

Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Dukakis: A reincarnated Mussolini

Independent presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche's quip that Michael Dukakis is a "reincarnation" of Benito Mussolini, was the lead item on the Oct. 17 news broadcast of Boston's WBZ-TV, along with the incredibly feeble reply by the Dukakis camp.

As part of its coverage of a press conference which LaRouche had given in Washington earlier that day, at which he labeled the latest indictments handed down against him a "dirty trick" by the Dukakis network, and warned that Dukakis was prepared to usher in a period of "universal fascism" in the United States, the television station flashed a picture of Mussolini on the screen, followed by a film clip of LaRouche stating that "great evil will be punished sooner or later; as in the case of the Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini, who has returned as Michael Dukakis."

That was followed by a WBZ reporter quoting the Dukakis reply: "LaRouche's charges are too ridiculous to offer a response," said a campaign spokesman. "LaRouche's historical knowledge is poorly founded. It is quite clear the governor could not have been reincarnated as Benito Mussolini, as Mr. Dukakis was already living at the time of the dictator's death."

Shultz to lose out in Bush cabinet?

According to reports circulating on the Washington grapevine, George Bush as President is likely to retain most of the individuals currently holding cabinet posts. The two major exceptions are Secretary of State George Shultz and Pentagon chief Frank Carlucci.

The Oct. 24 issue of *U.S. News and World Report* says that Bush is likely to pick former Texas Sen. John Tower for the Defense post, and has already promised Foggy Bottom to Jim Baker. Bush is also looking for a top post for confidant Brent Scowcroft, the retired general now based at Henry Kissinger's consulting firm.

The magazine reports, "Bush's preference is for continuity," and among those he wants to stay on are National Security Adviser Colin Powell, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady, Secretary of Labor Ann Dore McLaughlin, and Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos.

Dukakis economists seek consumption tax

A group of seven leading Democratic economists—several of whom are publicly identified with the Dukakis campaign—issued a report in mid-October calling for a national consumption tax.

Published under the aegis of the Washington, D.C.-based "Rebuild America" outfit, the report contends that imposing a consumption tax (national sales tax) is required to force a shift in America's spending from consumption to investment.

That's economists' gibberish. Such a punitive levy would actually accomplish the opposite. Living standards would be driven downward, es-

pecially for those in the lower income categories, and purchasing power would evaporate, sending the economy yet another ratchet lower.

Bush picks up Teamster endorsement

Mike Dukakis's flagging presidential bid received another blow when the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the largest labor union in the United States, endorsed George Bush on Oct. 17.

The decision was the result of a poll of the union's membership, which gave the endorsement to Bush (but not his running mate, Dan Quayle), by a small margin.

Although the Teamsters have accused the Reagan administration of trying to crush the union, after the Justice Department moved earlier this year to take over the union, it obviously sees Dukakis as an even greater threat to its survival.

Massachusetts sues to keep nuclear plant shut

Dukakis hasn't let the presidential campaign stop his vendetta against nuclear power.

He announced Oct. 12 that the state of Massachusetts will file a lawsuit to prevent the restarting of Boston Edison's Pilgrim nuclear power plant. He said that state and local officials oppose its reopening until emergency plans for evacuation of residents near the plant have been tested and approved.

This is the same tack Dukakis has used to sabotage the operation of the Seabrook plant in neighboring New Hampshire.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave the plant a clean bill of health in August.