

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Retooled Clinton opens arms to gays

Fresh from a month-long rewiring aimed at improving his image with the electorate, the new Bill Clinton was unveiled at a fundraiser in Los Angeles in mid-May, said to be one of the largest presidential rallies ever held by homosexuals and lesbians.

Heeding his handlers' instructions to be less "intellectual" and more "emotional," Slick Willie managed to nearly burst into tears at appropriate moments during his oration. At one point, Clinton paused, then looked out at the audience and said, "If I could wave my arm for those of you who are HIV positive and make it go away tomorrow, I would, so help me God I would, and I'd give up my race for the White House for that."

"We could see he felt our pain," enthused event organizer David Mixer, a gay activist and Democratic Party money-bags.

Clinton used the occasion to unveil his AIDS program, in which he pledged to have an AIDS victim address the Democratic Party national convention this July, and endorsed various proposals to bar discrimination against homosexuals.

Clinton also promised a "Manhattan Project" to cure AIDS, and said he would appoint an "AIDS czar" to oversee the effort.

Trilateraloids in Clinton's cabinet?

Rumor has it that Trilateral Commission member Warren Christopher will become secretary of state if Clinton wins election. Christopher recently took on the job of finding a vice-presidential running mate for Slick Willie, and there is some indication that it was Christopher who recruited Clinton to

the Trilateral Commission back in 1988.

A consummate establishment insider and co-author, with Trilateral Commission member Cyrus Vance, of the notorious "Operation Garden Plot" police-state blueprint, Christopher served as deputy secretary of state in the administration of fellow Trilateral Commission member Jimmy Carter.

Currently with the elite California firm of O'Melveny and Myers, Christopher has been in the limelight recently for his role as head of a commission, appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley (also a Trilateral Commission member), to "reform" the Los Angeles Police Department in the wake of the Rodney King incident.

Previously, Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) headed the short list of contenders for the post. But Solarz's fortunes plunged with the House check-kiting scandal, when it came out that he had bounced nearly 800 checks. Now, *Newsday* has revealed that Solarz and his wife Nina got into hot water several years back with other creditors, including a designer shoe store and a supermarket, when Nina bounced a series of checks with them, despite the fact that the couple have a combined annual income of nearly \$200,000 and own two houses valued at \$750,000.

Slick Willie and Vietnam

Clinton could face some new and embarrassing questions concerning his failure to serve in Vietnam as a result of the background of senior campaign adviser David Ifshin.

During his stint as head of the National Student Association, Ifshin traveled to North Vietnam in 1970, where, like Jane Fonda, he broadcast a message to U.S. soldiers urging

them to stop fighting and go home.

Ifshin subsequently became "respectable"—so well-connected, in fact, that he currently serves as general counsel of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, the premier pro-Israel lobbying group in the United States. Nevertheless, one can imagine what use the Bush-Quayle "opposition research" team will make of Ifshin's Hanoi excursion.

Waiting for Perot

Despite the fact that he took a sabbatical from the campaign trail to come up with some specific policy positions, "uncandidate" Ross Perot continues to dominate the election news. The May 25 edition of *Time* magazine put him on its cover and ran a lengthy, and decidedly favorable, feature about his campaign. Among other things, the story reported that the latest national *Time*-Cable News Network (CNN) poll shows Perot edging out both Clinton and George Bush.

Perot was also featured on the cover of the June issue of *Texas Monthly*. Among the more interesting tidbits reported in its story on the supposedly anti-establishment maverick, was that Katharine Graham, doyenne of Washington's liberal elite and erstwhile publisher of the *Washington Post*, had urged Perot to run for the presidency in 1988. *Texas Monthly* moots that Graham could find herself named as President Perot's ambassador to the U.N.

Perot is supposed to be in the middle of a sabbatical, ostensibly to allow him to come up with some policy specifics. That task has him pretty enraged, judging by comments he made to CNN's Brian Lamb in a May 20 interview. "I am sick and tired of having everybody want to know what my positions are," Perot complained.