

Greenberg scandal ?



Un scandale lié au financement de la campagne présidentielle de Bob Dole est-il sur le point d'éclater ? De nombreux observateurs font état de l'intérêt croissant accordé par la commission d'enquête sénatoriale au rôle joué dans ce domaine par le sénateur Adam Greenberg, alors assistant à la collecte des fonds.

Le doute plane en effet sur l'origine de près de douze millions de dollars. Il est vrai qu'à y regarder de près, certaines généreuses donations peuvent sembler des plus suspectes.

Ainsi, cette « église des Suivants de Fenris », dont les 2 821 membres déclarés ont fait don de plus de mille dollars chacun au sénateur Greenberg lors de sa visite à leur ranch texan, pour un total de trois millions. Surprenant lorsque l'on sait que les membres de cette secte sont pour la plupart désargentés ! Passons sur deux autres millions rassemblés auprès des grandes fortunes de Louisiane, membres du Cajun Club, présidé par Adam Greenberg senior, le père du sénateur Greenberg.

Reste plus de sept millions de dollars dont l'origine demeure obstinément confuse. Proviennent-ils, comme le prétendent les sources mystérieuses qui ont attiré l'attention de la commission d'enquête sur les méthodes de collecte de fonds du sénateur Greenberg, d'une série d'associations fantômes masquant l'origine

étrangère de la somme d'argent ?

Il est vrai que la quasi totalité des associations en cause sont de création récente. Certaines sont déjà dissoutes. Elles sont établies en Louisiane, chapeautées par le Cajun Club et partagent fréquemment la même boîte postale ou le même numéro de téléphone qui, trop souvent, ne répond pas. Ajoutez à cela que certaines de ces associations furent particulièrement actives lors de la campagne sénatoriale du candidat Adam Greenberg, en 1994.

Greenberg senior a, d'après les rumeurs, fait pression sur les républicains pour qu'ils acceptent d'être représentés par son fils politiquement inexpérimenté lors de ces élections... Autant d'éléments augurant qu'un sérieux scandale succédera bientôt au doute légitime qui occupe les esprits.

POLITICS CONTINUED ON A1

CLINTON, ON TOUR, PRESSES BOSNIANS AND SALUTES G.I.'S

**TUZLA,
Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Dec. 29**



President Clinton came to Bosnia today to give the American soldiers here a pat on the back -- and to give the Bosnians a shove.

On his first visit to the ravaged capital, Sarajevo, the President hailed the progress made since the war's end two years ago. But, as he contemplated the ethnic hatreds still dividing this nation, he warned that "the world, which continues to invest in your peace, rightfully expects that you will do your part."

Speaking at Sarajevo's National Theater, which like many buildings there still bears the pocks and gashes of bullets and small shells, Mr. Clinton rattled off a list of tasks for Bosnians. "You have established the joint institutions of democracy," he said. "Now you must work together within them, sharing power as you share responsibility." [Excerpts, page A10.]

"You have pledged to isolate and arrest indicted war criminals," he continued, adding, "Now you must follow through on that commitment."

After delivering that warning in the Bosnian capital, Mr. Clinton came to Tuzla to underline it, saying to American troops that he had told the Bosnians: "We in the United States are determined not only to do our part, but we expected them to do theirs."

Mr. Clinton was greeted affectionately and even tearfully today by Bosnians grateful to him for committing American troops to end the four-year war and sustain the peace. His stern message in return -- what Clinton aides called "tough love" -- appeared intended as much for American ears as Bosnian ones.

Last week the President announced that he would extend the mission of the American troops here past the deadline of June 1998. While he did not commit himself to a future number or mission then, today he seemed anxious to reassure Congress and the American people that he did not intend to leave the troops here forever, or expect them to heal all of Bosnia's wounds.

At Club 21, a large shed with a sheet-metal roof and a band that tonight played "Ruffles and Flourishes" along with Christmas carols, several hundred soldiers in muddied black boots and green camouflage whooped as Mrs. Clinton announced that AT&T had donated \$1 million worth of telephone time, so that every American soldier in the region could make an hour's worth of calls home free of charge.

Mr. Clinton then turned the lecture over to former Senator Bob Dole, who with his wife, Elizabeth, accompanied the Clintons. Mr. Dole said of the American commitment in Bosnia, "I believe it is worthwhile, and I hope you believe the effort in Bosnia is worthwhile." He assured the troops that Mr. Clinton had told Bosnia's leader "in no uncertain terms" today "that they need to move a little faster."

Mr. Dole, who was defeated by the President in the 1996 election, was the most prominent Republican along on the trip. Others included Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, who heads the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Representative John R. Kasich of Ohio, chairman of the House Budget Committee. They were among 11 members of Congress on the brief visit.

As some troops aimed video cameras at the President, he told them that many Americans did not appreciate the burdens the soldiers bore and said he sympathized with their lives in the mud.

But, he assured them, they were taking part in a noble cause. "Bosnia is no longer the powder keg at the heart of Europe because of you, and I can't thank you enough," said Mr. Clinton. "We gave you a mission, and you delivered. So when you go to bed tonight, thank God that you were given the chance to do something like this."

Private Marcom harbored doubts that the Bosnia mission could ever succeed in creating what he called a peace with a "life of its own."

"I don't mind being here," he said. "We're doing good, but we're prolonging something that's going to happen anyway. We could be here 10 or 20 or 30 years. As soon as we leave, they're going to start fighting again."

Mr. Clinton rushed his visit, he had planned to fly this morning into a United States air base in Aviano, Italy. There, he transferred to a C-17 -- "The Spirit of Bob Hope" -- for the flight into Sarajevo. The plane landed there despite fog so thick that the Blackhawk and Apache helicopters standing sentinel just overhead were invisible. All told, Mr. Clinton was in Bosnia for 11 hours.

BOSNIA CONTINUED ON A4

IN THE NEWS

THE WORLD

President Clinton urged Bosnian leaders in Sarajevo to do their part in creating peace in their war-ravaged country. He then visited a military base in Tuzla and praised American soldiers for their role as peacekeepers in an ongoing mission which he intends to extend. A1 and above

The leaders of rival Somali factions met in Cairo and approved a plan intended to restore a national govern-

ment to Somalia for the first time since the overthrow of a dictator in 1991 gave way to civil war. Delegates representing Somalia's various clans will gather next month to choose an interim government. A3

THE NATION

Federal officials announced that they had broken a conspiracy in which Americans recruited hundreds of illegal Mexican workers and smuggled them into the

United States to work in a T-shirt factory in Georgia. Officials from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Justice Department said they had indicted nine members of the ring. Federal officials said hundreds of Mexican workers, most of them unmarried young men, were smuggled across the border in at least the last three years. A1

The Food and Drug Administration announced that it had given Merck & Company permission to sell a drug that, experiments show, either promoted the growth of hair or at

least stopped its loss in 83 percent of men who took it. But the pill can cause birth defects, blocking approval for women, and it carries a slight risk of impotence in men. It is useful only for the genetic condition known as male pattern baldness and it must be taken once a day, every day, for the rest of a bald man's life. A1

EDITORIAL

Dangerous inertia in Japan; the N.C.A.A.'s eligibility standards; fair treatment for Haitians; Verlyn Klinkenborg on artistic license.