



FROM THE WILDERNESS

*A Nonpartisan, Non-sectarian, MAP from the Here That Is,
Into the Tomorrow of Our Own Making*

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America in Crisis

THE FIRST REAL CITIZEN BATTLE OVER 9-11 IS THE RE-ELECTION OF CONGRESSWOMAN CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

Cynthia McKinney, the five-term incumbent Democratic congresswoman from Georgia who has been an outspoken champion of human rights, critical of vested interests in both parties, is facing the toughest challenge of a political career that has been characterized by her willingness to speak her mind when her conscience dictates. Recently McKinney was savaged by politicians and the mainstream media for asking questions about the attacks of last Sept. 11 that were proven, just weeks later, to have been extremely well founded.

Now it appears that those who will do anything to prevent full and open investigations of the tragedy intended to make an object lesson out of McKinney. Ask tough questions and your head will be hung on the Tower of London as an example. That's the message they intend to send to American voters.

The life-and-death challenge this time is not from a Republican opponent but from a very well-funded Democratic Party challenger named Denise Majette, an African American judge who is trying to unseat McKinney before this fall's midterm elections. If Majette wins the Aug. 20 primary, based upon her stated political positions, McKinney will be replaced by someone who could care less about answering the important questions about 9-11, challenging globalization or questioning U.S. military operations that benefit only the nation's wealthiest interests. Majette will be more interested in pork spending for the district at the expense of the health of the entire nation and that ultimately means that residents of the district will suffer too as the economic chickens come home to roost.

Whether she likes it or not, Cynthia McKinney has become symbolic for all of us in America; a symbol of integrity, courage, strength and vision. She needs our help.

I am routinely asked after each of my lectures, "What can we do to change the criminal behavior, corruption and tyranny that is eating away at the heart and soul of the nation since 9-11?"

Now one clear answer has emerged among many others: Help Cynthia McKinney!

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— From The Wilderness —

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The Forging of ‘Pipelinestan’

Oil, Gas Pipelines High Priority for U.S. in Central Asian Military Campaigns

by Dale Allen Pfeiffer,
FTW Contributing Editor for Energy

[Ed. Note: The need for major oil companies to monetize billions in investments in Central Asian oil fields has been cited frequently by FTW as one of the major motivations for U.S. complicity in the attacks of last September. Other motives have included economic control of an estimated \$200 billion in cash generated by the opium trade from the region, geopolitical neutralization of potential threats to U.S. global dominance and, more recently, an apparently frenzied and progressively less coordinated effort to do whatever is necessary to sustain a failing U.S. economy.

We felt it important, 10 months after 9-11, to take a close look at the status of the various pipeline projects in and around Afghanistan. The results are surprising. There is no doubt that the removal of Al Qaeda and the Taliban has added to the stability of the entire region by removing their support for a number of Islamic terrorist groups in Central Asia, Russia and the Caucasus -- all of which threatened any pipeline construction projects from the Caspian Sea and Central Asia. Even though Unocal still affirms that it has no interest in a trans-Afghan gas pipeline it abandoned in 1998, credible sources are indicating that it has not written off participation in an oil pipeline that will follow the same route. But Afghan stability remains an apparently unachieved objective.

What is becoming more apparent is that an arrogant and increasingly criminal administration is less and less effective in realizing its foreign policy objectives and the resulting dangers of a global conflagration are increasing. Is there an even larger agenda being pursued? Perhaps. But what we know, 10 months after 9-11, is that there is less of the coveted oil in the region than was thought, and that the political stability necessary to complete the pipelines is apparently more elusive than the Bush Administration has hoped it would be. Nonetheless, pipeline construction is still a high priority.

In this context we note a July 6 story from the Moscow Times reporting that the first-ever direct shipment of Russian oil to the U.S. consisting of 200,000 metric tons arrived in Houston July 3. -- MCR]

(continued on page 8)

THE GATHERING STORM

- Global Financial and Economic Crash Imminent
- Stock Market, Pension Funds, U.S. Dollar on Brink of Collapse and Implosion
- Theft and Fraud Losses to U.S. Taxpayers Exceed \$4.2 Trillion

by Michael C. Ruppert

*[Ed. Note: The last time **FTW** issued an emergency economic bulletin to its subscribers was Sept. 9. At that time a derivatives investment bubble on the verge of implosion, a 900-point drop in the Dow Jones average and a pending liquidity crisis signaled a crash on the order of 1929. Only the attacks of Sept. 11 and massive intervention from the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve prevented the collapse. Investors blamed the ensuing market losses on the attacks.*

The situation now is much, much worse as more factors combine to suggest that foreign investors and trust in the U.S. economy might soon be a thing of the past. Your pension is at risk today and your home may be at risk in six months to a year.

One economic analyst has suggested that a nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan might be the perfect cover for the biggest financial wipe out in human history. I think that an ill-conceived and risky invasion of Iraq might serve the same purpose. From consumer confidence, to corporate accounting, to the dollar, to gold, to foreign capital flight, to pension fund wipe outs, to the derivative bubble, to debt -- there is not a single economic indicator that is not flashing red.

The warnings are as clear, explicit and well-documented as were the warnings received by the U.S. government throughout summer 2001 that a terrorist attack against the World Trade Center would take place during the week of Sept. 9 using hijacked airliners from United and American airlines. Nothing was done to prevent that and apparently nothing is being done now in spite of the fact that \$4.2 trillion of your money has been stolen right in front of your eyes.

There was no "single" reason for the attacks of 9-11. I have cited oil, drug cash and geopolitics as three of the primary motives for the U.S. government's complicity in allowing the attacks to happen. But what also cannot be overlooked is the fact that 9-11 effectively masked a major economic crash that was certain to occur. That crash has not been averted by the extraordinary financial maneuverings of the Bush Administration that followed 9-11. It was merely postponed for a very short time.--MCR]

July 8, 2002, 16:00 PDT (FTW) -- **R**uters, London published a story June 27 based upon an interview with billionaire financier George Soros. The headline read, "Soros Blames 'Bush Factor' for Dollar's Fall." George Soros is a man to be reckoned with. Emerging from WWII as someone who allegedly cooperated with Nazi occupation troops by identifying assets to be seized, the European financier is one of the most powerful financiers on the planet. He is credited with successfully assaulting the currencies of several nations, including Britain's pound. He recently participated in the World Economic Forum in New York where he was seated on the dais with the likes of Zbigniew Brzezinski, Hillary Clinton, Shimon Peres and academics from Ivy League colleges. It is more than just a case that when Soros speaks, people listen. The truth is that when Soros speaks, markets move.

His comments were brutal.

"The international financial system is coming apart at the seams... There is a lack of confidence. That's what I call the 'Bush factor' in the economy." There is a liquidity crisis in financial markets, said Soros. "Everybody's going home. The Swiss banks are going home. The strengthening of the yen clearly shows repatriation." Translated, that means that foreign capital is fleeing the United States in the wake of as yet not fully realized accounting scandals that will, according to Fox News on July 6, take an estimated \$600 billion in value out of the U.S. stock market this year. One of the many smoke alarms triggered by this is the fact that the U.S. economy needs an estimated \$1.5 trillion per year in new foreign investment just to remain solvent.

Reuters quoted Soros as saying that the global economic downturn had "exposed the weaknesses of corporate America and how the U.S. administration runs the international economic system."

Soros is aware of what **FTW** and noted economic thinkers like Catherine Austin Fitts, former assistant secretary of housing,

and British economist Chris Sanders of Sanders Research have been saying for years: as much as half of the value of the U.S. financial markets is derived from criminal endeavors, whether it is the laundering of drug money or the fraudulent "cooking" of financial statements to boost profits.

PUMP AND DUMP

It's a simple scheme really. The mafia knows it quite well. By whatever means necessary, drive a stock's price higher and higher. Make it look like a mover, even if it's a dog. Cook the books and get suckers to buy in, helping to drive the price even higher. When you think the balloon will pop, call all your buddies and sell your shares. That effectively steals all the money that the suckers put in. When the stock crashes, the suckers who weren't part of the scheme will take the loss, whether they be individual investors or the New York City police and fire pension fund.

The U.S. stock markets have been pumped to the breaking point, and they are trying very hard to dump right now. Most sober analysts have agreed for a long time that the prices are over-inflated by as much as 50 percent or more; that price/earnings ratios, now averaging more than 30 to 1, should properly be corrected to about 15 to 1. That means the Dow should be at 5,000 or lower. We'll talk about how the meltdown is being temporarily prevented later. It is first necessary to examine the severity of the crisis.

If I mention the "bookkeeping problem" that's threatening Wall Street right now and asked you how many companies were being investigated for or had announced "overstated earnings," how many would you say? Six? Eight? Try 17.* Seven of them are energy companies, and this adds another degree of imperative for Congress to force the White House to compel full disclosure from Vice President Cheney's 2001 energy task force. But he has a problem there too. One of the companies under investigation for fraudulent bookkeeping is Halliburton. Cheney was its CEO until taking office, and the fraudulent accounting occurred while he was the boss.

Did you think that WorldCom was a big one, having illegally claimed \$3.8 billion in earnings to boost its share price? On July 5, according to Newsday, the energy giant Reliant Resources "restated" its 1999-2001 earnings by chopping off \$7.8 billion in revenue. Just today it was disclosed on CNN that the pharmaceutical giant Merck has overstated its revenues by \$14 billion.

At the core of all these accounting problems is a non-transparent form of corporate bookkeeping called "pro forma." As opposed to the more transparent and rigid practice called GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Practices), pro forma bookkeeping allows for all kinds of manipulations like hiding debt as income, double booking revenues and sneaking drug money onto the bottom line. What has yet to be fully explored by any of the major media is which other major corporations use pro forma bookkeeping. The reason is that all of the major media companies use it too. Also on the pro forma system are GE (NBC), AOL/Time Warner (CNN), Microsoft (MS-NBC), Viacom (CBS), Disney (ABC), IBM, Intel, Cisco Systems, Sun Micro, Tribune (the Chicago Tribune and the L.A. Times), the Washington Post (Newsweek) and the New York Times.

The accounting scandals are starting to nip at the heels of these and other cornerstones of American capital markets. Trading of GM shares was halted June 27 after "unconfirmed market rumors of accounting irregularities." And New York Times reporter Gretchen Morgenson offered the suggestion in an April 14 story that GE might be cooking its books. Thanks to PBS's Lowell Bergman in a 2000 report, we already know that GE has been called on the carpet for accepting drug cash, lots of drug cash, as payment for the good things it brings to life. So has Philip-Morris.

How much foreign capital can Wall Street expect to attract, let alone retain if foreign investors expected to be wiped out for leaving their money here? American investors, especially pension funds are still putting money in or leaving it in place in the stock market. Are there other alarm bells that mom and pop investors should be hearing? What will happen to the value of the American brand name as a trustworthy place to invest money if GM is ultimately revealed to have cooked its books?

A look at the real health of the stock market is revealing. On April 26, The International Forecaster made two chilling observations:

"At the time of the AOL Warner merger the combined companies were worth \$290 billion. They are presently worth \$85 billion. Their quarterly loss is estimated to be \$50 billion. This could be the business mistake of the new century..."

"The downgrade of Bristol Myers Squibb to Aaa by Moody's leaves only 8 AAA-rated companies left. They are GE, UPS, AIG, ExxonMobil, Johnson & Johnson Berkshire Hathaway, and Pfizer & Merck. In 1990 there were 27 AAA companies and in 1979 there were 58."

THE DOLLAR

Soros was extremely upset about what was happening to the U.S. dollar, which has been falling against various currencies for about a month. The key to understanding this lies in the lesson I learned at an economic conference in Moscow in spring 2001. Almost all countries in the world use the U.S. dollar as their reserve currency. They have bought trillions and are holding them. If another currency becomes more valuable or is viewed as more stable, then the world will switch currencies, and trillions of dollars will come back into the country -- inflation would be inevitable and the dollar would lose its value.

In the week ending July 5, the dollar closed consistently at or near parity with the Euro. As of this posting it sits at (U.S.) 99 cents and has been hovering there for more than a week. Since various economic "reforms" from the 1950s to the 1970s removed the dollar from the gold standard it has been a fiat currency, unconnected to any measure of intrinsic value. The full

faith and credit of the United States -- along with its military -- have given the dollar its value. The Euro is partially backed by gold and there have been lingering but credible rumors for years that the U.S.'s gold reserves have been moved to Europe.

Soros told Reuters, "But the declines in the markets have gone somewhat further than what would be the natural consequences of the previous exuberance..."

"The decline in the dollar came as a surprise to me...I attribute it to lack of confidence in the management of affairs by the United States, its unilateralism, the pursuit of national self-interests and not living up to the responsibility of being the dominant financial power in the world, not taking care of the system."

What is Soros setting us up for? The pumping of the stock market occurred while Bill Clinton was president. Yet he's blaming Bush. Is another Herbert Hoover being created before the big crash? The signs are there. Britain's paper the Independent ran a June 28 story headlined, "WorldCom scandal: Currencies: Latest Wall Street disaster sends investors all over the world running for cover." The lead read, "The U.S., dollar yesterday moved to the brink of free fall, a nightmare scenario for the world economy, after reverberations from the WorldCom scandal triggered panic among investors."

That was before the announcements about Reliant and Merck.

The story painted a glum picture. "This is threatening to become a disorderly market,' David Bloom, global economist at HSBC said. 'There's no better way to show loss of confidence in a country than through its currency.'"

Quoting another financial expert, the Independent reported, "If the dollar's decline turns explosive, this could compound the problems of the U.S. asset markets as currency losses raise fears of massive capital flight out of the U.S."

GOLD

For years the price of gold -- the ultimate smoke alarm signaling a failing economy -- has been artificially suppressed by paper traders who are capable of flooding the commodities markets with gold future options when the price needs to be kept low. Why low? Because rising gold prices have always signaled inflation and/or a lack of faith in the financial markets. Years of efforts by the Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee, or GATA, while not being successful at halting or fully exposing the artificial manipulation of gold prices by the Federal Reserve, major banks, the Bank of International Settlements and major commodities traders, have opened the eyes of many to overt manipulations in gold pricing.

As one investment banker told **FTW** recently, there is five times more paper gold than there is actual gold out of the ground. If gold prices ever pop, they'll be out of sight.

Over the past year, certainly since 9-11, gold prices have often moved in exactly the opposite direction (lower) from what conditions would dictate. The financial effort required to do this requires the support of powerful state banking institutions and cash to service the paper. Gold has risen in price from around \$280 an ounce nine months ago to a high of around \$327 in recent weeks. That's a return on investment of 16 percent -- far better than the Dow has done this year.

In our last economic bulletin **FTW** noted that the Dow had lost close to 900 points. Since March of this year it had lost, before the profit-seeking 300-point rally of July 5, almost 1,600 points. Yet even as the economic news worsened last week, the price of gold peaked and then started to fall. As of this writing it sits at \$312 an ounce. The gold price dropped as the worst economic news was hitting the streets. Why?

As one astute gold watcher, Jay Taylor, summed it up in an October 2000 newsletter, "Every single time there is concern about a stock market debacle, gold is bombed. Always."

On June 5 GATA described one of the recent moves to "fiddle" with gold prices. "MiningWeb.com has just reported an explanation for the plunge in the gold price today. The plunge, MiningWeb says, 'came in the wake of a large after-market trade in New York last night, with an unnamed fund liquidating 5,000 futures contracts, a move which knocked the price first to \$326/oz, then to \$324/oz, and finally to \$321/oz,...The sale was executed using the 'Access' system on Comex, which allows for anonymous trading by large funds.'"

There are unmistakable signs of market manipulation now with regards to both gold and stocks. Who is it that keeps the markets from correcting, only making the inevitable crash that much worse? It's called the Plunge Protection Team, or PPT. And now it has to have the liquidity to flood both the gold and the stock markets with enough cash to keep the bubbles from bursting. This, at the same time that major banks like J.P. Morgan/Chase and Citigroup sit atop huge derivatives bubbles that have been estimated at between \$150 trillion and \$300 trillion. Most major U.S. banks have heavy exposure as a result of the mushrooming financial scandals. All of these bubbles require cash, and this is the liquidity Soros is rightly worried about.

Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, has been challenging the gold manipulation for years. He has been one of the few fiscally sane voices anywhere on Capitol Hill. His website has a listing of his writings and much needed legislation he has or is sponsoring.

Only recently have there been signs that the PPT is also working in the U.S. equity (stock) markets.

THE PLUNGE PROTECTION TEAM

The Washington Post acknowledged the existence of a select group of four who could and would intervene in markets to prevent massive capital flight and a run on shares that would cause an economic collapse if there weren't enough cash to pay out during a massive sell off. In his Feb. 23, 1997 story headed "Plunge Protection Team," Post reporter Brett Fromson identified the Federal Reserve chairman, the Securities and Exchange Commission chairman, the chairman of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, and the secretary of the Treasury as the team's key players. The intervention of the team in the

1998 crash of Long Term Capital Management, after it became wildly overexposed in the gold market, revealed that private institutions such as Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, Merrill Lynch and other major banks could be involved as well.

Fromson quoted a former team member as saying, "In a crisis, a lot of deference is paid to the Fed. They are the only ones with any money." Or, I might add, the ability to print it.

Pointing to the 1987 stock market crash, the single largest crash in history, Fromson observed, "The Fed kept the markets going by flooding the banking system with reserves and stating publicly that it was ready to extend loans to important financial institutions, if needed."

On April 5, 2000 New York Post reporter John Crudele reported that the stock market had turned back from the abyss. After a 500-point drop that looked like it was leading to a meltdown, "...someone started buying large amounts of stock index futures contracts through two major brokerage firms -- Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch...Unless the brokers tell, there is no way of knowing which of their clients were making the purchases...Then the market rebounded."

Calling it the PPT, Crudele both referred to the 1997 Washington Post story and suggested that private banks were acting as team captains.

Gold activist David Guyatt, relying on information obtained from GATA Chairman Bill Murphy, pointed to the PPT in October 2000. "The hand of the Plunge Protection Team (PPT) is clearly visible for the first time. The entire short gold play over the last few years is a technique that has been used to 'prop up key stocks' and 'fund futures' operations. In the simplest form it works like this. Borrow (at negligible interest rates) someone's [America's, Germany's, Britain's, Goldman Sachs'] gold and sell it in the market. This gives a handsome pool of near-interest-free dollar cash. Whenever the stock market looks shaky, or key stocks come under pressure, dive in and buy, buy, buy..."

"But it is not only necessary to manipulate the stock market to succeed. It is also necessary to manipulate the gold price and keep the price of gold below the price PPT sold the leased gold for...This is a game of double jeopardy...The problem the PPT now have is that there is virtually no more official gold left to borrow."

The causes of this intervention were a pending NASDAQ crash and the imminent downgrading of IBM and Intel stocks.

And the PPT's hand has been noted recently from as far away as Australia. Progressive Review Editor Sam Smith recently quoted a story by Richard Bromby of the Australian Financial Review:

"At 2:32 Wednesday [June 26], New York time, something extraordinary happened at the corner of Wall and Broad streets. The New York Stock Exchange's Dow Jones industrial index -- struggling since the opening bell after the WorldCom fraud revelations -- threw off its problems. From an intraday low of 8,926.6, the Dow shot skywards to its high of 9,160 at 3:29 p.m...Could it be the work of the much talked about, but never seen, Plunge Protection Team? There is a belief that this team represents a powerful and secretive hand that is ready to act at any time the Dow looks ready to tank big-time..."

"...London's Observer newspaper last October reported it had information the plunge team was preparing to spend 'billions of dollars' to avert a repeat of 1929 and 1987."

The problem is clear: With a strong dollar the PPT has demonstrated that it has enough cash to suppress gold prices or to save the stock market. It may not have enough cash to do both -- especially if the dollar were to suddenly lose its value. Then, all of the chickens that have been locked out will come home to roost with a vengeance.

As The International Forecaster reported on April 26, "The American consumer has run out of credit and buying power...All bets are off if the housing and credit bubbles break and that's a distinct possibility...Debtor's prison is drawing nearer. House and Senate conferences are deciding on a new set of rules for Chapter 7 bankruptcy...If the Plunge Protection Team weren't manipulating the market with all these scandals, the Dow would already be at 4,500."

REALIZING THE EXTENT OF THE DESTRUCTION

Not all of the money looted from American taxpayers is going to support the PPT market manipulations. A lot of it is just being stolen.

According to the Standard and Poor's website, "domestic equity allocation" (stock market) of U.S. pension fund investments was near 50 percent by the end of the 1990s. It has topped 50 percent since then.

Before the 2000 presidential election, candidate George W. Bush promised that he would tap the Social Security Trust Fund only in the event of war, recession or national emergency. On Sept. 11, he was quoted by his budget director, Mitch Daniels, as saying, "Lucky me! I hit the trifecta!"

It's not a question about stealing a little here and a little there. It's a question about open, full-scale looting -- but only from the pockets of the American people who, in my opinion, will soon have almost nothing left. Let's look at the hard numbers of what has been taken and from where. These numbers are by no means exhaustive. It's just what we know about.

- Social Security in 2001 (USA Today/Washington Post)	\$ 34 Billion
- Social Security in 2002 (est.) (House Budget Committee)	\$ 160 Billion
- Federal Employees Retirement System (Wall Street Journal 6/13/02)	
(to Meet 2002 budget deficits)	\$ 42 Billion
- Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (ibid)	\$ 2 Billion
- Stolen from the Dept. of Defense -- 1999	
(Cong. Record and Insight Magazine)	\$1,100 Billion

- Stolen from the Dept. of Defense -- 2000 (CBS News)	\$2,300 Billion
- Stolen from HUD -- 1999 (Cong. Record)	\$ 59 Billion
- Shareholder Equity Lost to Financial Fraud -- 2002 (Fox)	<u>\$ 600 Billion</u>
TOTAL	\$4,297 Billion

PENDING THEFTS

Social Security (by 2010) (Washington Post citing Cong. Budget Office figures)	\$ 845 Billion
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An anecdotal story reveals the damage to pension funds. If you think that Social Security will be a safety net, please read the above section again. Of course we all know about the Enron employees who were wiped out. But according to the New York Times on April 3, New York City's pension system has lost \$9 billion in the wake of recent stock scandals. Imagine the impact if local governments declared bankruptcy or defaulted on their pension obligations. It has been estimated that the California state employee retirement system (CALPERS) has more than 90 percent of its money invested in the stock market.

A WORD ABOUT HOUSING

Most Americans believe that their homes are their last, best retirement insurance. Yet many Americans have mortgaged their homes for 120 percent of value. Their loans are backed with the full faith and credit of the U.S. government through various agencies such as Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Housing Authority.

The International Forecaster has predicted that "40 percent of Fannie and Freddie's loans are going to come back and haunt them. We envision an S&L type bailout of \$2.4 trillion down the road. This will be the biggest financial disaster in history."

The full faith and credit of the U.S. government lie behind these home loans. If the homeowners go broke in an economic crash, they default. If the U.S. government goes broke -- before or after that point -- it defaults, and the holders of U.S. debt ultimately have the right (especially under WTO and globalization) to foreclose on the collateral -- your home loans. In the worst case scenario most of the United States could legally be owned by all of the countries holding U.S. debt -- better described as T-Bills, U.S. gold, or U.S. stocks.

CONCLUSION

The Great Depression was not an event that wiped out U.S. capitalists. It was an event that made the rich even richer by transferring the wealth of the people into the hands of the already wealthy. Legendary is Bank of America's rise to affluence through real estate foreclosures from 1929-37. Don't believe for a minute that the richest of the rich will be hurt by the coming collapse. The only ones hurt will be you and me.

George Soros is a member of the Bilderberger Group, a collection of the wealthiest individuals on the planet. It includes, from the U.S., both Democrats and Republicans, and from Europe and Asia the richest "old" money that can be found. U.S. participants in this year's conference included David Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger, former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, former CIA Director John Deutch and George Soros. It was just after this year's meeting which ended in early-June, that all of the revelations about corporate fraud started to really hit the news. One wonders if it had been on the agenda.

I also note sadly a recent financial report from the Denver area stating that mortgage foreclosures were going through the roof. This, at the same time that Reuters (July 2) reported that corporate layoff announcements had risen by 12 percent in one month. In this context Bush's tax cuts seem worse than bad judgment. As former Assistant Secretary of Housing Catherine Fitts pointed out to me in a last minute e-mail, "By 2010, when (and if) the Bush tax reductions are fully in place, an astonishing 52 percent of the total tax cuts will go to the richest one percent... Put another way, of the estimated \$234 billion in tax cuts scheduled for the year 2010, \$121 billion will go to just 1.4 million taxpayers."

Unless you can convince me that gravity might suddenly reverse direction, this collapse is inevitable and imminent. It will be unspeakably brutal. How long do we have? Maybe weeks. Maybe months. Maybe only days. But the house of cards is already starting to collapse all around us. A major terrorist attack, the folly of an invasion of Iraq or a nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan would only be a momentary diversion from a much greater tragedy.

Suggested Resources:

www.sandersresearch.com
www.solari.com
www.gata.org
www.house.gov/paul/

* -- Enron, WorldCom, QWest, Tyco, ImClone, Martha Stewart (the company), Global Crossing, Dynegy, CMS Energy, El Paso, Halliburton, The Williams Co., Clear Channel (which owns approximately 1,200 radio stations), Adelphia, Reliant, Motorola and Merck. [Source: CNN and various news services]

(continued from page 2, The Forging of 'Pipelinestan')

July 10, 2002, 19:45 PDT (FTW) -- **P**ipelines and oil deals seem to be spreading out all over Central Asia. The players include all of the major oil companies, especially those with close ties to the Bush Administration, along with Russian oil companies, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Central Asian republics themselves. Only the Afghanistan pipeline seems to be moving slowly.

Meanwhile, Caspian Sea oil reserves have been downgraded, British Petroleum shows more signs of industry downsizing, and Matthew Simmons, an oil industry insider, is warning of a perfect energy storm.

WHO OWNS CASPIAN SEA RESOURCES?

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world energy industry began drooling over the newly formed Central Asian republics and the Caspian Sea. Exploration quickly found what appeared to be enormous, untapped fields of oil and natural gas. Throughout the 1990s, deals were made with various countries claiming ownership of energy reserves. Unfortunately, according to the Department of Energy (DOE), the legal status of the Caspian Sea has yet to be resolved.

Prior to 1991, the only countries bordering the sea were the Soviet Union and Iran. These two countries were bound by the 1921 and 1940 bilateral treaties, which stated that Caspian resources were to be owned jointly. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and emergence of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, there have been numerous disputes about resources in the Caspian Sea. Disputes came to a head in July 2001, when Iranian gunboats confronted a British Petroleum research vessel and ordered it out of waters to which Iran lays claim.

Negotiations among the littoral states have made very slow progress in ironing out the disputes. A summit of the heads of state from the various Caspian Sea countries was postponed several times in 2001, as it became apparent that parties could reach no final agreement. For this reason, while many deals have been proposed between various energy consortiums and republics, none have materialized. Until the ownership status of the Caspian Sea has been resolved, there will be no further development of the Sea's oil and gas resources. (See source 1 below)

'PIPELINEISTAN'

Ownership disputes do not extend to continental reserves, as international borders have been clearly delineated. Therefore, the development of land-based resources has been met with a flurry of activity. Considering that the countries of Central Asia are largely landlocked, there has been enormous pipeline building activity to bring Central Asian energy resources to the markets where they are needed.

Projects are underway to ship energy north through modified Russian pipelines. The largest of these projects is a 980-mile pipeline from Kazakhstan's Caspian Sea oil fields across Kazakhstan and Russia to the Black Sea port of Novorossiisk. Construction began in 1999, and this pipeline is the largest single American investment in the region. As reported by Alexander's Gas and Oil Connections website, the main client for this pipeline will be TengizChevrOil, half of which is owned by Chevron, a quarter by ExxonMobil and a quarter by Russian and Kazakh partners. (See source 2)

There are also several projects to either truck or pipe energy through Georgian territory, according to the DOE. Chevron has a strong interest in this option, along with Conoco. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency funded a \$750,000 feasibility study by Enron for a natural gas pipeline from Turkmenistan, through Azerbaijan and Georgia, to Turkey. Another feasibility study was completed by Unocal. There have been negotiating problems among the various countries, and PSO (co-operator with Royal Dutch/Shell) closed its Turkmenistan office in 2000. Talks about the project have resumed, but the legal issues of Caspian Sea ownership complicate the project. (See source 3)

Chevron's involvement throughout the region is quite ubiquitous. Alexander's Gas and Oil Connections reported the company has invested more than \$20 billion in Kazakhstan alone. From 1989 to 1992 National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice was on the board of directors of Chevron, and was its main expert on Kazakhstan.

Other projects are also underway, most of them ending with energy in Turkey, where it would be transported through the Bosphorus Straits to markets in Europe. There is a great deal of concern about Bosphorus Straits traffic, which has already become a major bottleneck for oil tankers. There are environmental concerns about possible collision, and for this reason, options are being considered for oil transiting the Black Sea to bypass the Bosphorus Straits.

As for the market, the big question has been: should the pipelines flow east or west? The western route would be easier, as much of the infrastructure is already in place. There are several projects underway or completed for bringing energy resources to the west. However, European oil demand over the next 10 to 15 years is expected to grow by only one million bbl/d, while Asian demand is expected to grow by at least 10 million bbl/d over the same period. Therefore, greater profit is seen in piping these resources to the east.

Unfortunately, an eastward route would require the longest pipelines in the world. Formidable mountains would require long detours to the north, or a shorter route to the south through either Iran or Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Iranian route is prohibited under the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act. Therefore, Afghanistan and Pakistan are the choice for energy flowing eastward. (See source 4)

THE TRANS-AFGHANISTAN PIPELINE

Efforts to revive the trans-Afghanistan pipeline began soon after the U.S. incursion into that country. The pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan was first discussed in the late-1990s, with a consortium led by Unocal pushing the project. Unocal backed out in 1998 after international financial institutions refused to help cover the cost of the project so long as Afghanistan was racked by armed conflict. (See source 5)

As reported by the Asia Times, in July 2001 a strategy to topple the Taliban and replace it with a "broad-based government," was discussed during the G8 summit in Genoa, Italy. (This subject was first broached in Geneva at a May 2001 meeting between the U.S. State Department, Iran, Germany, and Italy.) Following within days of the G8 summit, secret negotiations were conducted in a Berlin hotel between American, Russian, German and Pakistani officials. Pipelineistan was the central topic of these negotiations, and a plan was set up for military strikes against the Taliban from bases in Tajikistan to be launched before mid-October 2001. (See source 6)

Soon after the invasion began in October, the pipeline project was discussed in Islamabad between Pakistani Petroleum Minister Usman Aminuddin and American Ambassador Wendy Chamberlain. Subsequently, during a visit to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on Jan. 31, Deputy Secretary of State Elizabeth Jones told Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov that Washington would support such pipeline projects so long as they were commercially viable. (See source 7)

In April Niyazov called for the United Nations to support a plan to build a gas pipeline linking Turkmenistan to Pakistan, reported EurasiaNet. The project was being touted for bringing stability to Afghanistan. Support from the UN would boost the status of the project and clear the way for guarantees from international institutions like the UN Development Program. (See source 8) Also in April as reported by Agence France-Presse, World Bank chief James Wolfensohn said he had held talks about financing the Trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline. Wolfensohn, during a visit to the Afghanistan capital, Kabul, stated that a number of companies had already expressed interest in the project. (See source 9)

So far, no corporations have been named as firmly signing on to the project. Several sources have stated that Unocal will likely come forward again to join in the project, according to the DAWN Group of Newspapers. (See source 10) Most notably, Afghan Minister for Mines and Industries Mohammad Alim Reza has stated that Unocal was still in the lead attempting to win the \$2 billion trans-Afghanistan pipeline. (See source 11) According to NewsBase, Unocal followed this announcement with a statement that it has no intention of reviving the Central Asia Gas Pipeline (CentGas) project. (See source 12) However, Unocal has made no statement contradicting reports that it has a project to build the Central Asian oil pipeline, linking Turkmenistan both to Russia's existing Siberian oil pipelines and to the Pakistani coast. This oil pipeline will run parallel to the proposed gas pipeline route through Afghanistan, reported the Asia Times. (See source 13) It is possible that Unocal's denial of interest in the gas pipeline could just be for public consumption. Prior to stepping down from the CentGas project, Unocal was targeted by human rights groups for its dealings with the Taliban.

Energy experts have indicated that companies owned or formerly managed by Bush senior and Vice President Dick Cheney are showing a keen interest in Caspian Sea reserves, the DAWN Group reported. (See source 14) And the U.S. is expecting investment from U.S.-based energy conglomerates through Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to resuscitate the Afghan pipeline project. (See source 15) It has been noted that despite assurances from Afghan and Pakistani leaders, continued volatility in the region is deterring energy corporations from offering to help build the pipeline. It is suggested that it may take several years of political stability before the project could be seriously revived. However, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is also keenly interested in the project. ADB loans will likely be used to cover part of the cost of building the gas transport system, with funds from donor countries for the reconstruction of Afghanistan covering the rest, according to the BBC and NewsBase. (See sources 16 and 17) It will be interesting to see what role Halliburton, formerly chaired by Cheney, plays in the pipeline construction.

On May 30 Afghanistan's interim leader, Hamid Karzai, Turkmenistan's President Niyazov, and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf met in Islamabad to sign a memorandum of understanding on the trans-Afghanistan pipeline project. As a first step, the three countries will begin work on a feasibility study. A preliminary assessment will be issued in late-September and the three leaders will meet for more talks on the project in October, reported NewsBase. (See source 18) The Turkmen-Afghan-Pakistani gas pipeline accord has been published and can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22622.htm>.

CASPIAN OIL ESTIMATE REVISED DOWN

Early estimates of Caspian Sea oil reserves ranged from 115 billion to 200 billion barrels. These estimates have been rightfully viewed with scepticism as they were based on a 10 percent probability of recovery -- that is, they were considering oil that could not be recovered. Now this assessment has been severely downgraded by oil industry insiders.

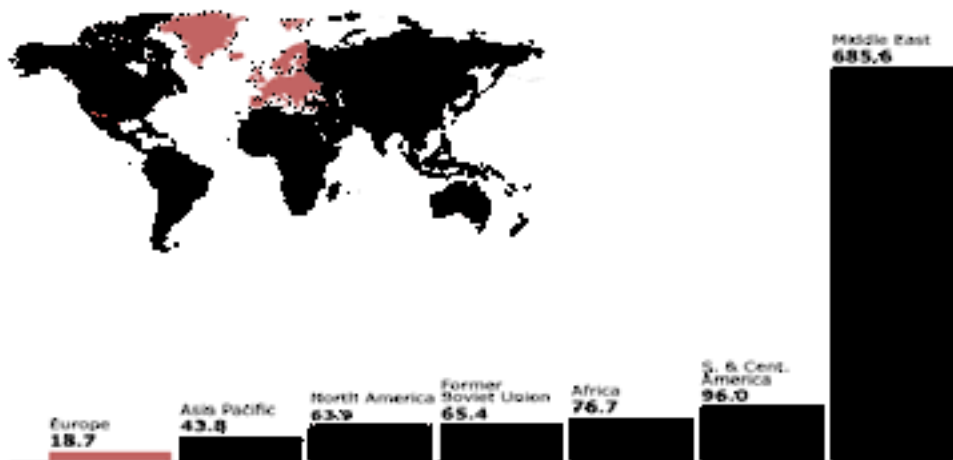
Speaking on April 8 in Almaty, Kazakhstan at the Eurasian Economic Summit, Gian Maria Gros-Pietro, chairman of Italy's Eni oil company, said the Caspian contains 7.8 billion barrels of oil, the Interfax news agency reported. This is confirmed by Agip's statement in Energy Day of May 30 that the recoverable reserve potential of Kashagan is only 1.2 billion barrels. With these revisions, it is questionable whether the Caspian Sea region will ever approach the importance of the Middle East with regard to energy reserves, according to the Association for the Study of Peak Oil's (APSO) June newsletter. (See source 19)

Finally, in reference to the table below of world energy reserves, note that the Caspian Sea region is included in the Former

Soviet Union, amounting to less than one tenth of Middle East reserves. In fact, added together, the rest of the world only contains 364.5 thousand million barrels in proven reserves, or 53 percent of the proven reserves of the Middle East.

map of proved oil reserves at end 2001

Thousand million barrels.



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2002;

<http://www.bp.com/centres/energy2002/index.asp>

MORE EVIDENCE OF OIL COMPANY DOWNSIZING

Also from the June APSO newsletter, we find more evidence of oil company downsizing. The newsletter cites World Oil articles stating first that British Petroleum has decided to completely curtail political contributions in the U.S. BP spent \$834,000 in such contributions in 2001. The APSO observes that this decision says more about reduced activity than anything else. [Ed. Note: Although it may say something about BP's grand jury exposure for bribery allegations in the U.S. and its 2000 campaign donations to Attorney General John Ashcroft. -- MCR] Likewise, BP is replacing staff with consultants. The aim is to downsize the staff of various drilling operations by between 30 percent and 40 percent. This does not speak well for future drilling activity. (See source 20)

THE PERFECT ENERGY STORM

Finally, from a presentation at the June 21 Energen Corporation Board Retreat, Matthew R. Simmons, president of Simmons & Company International (an investment banker for the energy industry) spoke about a looming natural gas crisis.

Toward the end of his presentation, Simmons listed the following ingredients for a perfect energy storm:

- Third quarter of 2002 sees the arrival of a material supply drop
- A hot, muggy summer turns on a record level of gas turbines (100,000 MW+)
- One hurricane roams through the Gulf of Mexico
- Suddenly, the gas storage cushion is gone.

"We might be passing through the eye of a hurricane," Simmons warned. (See source 21)

Sources:

- 1) <http://www.eia.doe.gov/cabs/caspian.html>
- 2) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/ntc20665.htm>
- 3) <http://www.eia.doe.gov/cabs/caspian.html>
- 4) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/features/fex20867.htm>
- 5) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22628.htm>
- 6) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/features/fex20867.htm>
- 7) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/ntr20811.htm>
- 8) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/ntc22240.htm>
- 9) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22408.htm>
- 10) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22268.htm>
- 11) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22404.htm>

- 12) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/company/cns22416.htm>
- 13) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/features/fex20867.htm>
- 14) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22404.htm>
- 15) <http://www.gasandoil.com/features/fex20867.htm>
- 16) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22628.htm>
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- 18) <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22628.htm>
- 19) <http://www.isv.uu.se/iwood2002/Newsletter/Newsletter.html>
- 20) <http://www.isv.uu.se/iwood2002/Newsletter/Newsletter.html>
- 21) [http://www.simmonsco-intl.com/domino/html/research.nsf/DocId/B5EB40172B26ABE586256BEA00673746/\\$File/energenprinter.pdf](http://www.simmonsco-intl.com/domino/html/research.nsf/DocId/B5EB40172B26ABE586256BEA00673746/$File/energenprinter.pdf)

Bush Signs \$4.6 Bil Bioterror Bill

- Does Little To Protect Americans' Health, Much for Corporations
- MEHPA Passed in 11 States, BioTerror Bill and MEHPA Make Forced Vaccination Using Unproven Drugs Mandatory
- Courts Uphold Forced Vaccinations

by Michael Davidson -- **FTW** Staff Writer

July 17, 2002, 16:00 PM PDT (FTW) -- **P**resident George W. Bush signed into law June 12 the Public Health Security And Bioterrorism Response Act of 2002. The bill authorizes spending \$4.6 billion on producing and stockpiling vaccines, requires more thorough inspection of food entering the country, and provides assistance to help states improve water source security.

The overwhelming bulk of the expenditures authorized by this new bill are going to pharmaceutical companies, construction firms, and purveyors of laboratory, computer, and communications equipment. Only a pittance is going to hiring human beings to conduct work in preventing or handling a bioterrorism attack. This bill is really just another way for George Bush to transfer taxpayer money to businesses, and has little to do with protecting American citizens.

At the signing, Bush said "last fall's anthrax attacks were an incredible tragedy to a lot of people in America, and it sent a warning that we needed and have heeded." It's nice to know that Bush feels the anthrax attacks were needed, but apparently he's not pushing the FBI to arrest the person who committed them.

The new act, which began life as HR 3448, consists of four sections. Title I, "National Preparedness for Bioterrorism and other Public Health Emergencies," authorizes \$2.72 billion for national, state and local efforts to prepare for bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. The money is allocated as follows:

- \$1.16 billion for emergency medical stockpiles, of which \$509 million is for smallpox vaccines;
- \$450 million for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), \$330 million of which is for facility upgrades and expansion;
- \$1 billion for state and local preparedness, including \$910 million for already authorized programs to develop and implement emergency programs, as well as to train and equip emergency and health care personnel;
- \$25 million for anti-microbial research; and
- \$90 million for other ongoing programs.

Title II, "Enhancing Controls on Dangerous Biological Agents and Toxins," establishes a mandatory registration system and national database at CDC for all facilities which possess, use or transfer any of 42 specific biological agents and toxins. This provision is enthusiastically endorsed by the American Society for Microbiology, as the previous 1996 law required registration of only those facilities that were transferring the agents,

Title II also requires facilities to submit the names of all persons having access to these biological agents to the attorney general and the Department of Health and Human Services for screening against criminal, immigration, national security and other databases. The screening will be looking for persons defined as "restricted" by section 175b of the USA-Patriot Act enacted in October. Among those defined by 175b are aliens that are not permanent U.S. residents, and foreign nationals from terrorism-sponsoring nations.

Title III, "Protection of Food and Drug Supply," allocates \$100 million for increased food inspection, improved information management systems, development of rapid detection inspection methods and threat assessment techniques for food safety. There are also a myriad of administrative procedures mandated regarding record keeping, notification to various government entities, as well as registration by manufacturers, importers and transporters.

Title IV, "Drinking Water Security and Safety," authorizes \$120 million to help communities with water systems serving over 3,300 people conduct vulnerability assessments and prepare emergency response plans. Title IV also authorizes \$15 million to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review methods to prevent, detect and respond to the intentional introduction of chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants into community water systems and review means to prevent supply disruption.

Titles III and IV allocate roughly a quarter billion dollars to solve problems that have not occurred, i.e. tampering with food and water supplies. The nation has suffered through E.coli outbreaks within the food supply chain, but the Bush administration did nothing about them. Under the guise of "anti-terrorism," the administration now sees the need to protect our food and water. It's all just a way to give money to businesses.

In another massive giveaway, this one to the pharmaceutical industry, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently decided to approve drugs used to treat biological, chemical and nuclear terrorism without their being tested on affected humans. According to a May 31 article in The New York Times, the agency said eliminating the requirement for human testing could spur development of anti-terrorism drugs by eliminating the stumbling block of ethical concerns over exposing human volunteers to substances like smallpox or nerve gas.

The new rule will still require any new drug to be tested on humans for safety and side effects. There will be no testing for

efficacy in humans of the new drugs. While researchers may be able to make pretty reasonable assumptions from tests on monkeys, there is no certainty that a drug will work identically on the human species.

MEHPA UPDATE

In previous issues, *FTW* has reported on the Model Emergency Health Preparedness Act (MEHPA), a law drawn up by the federal government which is attempting to get it passed in all 50 states. One of the major provisions of MEHPA is that a person can be forced under penalty of jail to take a vaccine or drug to deal with a bioterrorism attack. According to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), at press time MEHPA-like laws have been enacted in 11 states: New Mexico, Utah, South Dakota, Louisiana, Minnesota, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. Combining the new FDA rule (or lack thereof) about human testing of bioterrorism drugs with MEHPA, Americans in at least 11 states can be forced to take a drug completely untested for efficacy on humans, or go to jail.

In March the federal appeals court for the Eighth Circuit ruled that a defendant can be forcibly drugged even though he has not been convicted of a crime and poses no danger to himself or others. The case, *United States of America vs. C.T. Sell*, involved a St. Louis dentist who has been charged with Medicaid fraud. He has been in jail for over four years, and has never been brought to trial. In a 2-1 decision, the court acknowledged that "the evidence does not support a finding that Sell posed a danger to himself or others" but established government authority to forcibly medicate a person with mind altering drugs on the basis that "charges of fraud" alone are "serious" enough to justify forced medication. The Court further found that there are no limits on the quantities or types of drugs the government can administer.

The American Association of Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) joined the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in petitioning the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals for a rehearing in the Sell case. In the Motion for Rehearing, AAPS said "The Decision holds merely that by alleging fraud, the State may inject mind-altering drugs into a prisoner against his will, based on government testimony." The ACLU argued, "The Panel's opinion fails to determine if the government's interest is compelling before applying its balancing test, and fails to acknowledge the fundamental liberty status that the Supreme Court has granted non-dangerous people to be free from involuntary medication by the government."

In early-May, the Eighth Circuit Court issued a 5-4 oral decision not to rehear the case. Americans are now in a situation where:

- The FDA is allowing drugs to be marketed as treatments for biological, chemical or radiological attacks without testing them for efficacy in humans;
- Under MEHPA, states will arrest, charge and jail people for refusing to take a specific course of treatment for a biological, chemical or radiological attack; and
- A Court of Appeals has ruled that it is perfectly legal for an individual to be forcibly drugged while in government custody.

In the name of liberty and freedom, the Bush Administration has told pharmaceutical companies they can do what they want, MEHPA tells law enforcement they can arrest who they want, and the courts have ruled that you can be drugged with whatever your jailers want. There are people who believe George Bush has used the events of 9-11 as an excuse to impose a police state on America.

On May 31, the CDC announced four public meetings to provide information on smallpox and smallpox vaccinations. Meetings were held in New York City and San Francisco on June 6, in St. Louis on June 8, and on June 11 in San Antonio. The hearings were to be used by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices smallpox working group to present an updated set of recommendations at a meeting June 19-20 in Atlanta.

Right on schedule, the CDC announced on June 20 that they had rejected smallpox vaccinations for the general public, proposing instead that the shots be given only to special teams of people who would be designated the first to respond in case of a bioterrorism attack. Under the plan "first-responders" would include doctors, nurses, EMTs, epidemiologists, lab workers, and law enforcement personnel. States would be allowed to provide vaccinations to staff at certain hospitals where confirmed smallpox patients would be treated. The CDC estimated that the number of people vaccinated according to the plan would be "in the thousands."

That number somehow became 500,000, according to *The New York Times* on July 7. The story also reported that "The government is also laying the groundwork to carry out mass vaccinations of the public." This change in policy would indicate that the government's current program is woefully inadequate to handle a large outbreak.

Or it could be something else. If anything contained in the vaccine given to "first-responders" should somehow incapacitate them, absolute total chaos would take over the entire country as people, literally, feared for their lives. That would leave a huge window for the government to come in to declare martial law in order to preserve freedom and liberty.

An Associated Press story on July 8 lends further credence to an agenda other than the public's well-being. The first paragraph states "Federal health officials are quietly making plans for quarantining Americans who might be exposed to a highly contagious smallpox patient, addressing sensitive questions of how to hold people, possibly against their will, in case of a bioterror attack."

The second paragraph is even more chilling. "The planning, still in draft form, addresses complex logistical and policy questions, including where people would be kept while waiting for officials to confirm a smallpox case and, if necessary,

administer vaccinations."

Why exactly are people going to be held while waiting for a smallpox case to be confirmed? On what basis are these people being held? And for how long? The plan discussed in the AP story suggests people could be held from two to 17 days. Regardless of who, why, and how long people will be held, people will be forcibly vaccinated.

Last fall, five people died from anthrax. Since then, we have heard that Iraq has biological weapons, including smallpox, but there is no proof. All we have is saber-rattling from the administration. Our government cannot locate the anthrax mailer, despite many knowledgeable bioweapons experts insisting the culprit can only be one of 10 to 12 people from within the U.S. biowarfare community. Our government is now planning to vaccinate at least half a million people to protect them from something that has not occurred, and whose existence cannot be confirmed. They are drawing up quarantine plans to deal with this same unconfirmed threat. And they plan to vaccinate those people quarantined from the unconfirmed threat.

What's going on? The answer may not be very pretty.

"Oh Lucy!" – New Additions

The Following Items Have Been Added to Our World-Famous 9-11 Timeline

[Expanded and Revised July 11, 2002]

5. August 1998 - After the U.S. cruise missile attacks on Al Qaeda targets in Afghanistan in retaliation for the African embassy bombings, Unocal officially withdraws from participation in the CentGas trans-Afghan gas pipeline project. [Various sources, Unocal]

28. July 15, 2001 - Members of the G8, meeting in Genoa, Italy, discuss the Taliban, pipelines, and the handing over of Osama bin Laden. According to Pakistani representative Ambassador Naiz Naik, the U.S. delegation, led by former Clinton Ambassador to Pakistan Tom Simmons warned of a "military option" if the Taliban did not change position. [Source: Jean-Charles Brisard and Guillaume Dasquie, "Bin Laden: La Verite Interdite," pp76-7. Thanks to Prof. Peter Dale Scott]

32. Aug. 2, 2001 - U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, Christine Rocca (a former CIA officer), meets in Islamabad with a Taliban ambassador and demands the extradition of bin Laden. This was the last known meeting on the subject. [Source: Brisard and Dasquie, p 79. Thanks to Prof. Peter Dale Scott]

38. late-August 2001 - Prince Turki, the pro-U.S. head of Saudi intelligence (also known to be close to bin Laden), is replaced by his more neutral half-brother, Prince Nawwaf who is an ally of Crown Prince Abdullah. [Source: Saudi Arabian Information Resource, Aug. 31, 2001; <http://www.saudinf.com/> - Thanks to Prof. Peter Dale Scott]

50. Sept. 9, 2001 - President George W. Bush is presented with detailed war plans to overthrow Al Qaeda, according to U.S. and foreign sources speaking to NBC News. [Source: MSNBC, May 16, 2002. Thanks to Prof. Peter Dale Scott]

52. Sept. 10, 2001 "On Sept. 10, Newsweek has learned, a group of top Pentagon officials suddenly cancelled travel plans for the next morning, apparently because of security concerns." [Source: Newsweek, Sept. 24, 2001 issue, story by Evan Thomas]

57. Sept. 11-12, 2001 - Nearly a month before the first reported outbreak, White House officials start taking the powerful antibiotic Cipro to treat anthrax. By the end of the year it will be known that the Ames strain of anthrax used in the attacks against Sens. Leahy and Daschle was produced by CIA programs coordinated through Fort Detrick, the Batelle Memorial Institute and the Dugway Proving Ground. [Source: NBC; CNN; www.tetrahedron.org, www.judicialwatch.org]

76. mid-April, 2002 - World Bank chief James Wolfensohn, at the opening of the World Bank's offices in Kabul, states he has held talks about financing the Trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline. He confirms \$100 million in new grants for the interim Afghan government. Wolfensohn also states that a number of companies have already expressed interest in the project. [Source: Alexander's Gas and oil Connections, citing an Agence France-Presse story]

78. May 2002 - A number of sources report progress on both oil and gas pipelines. Regional sources state that Unocal will re-emerge as a pipeline contender after withdrawing from the CentGas pipeline project in 1998. Unocal denies plans to revive the gas pipeline but curiously neglects to mention whether or not it has any interest in the oil pipeline, which local sources say is moving ahead. [Source: The Dawn Group of Newspapers, May 7, May 17, May 22, 2002]

79. May 30, 2002 - Afghanistan's interim leader, Hamid Karzai, Turkmenistan's President Niyazov, and Pakistani President Musharraf meet in Islamabad to sign a memorandum of understanding on the trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline project. The three leaders will meet for more talks on the project in October. The Turkmen-Afghan-Pakistani gas pipeline accord has been published and can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/nts22622.htm>. [Source: NewsBase, June 5, 2002]

85. July 2, 2002 - Motions from Zacarias Moussaoui are unsealed in federal court, indicating that Moussaoui wants to testify before both a grand jury and Congress about the Sept. 11 attacks. Moussaoui claims to have information showing that the U.S. government wanted the attacks to happen. [Source: The Washington Post, July 3, 2002]

86. July 3, 2002 - The first-ever shipment of Russian oil, 200,000 metric tons, arrives in Houston. [Source: The Moscow Times, July 6, 2002].

87. July 6, 2002 - Afghan Vice President Hajji Abdul Qadir is assassinated by Afghan warlords. The New York Times reports that Qadir may have been assassinated by opium warlords upset by Qadir's efforts to reduce the rampant opium farming and processing that has taken place since the U.S. occupation. Qadir had been overseeing a Western-backed eradication program, according to the Times. However, the opium warlords of the region are same ones sponsored, protected, and in some cases released from prison by the CIA and who have been protected by President Bush's special envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad. It is reported that the raw opium is being refined near U.S. bases at Kandahar. [Sources: The New York Times, July 8, 2002; Far Eastern Economic Review, April 18, 2002]

U.S. COMPLICITY IN 9-11 ATTACKS WIDELY ACCEPTED AT G6B SUMMIT IN CANADA

- Ruppert/Chossudovsky Draw Crowd of 1,200
- U. of Ottawa Professor Says Evidence Shows U.S. Helped Plan Attacks
- Ruppert Kicked Out of Canada -- But He Was Leaving Anyway

June 27, 2002, 16:00 PDT (FTW) -- An estimated crowd of 1,200 turned out on June 25 at the University of Calgary's MacEwan Hall to hear **FTW** Publisher Mike Ruppert and University of Ottawa Professor Michel Chossudovsky present evidence of and a rationale for U.S. government complicity in last September's terrorist attacks. (See photos at www.fromthewilderness.com). Their two-and-a-half-hour presentation, including documentary evidence, was greeted with a standing ovation.

In a question and answer session after the lecture, not one audience member questioned that the Bush Administration needed the attacks in order to mobilize public support for a war to control Central Asian oil reserves and the cash from the Afghan opium trade. Traditionally, Afghanistan has been the world's largest producer of opium.

The G6B -- standing for a global population of six billion people whose interests need to be balanced against the corporate interests of the industrialized world -- was a three-day event sponsored by, among others, the government of Canada, Amnesty International and the University of Calgary. It brought delegates and activists together from 60 countries. The counter summit was timed and located in Calgary, Alberta so as to juxtapose it with the G8 meeting in nearby Kananaskis of the world's eight largest industrialized nations starting on June 26.

The first joint presentation involving Ruppert and Chossudovsky, an economics professor, presented the strongest evidence to date that not only did the Bush Administration have complete foreknowledge of the attacks and allow them to happen, but also that the CIA had a direct hand in financing the attacks. Chossudovsky presented documentary evidence from ABC news, citing FBI sources, confirming a report that Gen. Mahmud Ahmad, then-chief of the Pakistani intelligence service (ISI), ordered for \$100,000 to be wired to lead hijacker Mohammed Atta just weeks before the attacks. The new corroboration from U.S. media, using FBI sources, gave considerable weight to earlier press stories originating in India linking the ISI to 9-11. [These new revelations will be the subject of an upcoming story in **FTW**].

"Gen. Ahmad arrived in Washington on Sept. 4 and met with, among others, his good friend [CIA Director] George Tenet, [Deputy Secretary of State] Richard Armitage, [Sen.] Joe Biden, [D-Del.], and the heads of the two intelligence committees," Chossudovsky said.

"To me the issue of foreknowledge is a red herring. Osama bin Laden is and remains to this day a CIA asset. Even now his Al Qaeda operatives are working with the Kosovo Liberation Army who are U.S. allies and with U.S.-backed forces in Macedonia. Members of Al Qaeda have been protected as they moved into Kashmir where they are now fomenting conflict between India and Pakistan.

"The evidence is becoming clearer every day that the U.S. government helped to plan and fund the Sept. 11 attacks," said Chossudovsky.

In addition, Chossudovsky has uncovered what may be complicity on the part of the major media in hiding the smoking gun. Using transcripts from the Federal Records Service (FRS), Chossudovsky obtained the transcript of a question posed to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at a May 16 press conference, in which she was asked if she had met with the "ISI chief" while he was in Washington. The CNN transcript of the event indicated that the words "ISI chief" were "inaudible" when, in fact, they were quite audible to the FRS. Rice's response was a troubled, "I have not seen that report, and he was certainly not meeting with me."

Chossudovsky painted a broad picture of globalization pushing events toward a possible nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan by noting that one U.S. company with strong intelligence and military connections, MPRI of Vienna, Va., was acting as adviser to both governments. He also noted the strong links between CIA Director George Tenet and Deputy Secretary of State Armitage to the leaders of both countries. Chossudovsky also pointed out that President George W. Bush receives daily "personal" intelligence briefings from the CIA director -- a custom that has never previously been followed by any sitting president. Previously most CIA briefings have been delivered in written format.

Ruppert, using new evidence of U.S. government foreknowledge disclosed by major media sources and through recent press conferences, established that by using only open source material, the U.S. government had warnings that multiple airliners, most likely from United and American airlines would be hijacked during the week of Sept. 9 and crashed into the twin towers. Using revelations of intelligence intercepts and a Pentagon drill responding to an attack from a hijacked airliner staged prior to Sept. 11, Ruppert established that the Bush Administration's position, which held it had no hint that aircraft would be used as weapons, was false. Pointing to last year's G8 summit in Genoa, Italy, Ruppert noted that extensive precautions had been taken there (including anti-aircraft guns) to prevent just such an attack. A Los Angeles Times story disclosed that

President Bush was the target of the suspected attacks in Genoa.

"Bush ought to be having some interesting conversations with the leaders of Italy, Germany, France and Russia since it was their intelligence services who forwarded detailed advance warnings to the CIA throughout the summer of 2001," said Ruppert. "And they referred specifically to suicide attacks with airliners."

Ruppert also debunked the notions that the 9-11 attacks were caused by a lack of cooperation between agencies, and that great numbers of people would have had to be involved in the U.S. end of the operation. Citing a BBC TV report by Gregg Palast which showed an FBI report stating that the Bush Administration had ordered the FBI to curtail investigations into bin Laden relatives, Ruppert demonstrated that orders were coming from levels above FBI and CIA leadership. Additionally, referring to the recent memorandum from FBI Special Agent Colleen Rowley and a press conference given by FBI Special Agent Robert Wright, Ruppert popped the government's position that somehow the so-called intelligence "failures" of 9-11 were the result of negligence.

"If you look at the text of Rowley's message and listen to what Wright said at his press conference, you hear and see words like, 'obstruct,' 'deliberately thwart,' 'intimidate,' 'block,' 'harass,' 'dishonest,' 'rewrite,' 'omit,' 'undermine,' 'suppress,' 'punish,' 'retaliate' and 'prevent.' These are not words describing negligence. These are words describing deliberate and willful actions.

"And if you note from both the Rowley memo and apparently from the Wright press conference, it was only one supervisory special agent at FBI headquarters who did all of the deliberate work to stop investigations that could have prevented the attacks. And what did Rowley tell us? Right after Sept. 11 the agent who had blocked the investigations was promoted!"

The \$64,000 question remains unanswered: Was the agent in Rowley's case also involved in blocking Wright's Chicago-based investigations into money-laundering for terrorist groups, including Al Qaeda? In any event, the Rowley memorandum proves that just a few officials in key positions could have carried out the 9-11 conspiracy successfully.

LEAVING ANYWAY BUT KICKED OUT JUST THE SAME -- A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH AIR FORCE ONE

On entering Canada Ruppert was questioned first by Canadian Customs officials and then by immigration officers. Upon learning that Ruppert was a journalist and publisher of *FTW* the immigration officer typed Ruppert's name into a computer and asked specifically if he was going near the G8 conference. Ruppert stated that he was only planning on attending the G6B conference and had plans to return to Los Angeles on June 25. Nonetheless, the immigration officer stamped Ruppert's passport with a visa dated to expire on June 26, requiring that he not be in the country when the conference began. This highly unusual practice was offensive to many Canadians who pointed out that there are no visa requirements between the two countries.

After the lecture, as he was hurrying to the airport, Ruppert was questioned by the local press who photographed his passport as evidence of the Canadian government's desire to censor coverage and public access to the conference.

Ruppert's departure coincided with the arrival of President Bush and two identical 747 aircraft painted with Air Force One markings. He was able to photograph the arrival of the president and a heavy deployment of support and security aircraft. Ruppert's flight home was delayed by more than an hour. He returned safely to Los Angeles while his suitcase was forced to spend the night in San Francisco. The Calgary lecture was Ruppert's eighth stop in a month in his "Truth and Lies of 9-11" lecture series. He plans to spend the next six weeks working on new stories.

- Photographs of the lecture, Ruppert's passport and the arrival of George W. Bush are online at www.fromthewilderne ss.com

- Michael Chossudovsky's website is at www.globalresearch.ca

--*FTW* staff

THE CIA CONFIRMS FTW's MAP -- We Were Right!

NEW CIA UNIVERSITY REVEALS AGENCY PRIORITIES

Economic Trends, International Banking, World Oil Market, WTO, IMF and
World Bank *ARE* Top Courses at CIA's *NEW* Institute of Higher Learning

by Michael C. Ruppert

July 3, 2002, 17:00 PDT (FTW) -- **T**he CIA is now operating a university somewhere in northern Virginia. According to an entry in a June 24 newsletter published by an association of former intelligence officers, some of the courses taught at the

university are “economic trends, international banking, the world oil market, and how the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization, etc. and other non-governmental organizations work.”

For four years **FTW** has been teaching that the CIA's primary role, it's *raison d'être*, was to serve the interests of Wall Street and the major banks. In our recent three-country lecture tour, our documentation of the close links between CIA and Wall Street has taken many by surprise. Thirty years ago Professor Peter Dale Scott of Berkeley disclosed that six out of the first seven deputy directors of intelligence (CIA's number two position) had gone directly from Wall Street into service at the Agency. Since Sept. 11, **FTW's** disclosure that the CIA's current executive director, A.B. “Buzzy” Krongard, is a former investment banker has caused deeper rumbles. The firm he once headed, AlexBrown/Deutschebank, has been connected to insider trading on United Air Lines stock just before the Sept. 11 attacks. The NYSE's current executive vice president for enforcement, David Doherty, is a retired CIA general counsel.

This new curriculum, as reported by Reuters correspondent T. Zakaria in a May 16 story and by the newsletter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO) dated June 24, absolutely and clearly establishes the priorities of the agency. Understanding this relationship helps people to rethink their paradigms when trying to understand the real role of secret intelligence operations in today's world. As described recently by **FTW** friend Dr. Faiz Khan, “A paradigm is what you think about something before you think about it.”

Since the U.S.-led conquest of Afghanistan was completed last November, a fresh opium crop has been planted that has currently put between 3,000 and 4,500 metric tons of opium back on the market after being harvested last month. That equates to an estimated \$150 and \$200 billion in liquid cash revenues that will enter the world's banking system and financial markets, mostly in the U.S. In January 2000 the Taliban destroyed some 96 percent of the country's opium crop; an act of economic warfare that took an estimated \$200 billion out of the world's banking system.

The AFIO newsletter also cited a popular course as “Writing for the President.” The Reuters story, as cited in Pakistan's News International on May 18, quoted the university's president Frans Bax as saying, “We are deepening the training we are going to do for a whole new generation.” Clearly that training is focused on subject matters quite different from the missions the Agency likes to be known for, such as penetrating terrorist cells to stop attacks and uncovering military and intelligence secrets of potential adversaries. The Reuters and AFIO stories say that there are 11 different schools at the university and describe some of the classes as covering foreign language instruction. Many of the classes use classified materials.

The exact location of the university and access to its “campus” are restricted to those with proper clearances.

Regarding the drug trade, **FTW** has been focused for years on the fact that the control of the cash generated by the international drug trade has been one of the CIA's primary concerns. This was the subject of a lecture given by this writer at the University of Southern California at the invitation of Professor David Andrus in December 2000 entitled “Wall Street's War for Drug Money.” (A video of that lecture is available at www.copvcia.com).

(continued from page 1, America in Crisis)

McKinney's re-election will send an unmistakable message to Washington that no congressional district benefits if the nation forgets its values; that courage and honesty are behaviors that the American people are capable of rewarding and protecting; and that heavy-handed politics is not something to be feared.

In the 1960s the Freedom Riders and courageous heroes from all over the country traveled to the South because that's where they knew the battle was being fought for the soul of the nation. Then, the cause was civil rights. Today the cause is freedom from the oppression of big corporate interests, corruption and open oppression by a regime whose interests are served by an administration that was not elected and by political interests that do not represent the people.

Cynthia McKinney needs:

- People She Can Trust to come to Georgia to volunteer.
- Campaign contributions. People can donate online at www.cynthia2002.com.
- Letters to the editors of mainstream and local DeKalb County newspapers and the Atlanta Journal Constitution, which has been one of her fiercest corporate opponents.

This is the first real battle in the war for the restoration of accountability, honesty and freedom after Sept. 11. Cynthia McKinney has become our champion, our Braveheart, and a symbolic challenge that may well prove true the words of Alexis de Tocqueville who wrote, “People get the kind of government they deserve.”

And I would add, “Or are willing to fight for.”

Michael C. Ruppert
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