

GRAPEVINE

By DAVID ELLIS/Reported by Sidney Urquhart

TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER—SCREW-UP?

Even if **ROBERT GATES** shakes off the Iran-*contra* allegations that have stymied his chances to be head of the CIA, will his spy staff ever respect a guy who flunked Surveillance 101? When Gates was a young CIA trainee in the early 1960s, one of his early attempts to tail a suspect was notably unsuccessful, according to a former classmate. Gates was assigned to shadow a man in Richmond. But the local police became curious about the apprentice spy loitering on a street corner and hauled Gates in for questioning. Hours later, after a CIA instructor intervened, the spook-to-be was returned to quarters at Camp Peary. Gates then traded in his trenchcoat and eventually became the agency's top analyst.

HEY, YOU STARTED IT

Ever since President Bush announced plans to visit Hawaii for the 50th anniversary of the **PEARL HARBOR** attack, the government of Toshiki Kaifu has been scrambling to avert a fresh round of Japan bashing. Kaifu's advisers have suggested that when Bush travels to Tokyo as scheduled in late November, he pay a respectful call on Hiroshima. Some have even hinted that Bush, a World War II fighter pilot who was shot down by the Japanese in 1944, should take Kaifu with him to Pearl Harbor to symbolize how two old enemies are now allies. But White House officials vehemently oppose the plan. Says one: "The idea seems to be to make it appear that we behaved as badly as the Japanese."

BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME

It's never too early to plan for those retirement years, and **GEORGE BUSH** seems to be taking that maxim to heart. The President has quietly bought a lot in suburban Houston, taking advantage of the soft Texas real estate market to find a spot to build a post-presidency residence that's close to his old friends in the oil industry. The Bushes will spend eight months of the year there while continuing to pass the summer season in Kennebunkport.

WE'RE NOT GONNA TAKE IT

Is the race for the Democratic presidential nomination finally showing signs of life? There seems to be a general increase in testosterone levels among potential candidates, who promise they won't "do a Dukakis" by allowing Republicans to get the rhetorical advantage. Senator **TOM HARKIN** of Iowa has a get-tough campaign strategy: "Always attack, never defend and never fight on their territory." Once Bush launches an unfair offensive, "I'm going to hit him right back between the eyes," snarls Harkin. Tennessee Senator **AL GORE** mixes lofty rhetoric with a downright bloodthirsty warning to George Bush. "You run with your heart and soul," he notes. But you also have to be willing to "rip the lungs out" of a hardball-playing adversary.

SPIRITUAL AID IS EASIER TO OBTAIN

A few eyebrows were raised by an unusual private meeting **MIKHAIL GORBACHEV** scheduled during the London economic summit. The Soviet leader took time out from importuning Western leaders for economic help to greet his friend **SRI CHINMOY**, the New Age Indian guru. As French President François Mitterrand watched from the side, Gorbachev accepted a book of praise from the spiritual leader, who is based in Queens, N.Y. Gorbachev, who has been known to sprinkle speeches with terminology about his vision for a "new civilization" that obeys "new laws and logic," first met the guru last year on a state visit to Canada.



Dec. 7: an uncomfortable date in Japan



Gore has a tough message to deliver

VOX POP

Do you believe that any American MIAs are still alive in Vietnam?

Yes 70% No 19%

From a telephone poll of 500 American adults taken for TIME/CNN on July 18 by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman. Sampling error is plus or minus 4.5%. "Not sure" omitted.



The spiritual leader first met glasnost's guru last year