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**PULLING STRINGS FOR SENATOR McCAIN**

The US political circus is an amazing, if not agonizing, show to watch. First, we saw Rudy Giuliani, the establishment's pre-election favorite (only because the media said so) go from front runner status to a disastrous showing in the primaries--garnering less votes than Rep. Ron Paul, who was systematically denied any meaningful media coverage at all. It appears the public is either fickle or the media polls were just plain lying--perhaps both. Then we saw John McCain with almost no support suddenly rise to front runner status after a barrage of big name newspaper and personality endorsements so unanimous that there had to have existed some guiding hand. The establishment boost for McCain is still ongoing in a big way and is intended to gain McCain a majority of delegates before the convention convenes--which would eliminate a brokered convention where deals and concession have to be made in order to gain that majority. In an up or down vote between McCain or Romney, without Huckabee to draw away votes from Romney, McCain would lose. That's what the king makers are trying to avoid by manipulating the public during the primaries. It's time to let America know more about the real McCain. Believe me, he is no hero.

First, a suspicious view from the Left. British journalist Johann Hari of The Independent in Britain tells Americans "Don't be fooled by the myth of John McCain."

"A lazy, hazy myth has arisen out of the mists of New Hampshire and South Carolina. Across the pan-Atlantic press, the grizzled 71-year-old Vietnam vet, John McCain, is being billed as the Republican liberals can live with. He is 'a bipartisan progressive,' 'a principled hard liberal,' 'a decent man' --in the words of liberal newspapers. His fragile new frontrunner status as we go into Super Tuesday is being seen as something to cautiously welcome, a kick to the rotten Republican establishment.

"But the truth is that McCain is the candidate we should most fear. Not only is he to the right of Bush [like almost all British journalists, Hari is writing from a leftist perspective, who mistakenly views socialist and globalist Bush as a radical right winger--because of his Hitler-like pre-emptive attacks on other nations. In European leftist terminology, Left is using government power "for the people" (socialism) and Right is using government power "against the people" --at least those on the Left. In US political doctrine it's very different, Left is anything furthering government power to restrict liberties and redistribute wealth, and Right is for less government and more individual liberty--strictly limiting government power to the defense of fundamental rights, and banning socialism. At least it used to be that way until Republicans began shifting to the middle and then to the Left and still calling it "conservative." Bush is actually center-Left, though his rhetoric still tilts deceptively to the Right], he is also the Republican candidate most likely to dispense with Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama.

"McCain is third-generation Navy royalty, raised from a young age to be a senior figure in the armed forces, like his father and grandfather before him. He was sent to one of the most elite boarding schools in America, then to a naval academy where he ranked 894th of 899 students in ability. He used nepotism to get ahead: When he was rejected by the National War College, he used his father's contacts with the Secretary of the Navy to make them reconsider. He later married the heiress to a multi-million dollar fortune [after dumping his first wife who waiting faithfully for him during his war years].

"Right up to his twenties, he remained a strikingly violent man, 'ready to fight at the drop of a hat,' according to his biographer Robert Timberg. This rage seems to be at the core of his personality: describing his own childhood, McCain has written: 'At the smallest provocation I would go off into a mad frenzy, and then suddenly crash to the floor unconscious. When I got angry I held my breath until I blacked out.' But he claims he was transformed by his experiences in Vietnam... His plane was shot down on a bombing raid over Hanoi, and he was captured and tortured for five years [*Not all true. He was tortured at first, and then he collaborated with his captors until released*].

"... He used second his wife's fortune to run to as a Republican senator. He was a standard-issue Reaganite corporate Republican [*Reagan had his faults but he wasn't a "corporate Republican." The Left still hates Reagan*] until the Keating Five corruption scandal consumed him. In 1987, it was revealed that McCain, along with four other senators, had taken huge campaign donations from a fraudster called Charles Keating [*who had insider connections with government*]. In return they pressured government regulators not to look too hard into Keating's affairs, allowing him to commit even more fraud. McCain later admitted: 'I did it for no other reason than I valued [*Keating's*] support.' [*Keating and others were part of a wider insider group of government supporters who were promised a kind of unspoken immunity in exchange for steering campaign contributions to politicians the PTB support--like John McCain--a process still going on today*].

McCain took the only course that could possibly preserve his reputation: He turned the scandal into a debate about the political system, rather than his own personal corruption. He said it showed how 'we need to drive the special interests out of Washington,' and became a high-profile campaigner for campaign finance reform [*which had very negative effects on independent political free speech and almost no effect on the big lobbyists*]. But privately, his behavior hasn't changed much. For example, in 2000 he lobbied federal regulators hard on behalf of a major campaign contributor, Paxson Communications, in an act the regulators spluttered was 'highly unusual.' He has never won an election without outspending his opponent.

"But McCain has distinguished himself most as an über-hawk on foreign policy. To give a brief smorgasbord of his views: at a recent rally, he sang 'Bomb, bomb, bomb,

bomb Iran,' to the tune of the Beach Boys' 'Barbara Ann.' He says North Korea should be threatened with 'extinction.'

"These beliefs drive McCain today. He brags he would be happy for U.S. troops to remain in Iraq for 100 years, and declares: 'I'm not at all embarrassed of my friendship with Henry Kissinger; I'm proud of it.' His most thorough biographer -- and recent supporter -- Matt Welch concludes: 'McCain's program for fighting foreign wars would be the most openly militaristic and interventionist platform in the White House since Teddy Roosevelt...[it] is considerably more hawkish than anything George Bush has ever practiced.'"

Scary. McCain is no true conservative. As I have documented in prior briefings, McCain is an expert at playing up his POW hero image to campaign against government use of torture, and then quietly worked out an anti-torture piece of legislation which actually permits torture in the fine print. McCain, like John Kerry also served on Congressional committees to whitewash the government investigation into POWs and MIAs left behind in Vietnam, Laos, and Russia (where hundreds were sent for mind control drug testing, according to Jan Sejna, a former major general in the Czechoslovakian Army who defected to the United States in 1968 and provided valuable intelligence on the Soviet Union).

One blogger named "Dan" offered up this list on the internet about John McCain's abysmal record as a "conservative:"

**IMMIGRATION:** he wrote the bill granting amnesty to illegal immigrants (co-sponsored by Ted Kennedy)

**SOCIAL SECURITY:** he voted to give your social security money to illegal immigrants

**TAXES:** he voted against the Bush tax cuts multiple times (but still campaigns as a lifelong tax-cutter)

**FIRST AMENDMENT:** he wrote the McCain-Feingold campaign finance bill that was declared to be an unconstitutional infringement of the 1st Amendment (co-sponsored by ultra-liberal Democrat Russ Feingold)

**SECOND AMENDMENT:** he was called the 'worst 2nd amendment candidate' by the president of the NRA

**ENERGY TAX:** wrote a bill (co-sponsored by his buddy Sen. Joe Lieberman) imposing a massive tax on energy which, according to the Department of Energy, would drastically raise the price of gasoline.

**GLOBAL WARMING:** supports radical global warming legislation

**JUDGES:** he joined with Democrats (Gang of 14) to block the Senate Republican's attempt to confirm conservative, strict constructionist judges.

**GAY MARRIAGE:** he joined liberals to fight against a federal marriage amendment

**CHRISTIANS:** In 2000, he famously described Christian leaders as 'agents of intolerance'

**ABORTION:** he filed an amicus brief against pro-life advocates in Wisconsin

**BI-PARTISANSHIP:** he met with leading Democrats in 2004 to discuss the possibility of being John Kerry's VP.

**ETHICS:** ringleader of the infamous Keating 5 ethical scandal which cost US tax payers \$160 billion

**PERSONAL:** McCain cheated on his first wife after she had a severe accident. He then divorced her and married his multi-millionaire mistress, whose daddy bought McCain a spot in the Congress.

With all of this, establishment king-makers have their hands full trying to turn sow's ear into a silk purse. As John M. Broder writes, "Mr. McCain, who has delighted in sticking his thumb in the eye of mainstream Republicans throughout his political career, is now accumulating a base of support among party regulars who see him as the strongest general election candidate in the remaining Republican field."

This is not true at all. McCain's support comes almost exclusively from the same insiders who were promoting Giuliani. They all switched to McCain when someone gave them the signal that Giuliani wasn't going to make it (too many corruption scandals revealed and more on the way), and they needed to make sure Romney didn't accrue the remaining Republican support.

I don't pretend to know who's making these calls that direct these perfectly timed endorsements, but I know something is going on behind the scenes that is "too good to be true" to be natural. Consider:

All six major newspapers that gave any endorsement just prior to the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary (and they did so within a day of each other) came out for McCain who was polling in last place. None for Giuliani, the front runner? None! There were no other endorsements for any other Republicans. There was even an anti-endorsement of Romney. That's unheard of.

Look at the crucial **Florida primary**. As John Nichols writes, "Florida gave McCain a clear if hardly overwhelming victory over his chief rival for the GOP nod, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. With most of the votes counted, McCain had 36 percent of the vote. Romney had 31 percent. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who focused his quest for the presidency on Tuesday's primary, finished with a dismal 15 percent. Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who is essentially out of money but can still stir evangelical fervor, was just behind with 14 percent. Texas Congressman Ron Paul, the anti-war libertarian who finished a credible second in the Nevada caucuses, was winning just 3 percent of the Florida vote." "The senator won Florida on the basis of the strong support he received from the state's large blocs of liberal Republican primary voters. Unfortunately for McCain, liberals are definitely not the essential players in the Republican nominating process. Moderates are not the heart-and-soul players in the Republican Party. Conservatives are [*I'm not so sure that is true anymore*]. And McCain is still struggling to win their loyalty. Indeed, even now, former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett says, "The anger and bitterness toward John McCain is extraordinary among [*Bush*] conservatives.'"

But Bush conservatives don't really run the party. They are merely the ignorant cheerleaders. The Powers That Be have their own people at the top positions, and these people

are anything but moral, and anything but religious. These are the ones driving the McCain surge back to the top. They are working the endorsement angle in strategic block moves.

They tapped Pro-homosexual Republican governor Charlie Crist to come out and endorsed McCain--McCain was ignorant of the fact, which was telling--someone else was whispering in Crist's ear. The Crist endorsement came a mere 24 hours after Senator Mel Martinez (a Latino and the recent Chair of the Republican National Committee) came out for McCain, which helped sway thousands of Cuban-American votes in So. Florida toward McCain. If anyone's endorsement represents the Republican establishment it is Martinez's.

In my analysis, it is almost a given that if a major political figure endorses McCain, he or she has deep ties with those who control our political process. McCain is only liked within the club. That includes recent endorsements by former members of the Senate John C. Danforth (MO) and Howard H. Baker (TN) plus Rep. Jack Kemp.

In Florida, former Gov. Mike Huckabee was clearly playing the role of McCain cheerleader and spoiler for Romney. Every chance Huckabee got, he plied McCain with compliments and bashed Romney. Huckabee was singlehandedly responsible for denying Romney wins in key northern counties where Huckabee split off the evangelical Christian vote. What is even more telling is that Huckabee has said he is going to stay in the race until the end, despite only getting 13% of the Florida vote. I suspect the establishment is playing him along for a possible Vice President spot, on condition that he stay in the race to draw votes away from Romney. Huckabee is thinking that he can act as some kind of power broker at the convention if he stays, but that's wishful thinking. The establishment isn't going to let any evangelical Christian gain high office, unless they also happen to be a member of Skull and Bones, like George Bush.

Giuliani is finished, having only garnered 14% of the Florida vote. Still, he flew out to California just to make a big media splash by endorsing McCain. Topping off the list of endorsements before the big California primary on Tuesday was that of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger--the Terminator (of Romney). Ever since Schwarzenegger's meeting with Lord Rothschild and the Bilderbergers in 2005, he's been acting more the globalist than the "conservative" governor of California he was elected to be.

No matter how much Romney bends over backwards to promote establishment political doctrine, the establishment doesn't want him. It's not only because he is a Mormon--it's the fact that he came into this race totally uninvited, with enough money to remain independent--that's what they don't like. This a closed political club that controls both major parties, and the stakes for them are too high to take a chance on trying to control an outsider as President. They had enough problems controlling Reagan. Then there is the issue of future wars. As I said last week, the PTB are conspiring to bring another devastating World War upon us during the next decade to drive Americans into a NWO and they are going to make sure this evil agenda is run by one of their own.

What is strange to me, however, is why Romney is not spending money on any TV ads in the upcoming primaries. Of course, he's getting plenty of free publicity, although most of that is negative. Perhaps he realizes it won't make any difference at this stage. The media steamroller is obviously going to throw this vote to McCain. Perhaps he is saving his money for later. But if Super Tuesday fails to produce some major wins for Romney, other than Utah where he is a shoe-in, there may be no later.

What one can draw from all this is that the American public is very much manipulated by the media perceptions of who is declared the "front runner," who is "losing steam" or who is "not going to win." They've tagged Ron Paul with that last label incessantly--to make sure he doesn't win. Meanwhile, rumors are circulating that the establishment wants the President's brother Jeb Bush to be McCain's VP. Will we never be rid of the Bush legacy of betrayal?

### **STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH--MUCH MORE OF THE SAME**

Year after year I weary of reporting on the lies, deceptions and half truths spun by the supreme leader of the land. I'll let Scott Horton of Harpers complain instead: "For Bush, it was an opportunity to revisit the false messages of the past, to cajole and to incite fear. It wasn't bad as the summing up for a miserably failed presidency that the American public now earnestly wishes gone and forgotten. The months are ticking down until it is gone. That will happen soon enough. But Americans will live in its wreckage for many years to come. The New York Times delivers an excellent summation:

"Monday night, after six years of promises unkept or insincerely made and blunders of historic proportions, the United States is now fighting two wars, the economy is veering toward recession and the civilized world still faces horrifying dangers -- and it has far less sympathy and respect for the United States." --Not to mention the severe loss of civil liberties to Americans!" "The nation is splintered over the war in Iraq, cleaved by ruthless partisan politics, bubbling with economic fear and mired in debate over virtually all of the issues Mr. Bush faced in 2002. And the best Mr. Bush could offer was a call to individual empowerment -- a noble idea, but in Mr. Bush's hands just another excuse to abdicate government responsibility." Of course, the NY Times always thinks every solution comes at the hand of big government --as if it is the government's responsibility to fix all this. Like Ron Paul, I just want the government to get us out of these bad policies, programs and wars. That's the real fix no one else is talking about except Paul. In contrast, Bush called for much more of everything--war, deficit spending, and government intervention in the economy.

One of the President's most amoral and unprincipled positions is his continual for **immunity for US Telecom** companies that knowingly violated the law in helping the NSA eavesdrop on private citizens without a warrant. The President and all the establishment is pushing for retroactive immunity. They surely know, as I do, that these violations of law go back 50 years to the days of the Ma Bell monopoly. They need retroactivity badly and it's not simply about the current violations.

Horton says, "Note the strange language about Bush's defense of telecom immunity: 'Believed to have assisted in the efforts to defend America.' As I understand it, his advisors have discouraged him from admitting [*in case immunity doesn't pass*] that the telecoms actually worked hand-in-glove with the National Security Agency to engage in surveillance of millions of Americans, because this would be cited in pending lawsuits around the country against the telecoms. Isn't it telling that Bush's highest priority now is not national security or the safety of American citizens, but shielding telecommunications companies from liability for their past criminal conduct?"

"The Protecting America Act expires on February. Bush has thus set up a classic squeeze play through which he hopes to achieve what he wants for his telecom buddies and which he recognizes he could not obtain without some fancy trickery. Yesterday, calls flooded the Congress at the rate of thousands per hour, and they demanded almost without exception that senators oppose telecom immunity.

"Without popular support, and without reason or even cogent arguments which could sustain his position, Bush turns to his most trusted technique: **fear-mongering**. If Congress doesn't give me just what I want, then Congress will be responsible for whatever attacks befall the country, he reasons. It's time at length for Bush's tactics to be understood for the shameless bullying they are. It's time for Congress to reject them and demonstrate a bit of backbone."

Of course, if Congress did have the backbone to do what's right, I guarantee the black ops boys would create another horrific terror event to drive Congress into compliance with the president. "No, history will know George W. Bush by one moniker above all others. He is the 'torture president.' And yesterday he stood not in the well of the House, but at the bottom of a well, indifferent to the concerns of his countrymen and the world, oblivious to a nation's best traditions, intent on bringing everyone down to his level. But the water is rising." Indeed it is.

### **RON PAUL ONE OF FEW VOTING AGAINST STIMULUS PACKAGE**

The president's economic stimulus package (a short-term spending deficit spending binge) that was promoted during his speech quickly passed the House 385-35 Tuesday, with hardly a whimper of dissent. Those that did vote "no" mostly wanted a bigger bailout. True to principle, Congressman Ron Paul voted no again.

Paul is usually in favor of people getting some of their money back, but "temporary tax cuts and one-time rebates will not fix the economy.... Sending out checks and cutting interest rates yet again is merely a shot in the arm when in actuality, the economy needs major surgery." Indeed!

### **THE ECONOMY: DERIVATIVE DANGERS**

John Riley wrote this week about the economy's "Trillion Dollar Secret." "Banks are taking write-offs in the tens of billions and estimates are that write-offs will reach as high as \$100 billion before long. CEO's are losing their jobs and having to settle for multi-million dollar pensions. (Don't you feel bad for them?)

"But there is a secret right in front of everybody that the Fed, Wall Street and the banking industry wants to make sure investors don't notice. It is the incredible growth in derivatives. If you think the sub-prime problem is big, you ain't seen nothing yet. According to the Comptroller of the Currency, total Derivatives in the top 25 banks in the US amount to about 180 Trillion dollars. Not billion, trillion. 1000 times a billion. To put this in perspective, the US GDP for the 3rd quarter of 2007 was about 11 Trillion dollars. So they are playing a game with a pool of fictional money that is 16 times bigger than our economy."

The derivative crisis is already here. According to the AP, Bond insurer "MBIA Inc. reported write-downs of \$3.5 billion on souring credit derivatives in the fourth quarter Thursday, raising the possibility that the world's largest bond insurer could lose its top credit rating. Continued weakness in the bond insurance market may put struggling banks in a precarious position. Banks, which have reduced portfolio values by more \$140 billion during the second half of 2007 in a deteriorating mortgage market, might be forced to take further write-downs tied to bonds insured by companies like MBIA. MBIA said it is considering new options to raise capital." Good luck raising capital for a sinking ship.

### **MUKASEY ON WATERBOARDING**

Mukasey reminds me of iconic scarecrow Homeland Security Chief Michael Chertoff. He's got that shifty eyed look of the chronic and wily fibber. Mukasey was at his worst while being grilled before the Senate--weaving and dodging; trying to stay non-committal over whether or not waterboarding is torture.

As William Katz reported, "Before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chair Patrick Leahy insisted that water boarding 'has been recognized as torture for the last 500 years.' Though it has been practiced since the Spanish Inquisition in the 1400s. Mukasey told Senators he is not sure it is really torture.

"Taking a more direct approach, Senator Ted Kennedy asked Mukasey, 'Would water boarding be torture if it was done to you?' He answered flatly, 'I would feel it was' -- but then insisted that his words did not constitute a legal opinion. Kennedy responded 'It's like saying you are opposed to stealing but aren't sure if bank robbery would qualify.'" For once in my life, I have found something to laugh about and applaud in a statement by this otherwise reprehensible Senator.

"Mukasey also declined to say whether the United States government had previously used water boarding: 'I am not authorized to talk about what the CIA has done in the past.' However, this Monday John Negroponte, CIA chief from 2005 to 2007, appeared to confirm its use when he said it had been made illegal and 'has not been used in years.'"

The new Attorney General contradicted Negroponte and said that waterboarding was not clearly illegal, and suggested that it could be used against terrorism suspects once again if requested by the White House. This is because of the fine print wording in the McCain legislation against torture.

It gets even worse. Marty Lederman writes that "Senator Feingold just asked Mukasey when he would share with the

Committee -- even in closed session -- the legal explanations of why the CIA techniques are not unlawful. Mukasey's response: He won't, because it's classified. That is to say: The scope and application of this federal law is so secret that not even the legislators who enacted it can be permitted to understand it. Short version: Congress can take a hike."

The audacity of this performance is mind-boggling. So is the spinelessness of Congress to take this kind of abuse without impeaching the president. They have good reason to do so if only by his unconstitutional signing statements. After signing the National Defense Authorization Act for 2008, Bush asserted in a signing statement that four sections of the bill unconstitutionally infringe on his powers, and so the executive branch is not bound to obey them.--one in particular is the Congressional language banning use of Iraqi war funding to fund any permanent military base in Iraq, which the administration clearly intends to do. If something is unconstitutional the law should be vetoed--not simply ignored.

### **CONGRESSIONAL FIX? HARDLY**

It is no wonder that Congress can't do anything right. Here's a typical example of Congress doing the bidding of lobbyists while creating huge unintended consequences, which they later try to fix and bungle again.

The Kansas City Star had the story about our most experienced airline pilots being forced by the FAA to retire at age 60-a "make new jobs" scheme by putting seniors out of work. Citing two examples, Bud Speace and Jim Hathcoat both of Kansas, the Star noted "Both had to retire because a Federal Aviation Administration regulation mandated retirement at age 60 for pilots of U.S. commercial air carriers. 'International pilots up to age 65 could fly through U.S. space, but we couldn't,' Hathcoat said. 'That didn't make sense.'

"In December, Congress overturned the FAA rule, bringing the U.S. in line with international rules that set 65 as the mandatory retirement age for airline pilots. But the language in the new law essentially prevents them from doing what they did before. The new law, which sped through both houses of Congress and the White House in three days prior to the congressional holiday recess, specifically bars about 3,000 pilots ---- who were involuntarily retired between Nov. 23, 2006, and Dec. 13, 2007 ---- from being rehired at their same seniority levels."

Thank the Airline pilots union for that little piece of lobbying. They wanted to make room for a new crop of union members anxious to take the old guy's jobs. Worse, the new fix was given the insulting title of "The Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act." And, if that weren't bad enough, the new law specifically bars the dismissed pilots from taking their grievances to any US court of law.

"Details like the no-legal-recourse clause apparently escaped the notice of many members of the U.S. House and Senate who passed the act -- unanimously and without debate or objection. President Bush signed the bill into law on the night after it left Congress." That's how bad piece of legislation get passed, just like the PATRIOT ACT.

### **EXPLAINING AWAY RUSSIA'S HOSTILITY**

Paul Richter of the LA Times tries to explain why we shouldn't be concerned over Russia's growing belligerence. [*My comments in brackets*] "Growing friction between the United States and Russia over Iran is only part of an increasingly difficult relationship that many diplomats and experts consider to be in its worst shape since the end of the Cold War, and at risk of further deterioration.

"Although U.S. officials are publicly playing down the rising tension, a series of conflicts has prompted some within the Bush administration to conclude that, for domestic and geopolitical reasons, Russia is now more comfortable with the U.S. as an enemy than an ally [*this is part of the Russian plan of slowly getting its people accustomed to a future war with the USA, by building tension and portraying, sometimes correctly, the US role as the bully of the world, pushing its weight around*].

"The government of Russian President Vladimir V. Putin, flush with petrodollars and increasingly aggressive on foreign policy, has challenged the Bush administration on a wide range of issues just in the last few months. While U.S. officials badly need Russian help in the Middle East and elsewhere [*not true at all*], Moscow has bucked Washington on Iran, Kosovo, missile defense, NATO expansion, arms treaties, and governance in its own country.

Underlying the mounting friction is Russia's shift in the last few years from a country that once strove for full integration with the West to one that now seeks to serve as an independent power center that can check what it views as the excessive influence of the United States. Russian leaders calculate that opposing an unpopular Bush administration will consolidate their domestic position while helping them gain leadership status abroad [*a typical communist dialectic use of conflict creation*].

"The Russian view is, 'We were weak, stabbed in the back, betrayed. But now we're back -- we're strong,' said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity when discussing internal assessments. 'They seem to relish fighting with us and accusing us of various things,' said the administration official. 'They like having an enemy.'" Most Americans don't have a clue how much of an enemy Russia will become someday.

### **BUYING OFF THE IRAQI PARLIAMENT**

Akhbar Alkhaleej newspaper reported yesterday that "An Iraqi MP [*Member of Parliament*] who preferred to remain anonymous told the newspaper that highly confidential negotiations took place by representatives from American oil companies, offering \$5 million to each MP who votes in favor of the Oil and Gas law. The amount that could be paid to pass the votes do not exceed \$150 million dollars in the case of \$5 million to each MP, pointing out that the Oil law requires 138 votes to pass, which the Americans want to guarantee in many ways, including vote-buying, intimidation and threats."

### **EVILS ENDEMIC TO AFRICA**

If there is any place on the planet that should rarely be trusted with self-government it is Africa. Much as I hate the concept of empire and love freedom, Africa's legacy of democracy since colonial times has been a democratic disaster: "one man, one vote, one time." Once elected it's

full-blown tyranny and corruption, and now that pattern is yielding to internecine warfare and anarchy. Sadly, many educated Africans look back on the colonial period with nostalgia. At least as colonies there was peace, order and some semblance of a judicial system.

The latest post election fighting and killing in Kenya is symptomatic of the seething inter-tribal warfare that has been brewing under the surface for years in every nation in the dark continent (aptly named). Anne Holmes gives a graphic portrayal of what's happening in the Rift Valley of Kenya, and it's looking more like Rwanda all over again.

"Violence erupted Thursday in Nakuru and has spread east to Naivasha and seems to be heading further on to Nairobi. There are accounts of groups of people moving east across the country toward the capital, instigating organized ethnic cleansing. In Nakuru, countless died and were injured in clashes between the Kikuyus and Luos and Kalengins. A new displaced persons camp was opened in the stadium for a group of Luos fleeing violence by the Mungiki sect. Saturday afternoon nearly a thousand men, women and children were taken by the red cross to hide in the stadium after the Mungiki sect murdered 6 people the night before. Police presence was heavy after the first day of fighting and things cooled down dramatically on Monday when people could be seen returning to work and shops opening up for business again. The hospital on Friday evening, however, was a horror scene, with over 60 wounded mostly by machete, stoning and arrows.

"Naivasha, a Kikuyu stronghold, was extremely difficult to manage and virtually impossible to photograph after Sunday's epic violent clashes wherein Kikuyus killed and wounded an unknown number of Luos, and sent those remaining running for their lives with their belongings in their hands the next day."