

Elephants and Donkeys by EIR Staff

Clinton unresponsive to plea for Fairchild

Democratic presidential candidate Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton has been unresponsive to appeals for clemency for Barry Lee Fairchild, sentenced to be executed. In a letter dated April 24, Pat Christensen, special assistant to Clinton, said, "Arkansas law does provide for capital punishment upon conviction for capital felony murder. Governor Clinton has sworn to uphold the laws of the State of Arkansas. As governor, he will continue to set execution dates as he has done in the past."

Christensen was responding to an April 24 letter from California Democratic Party Central Committee member Maureen Calney to Clinton and his head of the Department of Corrections, Mark Hewett, in Little Rock, Arkansas. The letter was accompanied by a resolution signed by 329 members of the California Democratic Party Central Committee, requesting that Clinton intervene on Fairchild's behalf. The resolution read:

"Whereas, Arkansas death-row inmate Barry Lee Fairchild, a retarded African-American, was sentenced to die only on the basis of a videotaped confession which numerous witnesses testify was tortured out of him;

"Therefore, the California Democratic Party hereby calls upon Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton to immediately intervene to save Bobby Lee Fairchild from the electric chair by granting executive clemency and taking all necessary legal steps to see that the truth comes out regarding this sordid case of 'Southern Justice.'"

The signatures in support of the resolution, which was sponsored by the LaRouche faction of the Democratic Party, were gathered at the

April 10-12 California State Democratic Party convention in Los Angeles. The signers represented many different currents within the party, including some who support Clinton for President.

Clinton addresses DLC on race relations

Governor Clinton has been trying to capitalize on the Los Angeles riots, talking about race relations and offering "local control" programs.

In a speech to the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) meeting in New Orleans, Clinton called for national service programs, beefed-up community policing, and tenant participation in managing public housing, the May 3 *New York Times* reported. His "discussion guide," called "The New Choice: Draft for a Democratic Platform," said that his agenda "expands opportunity, rewards responsibility, and fosters community."

The "responsibility" theme is applied to school choice, child support, capital gains tax breaks, welfare, and national service. The program was devised by the so-called Progressive Policy Institute, which is linked to the DLC.

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche reacted to Clinton's posturing on race relations in a statement released on May 4.

"I understand that Governor 'Slick Willie' Clinton, the so-called front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, is hastening out to California to meet with people like his campaign manager, Mickey Kantor, Kantor's partner, Warren Christopher, and other relevant persons, to help solve the race problems out there," LaRouche said.

"The problem is, that back in Ar-

kansas, meanwhile, the governor's office has just turned down an appeal from some committee members in the Democratic Party in the state of California, asking the governor to show clemency in the famous case of a retarded black man who has been shown to be, in all probability, innocent, who is sitting on death row, only because a crooked sheriff, now a member of Congress, railroaded him into a conviction, to cover for the sheriff's own inability to solve a notorious crime in that region.

"Now undoubtedly, Rodney King was beaten; and I bet it hurt. And it could have caused very serious injuries. But Rodney King was not an innocent man; and he was not an innocent man about to be killed by a governor who knows he's probably innocent.

"I don't think 'Slick Willie' Clinton really knows anything about race relations—at least nothing very good."

Perot phenomenon is fascism, says columnist

"Indeed, if the Perot phenomenon has any recognizable political flavor, it's fascism," wrote columnist Michael Kinsley.

"Perot's 'I'll run if you beg me' approach is an update on the myth of Cincinnatus, the farmer who reluctantly lays down his plow to solve the mess in government. . . . Perot is the only presidential candidate who is emphasizing the most important issue. That is the deficit. . . . I wouldn't vote for Ross Perot over Bill Clinton. But I'd vote for him in two seconds over George Bush. Others will vote for Perot in the spirit of 'Let's take a flier. What have we to lose?' That's a sentiment deserving sympathy, if not total respect."