

Thatcher's son facing RICO suit in Texas

by Mark Burdman

Britain's former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, ever eager to be the center of attention, was anticipating arriving in Dallas, Texas the first week of October, to speak before fawning U.S. admirers on "the merits of free trade." As the London *Sunday Times* commented on Oct. 2, she was being billed in Dallas as a "living legend." But little did Baroness Thatcher realize, when she accepted the speaking engagement, that a storm of controversy would be erupting in Britain about the Texas activities of her son Mark and of her own pet Thatcher Foundation.

On Oct. 2, two of Britain's leading Sunday weeklies, the *Observer* and *Sunday Times*, ran front-page articles, revealing that son Mark was about to be hit with a \$3 million RICO (Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) suit, for illicit activities concerning the Texas-based aircraft fuels firm Ameristar. "Mark Thatcher Faces \$3 Million Lawsuit in Texas," was the *Observer's* headline. It noted that "the U.S. branch of the Thatcher Foundation shared the same corporate address as Ameristar."

Hitting at the Thatcher clan in Texas, is hitting at one of the strong points of the baroness's relation to former U.S. President George Bush and to the Bush clan more generally. The Thatcher-Bush relationship consolidated in the period leading up to the 1991 Persian Gulf war against Iraq, when then-Prime Minister Thatcher flew on her broomstick to Aspen, Colorado, in the hours after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, to "stiffen the backbone" of the American President, so that he would lead a United Nations-backed decimation of Iraq. The Thatcher-Bush combination have, ever since, promoted a U.N.-centered "new world order," to be run by the Anglo-Americans and aimed at imposing looting and genocide on the countries of the Third World and former Soviet Union, and to counter whatever attempts might be made to build an alliance for peace and development in Eurasia.

Son of a Bush exposed

One of Bush's main power bases, of course, is Texas. He was formerly U.S. congressman from Texas and built up his oil/energy company fortune in the state. (See *EIR's George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography* for more information.) Both he and his long-standing friend James Baker III, secretary of state during Bush's presidency, have, in the past couple of years, built a considerable network of influence into



Margaret Thatcher's son is in trouble in Texas, just as George Bush's son is, and it looks as though the timing of these scandals is by no means a coincidence.

the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, via their connections to the powerful Texas-based Enron Corp.

Besides this, Bush's son George W. Bush, is running as Republican candidate for governor in Texas, in the Nov. 8 elections. He is running on a ticket combining radical "free-trade" nostrums and draconian "anti-crime" measures, including expanded use of the death penalty. What is highly interesting, in view of the breaking scandal around Mark Thatcher, is that the campaign of George W. Bush's opponent, incumbent Gov. Ann Richards, has in the past days—and for the first time since the electoral battle commenced—begun publicly exposing the younger Bush for his illicit "insider trading" activities with the Harken Energy Corp. in the 1990-91 period. Heretofore, only associates of Lyndon LaRouche had publicized that sordid story.

Informed intelligence sources believe the simultaneous scandals hitting the ill-begotten sons of Bush and Thatcher, are the beginning of a systematic campaign to hit the Thatcher-Bush combination on various fronts. One veteran expert with decades-long experience in the Middle East sees this as part of a widening fight between leading American and British interests in the Persian Gulf, in the days following British Prime Minister John Major's mid-September stopover in Saudi Arabia, where he worked out huge deals with the Saudis. Reportedly, the Saudis have agreed to invest large sums in the collapsing British bond market. Saudi Arabia, of course, was a chief bankroller of the war against Iraq.

It is also stressed, by sources in a position to know, that among the many dirty activities that Mark Thatcher has been implicated in over the past years, is a series of shady deals with the Sultanate of Oman, where, as one expert put it, "he made millions of dollars by speculating on the name of his mother."

'What they did was reprehensible'

According to the *Observer*, Houston lawyer William E. King announced over the Oct. 1-2 weekend, that a suit would be filed by mid-October, under RICO legislation, seeking \$1 million in personal damages from Mark Thatcher. The "treble damages" allowed under RICO protocols could mean that the actual damages paid out could amount to \$3 million or more. Maggie's son would be sued for his part in the takeover of Ameristar. King is the lawyer for John "Jay" Laughlin, the founder of Ameristar, which was taken over this year by David Wallace, a 33-year-old Texas business partner of Mark Thatcher. According to the *Observer*, Wallace and the 41-year-old Mark Thatcher are partners in Grantham, an investment company named after Baroness Thatcher's birthplace. Wallace resigned in August as treasurer and director of her Thatcher Foundation, according to the *Sunday Times*.

The *Observer* wrote: "Mr. Laughlin claims he was duped into allowing Mr. Wallace a controlling stake in the company in 1993 and was then squeezed out completely last January. In 1993, Ameristar was worth \$2 million, although it had an annual turnover of \$250 million. Last month, when Mr. Wallace put Ameristar into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, it had a negative worth of \$6 million. Mr. Laughlin maintains that Mr. Wallace was a front man for Mark Thatcher, 41, who put up part of the money to buy a 50% share in Ameristar."

Laughlin informed the *Sunday Times* that Ameristar had been "hijacked." He said that Thatcher and Wallace "conspired" to take control of the firm "by falsifying its financial position to engineer a cash crisis." Thatcher and Wallace are "alleged to have taken an increased stake in the company after claiming it needed a major injection of cash." Laughlin further stated that in January of this year, he was physically escorted from his office by Thatcher's bodyguard and an armed, off-duty Houston policeman. He told the paper: "What they did was reprehensible."

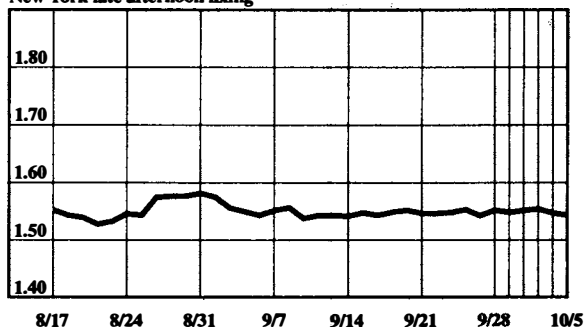
Shortly after this transaction, Mark Thatcher relocated his personal office from Dallas to Ameristar's premises in Houston. Grantham has moved into Ameristar's Houston offices, and Mark has secured deals for Ameristar in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Belgium. As indicated above, the U.S. branch of the Thatcher Foundation shares the same corporate address as Ameristar.

The *Sunday Times* also noted that Thatcher and Wallace intended to reorganize the Ameristar structure so that it would be wholly owned by a new company, of which Mark Thatcher would be the chairman.

Currency Rates

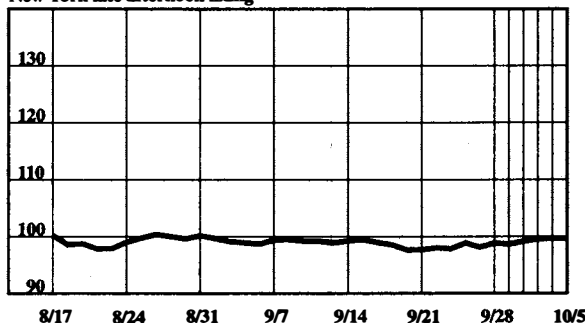
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



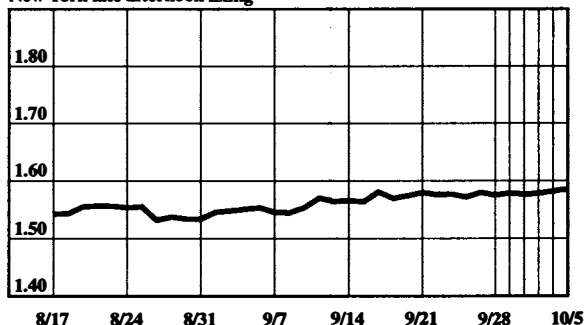
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

