

ALAN GOTTLIEB AND RON ARNOLD

"They'll make us rich and famous."

— Ron Arnold on Bruce Babbitt and Bill Clinton (Portland Oregonian, 1/15/93)

"Environmentalists have become the far right's substitute for communism."

— Former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall on the wise use movement (Boston Globe, 10/20/92)

Over the last ten years, declining wages and economic opportunities in resource-dependent communities in the United States have spawned intense political conflicts — pitting salmon fishermen against loggers, environmentalists against mining companies and, at times, community against community.

Few people have benefited from these divisive political fights — with some notable exceptions. For Alan Gottlieb and Ron Arnold, fueling a political bonfire of economic resentment and scapegoating environmental regulation has been lucrative business. Using tactics honed in support of other far right causes, Gottlieb and Arnold's aptly-named Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, and their related organizations, have parlayed the rise of the anti-environmental movement into a multi-million dollar direct mail, publishing and broadcast empire. Yet despite their success, many groups who support the Wise Use Agenda are actively seeking to distance themselves from the two-some. Here's why.

Gottlieb and Arnold: In Their Own Words

- ◆ "We intend to destroy the environmental movement once and for all by offering a better alternative, the "wise use movement." (Arnold, ABC Nightline, 2/24/94)
- ◆ "What you have to realize is the reason that we have no jobs is because of the environmental laws. It's become a green depression caused by environmental overregulation." (Arnold, CNN, 5/30/93)
- ◆ "We're out to kill the f——. We're simply trying to eliminate them." (Arnold on environmentalists, Common Ground of Puget Sound, Fall, 1992)
- ◆ "No one was aware that environmentalism was a problem until we came along." (Arnold, NYT, 12/19/91)
- ◆ "Their self-published book, "The Wise Use Agenda", calls for opening up the national parks to logging and mining, oil drilling on wildlife refuges and the systematic cutting of all ancient forests." (New York Times, 12/19/91)

Gottlieb and Arnold: Out of the Mainstream

- ◆ Alan Gottlieb and Ron Arnold have made their careers espousing views and supporting causes that are far outside the political mainstream. (National Public Radio, 3/7/92)
- ◆ A former member of Young Americans for Freedom, Gottlieb's favorite cause is the "pro-gun lobby" (Outside Magazine, 12/91). In addition to his work with Ron Arnold, Alan Gottlieb controls two tax-exempt, pro-gun organizations, the Citizens Committee for the Right To Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation. (Washington Secretary of State records) According to records obtained from the Washington Secretary of State, the Second Amendment Foundation alone grossed over \$5 million in 1991 and 1992 (see

attachments). Last May, for example, Gottlieb himself signed a letter for his Second Amendment Foundation charging that Japan and other "anti-gun internationalists" had launched a "sneak attack on your gun rights." Added Gottlieb in his letter: "I'm appalled that Bill Clinton, Ted Kennedy and Howard Metzenbaum would ally (sic) themselves as "foreign agents" so to speak, with Japan against you and I and our Bill of Rights." (Second Amendment Foundation appeal, May, 1993)

- ◆ Arnold was commissioned in 1981 by Paul Weyrich's conservative Free Congress Foundation to write a laudatory biography of Reagan Interior Secretary James Watt. (Outside Magazine, December, 1991)
- ◆ Gottlieb and Arnold's Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise (CDFE), formed on July 4, 1976 as a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization, was originally formed to "publish and disseminate information regarding the principles upon which American free enterprise system was founded." (Annual report, 1980) There is no mention of environmental issues in the group's 1980 statement of purpose; the center did conduct a program to oppose national health insurance. Among the group's 1980 board of trustees: Senator Jesse Helms.

Gottlieb-Arnold Connections To Moon Organizations

- ◆ In addition to these long-standing right-wing affiliations, Arnold and Gottlieb are also linked to the Moon political network. Arnold served as Washington state president of the American Freedom Coalition, "a political organization that has, in the past, received substantial funding from the Reverend Sun Myung Moon." (ABC Nightline, 2/24/94).
- ◆ The American Freedom Coalition (AFC) has, at times, shared offices with Arnold and Gottlieb's Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise (Canadian Library of Parliament, Share Group Study, Research Branch, December, 1991)
- ◆ What is the AFC-Moon connection? According to AFC President Robert Grant, The American Freedom Coalition received \$5.25 million in start-up funding from the Unification Church -- one-third of total gross revenues (Washington Post, 10/29/89) AFC may also have received staff support from Moon organizations (LAT, 7/27/92).
- ◆ What does AFC do? According to published reports, the AFC serves as an umbrella conservative organization boasting chapters in all 50 states. Among the AFC's key projects: distributing close to 30 million pieces of political literature in the 1988 presidential campaign and in 1987, producing a pro-Oliver North videotape. (Washington Post, 10/15/89)
- ◆ Ron Arnold is a member of the speakers bureau of the Unification Church-sponsored Confederation of Associations for the Unification of the Societies of the Americas. (Canadian Library of Parliament, Share Group Study, Research Branch, December, 1991)
- ◆ What are the goals and beliefs of Reverend Moon? The belief of the Moon organization is that Sun Myung Moon is the earthly incarnation of God. The aim of the Moon organization is "the natural subjugation of the American government and population" (US News, 3/27/89) and to set up a world government in which church and state would be united, under Moon's leadership. (Canadian Library of Parliament, Share Group Study, Research Branch, December, 1991. According to a 1978 U.S. Congressional investigation, Moon stated that "if we manipulate seven nations at least...the U.S., England, France, Germany, Soviet Russia and maybe Korea and Japan...then we can get ahold of the whole world." (Washington Post, 10/15/89)

- ◆ Ron Arnold has admitted to serving as a registered agent of the American Freedom Coalition in some newspaper interviews; in others he has denied having ties to the Unification Church. (Canadian Library of Parliament, Share Group Study, Research Branch, December, 1991)
- ◆ But there is no denying the fact that in a 1987 filing for certificate of incorporation in Washington State, Ron Arnold appears as the President of the AFC. (Washington Secretary of State, 1987)

Gottlieb and Arnold: Lining Their Pockets

- ◆ From the New York Times: "For conservative fund-raisers like Alan Gottlieb, the enemies were Senator Edward Kennedy or the threat of gun control. But now Mr. Gottlieb has found a better target... "For us," said Mr. Gottlieb, "the environmental movement has become the perfect bogeyman." (NYT, 12/19/91)
- ◆ Arnold on fundraising: environmental groups "invent environmental threats in order to recruit members and make money." Gottlieb on fundraising: "Fear, hate and revenge are the oldest tricks in the direct mail book." (Outside Magazine, 12/91)
- ◆ The election of Bill Clinton has been good news for Gottlieb and Arnold, who have seen a 40 percent jump in fundraising (Seattle Post, 3/3/93) In 1991, Gottlieb said he had raised about \$3 million on behalf of various organizations that are fighting environmentalists. (NYT, 12/19/91) He collects about \$5 million annually for the CDFE and another \$12 million for other conservative groups (Outside Magazine, December, 1991). Gottlieb claims a mailing list that numbers five million people.
- ◆ Arnold and Gottlieb are doing well from their efforts. Ron Arnold charges \$3,000 per day as a speaker or an organizer of groups to combat environmentalists." (NYT, 12/19/91) In 1990, Gottlieb drove a black corvette. (Buzzworm, 1990) The Gottlieb empire includes a publishing company (Free Enterprise and Merril Press), a printing press, a direct response company (Merril Mail Marketing, Inc.) a radio station in Portland, Oregon (KBNP), and an 85 station radio news network (American Broadcasting Network). (CDFE 1980 Annual Report, Washington state corporate filings)
- ◆ Can donors to the CDFE be sure their money will be used wisely? In 1982, Gottlieb used \$250,000 raised through two of his tax-exempt foundations to purchase a building; the building was then transferred to Gottlieb's personal control. Gottlieb then began charging rent to the foundations who rented space there. These financial dealings certainly seem to be in conflict with the CDFE's 1980 annual report, which states: "each and every dollar received is spent carefully and responsibly." (CDFE Annual Report, 1980)
- ◆ Gottlieb is a convicted felon. In 1984, he was convicted of filing false income tax returns and sentenced to 366 days in jail. (SEC, Schedule 13(d), 8/1/85)

Trashing The Economy -- or Trashing The Facts?

- ◆ Arnold and Gottlieb's self-published diatribe against environmental groups is rife with inaccuracies.
- ◆ Perhaps it should come as no surprise to Ron Arnold, who said in 1991: "Facts don't really matter. In politics, perception is reality." (Outside Magazine, December, 1991)

Key Conservative Groups Disassociate Themselves From Arnold and Gottlieb

- ◆ Gottlieb and Arnold's associations with the Unification Church have "prompted similar groups, including People for the West, to distance themselves from Arnold's efforts." (NPR, 3/7/92)
- ◆ "Many local land rights groups are seeking to distance themselves" from Arnold and Gottlieb (National Journal, 10/23/93)
- ◆ Beef Today reports that the National Cattleman's Association, the American Farm Bureau and other local property rights groups are "wary of Arnold." (Beef Today, August, 1993)
- ◆ "Groups like the American Farm Bureau...take umbrage at many of Mr. Arnold's strident statements. Neither are they enamored of Mr. Gottlieb, who has a felony conviction in 1984 for filing false income tax returns." (NYT, 12/19/91) Notes Herb Manning, assistant director of natural resources for the American farm Bureau federation says that the Bureau wants "nothing to do with CDFE..." (Outside, December, 1991; also see Chicago Tribune, 7/21/90). "We won't have anything to do with the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise" (Herb Manning, Buzzworm, November, 1990)
- ◆ "Mr. Arnold...does not belong to the Alliance for America." (NYT, 12/19/91)

New Associations With Republicans

- ◆ In 1991, the former director of opposition research for the Republican National Committee, Don Todd, became a director of Gottlieb's radio station, KBNP-Portland. (See attachments)

Truth In Advertising

- ◆ Many wise use groups have been criticized for taking pro-environmental sounding names to cover over their anti-environmental agenda. Arnold and Gottlieb are no exception.
- ◆ In 1990, Ron Arnold and Alan Gottlieb created an organization called the "Earth Citizens Alliance for Resources and the Environment" to "educate the public about the wise use of resources." (Washington Secretary of State, 1990)