

Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Did the devil make him do it?

Sen. Al Gore (D-Tenn.) and his wife Tipper went off to Hollywood Oct. 28 to grovel before leaders of the "entertainment industry," begging forgiveness for Tipper's involvement in criticizing pornographic and Satanic rock music lyrics.

The Gores held a private meeting with TV producer Norman Lear (best known for his demeaning portrayal of the white working class, "Archie Bunker") and a supporter of various superliberal causes, including People for the American Way; they also met with rock musician Don Henley; and MCA's Irvin Azloff. The meeting was organized by Lear and Los Angeles lawyer Mickey Kantor, a Democratic wheeler-dealer who supports Gore's presidential bid.

According to a detailed account of the two-hour session published by Hollywood's *Daily Variety*, Al and Tipper apologized for participating in congressional hearings on rock music in 1985, calling them a "mistake . . . We sent the message that there's going to be censorship, and that's clearly not the case," said Tipper. "I understand the hearings frightened the artistic community; if I could rewrite the script, I certainly would." According to *Daily Variety*, her husband told the gathering that the hearing "was not a good idea."

In 1985, Mrs. Gore, along with Susan Baker, wife of Treasury Secretary James Baker, set up the Parents Music Resource Center, which lobbied to have warning labels placed on record albums that contained explicit lyrics. In September 1985, she testified at hearings on the issue convened by a Senate committee on which her husband serves, and later published a

book, *Raising PG Kids in an X-Rated Society*.

Hollywood blasted Mrs. Gore for advocating censorship, and her activities immediately became front-page news, prompting more skeptical political observers to suggest that what she was doing was part of a carefully planned 1988 presidential election strategy to make her liberal husband more palatable to conservative voters, especially in the South.

But that strategy apparently ran into a big problem: money. There are three main centers that the typical Democratic candidate goes to for campaign funds, and one of them is Hollywood. Gore wasn't raking in the bucks the other candidates were, and apparently decided that was a lot more important than polishing his image in the Bible Belt.

Although the Gore camp claims the Hollywood meeting had nothing to do with politics, one participant told the Nov. 6 *New York Times*, that it was a politically motivated effort "to assuage concerns" of potential donors in the entertainment world.

Bradley: candidate of 'inevitable decline'

Now that the Reagan "Recovery" has bitten the dust, Sen. Bill Bradley's name is being mentioned with increasing frequency as a possible Democratic presidential candidate, because of his ostensible knowledge about economics.

The former Rhodes scholar got an especially big boost from *Financial Times* of London columnist Edward Mortimer, who wrote a piece Oct. 27 asserting that the United States is in a period of "inevitable decline." Americans should stop searching for a statesman who can restore America's preeminence—since that will never happen—and instead elect someone

like Bradley, who is "capable of managing the transition to a world order in which other powers will bear a larger share of the costs, but which will in consequence be less precisely tailored to American interests and views than the one built at the zenith of American power after 1945."

And just what "other powers" is Mortimer talking about? Ask Bradley. He recently wrote an op-ed for the *New York Times*, inviting the Soviets to become integrated into the West's financial system.

That proposal obviously pleased *Times* editor Abe Rosenthal, who responded with an commentary Oct. 27 lauding Bradley's views on U.S.-Soviet relations as the best thing since sliced bread.

Jackson fined by the FEC

Although he still tops the Democratic presidential polls, Jesse Jackson's campaign has been beset by numerous difficulties, many of them centered on money.

On Nov. 2, the Federal Election Commission fined Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign committee for underreporting fundraising and spending, and filing incomplete financial accounts. The campaign committees agreed to pay the \$13,000 fine, but insisted that the reporting problems were inadvertent.

A day later, nearly all of the employees of Jackson's chief political organization, the Rainbow Coalition, were either laid off, or transferred to the Reverend's presidential campaign. In addition, the group was expected to move from its downtown Washington headquarters, to smaller, cheaper quarters. The decision was seen as a further indication that Jackson's operations are in desperate financial straits.