

teers; and entrepreneur Bruce Whitehead. Mugges: the taxpayers of Iowa and the patients in the nursing homes.

How's *that* for Hillary Health Care in action? A harbinger for the whole country?

So delighted were the Mugges with this little transaction that they decided on a quick follow-up. Why not bring the delights of Iowa to good old Arkansas? The following month, September 1989, the same cast of characters: The Rose Law firm, Beverly Enterprises, and Bruce Whitehead tried to pull the same stunt in Arkansas. The deal: that Beverly would sell 32 nursing homes in Arkansas to another shell non-profit set up by the indefatigable Whitehead, to be financed by \$81 million in tax-exempt bonds to be issued by the Arkansas Development Financial Authority. Whitehead was set for another quick \$4 million profit from this scheme. Conditions seemed great, what with Slick Willie himself as Governor. However, everything unraveled when the Arkansas Attorney-General publicly charged that he was offered a \$100,000 bribe to stop opposing the plan. Amidst the ensuing brouhaha, Whitehead challenged the head of the Arkansas Financial Authority, who opposed the scheme, to the modern Arkansas equivalent of a duel. Finally, Slick Willie was forced to kill the plan, muttering that "Ah feel bad"

about the plan.

As more and more Americans begin to think the unthinkable about impeaching Slick Willie, the Clintonian counter is that all of his alleged peccadilloes, sexual and financial, took place *before* (sometimes very soon before) his accession to the Presidency. But who decreed some sort of moral statute of limitations? Let us never forget that Vice-President Spiro Agnew, whose Maryland shenanigans seem lovable by contrast, was forced to resign for activities before he had risen to the post of Vice-President.

During and after the 1992 campaign, all we kept hearing were the glories of "change," of Clinton's commitment to "change," of Willie as "change-agent." Well, why don't we give *him* a change, and ship the whole sleazy crew of white trash-turned-yuppie back to Little Rock? ■

## Wiretapping the Public

by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

J. Edgar Hoover warned Congress against turning the FBI into a national police force. Yet somehow, when we weren't looking, that's exactly what happened. Now this armed bureaucracy is asking Congress for permission to monitor every electronic communication in the country.

The "Feebies," as they are known unaffectionately to local police, plan to charge us half a billion dollars for the privilege. The expensive software will allow them to gather an impressive amount of personal information on us, including telephone calling patterns, credit cards transactions, electronic mail, faxes, and every other piece of business conducted over a cable.

FBI director Charles Freeh claims the government doesn't want to spy on us. No sir. It merely wants to catch criminals, terrorists, and other assorted public enemies. For this "security" and "safety," we should be glad to give up "a measure" of our personal privacy.

Typical of our fibbing government, his bill is called the "Privacy Improvement Act of 1994." When an interviewer asked him about privacy, Freeh said: "I understand the privacy concern. My real objective is to get access to the content of telephone calls." What a relief.

Vice President Al Gore warns about a society divided between the "information haves" and the "information have nots." Now we know what he means. The public has information and the government wants it. Parents make their children hang up when they listen in, but we're supposed to let Janet Reno pick up on a federal extension.

The FBI's bill is in addition to traditional eavesdropping,

which the FBI and the Justice Department want to facilitate with the "clipper chip," to be installed in all phones and computers, it will encode a "back door" into every transmission, through which the Feebies can enter at will.

The President hasn't proposed that federal two-way televisions be installed in every home, so he can exhort us at the beginning of the day (Big Bubba?). And not even Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders has urged that a scent sensor be included, to check if we've been smoking. Those innovations would be in the spirit of the legislation, however.

When the personal computer came of age, George Gilder told us it would be a boon to individual liberty. It would put information, the "capital" of our new technology-driven economy, outside the government's reach. Central bureaucracies would be at a loss to regulate and plan, and free markets would rule again.

But governments never give up power voluntary. Their permanent mode is expansion and control. And when the market generates new technology, governments use it to their own advantage.

For this reason, people and organizations that have come to rely on a vast and growing network of electronic communications have drawn a line in cyberspace. They are fighting the administration on this one, as Congress has already learned from faxes

and mail.

Proposals such as Mr. Freeh's call on us to review the meaning of the word totalitarian. It not only describes the Soviet and similar regimes. It refers to any attempt by the central state to monitor and control every aspect of our lives, from forcing condoms on our kids to monitoring our personal finances to listening in on our telephone and e-mail conversations.

The Clinton administration thinks nothing of trashing sacred liberties, shredding ancient tenets of Western legal codes, and violating every American tradition.

But I've got a better idea. How about a new cable channel called White House TV? Around the clock, it would monitor the Oval Office, Hillary's den, Ira Magaziner's lair, and every other public space.

The cameras would follow Bill on his jogs, in his limo, and even into the kitchen. The exchanges between Bill and Hillary that we hear so much about would be particularly interesting.

We need wire-taps all over the White House, the Old Executive Office Building, the offices of Janet

Reno, Donna Shalala, and all the other cabinet ministers. The public pays for it. They should be able to listen in.

What about "classified" information, you ask? Who are we afraid of? The Bosnian Serbs? The American people fork over a trillion and a half bucks a year to support the leviathan in the style to which it's become accustomed. We should at least, in return, be able to know what it's doing to us. ■

## The Recycling Myth

by L.H.R., Jr.

At the height of the late-80s green hysteria, the legislature of Suffolk County, New York, jumped into the environmental swamp (or should I say wetland?) and banned all plastic food containers.

Scalding-hot paper cups of herbal tea in hand, left-liberals all over the country toasted the dawn of the eco-millennium. Government would

force producers to pay out billions for the new prohibi-

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