

George W. Bush faces Harken, other scandals

by Evelyn Lantz

In the final six weeks of the Texas gubernatorial race between Gov. Ann Richards and George W. Bush, a dose of reality has been introduced into the campaign. On Sept. 28, the Richards campaign raised the Harken Energy scandal, in which George W. Bush sold almost \$1 million worth of stock based on confidential inside information and then apparently used the political influence of his father, President George Bush, to avoid prosecution.

The Richards campaign has been hitting hard at this blatant corruption coverup. George W. Bush, with little other than his well-known name to offer voters, has campaigned on his "business experience." As Richards campaign ads have pointed out, Bush's "business experience" involves four companies which have lost a total of \$371.6 million. His real business experience is exemplified by his insider trading in Harken Energy stock.

George W. Bush served on the board of directors of Harken Energy and on its audit committee in 1990, when he sold 212,140 shares of Harken stock. A few weeks later, Harken's quarterly report became public, showing losses so devastating that after they became public knowledge, Harken's stock lost 60% of its value.

An investigation was begun by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) after Bush reported the secret sale to the commission eight months after he was legally required to do so. The SEC which investigated Bush was run by Richard Breeden, who had been deputy counsel to President Bush when he was vice president. Breeden had been a lawyer with the Houston-based law firm of Baker and Botts, the firm of Bush family intimate and then-Secretary of State James Baker III. Breeden had, of course, been appointed to his position by President Bush.

The general counsel for the SEC at that time was James R. Doty. Doty had previously helped George W. Bush negotiate the 1989 purchase of the Texas Rangers baseball team. Bush purchased 2% of the Rangers ownership with a loan which he repaid with the 1990 profits from his shady Harken stock sales. Doty now is a Washington partner at Baker and Botts with Richard Jordan, the lawyer who represented Bush before the SEC. While Breeden and Doty both recused themselves from the direct investigation, it is not surprising that Baker and Botts was able to produce results favorable to George W. Bush.

As the Harken story began to hit the news media, the

polls showed Richards and Bush in a neck-and-neck contest. Richards has continued to hit hard at the corruption issue, putting Bush on the defensive. While he has insisted that he was thoroughly investigated and cleared, he has refused to release documents relating to the case.

Race-based fear tactics

Governor Richards has not yet raised a much larger and more dangerous scandal: There is a cabal of Bushmen using race-based fear tactics to try to get elected to major offices across the country. In addition to George W. Bush's campaign for Texas governor, his brother Jeb is running for governor of Florida, Oliver North for U.S. Senate from Virginia, and, in California, Gov. Pete Wilson is running for re-election and former Texan Michael Huffington is campaigning for U.S. Senate. All of them are running on three issues: immigration, crime, and the death penalty. The argument for their policies is the ugly reemergence of the racial pseudo-science of eugenics. Another prominent member of this network is William Weld, leading member of the "Get LaRouche" task force which railroaded Lyndon LaRouche into prison, and the current governor of Massachusetts.

The most open use of race-baiting is in California, where Governor Wilson's only hope of re-election in the economically collapsing state is his promotion of Proposition 187, which blames the (predominantly) Mexican immigrants for the state's economic woes. Proposition 187 would bar illegal immigrants from access to any government service, including medical care and education. Wilson is promoting this insane and immoral policy despite a recent study which shows that illegal immigrants in California actually *contribute* \$12 billion to the state's economy, and a recent *Business Week* article which demonstrates that while immigrants pay \$90 billion in taxes nationwide, they receive only \$5 billion in government services. In late September, former President Bush spoke at California fundraisers for Wilson which netted more than \$1 million.

In Texas, George W. Bush has adopted his father's infamous "Willie Horton" approach. His "tough on crime" campaign has consistently attacked Richards for her failure to *end all parole* for violent offenders, a large number of whom are young black men in their twenties.

That the new crop of Bush babies is taking a page from the book of Adolf Hitler in substituting racial scapegoating for real solutions should come as no surprise. Prescott Bush, grandfather of George W. Bush, was one of the leading financial agents for the interests of Nazi Germany, even after the United States entered the war. And former President Bush endorsed the racially-based intelligence theories of Shockley and Jensen and placed them in the U.S. *Congressional Record* in the 1960s.

President Clinton, at a recent press conference, repudiated both California's Proposition 187 and race-based theories of intelligence. American voters should do the same.