

Forum

Perot's military plan for blacks

Although Dallas billionaire Ross Perot did not object to the remarks attributed to him in 1988 by Dallas journalist Laura Miller, he now not only denies them, but questions her professionalism and suggests that she had engaged in "flights of fantasy."

However, Miller, now a columnist for the *Dallas Observer*, maintains that H. Ross Perot lobbied to

just go in there, cordon off the whole area, going block to block, looking for guns and drugs.

"You can simply declare civil war," Perot replied in response to a question about constitutional rights. "There ain't no bail. You go to POW camp. You can deal with this problem in straight military terms...we can apply the rules of war."

authority to investigate allegations of police brutality.

His behavior and intervention outraged black and Hispanic leaders. Said Domingo Garcia, a Dallas city council member, "I don't think he has any conception of crime or the social ills of the inner city." These facts are largely unknown to most Americans, even those in Dallas. Therefore, no one can blame Americans for supporting Perot's sense of patriotism and can-do style.

That's why in virtually every population group, between 20 and 30 percent of the voters want him to be our next president. The single exception to this virtually all-white Perot bandwagon is the black community where only 20 percent, a substantial increase over the past month, said they would vote for Perot.

According to USA Today, only 6 percent of Perot's supporters are non-white. But Jesse Jackson and a group of his follower-leaders met recently with Perot, with Jackson (who had one of his junkets abroad financed by Perot) praising Perot as a candidate "not hostile" to blacks, and a man who "can grow."

Money, you might say, can also grow. A few checks placed in the right hands in the black community by big-bucks Perot will fill up a lot of churches and "voter registration" rallies on Perot's behalf. But the black community's early distrust of Perot may upset this "leader" apparent and set off alarm bells about Perot's dictatorial tendencies in the rest of the country at the same time.



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

have black and Hispanic communities of Dallas "cordoned off" so that police SWAT teams could conduct house-to-house searches for drugs and weapons.

Miller repeats this charge on "Tony Brown's Journal" (PBS-TV, July 10 through July 16), and adds that the man now leading George Bush and Bill Clinton in the presidential polls also wanted souped-up police helicopters with infrared tracking devices to root out drugs in the black neighborhoods of south Dallas.

While Perot maintains that these remarks were fabricated, James Ragland, a former city hall reporter with the *Dallas Morning News*, now with *The Washington Post*, recalls being at an off-the-record meeting with Dallas police members and journalists at which Perot urged that the police "ought to

In recent interviews, the would-be president has repeatedly said that eradicating drugs "won't be pretty," without explaining what he had in mind. But Laura Miller and others say that when she reported the specifics of Perot's ideas in 1988, he did not object to the remarks attributed to him.

Neither has he denied appointing himself the Dallas police czar and engineering a 1988 campaign by the city's almost all-white police association to weaken a civilian police review board set up to give ordinary citizens the right to know what their police department was doing and investigate complaints of police brutality following a spree of shootings of black and Hispanic citizens by police officers. Perot's inspired leadership led to city legislation that restricted the review board and stripped it of much of its

Rebuilding without expanding welfare

The recent events in Los Angeles have resulted in renewed efforts to pass large new poverty programs in order to improve the lives of people without hope. While these programs are, in the main, crafted with the best of intentions, our community cannot afford to expand the welfare state. Instead, the most likely approach to help people, especially young people, is to create an "opportunity society" for all its citizens. The three biggest challenges facing our community and the country are 1) the destruction of the African-American family, 2) the collapse of public education as a means of upward mobility, and 3) the lack of small business infrastructure as a means of wealth creation. The current approach to social policy — the bureaucratic welfare state — created and worsens these problems. Even under the 1960 oppressive hand of Jim Crow laws, 70% of our families had both spouses present in the home, people worked at whatever jobs were available, emphasized education as a means of betterment, and generally got married in the case of births out of wedlock. What changed in 32 years? Is there less opportunity than in 1960?

What has changed is the rise of the welfare state with a set of incentives that is destroying our family structure and with it the means by which values are communicated through generations. This system of social welfare has eclipsed the church as the provider of help for the temporary poor, has taken away responsibility from recipients and rather than benefiting the poor, has

created principal beneficiaries who make their living from the poor.

An "opportunity society" restores dignity by giving people choices and demanding responsible behavior in exchange for public support during temporary hard times. The distinction between the infirmed or permanently handicapped and the temporarily poor is important. In an "opportunity society," no able-bodied person has a right to public support without working.

Any type of labor in exchange for assistance is superior to the dole. We must restore choices in housing, daycare, and education. Giving people who have earned public assistance by working hous-



GUEST COLUMN

By VERNON ROBINSON

ing vouchers to choose where they will live, daycare vouchers to choose who will keep their preschoolers, and scholarships to choose the schools, public or private, that best meet their child's needs, will ensure quality, quantity, and choice. These solutions, along with ideas like urban homesteading, can restore hope where the current welfare state has created and fanned the embers of despair.

Does anybody really think that what our community really needs is more dangerous state-run public housing projects and a few more middle class jobs at the housing

authority? Or how about more spending in failing dangerous inner city schools so that a few more administrators and teachers can send their kids to safe and effective private schools? Or let's start the pre-prison, pre-drug dealing, pre-welfare program a few years earlier in a system of government-run daycare so that the teacher's union can organize more members?

I don't think so. These ideas are not partisan. Polly Williams, an African-American woman and Democratic legislator from Wisconsin, is in the front rank of building an "opportunity society." Jack Kemp, President Bush's HUD secretary and a republican, is in that

front rank as well.

The lines are well defined. Do you support expansion of the welfare state or the creation of an "opportunity society" for all Americans? If you support the latter, then you must vote accordingly without regard to party or race. You must ask what approach politicians up for election will take and they should not get the benefit of the doubt (especially not incumbents or an incumbent party). This election year offers a chance to choose the direction of policy: failed welfare state or "opportunity society"? The choice is yours Nov. 3.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD ADDRESS MY OPENING REMARKS TO THE DEAR PEOPLE NEXT WITNESS. HERE TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE...

WE'VE HAD QUITE A PARADE OF INDUSTRY SPOKESPERSONS COME THROUGH HERE THIS WEEK TO DENOUNCE OUR PROPOSED BAN ON TOBACCO ADVERTISING...

BUT YOU SIR - YOU ARE THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM OF VAST, TRAGIC DIMENSIONS!

I TRY, YOU'RE VERY KIND.

MY NAME? MR. BUTTS, OF COURSE!

DO YOU SWEAR TO TELL THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, SO HELP YOU GOD?

I DO!

PLEASE BE SEATED.

GOOD NEWS, CONGRESSFOLK! THE EVIDENCE LINKING SMOKING WITH CANCER AND HEART DISEASE IS STILL INCONCLUSIVE!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN BOTHER...

THAT'S RIGHT, THE JURY IS STILL OUT! IS THAT GREAT OR WHAT?

RIVETING NEWS, LAWYERS! THE CASE AGAINST SMOKING IS STILL IN DISPUTE! CALL OFF YOUR ADVERTISING BAN!

THE BAN IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL ANYWAY! PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHICH CIGARETTE BRAND PROJECTS!

THE BAN WILL BRING CHAOS! CONBOYS WILL START SMOKING VIRGINIA SLIMS! BLACKS WILL SMOKE WHITE BRANDES! YOU CAN'T... HAACK! YOU CAN'T DO... COUGH! THIS!

WOULD THE WITNESSES LIKE A RECESS TO PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER?

PLEASE.

FOLKS, THE ANTI-TOBACCO LOBBY KEEPS TALKING ABOUT THE COST IN LIVES...

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON TOBACCO? WHAT ABOUT THE SMALL FARMER?

WHAT ABOUT THE SMALL FARMER'S SMALL DAUGHTER? WHAT ABOUT THE SMALL FARMER'S BIG LOAN FROM THE SMALL BANKER?

ORDER! ARE THEY JUST ORDER! SMALL CHANGES? SMALL POTATOES?

MOOD!

BAM! BAM!

MR. BUTTS, WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT ON THE RECENT REPORT THAT PASSIVE SMOKING CLAIMS 30,000 LIVES A YEAR?

WOULD I? CONGRESSWOMAN DAVENPORT, AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING HEARTLESS HERE...

PASSIVE SMOKERS REALLY BRING THEIR PROBLEMS ON THEMSELVES, DON'T YOU THINK?

HOW SO?

BY BEING PASSIVE! THEY SHOULD SPEAK UP!

SO NOTED.

ADMIT IT, GANS - YOU'D MISS OUR ADS!

WHAT'S THE DEAL ON THE GUY IN THE PAJAMAS?

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Smoking. Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, May Complicate Pregnancy and May Complicate Fetus's Development.

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THAT'S ME GETTING BOOED IN RIO... THERE I AM BEING TEAR GASSED IN PANAMA... THAT'S ME RUNNING FROM HECKLERS IN...

MY TRIP