

Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Biden fall-out afflicts Dukakis

The last week in September was supposed to be an "upper" for presidential hopeful Mike Dukakis. The Massachusetts governor's campaign was to announce that it had raised over \$8 million in contributions—far more than any other Democratic candidate—and that his standing in the polls had significantly risen.

But the euphoria among the Dukakis forces abruptly evaporated Sept. 30, when the governor was forced to call a press conference to admit that his campaign was the source of the dirty trick which did in Joe Biden's campaign.

A somber and embarrassed Dukakis told reporters that his national campaign director and longtime associate John Sasso, had given the media the notorious videotape which showed Biden cribbing from British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock. Earlier in the week, Dukakis had vehemently denied a report in *Time* magazine, which said the tape originated with his campaign.

Calling the incident a "very, very serious mistake," Dukakis announced he had accepted the resignations of Sasso (who managed Geraldine Ferraro's scandal-ridden 1984 vice presidential bid), and national issues director Paul Tully, a former top Kennedy operative.

Tully's involvement in the incident has caused some insiders to wonder whether he might not be an agent provocateur, working for some Democratic candidate not yet in the race, or even for the Republicans. After all, they point out, he worked for Gary Hart's ill-fated campaign before moving on to Dukakis's.

Gore pro-defense? Tell Gorbachov!

The 1988 presidential elections has produced an endless stream of ironies, idiocies, and (often unintentional) comic relief—the most recent and best example of which must be Sen. Al Gore's attempt to portray himself as a defense hawk.

The Tennessee Democrat tried this sleight-of-hand at a Democratic candidates' foreign policy debate in Des Moines Sept. 27, sponsored by the peacenik STARPAC (Stop the Arms Race Now Political Action Committee).

Whereas the other five dwarfs—Jackson, Gephardt, Simon, Babbitt, and Dukakis—vied with each other for the Neville Chamberlain award, Gore attempted to distinguish himself from his rivals by emphasizing his past support for the Contras and for the MX missile, and insisting that the Democrats must shed their anti-defense image to have a stab at the White House.

"The world is complicated and foreign policy is far more complex than litmus tests," said Gore, attacking the STARPAC position that all Democratic candidates must endorse a ban on flight testing of nuclear missiles. "We need a President with foreign policy experience who understands we must deal from a position of strength."

Gore assailed his rivals for being too soft on defense, and criticized Dukakis in particular for urging that the United States pull its troops out of South Korea.

Sources close to Gore openly admitted that he is trying to fill the allegedly pro-defense shoes of Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), who took himself out of the race last month. One aide told the *New York Times* that a key factor in Gore's tactical shift was his consistently low standing in the polls, and the recognition that he had to differentiate himself from the rest of the dwarfs as swiftly as possible, to sur-

vive politically.

But Gore is going to have an even harder time presenting himself as a defender of U.S. national security than would Nunn have, had he stayed in the race.

As *EIR* readers know, Gore has already been publicly endorsed by Soviet agent Armand Hammer, and his actual strategic policy outlook is entirely consistent with the objective of Hammer et al.—to strike a sell-out deal with Moscow.

The most obvious indication of this is Gore's opposition to the Strategic Defense Initiative. Gore has taken great pains to assure the Soviets that he will terminate the SDI if elected. During a visit to Moscow last May, where he met with Central Committee Secretary Anatoly Dobrynin and other top leaders, Gore gave a speech in which he assailed the SDI as a "dangerous chimera."

Bush tours Poland, to get ethnic vote

Faced with a keen lack of enthusiasm among conservative Republicans, Vice-President Bush and his advisers have been casting about for ways to erase his image as an Eastern Establishment wimp.

That was one of the major reasons Bush, on his visit to Poland, held a highly visible meeting with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa Sept. 29, and also used a live speech on Polish television to state his support for the outlawed trade union.

Eastern European ethnics have been deserting the Republican Party in droves, because of the Reagan administration's collaboration with Moscow in persecuting alleged "old Nazis" living in the United States. Bush's antics in Poland are clearly a pragmatic effort to win some of these voters back.