

Bustamante: Mob-Backed Lieberman's Mole

by Michele Steinberg

California Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante dropped any reference in his campaigning to “No on Recall” on Sept. 7, and told Californians to vote for him to replace Gov. Gray Davis, by which act, he showed his true colors as a mole for the mob-linked Democratic Leadership Council, and its poster-boy Sen. Joe Lieberman (Conn.). Bustamante, who has endorsed Lieberman for President, had previously concluded his speeches with the slogan: “No on Recall, Yes on Cruz.” But on Sept. 7, he did not even pretend to make the argument against the recall. When reporters asked the Lieutenant Governor about this, turn-coat Bustamante said that Governor Davis has enough money to fight against the recall, but if Davis is recalled, “I’ve got to be able to make sure and distinguish myself in terms of my ideas, and what I do, and so that’s where I’m focused.”

Bustamante’s stabbing Gray Davis in the back is in stark contrast to the stand taken by other California Democrats, such as Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who has made two ads for Davis and the campaign *against* recall. Feinstein stresses that Democrats should have only one unified focus: Defeat the recall. But, Bustamante’s open shift in tactics coincides with a perceptible decline in Republican candidate Arnie “Enron” Schwarzenegger’s fortunes. Arnie has been sagging as a result of aggressive campaigning by the forces of Lyndon LaRouche, a 2004 candidate for the Democratic Party nomination, against the robotic flunky of synarchist looters George Shultz and Warren Buffett.

The truth is, that Bustamante is out to *win* the governor’s race on Oct. 7, and sink Gov. Gray Davis.

Bustamante is the same kind of “Democrat” Joe Lieberman is—none at all! In fact, Bustamante has hitched his wagon to the right-wing, DLC, and mob-backed Lieberman, because he shares the same politics. Despite the budget disaster in California caused by deregulation and the “energy pirates,” Lieberman still supports deregulation. Davis has admitted this was a mistake—what about Cruz? Bustamante endorsed Lieberman for President in May, when Lieberman was being booed by real California Democrats for supporting the illegal war against Iraq. Now Lieberman is pushing Bustamante against Davis, an act so low no other Democratic Presidential candidate has done it.

According to AP reporter Brian Skoloff, Lieberman, who is dropping in national polls, *needs* a “Governor Bustamante” in California to boost his Presidential aspirations. In August, wrote Skoloff, “donors to Lieberman’s Presidential campaign [had] quietly begun” swinging their support to Bustamante,

against Davis. Lieberman backers dropped “\$5,000 here, \$20,000 there,” for Cruz—characterized by Donna Brazile, Gore-Lieberman campaign manager in 2000, as a “smart strategy.”

But there is much more to the story. At a Sept. 11 press conference in Los Angeles, candidate Lyndon LaRouche, compared calling Bustamante a “Democrat” to “calling Judas Iscariot a Christian.” LaRouche especially pointed to Bustamante’s links to casino interests that are using legalized gambling to loot Native Americans.

Casino Gambling

In August 2002, *EIR* published an exposé on “Crime in the Senate—McCain, Lieberman, and the Bantustan Casinos,” by Anton Chaitkin and Scott Thompson. They wrote: “A criminal apparatus reaching from Russia to Israel to Africa, to Miami and New York, has turned Joe Lieberman’s Connecticut into a world capital of gambling casinos.” The Foxwood and Mohegan Sun Indian casinos, run by South African mobster and money-launderer Solomon “Sol” Kerzner, were modelled on the apartheid “bantustan” casinos that Kerzner had run in South Africa.

With the help of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who had chaired the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and remains a senior member, and Joe Lieberman, Kerzner was able to build the run-down Indian casinos on reservations in Connecticut into rivals of those in Atlantic City, with three times the cash-flow. Kerzner skimmed off billions, said the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, but his mythical powers in turning a “tribe” of a few hundred individuals into billionaires, have now become a model for the latest looting against the Indian tribes. It wouldn’t have been possible without Joe Lieberman.

Bustamante’s campaign has already received several millions in contributions from Indian gambling tribes. The Viejas Band of the Kumeyaay Indians ranks as the fourth largest contributor to all Recall committees and candidates—handing over \$1.5 million, all to Bustamante. The only larger contributors are the Greene Company which financed the original recall effort of Republican Rep. Darrell Issa; Schwarzenegger’s contributions to himself; and Bustamante’s campaign committees’ contributions to himself!

Critics says that this amount of funding is illegal under California campaign funding reform, which limits contributions from a single entity to \$21,200. Bustamante claims a loophole—directing funds to a previous campaign committee, set up *before* the reform bill.

In 1999, the Indian tribes received the exclusive right to run Nevada-style gaming in California, and now the business has grown to \$5 billion a year. Bustamante has also received \$500,000 from the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, and \$300,000 from the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and there’s more to come.

Whether it’s Arnie-Buffett, or Bustamante-Lieberman, the synarchists behind the recall scheme see California as a bonanza for their looting.