

the point of the “Mega” investigation and the Israeli wiretap operation against Clinton—Lewinsky reestablished contact with the President after Clinton had broken off the relationship almost a full year earlier. On March 29, 1997, the President had his last sexual encounter with Lewinsky, at which point he told her of his suspicions that a foreign embassy was tapping his telephone conversations—a revelation which was contained in the report sent to Congress in September 1998, but which has received remarkably little attention.

Yeltsin’s Tip-Off

It is also highly suggestive, that in his recently published memoirs, former Russian President Boris Yeltsin says that he received an intelligence report in late 1996, that President Clinton’s enemies intended to plant a young female provocateur in his entourage, to set off a major scandal against Clinton.

“In late 1996 after Clinton’s re-election, Russian intelligence sent me a coded report containing a prognosis of how the Republicans would resolve the major political problems emerging for them and noting that Clinton had a particular predilection for beautiful young women,” Yeltsin says. “In the near future, the report said, Clinton’s enemies planned to plant in his entourage a young provocateur who would spark a major scandal capable of ruining the President’s reputation.”

In fact, Lewinsky had been placed in the White House as an unpaid intern in the Summer of 1995, and the President’s dalliance with her is said to have begun during the government shutdown in mid-November 1995. But it was in November 1996, right after the elections, that independent counsel Kenneth Starr diverted his Whitewater investigation into a probe of Clinton’s sex life—which coheres with Yeltsin’s report. And at the same time, articles about the possible impeachment of Clinton appeared in the *Washington Times Insight* magazine and in the *American Spectator*.

All of which points to the broader blackmail pressures already operating on the President throughout his second Administration, even before the pressures coming from Hillary’s and Gore’s election campaigns sent Clinton “over the edge”—at least, for the time being—with regard to his personal role in the Middle East peace process, a role that must be put back on track if a horrific regional war is to be averted.

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Atlanta Mayor Takes On DOJ’s ‘Operation Fruehmenschen’

by Debra Hanania Freeman

A naive citizen, relying on the stream of media reports that began appearing nationally sometime in late September, might conclude that Atlanta’s two-term Mayor Bill Campbell is suffering some kind of mental breakdown. Articles reported that he was “lashing out in a paranoid and vituperative fashion,” when he charged that a Federal probe into possible government corruption in his city was racially motivated. Some said he was “playing the race card” (Mayor Campbell is African-American), and threatening to incite a race riot if Federal investigators didn’t back off.



Mayor Bill Campbell

The Oct. 4 *Washington Post* went so far as to speculate that Campbell’s attitudes toward race were the result of childhood trauma caused when he was seven years old, and became the first black student to integrate the school system in his hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. “Whites taunted the child with racial slurs as he entered the school, and his family, led by his late father, Ralph Sr., who headed the local NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People], received death threats.”

Mayor Campbell is not crazy, nor is he suffering a breakdown. In fact, Campbell is doing what few others have had the courage to do in the face of a long and sometimes overwhelming pattern of racially and politically motivated targeting of African-American elected officials by the Department of Justice. With a “take no prisoners” strategy, Campbell is fighting back, going directly to those he has sworn to serve, his constituents, with the full truth of the operation against him.

It is not clear just how long the Atlanta Mayor has been a target of Department of Justice investigators. Sources close to City Hall say the “probe” has been active for nine months. But, spokesmen for the Department of Justice have repeatedly refused to comment, and won’t even officially confirm or deny that Mayor Campbell is the target of their investigation,

although there is little question that the DOJ has been the source of repeated, highly inflammatory leaks to the press accusing Campbell of various “crimes.”

The Public Side of the Story

The public side of the story began in early June, when a bribery scandal resulting from a Federal investigation into government contracting practices rocked the neighboring Fulton County government, leading three men, including Fulton County Commissioner Michael Hightower, to enter guilty pleas to a variety of Federal charges.

How the public corruption investigation that led to the guilty pleas started, and its reach, are still not known. But, in what has emerged as a clear pattern in similar cases, the investigation grows ever more broad as targets are nabbed and then seek to cut deals with prosecutors. Jerry Froelich, a criminal defense attorney and former Federal prosecutor, explained, “The only way to get a lighter sentence is to give up somebody else. You get a domino effect. Businesspeople and bureaucrats are often the first to fall in a corruption investigation, but they’re never the targets. Elected officials are the prize for Federal prosecutors.”

Sure enough, three days after the guilty pleas were entered in Fulton County, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* claimed that it had evidence, provided by “unidentified sources,” that Federal investigators were taking their probe “up Mitchell Street”—to Atlanta City Hall. The newspaper reported that Federal investigators were making inquiries into similar allegations concerning the city’s government, and that at least three city contractors had already been questioned by the FBI. Although the article stated that the “precise nature of their questions is unknown,” Bruce Kirwan, identified as an attorney for one of those contractors, confirmed that the Federal authorities “seemed mainly concerned with getting the names of people who attended fund-raisers for Mayor Bill Campbell.”

Since one of the men who pled guilty in the Fulton County case was George Greene, an African-American businessman and founder and CEO of Sable Communications, with whom the city of Atlanta had contracts, Mayor Campbell announced that he had “directed the City Attorney to review the [city’s] one ongoing contract with Sable Communications, to determine if the illegal conduct of George Greene in Fulton County should result in termination.” Campbell said that he was unaware of any illegality, but that he welcomed “any scrutiny with the procedures in contracting with the City of Atlanta.”

Campbell told the press that as a former Federal prosecutor himself, he knew that once the guilty pleas were entered in Fulton County, the City of Atlanta would undergo scrutiny. Campbell said that he thought the probe was appropriate and vowed full cooperation, adding that he was certain the investigators would come up empty, especially since Sable’s Fulton County contracts were worth upwards of \$13 million,

whereas its last contract with the City of Atlanta was worth only \$138,000.

Things Get Uglier

All indications were that Mayor Campbell would be proven correct. Then, in a strange turn of events, the Federal grand jury indicted Fred B. Prewitt, the 70-year-old chairman of Atlanta’s Civil Service Review Board, and a close Campbell ally, charging him with three felony counts of making false statements on his personal income tax returns. And, although the indictment never mentioned Prewitt’s job, or his role as a political fundraiser for Campbell, the prosecutor against him was Sally Quillian Yates, the lead prosecutor in the Fulton County cases and the chief of the fraud and public corruption unit in the U.S. Attorney’s office. After Prewitt’s indictment, things seem to get uglier and uglier.

Within one month, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, in a front-page article, reported that Campbell had been accused of taking bribes from a former city employee who had lived in Campbell’s basement for six years, and by a strip club owner, who is under indictment on Federal arson charges.

What was shocking was not the charges themselves, but the fact that Federal investigators would consider anything said by the two men in question to have credibility. More than a year earlier, they had vowed to get the Mayor, after the Mayor revoked a liquor license at a strip club owned by one of them. At that time, the two had threatened a lawsuit to “expose” the Mayor, claiming the Mayor took improper payments from Michael Childs (the club owner) that were delivered by Dewey Clark, who, at the time, was on the Mayor’s staff. Supposedly, the money was to insure that the Mayor would block the revocation of Childs’s liquor license.

But, on May 10, 1999, Campbell did revoke the liquor license, citing allegations of prostitution and other illegal activities in and around Childs’s strip club, including several shootings. The next day, Clark, who had lobbied the Mayor vigorously to renew Childs’s license, resigned, moved out of the Mayor’s home, and went to work at one of Childs’s strip clubs. When the Mayor learned from City Attorney Susan Langford that the two were threatening a lawsuit that would allege that he had accepted bribes, he advised her to alert Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard. Howard deemed that the evidence of wrongdoing by Campbell had “absolutely no credibility,” and declined to investigate. The lawsuit was never filed.

Childs, who is a nephew of former Atlanta Mayor and UN Ambassador Andrew Young, is currently awaiting trial on Federal arson charges that he hired someone to torch the businesses of four competitors. The multi-millionaire club owner was arrested in February after a government informant secretly recorded him arranging to have a competitor’s club burned. Childs was caught on that same tape talking with the informant about wanting to pay \$20,000 to have Campbell injured. However, Childs was not charged with making

threats against Campbell, and the Feds failed to inform either Campbell or the Atlanta police of the threats. By July, Childs, who had been released on \$2 million bail, was the Feds' prime and only source of evidence that Campbell was guilty of wrongdoing. On July 22, after his cooperation with Federal investigators was made public, Childs finally filed his lawsuit.

In August, the U.S. Attorney's office came back after Prewitt. Prewitt was hauled in for questioning and was told that if he didn't produce evidence against Campbell, he would go to jail for tax evasion and be "broken." Thousands of City Hall documents relating to Prewitt were subpoenaed, and headlines blared that anonymous sources confirmed a broadening of the Federal probe, with the elderly Prewitt as the principal focus. Mayor Campbell refused to fire Prewitt, but remained silent.

But, in middle September, Federal investigators, still unable to turn up any evidence of wrongdoing by Campbell, went too far. On Sept. 15, WSB-TV in Atlanta, quoting "unidentified sources" inside the public corruption task force, carried a special report that Federal investigators were probing Campbell's gambling trips to Mississippi with city contractors and trying to determine the sources of money Campbell used to bet in Tunica, Mississippi casinos. The Mayor's fondness for gambling is well-known, and casino gambling is legal in Tunica.

When the story broke, Mayor Campbell and his family were in Washington, D.C., celebrating his daughter's 11th birthday, and at the same time being honored with an award by the prestigious 100 Black Men of America. A newspaper reporter barged into the black-tie event and confronted Mayor Campbell, insisting that he comment on the report.

DOJ Probe Is 'Hopelessly Out of Control'

Mayor Campbell had had enough. When he returned to Atlanta on Sept. 18, he issued a statement through his spokeswoman, Glenda Blum Minkin, in which he said, "Yes, I gamble at casinos. I have. And I will again. As do 40 million Americans annually. I do it with my own money on my own time and I see no need to apologize to anyone for it."

The next day, in a live television address, Campbell told his constituents that he was the victim of a racially motivated investigation that he characterized as a witch-hunt. Campbell accused the Department of Justice and the FBI of harassment and character assassination in their ongoing investigation of him and the city government. Campbell said that Federal authorities had questioned nearly all of his friends and business acquaintances. "They have tried to persuade them to give evidence of wrongdoing. . . . This is very much like Alice in Wonderland. First the verdict. Now the investigation," he said. "It is hopelessly out of control, with real and serious abuses of the criminal justice system."

The Mayor told his constituents that Federal investigators had repeatedly leaked information to the media and pursued "racially provocative and politically motivated questions."

And, he excoriated the way investigators had pursued Civil Service Review Board Chairman Prewitt. "The Federal authorities hauled him downtown, told him if he did not provide evidence against me, he would be indicted for tax evasion, publicly embarrassed, and he would be broken." The government kept its word, the Mayor continued. Prewitt was indicted on three counts of income-tax fraud in June. Two weeks ago, Campbell said, Prewitt's wife died of a massive stroke. "You see, these matters have a human toll."

Campbell said he believed that the Federal investigation of City Hall began because of his aggressive efforts to control strip clubs in Atlanta, and because of his refusal to back off from his longtime commitment to affirmative action. He pledged that he would "fight, because that is what the people elected me to do." He called on the government to "put up or shut up." "My friends," he concluded, "this insanity must end now, because it's hurting our beloved city." The next morning, he continued his counterattack, taking to the radio airwaves. Campbell reminded listeners of the Frank Ski Morning Show that the FBI had followed and investigated the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in an effort to discredit the civil rights leader at the height of the movement, even bugging his hotel room and sending a highly questionable tape recording of alleged marital infidelities to the young Coretta King.

Campbell recalled that most of the harassment of Dr. King was run out of the Atlanta office of the FBI. He noted that when former U.S. Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.) addressed the U.S. Congress on the existence of an illegal FBI policy targeting African-American elected and public officials, Dymally possessed a sworn affidavit by an agent out of the Atlanta office of the FBI. "The FBI has never been a friend of the African-American community, and they are not a friend now," Campbell said. "What I did yesterday [referring to his TV address] . . . was, I stood up and fought back. . . . I've done nothing wrong." He compared to the FBI to "the KGB in Communist Russia."

In another appearance on the Ryan Cameron Show, Campbell said that the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office "have an agenda . . . and the agenda is to try to have a character assassination to poison the public mind. The road leads to political assassination." Campbell told listeners that Federal investigators had combed through virtually every city contract. When their efforts turned up nothing illegal, they turned to his personal life, investigating his gambling. And, once again, he ripped into the Feds for their constant "anonymous" leaks to the media.

Constituency Support

Campbell's constituents moved quickly to support him. Comparisons were drawn to Kenneth Starr's vendetta against President Clinton. Others recalled the case of former Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, who was hounded by the FBI for years. After spending millions of dollars, authorities were unable to produce any evidence of wrongdoing. Instead

of apologizing, several million more was spent to set the Mayor up in a sting operation.

A coalition of black leaders, including civil rights veteran Joseph Lowery, Joe Beasley of Operation PUSH, the Rev. Timothy McDonald of the Concerned Black Clergy of Metro Atlanta, and State Rep. Tyrone Brooks quickly rallied behind the Mayor and demanded a meeting with the U.S. Attorney and the FBI. Campbell's support was not limited to the black community. Several white leaders, including Howard Shook, chairman of the influential Buckhead Neighborhood Alliance, said that Campbell was absolutely correct to bring his defense to the public, rather than think he would get a fair hearing in a "Star Chamber" proceeding.

Some black leaders, however, were noticeably absent. U.S. Rep. John Lewis has repeatedly denied the existence of the FBI's targeting of black elected officials. And, despite the fact that many believed that Sally Quillian Yates, described as the most zealous and vicious of the Federal prosecutors, was carrying out a personal vendetta against Campbell, for his vociferous support of U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney during the bitter electoral contest between McKinney and Yates's husband, McKinney has remained silent.

Campbell's critics tried to ridicule him, saying that it was ludicrous to accuse the Department of Justice of targeting him because he has been a champion of affirmative action. Matt Glavin, president of the right-wing Southeastern Legal Foundation, a group with ties to Pat Robertson, who is suing Campbell and the City of Atlanta to invalidate affirmative action, said that since the U.S. Attorney for the district is himself an African-American, and since President Bill Clinton defends affirmative action, the charges were laughable. But, truth is on Campbell's side. There is no questioning the existence of a political assassination bureau run by the DOJ's corrupt permanent bureaucracy. Attorney General Janet Reno doesn't control it, and neither does the President. In fact, the Clinton Administration itself has been victimized by it. Not only were the President and the President's wife targeted, but five members of Clinton's cabinet, four of them members of minorities, have come under attack.

That surely cannot be called coincidence. Nor is there any evidence that Cabinet members of color are more subject to corruption than their white counterparts. Indeed, the two cases that went to trial were practically laughed out of court. Former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy was completely exonerated; former Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Henry Cisneros pleaded guilty to a single misdemeanor after a Federal investigation virtually destroyed his personal life.

Seventy members of Congress have faced criminal charges during the past 25 years, and 15% of them are minorities. That is four times their percentage in Congress. And, black congressmen have repeatedly received far harsher punishments than white ones for similar crimes. Mel Reynolds (D-Ill.), for example, was sentenced to five years in prison for having sex with a 16-year-old girl. By contrast, the toughest

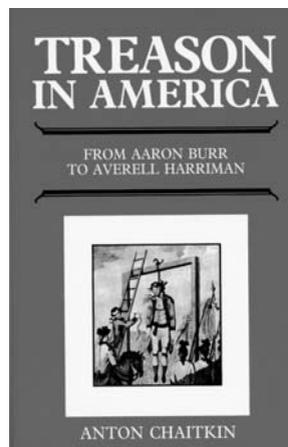
penalty meted out to three white members of Congress prosecuted on similar charges involved a \$500 fine.

And, according to several studies done by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington, D.C. think-tank, more than 60% of the nation's black elected and public officials have either come under indictment or investigation. Indeed, one explanation for the silence of many of Atlanta's black elected officials in this case, is the fact that so many of them either are, or have been targeted. The most recent case was that of State Senator Ralph David Abernathy III, son of the famous civil rights leader and associate of Martin Luther King, who was recently sentenced to ten years in prison as a result of a "public corruption" indictment.

Unfortunately, there is nothing unusual about the targeting of Atlanta's Mayor. What is unusual, is that Bill Campbell is fighting back, not with a legal "dream team," but by sweeping conventional legal wisdom aside. He has refused to lay low, or to keep quiet. Since the attacks on him are clearly politically and racially motivated, he is fighting back politically. He has decided to argue his case before the only jury that is sure to honestly consider his case: his constituents. And, he has decided to utilize a weapon that is not only lethal, but very difficult to counter in the long run. He has decided to tell his constituents the truth.

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