

## Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### Will Bush bow out?

According to senior European sources with close links to Republican political circles in Washington, George Bush plans to resign from the presidency this summer.

These sources report that Bush is waiting until after the formal nomination of Bill Clinton, who is considered the weakest candidate in the postwar period. At that point, prior to the Republican convention in August, Bush will announce he is stepping down "for health reasons."

The list of who is most likely to replace Bush as the Republican candidate includes Jack Kemp, Dan Quayle, Robert Dole, and James Baker.

According to these same reports, approximately 10 days ago Bush reportedly underwent a "mild stroke" following a press conference and was observed by aides leaving the stage and walking into a wall. While according to these reports the stroke was "mild," it has led to the reported agreement by relevant parties in the GOP leadership to follow the "health resignation" plan stated above.

Right around the time these reports began to surface in Europe, the *Boston Globe* reported that Bush had become so depressed last year that he nearly considered not running for reelection.

"White House officials say the President is now in top physical and mental condition, but one Bush intimate told the *Boston Globe* that the combined effect of the Gulf war, personal health problems, and political attacks had left the 68-year-old President in a depression for months, and that only recently had he snapped out of it," the article reports. At one point shortly after the Gulf war, the article quotes one close associate saying that

Bush considered not running again for the presidency.

The article notes that Bush's bout with Graves' disease triggered rumors that he was much more seriously ill than he or his doctors let on, and that "such talk apparently led Connecticut Gov. Lowell Weicker to joke recently on a radio show with Vice President Dan Quayle that Mr. Bush would not be on the final Republican ticket."

### These are 'family values'?

In two separate interviews in late June, Ross Perot and his wife Margot reiterated their support for abortion on demand and capital punishment—despite the fact that these practices represent a sharp departure from the traditional moral values Perot claims to embrace.

The June 30 *Washington Post* profiled Mrs. Perot and reported that she is "staunchly pro-choice—she's an advisory council member for Planned Parenthood."

It quoted her saying that although she personally would never consider having an abortion, once "you start looking out beyond your own little world, and you realize it's pretty grim out there," abortion becomes a necessity. "You have to think about incest, which is just horrible but it's so much more of a hidden thing . . . you finally have to decide whether or not government should be involved. . . . I think a lot of Republicans ignored it [the abortion issue] because they didn't realize how crucial it would be."

Mrs. Perot also told the *Washington Post* that she opposed requiring that parents be notified when a minor seeks an abortion.

Meanwhile, her husband held forth on the death penalty during a na-

tionally televised "town meeting" broadcast on the ABC television network on June 29. Perot said that capital punishment is necessary to "capture" criminals' "attention." "It appears that only that kind of penalty—that if you're going to take a life, you may lose your life—will capture their attention," Perot said. He added that he supports efforts to reduce the number of appeals prisoners facing the death penalty can bring before the courts.

### Clinton's disastrous economic plan

Slick Willie Clinton is peddling a new economic program that offers neither an alternative to the last 12 years of Republican economic mismanagement, nor a way out of the U.S. depression.

His recently issued report entitled "Putting People First: A National Economic Strategy for America," not only mimics the worst "free market" claptrap of the Bush administration, but also incorporates several proposals for looting American living standards which even the Republicans have so far hesitated to embrace.

The document:

- Backs free trade, and especially the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which will cost millions of American jobs, to the hilt.

- Talks openly about the alleged need to cut back spending on entitlement programs (primarily Social Security and Medicare), and calls for sharp reductions in health care spending, especially for the elderly.

- Calls for "ending welfare as we know it," by shifting welfare recipients into jobs—even though the unemployment rate has reached a decade high.