

Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Dukakis held hostage in Massachusetts

"Where's Mike?" has become an oft-heard query these days. Since the beginning of August, the Democratic presidential candidate has rarely ventured outside of his home state of Massachusetts, causing many Democratic leaders to wonder if he's throwing away the campaign.

Dukakis's decision to hole up in Massachusetts has been thrust upon him by the state's burgeoning budget crisis. His state legislature is in a state of open revolt against him; a majority has called for him to step down on the grounds that he can't run for President and run the state at the same time.

Key Democratic legislative leaders have been trying to organize a special session of the legislature to force the governor into backing off from several of his recent, highly questionable, budget-balancing tactics.

Although Dukakis has mounted a personal arm-twisting campaign that has so far forestalled the special session, home-state political pressures on him are so intense, and the threat of a political coup so real, that he's had to spend precious campaign time in Massachusetts trying to placate his legion of critics. The depth of sentiment against the government is evidenced by a private poll conducted by his campaign. According to the Aug. 31 *Boston Globe*, the poll shows Dukakis losing Massachusetts—the most liberal state in the Union—to George Bush!

Just two months before the elections, Dukakis finds himself caught in a very real dilemma: If he doesn't start mounting a vigorous, cross-country

campaign, he can kiss the presidency good bye; if he does, he could be faced with a political situation in Massachusetts of such embarrassing proportions, it will mean instantaneous political death.

The pressure is clearly showing: in late August, Dukakis made an open appeal to legislators to stay home until after the November elections, so that he could get back on the hustings. Whether the appeal has any effect remains to be seen.

Duke damaged by EIR exposé

Mike Dukakis's campaign has taken a nosedive, thanks in part to *EIR*'s exposé of his personal and familial history of mental disturbance.

A front-page article in the Aug. 29 *Washington Post*, headlined "Dukakis in a Dwindle: Defensive Stance Concerns Democrats," reported that Dukakis's aides admit that the "campaign's momentum was stopped earlier this month by the rumors Dukakis had once seen a psychiatrist because of depression.

"The health records flap hurt," the *Post* quoted Dukakis campaign manager Susan Estrich: "I mean, 'Dukakis Not Crazy—Film at Eleven.'" The *Post* reported that Dukakis's standing in the polls dipped immediately after the story ran on television for two nights, "even though the thrust of the coverage accused the Bush campaign and Reagan White House of dirty tricks."

Rabbis: Kitty Dukakis is not a good role model

A number of American rabbis have expressed concern that Kitty Dukakis, wife of the Democratic presidential candidate, may prove to be a poor

model for fellow Jews, if she becomes first lady, according to a report in the July 15 *Atlanta Jewish Times*.

The *Jewish Times* reported that there was "wide agreement" among rabbis it had contacted that the fact that Mrs. Dukakis married outside her faith, "would magnify the problem of Jewish survival."

"Her background poses no problem to the secular population," Rabbi Lewis says, "but to the Jewish community, yes, it does," Rabbi Shalom Lewis of Etz Chaim synagogue told the *Jewish Times*. "One cannot ignore the fact, that here is a wife married to a [man who may become] president. . . . Being a role model only compounds the problem. She married out of faith, and has children believed not raised Jewish."

Despite Mrs. Dukakis's involvement in the ADL and the Holocaust Commission, Lewis termed her relationship to the Jewish community "a loose one. A role model for Jewish children, and adults, she's not."

Another rabbi, Alvin Sugarman of The Temple, told the newspaper that "Every time there's a mixed marriage and Jewish values are not taught, it only adds to Hitler's vision of a world without Jews."

In an interview with the same issue of the *Jewish Times*, Mrs. Dukakis, asked what religion her three children have, replies that "They consider themselves half Jewish and half Greek." She also says, when asked if, given a second chance, she would raise her three children more as Jews, that, "I'm not sure that would have been possible."

The rabbis' concerns echo those expressed by a number of Greek Orthodox priests, who believe that Mike Dukakis has de facto excommunicated himself from his church, through his support of abortion and failure to be married within his faith.