

## Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### Bush behind drive to oust Ed Meese

Vice President George Bush, who has tried to make as much political hay as possible out of his constantly self-advertised "loyalty" to President Reagan, has been caught red-handed in the drive to push Attorney General Ed Meese, one of the last remaining old Reagan hands in the administration, out of office.

Bush's role in the attempted ouster of Meese, which was documented in the last issue of *Executive Intelligence Review*, was confirmed by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, which published a front-page story April 23 naming Bush and his close ally, Howard Baker, as prime movers behind the dump-Meese operation.

Headlined "Sources: Bush trying to oust Meese," the article reported that Bush and Baker "are subtly trying to orchestrate [Meese's] ouster" by claiming his problems are undermining Bush's campaign, and are "quietly laying the groundwork for what they hope will be Meese's departure this spring."

Part of that groundwork included setting up the extraordinary April 20 meeting among President Reagan and recently-resigned Justice Department officials William Weld and Arnold Burns, at which Weld strenuously argued that Meese must be forced to resign, and told Reagan that if he were in a position to do so, he would indict Meese on the spot.

So far, Bush's orgy of back-stabbing, aided and abetted, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, by Nancy Reagan, has not worked. Meese is still clinging to his job, and the President continues to give him a full vote of confidence.

But Bush himself has been hurt politically by his latest display of knuckle-dragging disloyalty, especially among hard-line Reagan backers who never liked the silk-stocking Trilateraloid much to begin with. And, sources say, the would-be President could find himself suffering far greater damage—politically fatal damage—in the near future, if his get-Meese operation backfires sufficiently.

### Who's for veep?

With conventional wisdom positing that Mike Dukakis has the Democratic presidential nomination sewn up, the question of who'll fill the vice presidential slot on the party's ticket has now moved to center stage.

As *EIR* reported last week, supporters of Sen. Sam Nunn, the Georgia Democrat who heads the Senate Armed Services Committee and has managed to build a completely undeserved reputation as a great strategic thinker and partisan of a strong American military, kicked off a campaign in mid-April to boost their boy for the spot.

Not content with placing Nunn in the vice presidency—a position not known for its power—his backers insisted that he be given another post in addition, preferably that of Secretary of State or Secretary of Defense.

However, this thinly-veiled effort to make Nunn co-President did not go over too well with the Dukakis camp, according to our sources.

Although it had already been made clear to Dukakis that he would be allowed to garner the nomination only if he agreed to allow the "Establishment" to choose his cabinet and other top advisers, the prospect of having to share the presidency with Nunn, or

even being reduced to a mere figure-head, was asking a bit too much.

Moreover, Dukakis managed to figure out that the Nunn-for-veep boomlet could easily turn into a full-fledged Nunn-for-President campaign, should he, Dukakis, stumble in the final primaries. That, by the way, is a distinct possibility, especially in California, where Jesse Jackson draws strong support from the mammoth homosexual voting bloc, and enjoys the patronage of the powerful speaker of the California assembly, Willie Brown.

As a result, the Dukakis campaign has started to put out the word that Nunn may have too many political disabilities to be considered as vice presidential material. The most frequently heard complaint is that he's too "conservative" to appeal to liberal Democrats, and so in tune with the "white Southern establishment" that he'll alienate black voters.

As part of the same effort, the Dukakis people are also circulating a list of alternate veep candidates, among them Rep. Tom Foley (D-Wash.) and Sen. Bill Graham, the former Democratic governor of Florida. Another prospect, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.), has already flatly stated that he has no interest in the post.

Meanwhile, a deal appears to have been struck with Jackson: Willie Brown, Jackson's national campaign manager, told reporters April 25 that Jackson had not earned the right to the vice presidency, and would not press for it, whereas both he and another top campaign official, Gerald Austin, had said precisely the opposite just a week earlier.

It just so happens that, at the same time Brown executed his about-face, rumors began to surface in Washington that Jackson might be offered the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee.