

## The real 'dope' on the three Georges

by Jeffrey Steinberg

During the last week of October, many Americans were drawn into the “did he or didn’t he” controversy, involving wanna be President George W. Bush and his “feloniously challenged” biographer J.H. Hatfield. Hatfield produced an “Afterword” to his extraordinarily well-researched biography of the Texas governor, which quoted three unnamed sources, to the effect that G.W. had been arrested for cocaine possession in 1972, and the records had been expunged through the efforts of his daddy, Sir George H.W. Bush, then-Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Charges and counter-charges flew faster than a ping-pong ball, with “Dubya” denying all, and accusing his accuser of being a convicted felon. God only knows how much behind-the-scenes heat came down on Hatfield’s publishers and editors at St. Martin’s Press, because, within days of the felony story surfacing, the publisher pulled back all the unsold copies of the book, and announced that they would be recycled into confetti.

The whole affair would have likely been one of the great non-events of the year 2000 Presidential election “silly season,” were it not for former President Bush’s big mouth. On a Fox TV interview, he threw one of his notorious tantrums. Puffed up with self-righteous indignation, he lashed out at Hatfield, and anyone else who would dare to accuse his squeaky-clean son of dabbling with drugs. The fit drew national news attention the next day, and the scandal was back on the front page. Election historians may soon be writing the political epitaph for George W. Bush, as the result of daddy’s “anger thing.”

*EIR* researchers are in the process of conducting an investigation into the 1972 cocaine bust allegations, and the Bush vs. Hatfield flap. Note that, before the wrath of Bush landed

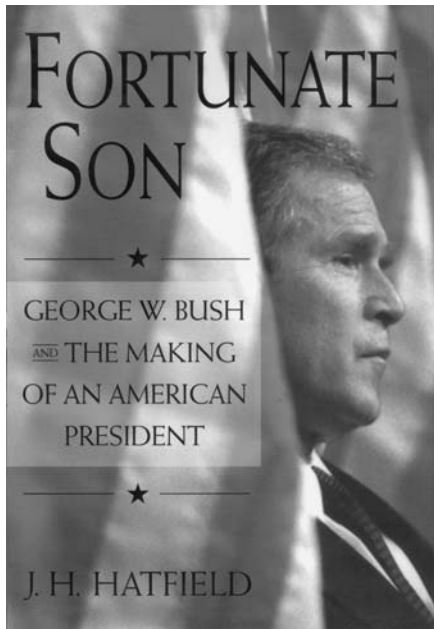
on St. Martin’s Press, the publishers had thoroughly vetted the Hatfield manuscript—including the Afterword, containing the cocaine bust reports. Not only did two teams of lawyers deem the book libel-free. But St. Martin’s also decided to move up the publication date, and increase the first run to 90,000 copies, on the strength of the new revelations.

As of this moment, we at *EIR* cannot confirm the truth of the story. For now, as the old advertisement used to say, “Only his hairdresser knows for sure.”

But, if the truth be told, the Bush gang’s persistent ties to Dope, Inc. run far deeper than the inner lining of Dubya’s nose, vintage 1972. In fact, even as the “did he or didn’t he” imbroglio was playing out, the Bush boys, father and son, were flaunting their links to the drug mafia, especially the narco-terrorist component, for all to see. And, in a particularly egregious boo-boo, Dubya cast his vote for dope legalization king (and former investor in Bush’s oil ventures) George Soros, by proclaiming that the legalization of “medical marijuana”—Soros’s latest legalization scam—is a “states’ rights issue.”

### Pastrana comes to town

On Oct. 18, Colombian President Andrés Pastrana, who has turned over close to half of his country to the de facto control of the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) since taking office last year, arrived in Houston, Texas for two days of meetings with the bigs of the oil industry. His host: former U.S. President Sir George Bush. His mission: to convince the Texas oil barons that it was safe to invest in Colombia, because he was about to strike a comprehensive “peace” deal with the FARC and the other major narco-terrorist gang, the Army of National Liberation



*The publisher pulled this book from the market under heavy pressure from the Bush league.*

(ELN), a deal which would guarantee that no more oil pipelines, or drilling rigs, or refineries, would be blown up.

After a brief one-on-one meeting with Governor Bush, the Colombian President spent 90 minutes with the elder Bush. And the next day, former President Bush hosted Pastrana at a “Forum on Colombian Energy,” attended by 310 executives representing all of the Texas oil companies. In his introductory remarks, Bush declared himself “not only a friend, but a strong supporter of Colombia.” Pastrana and Colombian Energy Minister Luis Carlos Valenzuela singled out three American energy firms, Texaco, Occidental, and Enron, for doing their part, by maintaining their investments and operations in Colombia, despite the bombings, kidnappings, and assassinations.

Of course, the Colombian officials failed to mention that Occidental Petroleum had negotiated a “protection” deal with the ELN that put millions of dollars a year into the terrorists’ hands, as insurance against narco-guerrilla actions against their pipelines. British Petroleum, which is now the largest domestic oil refiner in the United States, has also poured millions of dollars into the terrorists’ coffers to secure their drilling and pipeline operations.

### **Meanwhile, off in Havana . . .**

On the very day that George H.W. Bush was giving his imprimatur to the surrender of Colombia to the narco-terrorists, Colombian Foreign Minister Guillermo Fernández was holding secret talks in Havana, with the top leadership of the ELN, accelerating the surrender process! The ELN has been insisting on getting the same deal that Pastrana has given to the FARC: control over a large swath of Colombian territory as their own quasi-sovereign narco-state within a state.

The talks in Cuba were conducted under the sponsorship of Fidel Castro, who is the actual founding father (in 1990) of the São Paulo Forum, the Ibero-American alliance of all of the major narco-terrorist gangs and their political party fronts.

Castro’s own hands are apparently covered with the white powder. According to a Robert D. Novak column in the Oct. 28 *Washington Post*, “Last Dec. 3, the Colombian National Police seized 7.2 metric tons of high-grade cocaine in Cartagena [Colombia]. The drugs were bound for Havana and consigned by a joint venture controlled 51% by the Cuban government with two Spanish partners — [José] Herrera and José Llorca — controlling 49%.” According to Novak, on Oct. 16, as President Pastrana was preparing to depart for Houston, a bipartisan team of U.S. Congressional investigators was in Spain, interviewing Herrera, who detailed the involvement of the Castro government and two senior General Directorate of Intelligence (DGI) officials in the “hands on” management of the company that had arranged the cocaine shipment. Herrera told the investigators that the cocaine was bound for the United States.

### **Enter, Venezuela’s Hugo Chávez**

While Fidel was the host of the Colombia-ELN love-in, the initial arrangements for the Havana session were, according to Ibero-American sources, made by Venezuela’s President Hugo Chávez. Chávez even angered his Colombian counterpart, Pastrana, when, shortly after his inauguration, he entered into direct negotiations with the FARC and the ELN, to ensure “security” along the Venezuelan-Colombian border. Chávez’s action was tantamount to an official recognition of the two narco-terrorist gangs as the de facto governing body over portions of Colombian territory.

If the two Ibero-American Presidents ever need a friend to step in and patch up their differences, Sir George Bush is probably the man for the job. Not only did he host Pastrana as part of the Houston-Havana double-diplomacy. But also, on June 11, the elder Bush gave a great big *abrazo* to Chávez, who was a guest at the former American President’s 75th birthday party in Houston. The next day the Venezuelan press was full of photos of Chávez, arriving at the mansion of Robert Mosbacher for the Bush birthday bash, in a stretch limo. Later, he was photographed arm-in-arm with the birthday boy.

The next day, Chávez, again courtesy of Bush, addressed a session of the Greater Houston Partnership, attended by more than 400 local luminaries, including the oil industry executives whom Bush later would put together with President Pastrana.

Following the Houston jaunt, and a two-day tour of Wall Street, Chávez returned to Venezuela to wheel and deal with the FARC and the ELN, and to fulfill his campaign promise of launching a Jacobin-style assault on the Venezuelan Constitution and every other civic and governmental institution.

As a backlash against the Venezuelan upstart began to

build in Washington, it was once again “Bush to the rescue” — this time, in the form of a timely endorsement of the Chávez “revolution” by the Bush political team. On Aug. 23, the Forum for International Policy, a Washington think-tank populated by veterans of the Bush administration, sent out a policy brief, titled “Venezuela: Democratic Reform or Dictatorship in the Making?” The FIP, which includes Bush alter-ego and former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, former Bush Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, former Bush Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, former Bush Ambassador to Moscow Robert Strauss, former Bush Special Presidential Assistant Condoleezza Rice, and former Bush CIA Director Robert Gates, wrote of Chávez: “Although President Chávez and now the Constituent Assembly continue to act swiftly and often dramatically, Washington—and that includes Congress—should be careful not to over-react. Venezuela’s problems are its own to solve and Hugo Chávez is the people’s choice to try to solve them.”

### Dubya bonds with Soros

If Sir George’s public dalliances with Ibero-America’s two biggest narco-leaders weren’t bad enough, George W. Bush cast his lot squarely in the Dope, Inc. camp on Oct. 16, during a campaign appearance in Seattle, Washington. Dubya went “off script” in response to a question about whether he supported Congressional Republican efforts to ban the implementation of a medical marijuana referendum, bankrolled by Soros, that was approved in a referendum in the nation’s capital. According to the *Washington Post* of Oct. 22, Dubya, using the best Bush family grammar, told the reporter, “I believe each state can choose that decision as they so choose.”

Governor Bush’s embrace of states’ rights over the effort to curb drug abuse, won immediate cheers of approval from one of Soros’s most notorious dope-lobby retainers, Keith Stroup, the head of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), who told the *Post* that he was “delighted” by Bush’s support of state authority over a Federal anti-drug policy.

“Governor Bush is at least being consistent. Republicans frequently talk about devolution, returning power to the states. . . . It is encouraging to hear him indicate that he would leave this decision to them.”

Not every Republican rejoiced at Bush’s “compassion” for pot users. Rep. Robert Barr (R-Ga.) came out backing White House anti-drug policy adviser Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.), who has been the leading opponent of the medical marijuana hoax. Barr said that Governor Bush “has staked out a position to the left of the Clinton administration, which is a very odd place for a Republican Presidential candidate to be.”

Was Dubya’s politically foolish embrace of the dope lobby’s medical marijuana ruse a payback for a long-ago favor? Could be. In September 1986, the Vice President’s son’s latest oil venture, Spectrum 7, was sinking fast, when he was bailed

out on the most generous of terms. His worthless outfit was merged with Harken Energy, an up-and-coming Houston oil firm. G.W. came away with a big chunk of Harken stock, which he was later able to sell off, under questionable circumstances, in return for a stake in the Texas Rangers baseball franchise. In 1986, when “Dubya” was bailed out by the Harkin deal, according to the July 30, 1999 *Washington Post*, “Hungarian-born billionaire George Soros . . . was listed as the company’s biggest stockholder (46.8%).”

Today, Soros is the undisputed “Daddy Warbucks” of the dope lobby, bankrolling every U.S. and Ibero-American pro-dope organization. Sir George Bush is still in bed with Ibero-America’s leading narco-statesmen—a throwback to his 1980s days as the cocaine kingpin of Washington. And Governor Bush is already showing signs that he will march in his father’s footsteps, if he is allowed anywhere near the Oval Office. That’s the “real dope” on the three Georges.

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## Documentation

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### ‘Dubya’ Bush biographer Hatfield speaks out

*On Oct. 25, Gov. George W. Bush biographer J.H. Hatfield issued a public statement about the controversy surrounding his book. The statement was circulated via the Drudge Report on the Internet. The following are excerpts.*

My recently published biography *Fortunate Son: George W. Bush and the Making of an American President*, is “scrupulously corroborated and sourced,” as described by my publisher, St. Martin’s Press, in their own press release on Oct. 18. However, when an author writes about the current governor of Texas and the front-runner for the U.S. Presidency (whose father happens to have been the former director of the CIA and the President of the United States), it is amazing how quickly the smear campaign and character assassination efforts can be mobilized.

On Monday, Oct. 18, I was in New York City promoting *Fortunate Son*. Although John Murphy, the head of the publisher’s publicity department, had previously promised they could arrange an appearance by me on the “Today” show, “Good Morning America,” and interviews with most major news outlets in the country (I even taped a segment for the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather), we quickly found ourselves running into a virtual news blackout and lack of media coverage of the release of my new biography of the leading Presidential candidate, George W. Bush. St. Martin’s Press, a respectable publisher which had previously published Bar-

bara Bush's best-selling memoirs and Monica Lewinsky's story, were told repeatedly "off the record" by news agencies that the George W. Bush Presidential campaign was putting pressure on the news organizations to *not* give my biography any coverage.

Two days after the book tour began, the emphasis of the story changed from Presidential front-runner George W. Bush to biographer J.H. Hatfield. From the beginning of civilization, if you wanted to destroy the message, you had to destroy the messenger. And, quite frankly, that has happened this week. Not only have I been attacked repeatedly in the news media and harassed to the point that I was forced to send my wife, and less-than-a-month-old baby girl into hiding, the publisher took the unprecedented step of not only suspending publication of the book (there are 90,000 copies in print), but also recalling it from bookstores because St. Martin's Press called into question their ability to trust the information provided to them by the author.

From Midland to Dallas to Houston, I spent over a year researching *Fortunate Son*, interviewing hundreds of George W. Bush's friends, college classmates, business associates, political colleagues, employees, acquaintances — all who graciously contributed their time, knowledge, and experiences. Thomas Dunne, whose division and imprint published the biography for St. Martin's Press, told a reporter on Monday, Oct. 18, that the book had been "carefully fact-checked and scrutinized by lawyers." Actually, during my stay in New York earlier in the week to promote the book's publication on Oct. 19, my editor Barry Neville, and others, told me that I didn't realize the extent of this book's legal review by not only the publisher's in-house counsel, but also the company's outside legal firm, Levine Sullivan & Koch of Washington, D.C. Supposedly, I was a "dream author" who kept meticulous notes and background material exhaustively researched. I have been complimented repeatedly for the almost 60 pages of source notes in the last pages of the biography, which, incidentally, the publisher's legal representatives — both in-house and outside attorneys — reviewed after the manuscript was completed.

The Bush family responded directly to *Fortunate Son* at least a month ago, when one of their representatives called my publisher in regards to an allegation we made in the book that George W.'s engagement to Cathryn Lee Wolfman in 1967 was called off due to pressure from the elder Bushes because the prospective bride's stepfather was Jewish. In the interest of balanced reporting, we added a footnote to the book before it went to press that the Bush family "vehemently denied this explanation" for the young couple's breakup, even though we stood by our sources who stated otherwise.

On Saturday, Oct. 16, my publisher and I were informed that George W. Bush had a copy of *Fortunate Son*'s 12-page Afterword, in which we alleged through three informed sources that he had been arrested for cocaine possession in 1972 and had his record expunged by a Houston judge after

he worked as a youth counselor for several months at Project PULL, where his father was a heavy contributor and honorary chairman. Because the word "expunge" is defined as "to blot or strike out; erase," this created significant problems for me as a biographer. I had to rely on the informed, but confidential testimony of three sources close to the Texas governor who were knowledgeable of the cocaine possession charge against Bush when he was a younger man. In a court of law, attorneys rely on documentary evidence and sometimes more heavily on the testimony of witnesses. The Afterword to the Bush biography relied solely on the irrefutable testimony of three sources close to the governor and because of that proof I came under attack. But these are informed sources who had previously aided with the writing of the biography in other areas of Bush's life, and their testimony was always corroborated by other documentary evidence or other sources.

Cited confidential sources appear every day in newspapers and magazines around the world. While flying to New York, I was reading *U.S. News and World Report*, a respected weekly news-magazine, and noted, in an article on the current rivalry between the FBI and Janet Reno's Justice Department, that an unnamed White House staffer stated that the FBI had been attempting to damage the Clinton administration for some time. In another article in that same magazine, an unnamed Bush campaign official was quoted as saying that former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney was on the short-list of possible running mates with Bush if he received the Republican Presidential nomination. If it wasn't for that mysterious, shadowy figure, Deep Throat, who assisted *Washington Post* reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, we may have never learned the truth about Watergate and Richard Nixon may never have been forced to resign. Because of their proven credibility and close attachment to George W. Bush himself, I stand by my sources and the allegations we make in his biography regarding the cocaine possession charge in 1972 and the subsequent expunging of the arrest after he performed community service. And although my publisher urged me to violate my journalistic principles and confidentiality agreement with my sources and provide their names to various news agencies in hopes of advancing publicity for *Fortunate Son*, I steadily declined.

I have received hundreds of e-mails this week from concerned Americans questioning why the elder Bush, the former President, felt compelled to give an exclusive interview with the Fox News Channel to discuss my biography and the charges I make, and why the publisher took the unprecedented step of recalling what they termed "furnace fodder" while the book was on the top 10 of Amazon.com's best-seller list. Although my *character* has certainly been called into question, my *credibility* as a biographer cannot be debated because this "scrupulously corroborated" (the publisher's own words) biography was exhaustively researched by the author and fact-checked numerous times by several lawyers representing my publisher.