

John Train's Fascist Capture of Television

by Anton Chaitkin

John Train's mentor, Sir Cyril Northcote Parkinson, told him to "capture television" for the right wing, because it was more important than the schools, and that's exactly what Train set out to do. In 1987, four years after Train met with representatives of the bankers' CIA faction, U.S. Justice Department, private foundation moguls, and selected media outlets in his "Get LaRouche" salon, Train created the Northcote Parkinson Fund to use those same forces to gain the control Sir Cyril had mandated.

Train referred to the takeover project in a 1993 article eulogizing the imperial Northcote Parkinson (1909-1993), after whom the Fund is named:

One of [Parkinson's] observations to me, which must be recognized as generally true, is this: In America all professors of economics tend to be leftists. Why? Because if an able youngster has an interest in economics, in figures, and has conservative views, he goes into business. Whereas if he has left-wing views, he becomes a professor. So academic economists tend to be left-wingers. Business should never have let that come about. You let the case go by default. The only answer is for business, in turn—having let the left wing capture the schools—to capture television. It's essential that this be done. Television is far more important than the schools. People get their ideas from television. . . ."¹

The correlation of political forces in 1987 was ripe for Train's project. Mrs. Lynne Cheney, the previous year, had become chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the U.S. government's funding agency for media and culture. Chairman Cheney began attacking previous and ongoing funding by the NEH, including the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. She demanded a right-wing agenda for Public Television and Public Radio.

John Train's Fund took off under Mrs. Cheney's neo-con umbrella. The neo-conservatives were then on a rampage in the Reagan-Bush Administration, and Lynne Cheney idolized neo-conservative Mrs. Irving Kristol (Gertrude Himmelfarb) for having restored the ideas of Queen Victoria's British empire into U.S. thinking. Train also had on board neo-con cul-

1. John Train, "C. Northcote Parkinson—An Appreciation," June 1, 1993, in the neo-conservative magazine, *The American Spectator*.



Sir Cyril Northcote Parkinson, John Train's mentor, gave him marching orders to "capture television" for the right wing.

ture warrior Midge Decter Podhoretz, who served as a director and the founding treasurer of his Northcote Parkinson Fund.

The Fund's initial financial sponsorship came from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation.² Using the money of a dead midwestern industrialist, the Bradley Foundation had suddenly become the leading funding source for the American right wing after **Michael Joyce** took over its presidency in 1985. An apostle of fascist philosopher Leo Strauss, Joyce personally led the crusade to revive the work of German jurist Carl Schmitt, who is infamous for having crafted the legal rationale for Adolf Hitler's emergency decrees.

Michael Joyce's Bradley Foundation would finance every aspect of the campaign of Train and his friends for right-wing control of the media.

In its first year, 1987, the Northcote Parkinson Fund reported no public activities.³ Privately, the new fund's first venture was a red-baiting attack by Train and the right-wing faction of the intelligence community, against the leftist Institute for Policy Studies (IPS). The next year, a book reporting the fruit of this new Train "salon,"⁴ acknowledged that the unpublished notes of John Train were the prime source used for the book's cover-up account of the 1976 Washington, D.C. bombing assassination of IPS Fellow and Chilean exile Orlando Letelier, at the hands of the secret police of Chilean fascist dictator Augusto Pinochet.

That book's introduction was written by **David Horowitz**, who indicted his own parents as communists, and described his personal journey to collaboration with the far right. In 1988, when this Train/Horowitz book came out, David Horowitz founded the **Center for the Study of Popular Culture**, with initial funding from Michael Joyce's Bradley

Foundation. It was as a project of this Center for the Study of Popular Culture that Horowitz founded the Committee for Media Integrity, to campaign against leftist control of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The first officially reported grant of the Northcote Parkinson Fund was in 1988, a \$150,000 pass-through from the Bradley Foundation to Stornoway Productions in Canada, for producing a propaganda film for Canadian public television that justified the covert operations in Africa of the Reagan/Bush Administration and the fascist underground (the "World Anti-Communist League") as a proxy war against Cuba and the Soviets.⁵

When the George H.W. Bush Administration took office in 1989, Mrs. Lynne Cheney stayed in as NEH chairman, her status enhanced by her brutish husband, former Congressman Dick Cheney, who was now the Secretary of Defense. In the same year, Train's Northcote Parkinson Fund began sponsoring **Michael Pack** and his **Manifold Productions, Inc.** for rightist propaganda films; the Fund gave Manifold Productions a grant of \$69,000 in 1989 for future distribution.

The March of Train's Front Groups

After Bill Clinton's 1992 election, Train ally David Horowitz and British-born filmmaker Lionel Chetwynd formed the **Wednesday Morning Club**, to contest for hegemony in Hollywood. In tandem with John Train in New York, Horowitz became the West Coast pole of the culture war prescribed by the imperial Parkinson, for the campuses as well as television.

In 1995, Lynne Cheney (whose husband was then CEO of Halliburton) and Senator Joseph Lieberman, the Democratic Leadership Council's senator from Connecticut, created the **American Council of Trustees and Alumni**. This group launched a witch-hunt against non-fascist professors who, in the Council's words, are "short on patriotism," the "weak link" in U.S. security. This act was followed in 2003, by David Horowitz's founding of **Students for Academic Freedom** to join Lynne Cheney and Joe Lieberman in hunting academic critics of the Bush-Cheney Administration.

David Horowitz and his Center for the Study of Popular Culture would now form the covering structure for the penetration of campuses, and of Hollywood, by the Cunningham family's Youth With A Mission (YWAM), part of the zombie Buchman enterprise. (This is the operation reported in *EIR* Sept. 15 and 22, 2006 as the group that cooked up the ABC-TV fraudulent docudrama, "Path to 9/11."⁶) From his tax-

2. Donation of \$150,000 from Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, reported in the Northcote Parkinson Fund 990 tax return for 1988.

3. Northcote Parkinson Fund's 990 report to the IRS for 1987.

4. S. Steven Powell, *Covert Cadre: Inside the Institute for Policy Studies* (Ottawa, Ill.: Green Hill Publishers, 1988).

5. Northcote Parkinson Fund made additional grants of \$150,000 for this Canadian caper in each of 1989, 1990, and 1991, and \$25,000 in 1992. There was an initial grant (Nov. 6, 1987) of \$150,000 for the "Production of Cuba segment of documentary: 'The New Liberation Wars'" from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation.

6. See Anton Chaitkin, "The Axis of WYAM," *EIR*, Sept. 22, 2006, and Tony Papert, "John Train and Corruption of Public Television," *EIR*, Sept 15, 2006.



DoD/PH2 Julianne F. Metzger

Mr. Brute and Mrs. Culture: Dick and Lynne Cheney aboard USS Iwo Jima. As head of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Lynne Cheney worked closely with John Train and his friends to move public broadcasting to the right.

exempt Center (which paid chairman Horowitz himself \$317,000 for the year 2003), Horowitz issued incitements to global war and academic purges, for his own student operation and for neo-con Daniel Pipes's Campus Watch group. Horowitz's guest speakers have included Dick Cheney, Tom DeLay, Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), House Speaker Newt Gingrich, *Weekly Standard* editor Bill Kristol, Sen. Joe Lieberman, and Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.)

The Horowitz Center became the flagship rightist culture-coup operation nationwide. From 1989 through 2005, the Center received 147 grants totalling \$15,134,000, the bulk of them from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation (including three grants in 1995-96 to support the "Dark Ages Weekend"); foundations of Richard Mellon Scaife and his family; the John M. Olin Foundation; and the Randolph Foundation (formerly Smith Richardson Foundation).

In 2006, the Horowitz Center bulldozed through to broadcast the ABC hoax "Path to 9/11," concocted by the YWAM "Film Institute," blaming the 2001 terrorist attacks on the Bill Clinton Administration. Today, the Center—still tax exempt after having been renamed the "David Horowitz Freedom Center"—is in the forefront of the Cheneys' war drive.

Horowitz Center sub-entity *Front Page* magazine, ran an Aug. 3 interview with one of its stars, Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo), head of the anti-immigrant caucus, aiming at a U.S.-

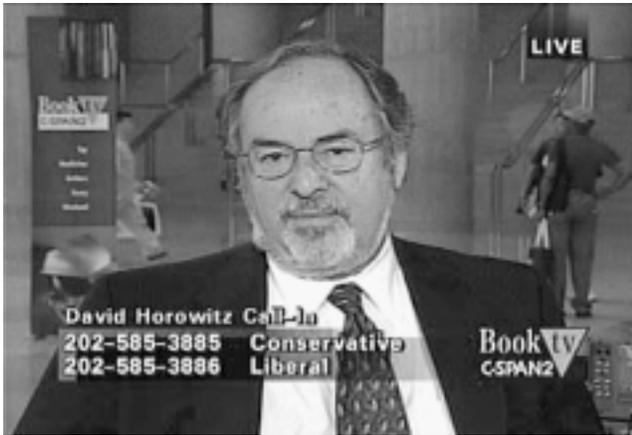
Israel attack on Iran. Regular columnists include Ann Coulter, Frank Gaffney, Daniel Pipes, and dozens of other war-mad writers. The Center's urgent task at the moment is to build support for an October military attack on Iran, to submerge the November elections in panic and submission to the current U.S. regime.

Moving the Media Right

Back in 1994, Train's Michael Pack and rightist film critic Michael Medved co-produced *Hollywood vs. Religion*, starring Medved and religious intriguer Charles Colson demanding a shift to the right in media power. Medved later went on the board of David Horowitz's Center.

In the same spirit, Train's Northcote Parkinson Fund poured out grants for Michael Pack during the 1990s:

- \$110,000 in 1995;
- \$128,395 in 1997, for a film defending the Los Angeles police beating of Rodney King.
- \$300,000 in 1998 passed through the Northcote Parkinson Fund for Michael Pack, \$150,000 of it from Michael Joyce's Bradley Foundation.
- \$100,000 in 1999 was put through Train by the Bradley Foundation to pay for Michael Pack's documentary, *God and the Inner City* (on "faith-based" programs);
- Another \$40,000 for the same Pack project was passed



David Horowitz, John Train's man in Hollywood, consolidated the campus right-wing campaigning.

from Olin Foundation's Michael Joyce, board member, in 2000.

The Hollywood project churned along.

Then, Texas Governor George W. Bush, running for President, made his first public speech in California at the Horowitz Wednesday Morning Club. When W. became President in 2001, with Mrs. Cheney's husband as Vice President/controller/enforcer, the sponsorship of Michael Pack became almost the sole endeavor of Train's Fund.

- In 2001, Pack got \$200,000 out of a total Northcote Parkinson distribution of \$215,585.

- In 2003, \$114,500 went to Pack out of \$131,850 in total grants.

A far-right coup was now in progress in the control over public broadcasting.

As *EIR* reported Sept. 15:

Pat Mitchell, president of the . . . Public Broadcasting System (PBS), accepted an invitation to tea with Lynne Cheney in her residence in Washington's Naval Observatory. . . . [T]here with Mrs. Cheney to greet Mitchell was Michael Pack, who proposed that the Vice President's wife host a series of one-hour television programs aimed at middle-school students. . . . But within weeks, Pack had to recuse himself from the project when he was appointed senior vice president and head of all television programming at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which rations PBS's Federal funding and that of local stations. The Lynne Cheney Hour project was put on ice.⁷

Michael Pack later said that in 2003,

I was given the mandate to restructure the TV programming department, make CPB more proactive in program development, and launch major new initiatives in

7. See Footnote 6.



Michael Pack, John Train and Lynne Cheney's favored filmmaker, raked in Train funding for his right-wing projects.

public affairs and education, which I am happy to have accomplished during my time at CPB.⁸

John Train's fund continued sponsoring Michael Pack's company, Manifold Productions, even while Pack was now the U.S. government's television production czar. Northcote Parkinson granted \$58,750 to Pack in 2004 (out of \$81,180 in total grants).

Money, Train, and the Godfather

In his day job, John Train runs **Train, Babcock**, an investment company managing the fortunes of wealthy clients. The chairman of the Board of Advisors for Train's company is **Neal B. Freeman**, who is otherwise a chief strategist in the attempted fascist takeover of the U.S. media.

Freeman entered U.S. politics as the young "fair-haired boy" and "right-hand man" of William F. Buckley, according to sources close to Buckley. Freeman himself says he set up the Washington bureau of Buckley's *National Review* in the late 1960s. Freeman was Washington editor of *National Review* from 1978 to 1981, the heady days following the Pinochet coup and the Letelier assassination, when the Buckley organization was running global public relations for Pinochet by direct assignment of the Chilean secret service.

Neal B. Freeman, board chairman of the Train firm, is currently a director and writer for *National Review*. His day job is producer of rightist television documentaries. Years earlier, Richard Nixon appointed Freeman as director of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, along with co-director Irving Kristol. With Buckley's entree to the Reagan-Bush White House, Freeman filmed a show on "the real Ronald Reagan."

Freeman is otherwise chairman of the **Foundation Management Institute**. There he counsels rightist think-tanks and the Anglo-American spook community on how to ensure

8. Corporation for Public Broadcasting press release, Feb. 9, 2006, announcing the departure of Michael Pack from CPB leadership, mission accomplished.

that money bequeathed by the wealthy stays on track in right-wing projects.

Freeman lavishly praises Michael Joyce, the special pleader for Hitler's jurist Carl Schmitt. It was Joyce's Bradley Foundation that financed Freeman's own career, and the work of David Horowitz, Michael Pack, and John Train's Northcote Parkinson Fund. Upon Joyce's retirement in 2001, Freeman wrote,

For the past 15 years, Michael Joyce has run the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the largest conservative foundation in the country. This position, or more correctly, the way in which Joyce maximized this position, made him the chief operating officer of the conservative movement. . . . Over the period of his Bradley service, it's difficult to recall a single, serious thrust against incumbent liberalism that did not begin or end with Mike Joyce. . . . Joyce became what one of his mentors, Irving Kristol, was often called—'The Godfather.' . . . Thanks Mike."⁹

9. Neal B. Freeman, "The Godfather Retires," *National Review Online*, April 18, 2001.