's work began to fade. Also in November, NTSB Chairman Jim Hall began giving off-the-record press briefings criticizing the parallel probe run by FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom, and advancing the theory that an accidental malfunction instead of deliberate sabotage brought down TWA 800.

Behind the scenes, friction between the NTSB and the FBI intensified. Hall opposed further efforts to recover the damaged parts of the aircraft, while Kallstrom

wanted to extend dredging and recovery operations. Battles between the two agencies had to be resolved by White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta. Kallstrom won crucial rounds over dredging and reconstruction of the wreckage, but eventually Hall prevailed. When the FBI suspended its criminal probe, a crucial five percent of the wreckage of TWA 800 remained unrecovered in the water off Long Island.

Inside the White House commissioner meetings, Cummock sensed a loss of momentum for new security measures. As Hall undermined Kallstrom, Cummock also came under attack. Some commissioners accused Cummock of conflicts of interest, implying that she was arguing for stricter security because she had financial interests in companies that would benefit from tough standards.

The unfounded accusations undercut her work on the commission. By the time the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security issued its final report in early 1997, none of the tough measures from September's interim report remained.

Cummock was the sole commissioner to refuse to endorse the weakened report. She insisted on writing a dissent. At the commission's final meeting, Gore promised to publish Cummock's dissent in the official report. After gaveling the meeting to a close, Gore joined Clinton at a White House news conference at which he proudly hailed the report as "unanimous."

Soon the commission disbanded. Its records were sent to the Transportation Department for archival storage. Many of the files were sealed. Their contents would still be unknown if Gore had kept his word and published Victoria Cummock's dissent.

Instead, the Gore staff refused to include Cummock's 45-page dissent.

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