

# THE TRUE PROSTITUTES IN WASHINGTON

Some cynics have suggested that Lewinsky, Flowers and Jones were guilty of prostitution in that they expected professional advancement in return for engaging in dalliances with the president. This is also suggested as to the mistress of poor Henry Cisneros, who was indicted merely because he perjured himself relative to the purchase price of these dalliances.

But the really successful prostitutes and panderers in Washington are the innumerable legislative and executive political "leaders" who sell their votes to special interest groups and support their pork barrel projects in return for campaign contributions. We rely on the secondary definition of prostitution in the American Heritage Dictionary which defines the word prostitute as "one who sells his abilities or name to an unworthy cause." The secondary definition of panderer is given as "one who caters to the lower tastes and desires of others or exploits their weaknesses."

Both Bill Clinton and "Mr. Clean" have been attacked for selling favors to Orientals. But no criticism has been aimed at the political prostitutes in Congress and the White House who sell their souls to the American landed gentry and politically connected contractors, who support block grants, lucrative subsidies, and "no strings attached" donations of Federal money to pay for local projects. Let us examine a few of these courtesans.

## THE TRANSPORTATION PROSTITUTES

The most licentious of the Federal salons are the political whores now promoting the gigantic transportation bill, which some reporters assert may arrive at a total cost of \$214 billion. It has been guided through the house by the slippery Pennsylvania Congressman, Ed Shuster, and in the Senate by Chafee of Rhode Island, Pat

Moynihan of New York and the Prince of Pork, Robert Byrd of West Virginia.

Presenting any transportation bill to Congress is like throwing a bunch of bananas into a cage of monkeys. The only problem is whether each simian will get his share of the booty. For example, Ted Stevens, Chairman of the powerful Appropriation Committee objects that his State of Alaska is being cheated out of its fair share of the loot because it is barred from putting roads across environmentally sensitive Federal land. There is universal support for the general theory of "Federal Aid," particularly since, under the new philosophy, there will be a minimum of control over what the States will do with the taxpayers' donations.

Listening to CNN, we heard Sen. Harry Reed of Nevada pleading for a bigger hand-out for his parasitical gaming state. Then, Sen. Spencer Abraham of Michigan complained that some of his state's roads were in bad shape and it needed Federal cash to transport Michigan autos and food products to the rest of the U.S. He did not mention that a principal reason Michigan might be strapped for funds to rebuild roads is the artificial limit on property taxes. We could not stand to listen to any more of this.

In our much quoted *Triumph of Politics*, written by Dave Stockman, Ronald Reagan's first Budget Director, he stated: "If there were ever a case of what the Reagan Revolution required, it was dumping the vast transportation pork barrel. The Federal government had no business whatever fixing local potholes and buying local buses." But, as Stockman ruefully noted, "City fathers and Chamber of Commerce types were tripping over each other to get in line at Uncle Sam's money kitchen." Not only was Stockman's request buried, but Stockman was almost buried as well.

There was a breakthrough in the Senate when an additional \$5 billion was allotted to help cities buy new buses and install rapid transit projects. Pat Moynihan, who pushed this machination, in the name of civic righteousness, proclaimed that it was "good news for the nation's infrastructure, good news for our environment and vital to our cities." We do not understand why it is better news for our infrastructure and environment if local roads are financed by Federal taxpayers rather than by land taxes or special benefit assessments on landowners who benefit from the Federal largess.

Our own Senator, Barbara Boxer, applauded this addition, as it meant that more billions will flow into Los Angeles' scandle ridden Metropolitan Transit Authority, the ultimate fiasco.

Bill Clinton has expressed his heartfelt support for this legislative travesty, but has suggested a limit of maybe \$177 billion.

## THE EDUCATION PROSTITUTES

The "education" harlots are even more obscene. For example CNN displayed self-styled "liberal" Illinois Senator Carl Moseley-Braun proclaiming her support for Federal funds being diverted to states local entities on the purported grounds that the property tax was unfair to the poor people. She made the usual "liberal" argument that originally most wealth was in property, which, of course, she feels is no longer true, thus requiring that, in the interest of poor people, Federal income taxes be substituted for property taxes. She emphasized that, as with the transportation bills, there would be "no strings attached" to the Federal education grants ("no strings" being a synonym for "you can get away with murder"). Moseley-Braun nowhere mentioned the enormous windfalls for developers and speculators who own *Continued on page 2*

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land near our colleges and schools or the doubled rentals demanded of tenants renting near our educational edifices.

Thirty-nine years ago, Congress refused to pass the Murray-Metcalf bill and related legislation seeking only a few billions in Federal subsidies for local schools. The purported economic basis for this aborted legislation was a report which claimed that justice and equity required that schools be supported by Federal income taxes rather than by local property taxes. Who sponsored and paid for his impartial report? You might have guessed; it was none other than the *Rockerfeller brothers!* Mosely-Braun undoubtedly applauded the passage of various state laws in restricting local property taxes, whose major benefits were found to be largely enjoyed by large corporations and landowners. Added tax burdens go to all renters and small homeowners with children, who made up the tax loss with greatly increased consumer taxes. Immediately after the passage of California's infamous Proposition 13, State analysts estimated that over \$5 billion would be saved by owners of commercial, industrial, and apartment house properties. It was shown, for example, that the Standard Oil Company, created by the Rockerfellers, would receive a property tax reduction of \$13.1 million the next year. What with inflation considered, the total savings to Standard Oil in the 20 years since the passage of Prop. 13 should be close to \$500,000,000.

Relative to the claim that Prop. 13 would return control of the schools "to the people," the exact opposite took place. It gave the State legislature in Sacramento what an article in *Time* magazine described as "virtual life or death power over the state's 4,500 local special districts, 1,120 school districts, 415 cities and 58 counties." "And those 1,120 school districts are now spending their time and money begging Sacramento for their handouts."

It takes a lot of campaign cash to be elected to Congress. Therefore the educational panderers find this the best of all worlds. First, they obtain heavy money from the special interests who gain the most from a reduction in their property taxes, and secondly, they can proclaim themselves as "strong on education," and able to spout such homilies as "our children represent the future of our civilization. Do not let them down."

Let us not listen to Moseley-Braun and her ilk. To paraphrase Genesis, Ch. 27, where another base deception was described. The voice is the voice of the lover of education, but the hands are those of the special interests. ●●●●●●●●●●

## THE AGRICULTURE PROSTITUTES

There are still agricultural prostitutes carrying on their carnal activities in Washington, although we no longer have the farm fiascos that existed 20 years ago. That year, the Agriculture Department proudly announced that it had signed up farmers agreeing to take a total of 22.9 million acres of land out of production under government wheat, feed grain and cotton production programs to "stabilize" farm prices. Most of those indecent propositions have been terminated. But some atrocities linger on.

We have not had the time to check on the current status of the ancient subsidies to tobacco growers. We note an ancient May 22, 1980, report on tobacco production, and non-production, in North Carolina. There was a reference to one Cynthia Harris who was leasing her quota, or federally granted right to not produce, 12,869 pounds of tobacco and receiving proper Federal recompense therefore. Cynthia was not a farmer, and did not intend to be one, but received her quota because she inherited a farm from her father, who rarely tilled the soil, but had his quota because his father was a farmer.

David and Pat Proctor similarly received \$9,600 for not growing 24,000 pounds of tobacco they never intended to grow. "When we bought the farm, we paid a lot more for the land to get the quota. We need the leases to help make our payments." This was, of course, true of all farm subsidies, all of which are capitalized in the price of the affected farm land, making it impossible for new farmers to benefit from the subsidies.

The Department of Agriculture reported that 121,000 of the 193,000 farm owners with quota rights to flue-cured tobacco, leased their quotas, and 52,000 landholders of the 305,000 growers leased their quotas. Billy Yeargin, executive secretary of the Tobacco Growers Information Committee, said that many quota holders were lumber and paper companies, churches, and other non-farm groups. He admitted that "a very large percentage of those quota owners are not involved in tobacco farming whatever." But he defended the quotas and Federal payments therefor as being the equivalent of the right to lease out an inherited apartment.

We have not heard from V.P. Gore, who shed tears on relating to his sister's death due to smoking cigarettes, as to whether he wishes to discourage the growing of tobacco by his Tennessee constituents. ●●●●●●●●●●

We have not checked as to whether the extraordinary controls over rice and peanut growing still survive. We do note a July 9, 1991 report on the peanut situation. An edict from Washington restricted foreign peanut growers to 1.7 million pounds a year, or less than 1% of U.S. Peanut consumption. Thus America's protected 200,000 peanut growers had virtually no competition and were guaranteed \$631 a ton by Washington, about double the world price. That's not peanuts! Such stalwart Georgia politicians in Washington as Jimmy Carter, Sam Nunn and Newt Gingrich have not hurt the peanut program either.

More recently, we hear that *Citizens Against Government Waste* has been objecting to a planned federal milk plan that would boost the cost of milk by 10¢ a gallon. The General Accounting Office noted a saving of \$10.4 billion to consumers if milk-price supports were cut. Milk marketing programs go back to 1937, under which farmers in a given region pool their milk with other farmers, and federal regulators set a price, usually very high, that buyers must pay the sellers for their milk. Not only do these price supports damage Americans as consumers, but it hits them as taxpayers. For example, when the government buys milk and dairy products for the school-lunch and Women, Infants and Children programs, they have to pay substantially higher prices.

We are spared a repetition of the bloody slaughter of hordes of piglets ordered under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, which President Roosevelt optimistically felt would preserve the nation's farmers. But present farm programs are not much of an improvement.

## THE HOUSING PROSTITUTES

In the Sept.-Oct. issue of *Insights*, we discussed the revelation that Michael Bradbury, the well-paid District Attorney of Ventura County, California, was receiving \$639 a month of taxpayer's money through the Section 8 program of HUD for renting a house to his 77 year old mother on his Ojai ranch property. Mamma is leased a home next door to son Michael's 4,000 square foot house, which was assessed last year at \$581,000. Defending his right to receive the HUD subsidy, Michael said that "mom", who had suffered a disability, "was getting so old and her ability to care for herself was deteriorating, so I decided I wanted to bring her back with me." Evidently, there was insufficient room in Michael's own 4,000 square foot home to put mom up. ●●●●●●●●●●

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☞ In that there was some degree of protest to the Bradbury arrangement, HUD changed its rules. Presently, those who rent apartments to relatives may continue to do so, but new applicants can only receive HUD payments for renting to relatives when the relative is disabled. So Michael may continue to recover HUD money for renting to mom both because of her status as a tenant has already been established and because she is disabled. In that most of our parents are in some way disabled, the new HUD order will have little effect. And the prostitutes who vote for HUD programs and handouts are as financially lascivious as the mendicants who receive them, including some of the richest builders in the country.

Our billions of HUD housing donations establish what are in truth houses of ill fame.

## DISASTER PROSTITUTES

Whenever there is a natural disaster—a flood, earthquake, landslide, tornado, etc., politicians are to be found before the dust (or water) has settled, decrying the damage to persons and/or property, and promising financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This political phenomenon was humorously, but realistically, portrayed in the movie "The Candidate," starring Robert Redford. There the candidate hero gets photographed at the scene of a Malibu fire, deploring the damage, but is upstaged by the rival incumbent who arrives dramatically by helicopter, promising immediate Federal aid.

Our daughter owns a leasehold on a condominium in Kauai, which was damaged in a hurricane. She and 700 other absentee condo leasehold owners applied for and received from \$11,000 to \$19,000 from FEMA. They were all non-residents who lived on the Mainland. The natives who suffered hurricane damage were too confused and befuddled by the 30 page application form to make proper application for assistance.

Wealthy Orange County in California, where we live (in the cheap area) is about to receive about \$800 million from FEMA as part of a major effort to protect Orange County homeowners from flood damage with Federal emergency assistance even before the emergency arrives. But it will provide substantial aid to local politicians, considered to be spending cutters, who can now boast of the public aid they obtained.

Wherever there is a disaster, you will find the political disaster prostitutes with fulsome cries of sympathy and promises of aid. ☞

## THE MEDICAL CARE PROSTITUTES

☞ Everyone of importance in Washington promises they will protect the supposedly untouchable billions set aside for Medicare. The medical care prostitutes ignore the dissenting voice of *Citizens Against Government Waste* claims that \$23 billion can be saved if fraud in Medicare were eliminated, this being 14% of all annual Medicare expenditures.

The medical care prostitutes also ignore the fact that much more could be saved if Medicare payments to wealthy recipients, who contributed much less to the Medicare funds than they ever paid in, were limited.

The medical care panderers also ignore the fact that Medicare is viewed by many insurance companies, hospitals, and doctors as the gateway to riches, regardless of the quality of the services they provide.

One fundamental problem with Medicare waste is that processing of Medicare claims is subcontracted to 50 private companies, mostly insurance companies. The more claims they process, the more money they make. An April, 1998, article in *Readers' Digest* by Randy Fitzgerald, notes that "incentives built into the payment system are oriented around processing claims, not determining their legitimacy."

Fitzgerald stated:

"In a 1995 study of health care fraud, Harvard University lecturer Malcolm Sparrow interviewed top executives at three of the largest Medicare claims-processing centers. To test their detection systems, Sparrow conceived a fraud scheme in which a hypothetical clinic would charge \$1,500 each to 10,000 Medicare patient identification numbers.

When Sparrow described the scheme, all three contractors admitted they would have paid the \$15 million in fraudulent claims. 'We probably wouldn't notice,' one executive explained. That's just government money passing through."

"Medicare's automated payment systems are a dream target for fraud," Sparrow says. "The claims fly through with no human intervention. Provided you bill correctly, you're free to lie. The bottom line is to bill your lies correctly."

Sparrow suggested that there be pre-investigations prior to payment of Medicare funds, audits, etc. We suspect that payment for worthless services cost the taxpayer double the billions calculated by *Citizens Against Government Waste*. But we suspect that the health care prostitutes in Congress will do nothing that would lower campaign contributions from key insurance companies and health care providers. After all, that's just government money passing through. • • • • • ☞

☞ My personal experiences are typical. A few years ago, I was sent to the Santa Monica Hospital for a simple blood test. Later that hospital received \$596.04 from Medicare and billed me an additional \$80.87. I indignantly replied to this billing with a letter to that health care institution, describing the nature of the "procedure," stating in part:

"This travesty began when I was improperly instructed by your staff to drink two ounces of castor oil the night before the test. I found out that this was a mistake, and that no castor oil was called for by the tests in question. Then, while taking the tests, the attendant made a mistake, broke the container in which the blood was collected, and had to repeat tests all over again. This was Thursday.

"I was then told that I had to come back Saturday to take the tests again, because the hospital had mislaid the blood! I came back and went through the tests again.

"Finally, I was told by the doctor who ordered the tests, that the hospital had given the wrong test. The doctor had to have the right tests done in his office.

"In short, your hospital caused me a great deal of unnecessary pain, subsequent discomfort, and waste of time, for absolutely nothing."

The hospital replied by stating that my billing of \$80.87 was made "in error." But nothing was said about refunding the \$596.04 to Medicare and all the American taxpayers.

Subsequently, I went to the UCLA Medical Center for a test as to the same condition. The test was revolting in nature, consisting of a lengthy tube being inserted through the nose to the stomach. It was conducted by a technician in a 6 foot by 3 foot closet-type enclosure, not even in a treatment room. The technician couldn't complete the test, and it was abandoned.

I later discovered that not only did Medicare pay over \$1,000 to UCLA for this aborted procedure, but it even paid \$250 for the rent of the closet. We would suggest that all patients should be asked to comment on the adequacy of health care services before a penny of taxpayer cash is paid. But medical care prostitutes would object to this.

These examples underline the reasons why Medicare charges will come to \$208 billion in 1999, and Medicaid will cost \$108 billion, according to the *Kiplinger Washington Letter*. That is why such pandering is so damaging to our fiscal health. • • • ☞

### POLITICAL PROSTITUTION EQUALLY DIVIDED AMONG PARTIES

For many years, the Democrats were accused, and in part rightfully, with being "tax and spend" advocates, possibly enthusiasts of the extraordinary theory of John Keynes that Federal spending was in itself good, even if it was for unnecessary pork barrel projects, because this "primed the pump" or artificially caused a revival of an inevitably stagnant capitalist society.

In recent years, the GOP has won widespread attention with supposed adherence to a new philosophy—one of abhorrence of unnecessary spending, of budget balancing, of a "Contract with America" and of removing the curse of taxation from the shoulders of industry and individuals alike.

But, as noted by Frances Brown, high hopes wither, and memories wane, and on hearths and alters, the fires are dead. And now the Republicans who have both leadership and followership have now abandoned their cries for governmental frugality.

A Wall Street Journal article on March 6 by reporter David Rogers summarized this reversal of the field noting: "The new GOP majority bemoans 'big government' and preaches fiscal restraint. But as Republicans consolidate power, in Washington and the South, they show all the cunning of pork-barrel Democrats when it comes to spending money." And then he gave examples of what has occurred in Mississippi whose Trent Lott is Senate Majority Leader and whose other Senator, Thad Cochran is the ranking Republican on the Appropriations Committee. Their passion for local pork has helped propel government operations this year to at least \$557 billion, \$12 billion more than the spending by the last Democratic Congress, and \$40 billion more than projections in the early Republican budgets.

Rogers' Mississippi examples included the following:

1) Gulf Coast navy shipyards receiving hundreds of millions added for Navy shipbuilding; a new oceanographic vessel championed by Sen. Lott; new C-130 transport planes to provide manufacturing jobs for Mississippi, and eventually to be stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi; and millions more in add-ons at Meridian naval Air Station;

2) The space-based laser to be built at the Stennis Center, Lott's newest meal ticket for hundreds of jobs, for which Lott persuaded Congress to provide over \$120 million;.....

3) Possibly a proposed 1,160 acre lake to be built by the government to damn Porter Creek in Homoshito National Forest;

4) A 240 slip marina to be built by the Feds at Lake Sardis;

5) Dozens of demonstration erosion-control projects along the tributaries of the Yazoo River. They bring back memories of the original Yazoo River project promoted two hundred years ago under which 35,000,000 acres were sold to the Yazoo Company by the Georgia legislature for \$500,000—that area, now in Mississippi, was then part of Georgia. Every member of the selling legislature, except one, was a share holder in the Yazoo company.

Every one of these culprit projects involved increases of many millions of dollars for Mississippi landowners.

### CONCLUSIONS AS TO POLITICAL PROSTITUTION

Whether Clinton deflowered Ms. Flowers or jolted Ms. Jones or was licentious with Ms. Lewinsky is of little importance when compared with the importance of the debauchery involved in the spending propensities of both Congress and the Administration. The Administration and Congress both feel that with the aid of borrowing from trust funds, a continuous upswing of the economy and a huge penalty payment by the tobacco companies, they will be able to balance the budget and still leave space for all their pork barrel adventures. Pardon us if we have doubts. We feel that when the ecstasy of spending tax money is divorced from the agony of raising it, fiscal chaos is unavoidable. And we and you know that we will not have a sound economy until and unless the governmental services and projects which create land values are paid for by the fortunate few who benefit from them.....

Insights