

## Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### Bush 'clinically depressed'

George Bush is "clinically depressed," and acts like a "hyperkinetic adolescent," incapable of concentrated strategic thinking. That's the assessment of Dr. Steve Pieczenik, a psychiatrist, international crisis manager, and former State Department official.

Pieczenik told *EIR* that he first worked with Bush in 1987 on the Noriega "problem," when the then-vice president headed up the Reagan administration's crisis management group.

"What I saw was that Bush lacked any strategic sense, his judgment was bad, his ability to deal with crisis was bad. He was very ineffective. But he couldn't admit mistakes and was very vindictive."

This pattern—"a consistent pattern of negligence and total absence of strategic thinking—has continued," said Pieczenik, who cited Bush's handling of the Persian Gulf and Balkans crises as examples.

Pieczenik believes that Bush's behavioral pattern is "very dangerous" for the United States, in that Bush is obviously prone to "precipitate crises to make himself popular," as he did when he gave the green light for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait.

Pieczenik expressed deep concern about the current status of Bush's health. "If he were to walk into my office looking like he does now, I'd have him hospitalized," he said.

In Pieczenik's view, Bush's collapse in Japan last January wasn't simply due to the flu, but to a combination of factors, including his arrhythmia and Graves' disease. "With his arrhythmia, he's just one heartbeat away" from dying. "You've got a seri-

ous problem here." Bush is "juiced up now" with the campaign, "running around all over the place," but he could go back into a depression at any time."

As for Bush's use of the drug Halcion, Pieczenik commented: "I've used Halcion. It made me confused and disoriented, and I suffered memory loss. I think we should follow the Brits and ban it."

Pieczenik, who has worked under four secretaries of state, including James Baker, has just published a novel entitled *Maximum Vigilance*, whose plot revolves around a physically and mentally incapacitated President who attempts to mount a coup against himself to boost his popularity. The President is eventually forced from office via the 25th Amendment. *EIR* reviewed the book in its Aug. 28 issue.

In his discussion with *EIR*, Pieczenik candidly stated that his book was intended to draw parallels to the Bush administration, and that the novel's main characters were modeled on Bush, Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger, and other Bush administration officials.

Asked if he could foresee circumstances in which the 25th Amendment might be applied to Bush, Pieczenik responded in the affirmative.

"There is a definite possibility that Bush could be removed from office for reasons of health," he said, outlining several potential scenarios: "Assuming Bush wins reelection, I can see him going into a deep depression immediately afterward, in which he can't function.

"Or let's say there is an outbreak on a national scale of the kind of situation we had in Los Angeles in May, and it becomes obvious to the American population that Bush is incapable of responding. Under those circum-

stances, I can see him being removed from office.

"Of course," Pieczenik added, "since Americans won't tolerate Quayle as President, they would have to get rid of him as well." James Baker will be the likely beneficiary of such a chain of events.

### Bush to follow Carnegie script

A second Bush administration will hew to the policy prescriptions laid out in a recently released report of the Carnegie Endowment National Commission on America and the New World, according to a top Republican with close personal ties to Bush.

Entitled "Changing Our Ways," the report calls for extending the new world order to include population, the environment, and other "transnational" issues, while implementing harsh austerity in the United States.

"The report is excellent," said this Bush intimate, a prominent member of the liberal Republican establishment. "I've been talking to Winston Lord [chairman of the Carnegie Commission] about it. He, of course, is very close to the Bush administration as are many members of the commission," including former World Bank president Barber Conable and former Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci.

According to this same fellow, Bush will put major emphasis on reducing spending on entitlement programs (Social Security, Medicare, etc.) during his next four years, and will also almost certainly bear down on global "overpopulation."

Furthermore, Bush will shake up his cabinet if reelected, dumping not only Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, but several other key officials as well.