

## Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### The 'fundamentalization' of America

For those familiar with the internal workings of the Byzantine Empire, recent developments in the U.S. presidential campaign may seem more explicable than to those unversed in the phenomena of Byzantium.

One of the hallmarks of the Byzantines was the sponsorship of feuding fundamentalist religious cults, all orchestrated from above, all promising "holy war" against the other.

The Mondale campaign officially took off on this irrationalist track when candidate Prince Valium appeared before the annual meeting of the B'nai B'rith in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 5 to charge that Ronald Reagan was involved in a conspiracy to "Christianize" America. "God is not a Republican," the dotting donkey declaimed. Meanwhile, around the country, B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League gossips are spreading rumors about how a Reagan re-election would unleash Hitler-style "anti-Jewish" movements around the country.

Of course, there is some reality to the charge that circles around Reagan, including White House "palace guard" controller James Baker III and some of the President's advisors on religious affairs, are insisting that the President rely on "Christian fundamentalists" as his base of support for re-election.

By the same token, an effort is being made to induce the President to believe that the most pressing issue concerning the American population is abortion. Boston's Archbishop Bernard Law and 18 other northeastern Catholic bishops issued a statement on Sept. 5 insisting that the issue of abortion is *the* central theme of the coming election and not the threat of war from the Soviets, not the international eco-

nomie collapse, not the impending shortages of food.

### The cultivation of irrationality

The effect of this cultivation of irrationalism is to import onto the shores of the United States the seed-crystals for the kinds of full-blown "holy war" religious fanaticism seen in the Middle East, for example, in the various pseudo-Christian, pseudo-Jewish, and pseudo-Islamic movements being set into motion by the orchestrated fights for control over the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Hence it was no surprise to see Israel's Adolf Hitler, Rabbi Meir Kahane, appear on the American scene during the first days of September to run around the country ranting and raving before Jewish organizations about how he needed money for his campaign to expel all Arabs from Israel. He reserved his most rarified foaming for nominally-Islamic fanatic Louis Farrakhan, who has been spending the past months concocting anti-Jewish mythologies to whip up hysteria in the United States.

It has not precisely been an "act of God" to see these kinds of things start sprouting up on American shores. Both the Mondale and Reagan campaigns are penetrated with influences emanating out of such Gnostic-irrationalist monastic orders as the Benedictines and the Jesuits, who are trying to use the campaign as the occasion for injecting fundamentalism as a predominant feature of U.S. life.

Interested readers might independently check into the circles, for example, around Benedictine Father Paul Marx and his Human Life International in Washington, D.C., for a source of inspiration into the Reagan camp.

Another line of investigation

would lead to the doorsteps of Jesuit Michael Novak, a popularizer of religious-fundamentalism themes located at the American Enterprise Institute, also in Washington.

A third track would be certain cultivators of the "Our Lady of Fatima" cult in the milieu of Connecticut-based Jesuit Father Vincent Miceli, an adviser-confessor to the High Frontier's Danny Graham. Miceli preaches that the Temple Mount situation presages the "end of the world," and that it is "God's will" that Russia, the "invading idolater," will "punish Europe" by taking over the continent in the period ahead. Miceli is a firm believer in the benefits of the Christianity of Russia's Fyodor Dostoevsky and praises "the Byzantine Christianity of the Russian Orthodox Church" as a champion in the fight against "communism."

This might suggest, of course, that the Byzantinization of the American political process may in part be being orchestrated by the Russians themselves, through the various religious orders!

An adept U.S. political insider told *EIR* that one of the individuals "most ecstatic" about the transformation in the matrix of the American election process toward Byzantine fundamentalism is Jeremy Rifkin, popular cult author of books like *Entropy* and *The Emerging Order: God in an Age of Scarcity*. Rifkin has been one of the star attractions in religious-fundamentalist circles in the United States, arguing that fundamentalism is the most appropriate belief-structure for an age of zero-growth economics, reduction in the standard of living, and technological stagnation. Rifkin was trained at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Economics, the leading assembly plant for Malthusian pseudo-economist quacks in the United States.