

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky and Stephen Parsons

The mania of Manatt

Fritz isn't the only one with troubles. His *padrone* Chuckie Manatt, the Democratic national chairman and Hollywood mafia liaison, nearly got bounced out of his post at the beginning of March after his incompetence became too much even for Mondale's advisers. The word was out on Capitol Hill that Manatt had already gotten the boot when Mondale intervened to save his skin.

With this new lease on life, Banker Manatt sped to Pennsylvania March 6. There he attempted to prove his worth by endorsing a candidate for congressman, James Young, who is facing stiff opposition from a candidate backed by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Earlier that week, Manatt had called on the Reagan administration to sever all connections with LaRouche and his organization. Manatt's demand came on March 5, the day after NBC-TV aired its "First Camera" smear of LaRouche—one aim of which was to pressure the administration to cut off contact with LaRouche. The show included an interview with the National Security Council's former senior director of International Economic Policy, Norman Bailey, in which Bailey said he had met with

LaRouche advisers a number of times "because they have in my view one of the best private intelligence services in the world."

The outraged Manatt issued a statement urging Reagan to end "this shocking, White House involvement with the bizarre, extremist cult of Lyndon H. LaRouche." Manatt also condemned the implication that "members of this group have had some degree of influence on the administration." LaRouche is accurately credited by U.S. insiders in private, and the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestiya* in public, with helping to impel President Reagan to commit the nation in March 1983 to the beam-weapons defense so feared by the Soviets.

Of mice and . . . ele-donkeys?

Over the years, this news service has repeatedly warned that any consolidation of power by forces associated with the mad Dr. Henry Kissinger would cause such social and economic havoc that the biosphere itself would begin to break down. Judging by some strange sights and sounds emanating from GOP circles in the nation's heartland, it appears that a mutant species has already emerged—and has taken over the entire Republican leadership.

The strain is a creature with the bulk of the famous GOP elephant, but . . . it acts like a jackass! And unlike either beast, it neither hees nor haws nor cackles nor trumpets; rather, it has a mournful whine that occasionally rises to what appears to be a loud boast, only to collapse back into its pitiful plaint.

This enormous beast—provisionally labeled an ele-donkey—is neither swift of wit nor nimble of foot, though it does whirl around quite rapidly in a perpetual circle that it calls "stumping

for votes," spurred on by a swarm of hissing flies. And, surprisingly, it can also speak.

When we queried various ele-donkeys this week on their odd comportment, they responded that it was the best way to deal with the clever flies, which upon analysis turned out to be a virulent strain of *practicalus politicitis*.

When we suggested that perhaps they should arrest their feverish whirl and think a moment about eliminating the source of their plight, that is, the infamous Dr. Kissinger, the ele-donkeys moaned that, although that Dr. Kissinger was doing terrible things, "it is not our responsibility to take on such a prodigious individual. Besides, the flies would not allow it," they reported. Nor did they want to swat the flies. "We need them so that we can continue in our whirl of important activity."

"The nation is in trouble," agreed the large-looming ele-donkeys in states ranging from Idaho to Minnesota, and from Nevada to Arkansas. "We're quite concerned, you know. But we're very busy."

An ele-donkey who chairs the GOP in one Midwestern state stopped his rotation for a moment to comment craftily: "I think the President knows what he is doing. He is taking the enemy into his own camp."

When an RNC ele-donkey from South Dakota nodded in hearty agreement with this diabolical strategy, we asked him about Larry Pressler, the blow-dried senator from his own state who had just endorsed Dr. Kissinger's formula for destroying NATO. "Well," he brayed, "at least we got a Republican in there to replace that no-good McGovern!"

"That's right," chimed in the herd, as they whirled off to yet another round of hoofing and whirling. "At least Kissinger is a Republican."