

## Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### Ted Kennedy builds presidential image

Ted Kennedy has put his presidential ambitions on permanent hold, maintains no interest in the 1988 Democratic nomination, and has decided to take on the role of party elder statesman, instead. Right? If you believe that, you could be in for a big surprise.

During the last few months, Ted has undertaken some intriguing junks, which suggest that he's systematically expanding his political base for a possible presidential run.

Most interesting was his mid-May trip to Poland. Flanked by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, Kennedy addressed a Solidarity rally in Gdansk. Invoking his brother John's famous trip to Berlin, Kennedy told the cheering crowd, "*Jestem Polakiem*" ("I am a Pole"). He praised Solidarity for fighting against "tyranny, repression, and for human rights," asserted that "my family has had a special feeling for your country," and that "we're having such a good time now, we're going to come back again and again and again."

Upon leaving Poland, Kennedy flew to Rome to meet with the Polish Pope, and from there was expected to fly back home for a series of meetings with Polish-American groups.

What makes all this particularly intriguing is the following: About a year ago, *EIR* was told by several old Kennedy hands, that Teddy would run for the Democratic nomination, no matter what he said in public. Kennedy intended to change his image, dropping his super-liberal, I-love-

Gorbachov profile, they said, in favor of a born-again hawkishness, with special emphasis on the "captive nations" issue. The object would be to increase his appeal among ethnic Americans, especially those hailing from Eastern Europe. Although a traditionally Republican constituency, this important voter bloc has deserted the GOP *en masse*, in disgust at the Reagan administration's actions on the John Demjanjuk and Karl Linna cases.

It looks like Kennedy may have launched his presidential bid in Gdansk. With all signs pointing to a brokered Democratic convention, the option becomes more plausible.

### Simon's simple strategy

Senator Paul Simon, the Illinois Democrat who claims to be the only true New Dealer among the pack of Democratic presidential hopefuls, intends to "ride the balanced-budget amendment straight to the White House," according to people familiar with his campaign strategy.

Simon, part of the hapless Adlai Stevenson machine in Illinois, has been a longstanding proponent of a balanced-budget amendment, and introduced a bill along these lines as his first act upon being elected to the Senate. Aide Deborah Levy says that Simon will introduce another version of the "bba" soon.

Campaign issues adviser Paul Furga reports that Simon will make the balanced-budget amendment "a big issue" in the '88 race. "He's really committed to balancing the budget; he's a 'pay as you go Democrat,' and doesn't think we should add new services, unless you pay for them first."

Simon may also clamber aboard the anti-Constitution bandwagon. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary sub-

committee on constitutional affairs, the senator has slated a series of hearings on constitutional "reform," to hear from Lloyd Cutler and other members of Cutler's Committee on the Constitutional Commission, expound upon their recommendations for replacing the Constitution with a parliamentary form of government.

### Robertson roiled by not-so-holy wars

Pat Robertson's White House fantasies have come crashing up against the hard realities of the so-called Pearlygate scandal.

Although Robertson himself has not been directly involved in the increasingly acrimonious cat-fight between TV evangelists Jim Bakker and Jerry Falwell, the fact remains that Bakker got his start in the lucrative field of TV ministry under Robertson's tutelage.

Robertson disclosed several weeks back that contributions to his Christian Broadcasting Network had fallen to their lowest level in four years, and were not expected to rebound for several months at least.

In a meeting with reporters May 23, Robertson revealed that his presidential campaign has encountered unexpectedly rocky going, and that he had decided to run a TV ad campaign later this year to counteract his negative image.

One measure of just how negative that image is, comes from a Gallup Poll conducted in late April. The poll showed that 54% of Republican voters thought Robertson would make a "poor" President, while only 15% thought he would do a good job. The poll also showed that Robertson's personal image and political stature had declined appreciably in the wake of the Pearlygate revelations.