

And when we meet again, I'll have to chastise him for his procrastination. However, I really don't believe Dad would have been very good at eulogizing himself, he even asked that there be no long eulogy. In his own words, "Tell 'em I was a man who loved God, His Word, His Son Jesus Christ, and his fellow man. Never wanted to hurt anyone in any way. Knew to be a better person than I was, but the body and soul man was weak. But the Spirit of Christ cannot sin and it was strong within me."

He was one of a few people I've known who was unafraid of death, and lived his knowing that the Father would provide. Dad taught me what it was to experience the presence of God, daily. He always seemed to be aware that Father was watching over him. I always thought that everyone had a father like my dad, but as I grow older I realize how very special he was. I also realize how difficult it will be to follow in his footsteps.

During the last seven years of Dad's life, he became a natural minister of God's love and salvation. He grew strong in the power or prayer and was both a worker and receiver of miracles. Dad watched diligently for the return of our Lord Jesus and never gave up hope that he "wouldn't have to go on the first load." The night of Dad's death, an officer asked the people present in the living room if Dad attended a local church. One of Dad's neighbors replied, "he was the church, he ministered to everyone here."

"Dad" will be remembered for his generosity, kindness, and the love he had for his Lord Jesus. His treasures were never "laid up" in the world's financial markets, but he was a major investor in people's lives. Dad's emphasis on "things eternal" will continue to reap dividends of love and compassion from both God and man.

Albert David Scherz of Loveland, Colorado, went to sleep in his favorite green recliner Saturday evening, July 19, and is now awaiting the return of Christ. He died on his terms; one eye on the sky and his glasses in his hand. We have inherited his legacy of hope and love.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to share the sentiments of David Scherz's son. David Scherz was a good man and contributed to this world in a spiritual manner that will be hard to replace. America is a better place because of men like David Scherz.

HAITI'S ELECTIONS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 1997

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, just three days before the scheduled Sunday, June 15, Haitian run-off election, officials announced that the second round vote would be called off once again. Haiti's electorate was prepared to vote for seven of the twenty-seven Senate seats and one Deputy seat. The outcome of these elections would play an important role in determining the country's future political and economic direction and could have been detrimental to the U.S.-backed austerity program on which President Rene Preval and former Prime Minister Rosny Smarth have staked their reputations. The following research memorandum, authored by Karen L. Bucknell, Research Associate for the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, addresses the economic and political problems that persist in Haiti and

demonstrates the need for leaders to take the country off the proverbial Capital Hill back burner and place it on the forefront of foreign policy makers' agendas:

PERSISTING POLITICAL PROBLEMS

Aristide's incredible popularity among his countrymen makes any election inevitably one-sided in favor of his new political vehicle, the Fami Lavalas movement. There were accusations by the opposition that the results of the April 6 elections had been manipulated by the alleged pro-Aristide Provisional Electoral Council (CEP). The elections were further tarnished by a turnout of only 5% of the eligible voters, a huge defeat for the island's democratization prospects.

The tension created by such insinuations of tampering delegitimized the approaching vote to the point that its cancellation was imminent. The White House and the international community have since warned that they would have difficulty acknowledging the results of any Haitian elections until Aristide's old mass base, the Lavalas Political Organization (OPL) which now backs President Preval, agrees not to boycott the election. Compounding political problems, on June 9 Rosny Smarth resigned from his post as prime minister. Now the president and parliamentary leaders in the upper and lower houses must agree on a candidate who can fill the vacant office. A new election date will not be set until the OPL agrees to enter the race and the government chooses its nominee.

Although Smarth abdicated all authority upon his resignation, he has agreed to remain at his post until a new prime minister is appointed. His presence at the June 18 meeting on social and economic issues, including Preval, departmental delegates and mayors of towns, was a positive sign of his commitment to play a constructive role. Some observers felt that by merely remaining as a holdover in his position, he is reducing the built-in tension created by the canceled vote.

PREVAL, STUCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD SPOT

Postponing the run-off was also a blow to Preval, who had little to gain and much to lose from this development, as well as from the resignation of Smarth. Preval's increasingly deep rivalry with his old mentor Aristide (concerning the modernization plans) was inevitable, given the latter's direct hold on the population. Preval lacks a personal following and, together with his willingness to adopt hugely unpopular neoliberal reforms at the behest of Washington and the lending agencies, could fatally jeopardize his ability to lead the country through the difficulties of modernization. By giving in to international business interests, Preval risks giving the appearance that things are beyond his control. The State Department issued a statement shortly after Smarth resigned which was meant to absolve Preval of some of the blame for the problems he has encountered while governing. It said, "We think President Preval ought to be given the opportunity and the political space to govern. It is very difficult to succeed someone as popular as Aristide."

There are groups in Haiti that have accused UN and U.S. personnel and organizations still in the country of fomenting the political rifts that have arisen. Jodel Chablain, a top leader for the Front for the Advancement and Progress for Haiti (FRAPH), a notorious organization once led by the ill-reputed Emmanuel Constant, explained to Radio Metropole, "Foreign management . . . is what is causing division in the country."

QUESTIONABLE PRACTICES IN CONTROVERSIAL APRIL 6 ELECTIONS

Haiti is experiencing a dramatic reversal of citizen involvement in its public life, in contrast to the overwhelming 1990 turnout at the polls when Aristide won two-thirds of the vote. A disenfranchised electorate no longer believes that elections or candidates can meaningfully improve their lives. As has been noted, only 5 percent of eligible citizens cast their ballots on April 6. Former Senator Jean-Robert Martinez claimed that this low showing indicated that the people "blame their misery on the vote . . . and that's extremely dangerous for democracy."

With 70% unemployment, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with upwards of 65% of its urban population and 80% of its rural population living in absolute poverty. If only for symbolic reasons, the vast majority of the country's population strongly opposes the Preval government's privatization plan, which is aggressively being pushed by Washington as a precondition for economic assistance. This has become the dividing issue between the president and Aristide which led the latter to launch his new anti-government faction, the Fami Lavalas Party. "It is impossible to support a program that does not correspond with the people's needs," said Deputy Joseph Jasmine, alluding to the widely held belief that the industries scheduled to be privatized are part of the nation's patrimony. If put on the block, it is feared that these properties—looted over the years by a string of dictators ending with military junta leader General Raul Cedras—will be pounced upon by the nation's tiny and self-absorbed economic elite which already dominates the country's finances and commerce.

Preval's austerity program involves the partial privatization of nine major state sectors, the lowering of import tariffs and the shrinking of the public sector work force. It was implemented on the condition that the major multilateral agencies and foreign donors would continue to provide international development funds for Haiti. According to the World Bank, since the U.S. ouster of the military junta in 1994, the island state has been allocated more than \$2 billion in loans from such sources as the IDB, USAID and the EU. An update issued by the Washington Office on Haiti explained that Smarth recently indicated that the international community finances nearly 100 percent of Haiti's development budget.

THE ABORTED JUNE 15 RUN-OFF ELECTIONS

The cancellation of the June 15 run-offs came as a complete surprise to most international monitoring groups. The general integrity of the April balloting was upheld even though there were some infractions; however, these were neither systemic nor sufficient to invalidate the vote. There were even some guardedly optimistic predictions that the voter turnout on June 15 would increase significantly from the earlier shockingly low showing, if due to nothing else than Smarth's resignation and the belief that the government would now be more responsive to the people's sentiments. Given Aristide's overwhelming backing by the populace, the opposition has been using the threat of a boycott since 1995 as one of the few arrows in its quiver for extracting political concessions from the governing process. Yet all the political players are well aware that a boycott could do great damage to Haiti's image abroad, particularly among international donors who fund the island's recovery.

Given his grip over the masses, if Aristide's Fami Lavalas Party gains control of the Senate, his prospects of winning the presidential election in 2000 are all but

certain. Hope continues to stir among impoverished Haitians for Aristide's return to office, despite the economic stagnation which characterized his previous term. Hesitant that Aristide's 1990 platform was too radical and unstable, the Clinton Administration insisted that he be little more than a figurehead president. His opposition to the Preval/Smarth-supported austerity programs gives the public optimism for the future. But a legislature controlled by Aristide's party will likely have a negative impact on foreign investment and donations. In a country like Haiti, which lacks the basic infrastructure and natural resources needed to build upon, a drop in investment could have a devastating effect on the future of its economy.

SELF-DETERMINATION OVER MODERNIZATION?

The postponed legislative elections are a crucial element in helping to determine the country's future. Right now Congress is split between supporters of Preval's modernization plan and those who rally behind Aristide and his anti-austerity campaign. The pro-Preval OPL currently controls the Senate. By a narrow vote it succeeded in obtaining that body's approval to begin privatizing many of the state-run industries. There are nine of these privatization programs underway, including the electric and telephone companies.

In the first round of elections, voters demonstrated their abiding trust in former President Aristide. Aside from being huge, it is impossible to know exactly what percentage of the population rallies behind him today, due to the minute voter showing at the polls and the accusations of fraud. With the seven seats in the Senate, Aristide's Famni Lavalas, party almost certainly would have won most of the positions being contested, drowning the OPL. This scenario does not seem all that unlikely given the fact that Preval and other OPL leaders have had enormous difficulties gathering significant domestic support for their internationally-backed austerity plans. According to a speech Aristide gave shortly after Smarth's resignation, "It is a game of organizing their own business rules which are good for those that have more and bad for those who have less." Such sentiments are widely held by the Haitian population.

What makes for this extreme variation of opinion on the island? Once again it goes back to the haves and have-nots. The initial stages of the reforms inevitably will bring job cuts as private management seeks to achieve efficiency through heightened productivity. Most of these state-run industries are notorious for their inefficiency. But in a country experiencing astronomically high unemployment, such job cuts will eliminate the sole source of income for many families. It affords scarce solace to individuals who must live their lives worrying about their short-run needs (such as how they are going to get their next meal) to endure crushing hardships for the distant possibility of long-run benefits. They ask, what good are such prospects if people cannot survive the suffering that they are forced to presently endure?

If indeed Aristide does gain a majority in any future election he may contest—namely the presidential race of 2000—it is assumed that he will respond to mass public opinion by putting an end to or reform at least some of the privatization programs. However, the United States and other international donors have threatened to pull the plug on development funding if the austerity plan is abandoned, and without such funds Haiti is doomed to sink down to an even starker level of poverty.

U.S. ROLE IN HAITI

The majority of development funds received by Haiti come from the U.S. In practice, this should endow the U.S. government with a significant influence over Haitian

economic and political developments. The basic inconsistency of the Clinton Administration's policy towards Haiti lies in the fact that global democratization is a putative priority for the United States, yet leaders continue to press the island to structure its economy in accordance with Washington's neo-liberal prescriptions, thereby denying the Haitian public (when it comes to privatization) the right to self-determination, the most fundamental component of a fully functioning democracy.

Although Washington was the driving force behind Aristide's brief return to the presidency in 1994, his empowerment was not permitted. Due to U.S. involvement, what was happening in Port-au-Prince did little more than legitimize a process that would depoliticize the island, transforming it into a paragon of the market reforms Washington insists should guild that nation's economic development.

NASA LEWIS RESEARCH CENTER: PART 3

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add further comment to the status and future of Lewis Research Center [LEWIS]. The following represents the third installment of a special report conducted by the Congressional Research Service and deals with changes at Lewis during the 1990's.

NASA Lewis faces an optimistic future. The center has weathered some challenging times recently, and has emerged even stronger. Faced with limited budget allocations, Lewis has managed to achieve more with less and through careful budgeting have prospered in many areas. They have been designated as the No. 1 center for aeropropulsion and as center of excellence in turbomachinery. Lewis' other missions include aeronautics research, on-board space applications, and commercial communications.

In addition to this, Lewis is also a contributor to many NASA-wide programs. In the past they have conducted microgravity research for the U.S. space shuttle. Currently, they are developing further microgravity technology for the international space station. They have contributed to the Mission to Planet Earth Program whose focus includes such things as analyzing ozone depletion and detecting and understanding the consequences and causes of destructive natural phenomena. Lewis also had a hand in the Mars Pathfinder mission which landed on Mars on July 4, 1997, in order to conduct mobile geological studies.

Although Lewis has been affected by past NASA budget limitations, they are currently contributing to the most exciting and dynamic of NASA's missions. They have and are continuing to provide for the future, useful, accessible, and informative research material on a wide array of science-based activities. Their importance to NASA and to the Nation is evident from the fact that their funding for 1998 has been recommended as \$671 million, \$50 million higher than that received in 1997.

The third installment of a report by the Congressional Research Center outlines the challenges that NASA Lewis has met and conquered:

NASA LEWIS RESEARCH CENTER

THE 1990S—CHANGES AT LEWIS

Budget constraints as NASA have led to an examination of the agency's management

structure, facilities, and center roles and missions. NASA Administrator Dan Goldin has attempted to meet budget reductions through an agency-wide restructuring that is based on consolidating work at centers, closing of facilities, streamlining of management, privatization and outsourcing of some operational activities, and reducing employee levels. The goal has been to meet reductions without cutting programs. The major effort in this area is known as the Zero Base Review, which was undertaken in 1995.

Lewis (and other NASA centers) has experienced significant changes in its roles and missions as well as its workforce. Several of those changes, such as workforce reductions, are ongoing. Lewis' funding peaked in FY1993 at \$1,002.6 million, and its employee level also peaked in FY1993 at 2,823 full-time equivalents (FTEs). For FY1998, the request for Lewis is \$671.5 million with an FTE level of 2,085. A discussion of the major changes follows, focusing on the space station redesign in 1993 and the Zero Base Review.

SPACE STATION REDESIGN

In 1993, due to continued cost growth and schedule delays, President Clinton ordered NASA to redesign the space station, which was then known as *Freedom*. As part of the *Freedom* program, Lewis was responsible for managing one of the four main work contract packages—the design, development, and fabrication of the space station power systems.

As part of the redesign, Johnson Space Center (JSC) was given lead center responsibility for the space station. That resulted in a loss to Lewis of 260 FTEs and 400 contractor employees. However, Lewis did maintain an active part in the program. Its support to the space station program includes technical and management support in the areas of power and on-board propulsion components and systems, engineering and analysis, and testing for components and systems. That includes use of LeRC facilities and testbeds and construction of flight hardware as required.

ZERO BASE REVIEW

In 1995, as part of NASA's FY1996 request, the Administration directed NASA to facilities, and management practices. The goal of the review was to meet the future reductions without cutting programs. This review is known as the Zero Base Review (ZBR) and has resulted in a significant restructuring of the agency's management and centers.

The primary recommendations of the ZBR for Lewis follow: Designate Lewis the Lead Center for Aeropropulsion and a Center of Excellence for Turbomachinery; close the rocket engine test facility; retain the Plum Brook facility but only on a fully reimbursable basis; close facilities/structures with a saving of more than \$150 million by FY2000; plan to transfer/consolidate research aircraft at Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) as well as decommission aircraft whose research mission has ended; adopt performance-based contracting approaches to facilities maintenance reduce its outyear funding requirements by \$5 billion over five years. Administrator Goldin directed the agency to undertake an extensive review of all NASA center mission and roles, and operations and other institutional support and technical services contracts, yielding greater than \$100 million in savings by FY2000; obtain information resources system services from Ames research Center (ARC) and Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), and reduce requirements; resulting in savings of \$50 million by