

NewtGram

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NEWT NOTES

Prior to the '94 elections, Gingrich warned that if Republicans won a congressional majority, they would use their power to investigate the "enemy" Clinton Administration. Now he's keeping his promise. Last week, Gingrich lieutenants Bob Walker (R-PA) and Jim Nussle (R-IA) sent out a memo asking all House committee chairs to search their investigative files and report back to the Republican leadership with damaging "anecdotes" on corruption of "Washington labor union bosses" and "examples of dishonest or ethical lapses in the Clinton administration." [*Roll Call*, 4/30/96]

The Republican National Committee has asked Gingrich to preside over the Republican convention in August, even though polls show his popularity is in decline and a majority of the public disapproves of the job he has done as Speaker. [*Washington Post*, 5/2/96]

REPUBLICANS BEMOAN PARTY DISSAY

In Friday's Wall Street Journal, Paul Gigot voiced the concerns of many Republicans that they may be dragged down by Gingrich's unpopularity. Gigot: "With his approval rating down below 30%, Mr. Gingrich is appearing in public more often with white cockatoos than with Bob Dole. At least a four-legged, miniature donkey won't file ethics charges. It also won't bray about GOP disarray, — or looming defeat in November, or the end of the Gingrich era... — Gingrich himself says the GOP is in "a funk" and the revival of his own personal image "is a four-year, or six-year, or eight-year process." Some of Newt's minions aren't prepared to wait that long. As freshman GOP Rep. Mark Souder (IN) puts it, "The speaker was going to go underground for three months to work on strategy and vision. Where is it? There's a concern it might not be coming." Freshman Rep. Mark Foley (R-FL) agrees, saying, "There are a lot of members in a state of panic here." [*Wall St. Journal*, 4/26/96; *LA Times*, 5/1/96]

GINGRICH ETHICS PROBLEMS WON'T GO AWAY

Charitable foundation was a conduit for GOPAC activities. New revelations emerged this week that Gingrich's secretive GOPAC used a tax-exempt charitable foundation as a "conduit" for GOPAC's political activities. Today's *Roll Call* reports that in 1990 and 1991, GOPAC "shared the same office, phone number, and staff with a tax-exempt charity, worked on the same projects, and loaned it money. But tax records show that the Abraham Lincoln Opportunity Foundation denied any connection with Gingrich's political committee... Despite the close links between GOPAC and ALOF... the group denied in a series of detailed questions asked by the Internal Revenue Service that it had a direct or indirect relationship with GOPAC or any other political organization." According to University of Miami law professor Frances Hill, an expert on non-profits: "It appears that the answers to those questions were not fully truthful. If they answered untruthfully, that's a problem... It certainly would have raised questions with the IRS." [*Roll Call*, 5/2/96]

Jones inspired congressional trip to New Zealand. Don Jones is a Wisconsin-based telecom executive and GOPAC donor who worked in the Speaker's office as an advisor to Gingrich on the telecom bill and privatization efforts in New Zealand, where Jones was pursuing business contracts. The Madison, WI *Capital Times* recently revealed that Jones inspired -- and offered to pay for -- an April 1996 congressional fact-finding trip to New Zealand. Gingrich appointed Rep. Scott Klug (R-WI), a Jones supporter, to lead the trip. [*Capital Times*, 4/25/96, 4/29/96]

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We did it your way last year and it didn't work, so why don't we do it our way this time?"
-- Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-NM) to Gingrich. [*Washington Post*, 5/2/96]