

## Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### On the Fritz

Walter Mondale emerged from the June 5 primaries announcing that he will win the Democratic nomination and lead the party to victory in November.

Despite Fritz's show of confidence, neither outcome is assured. Mondale's "big win" in New Jersey was no testimony to the preference of the state's voters, since the victory was achieved through vote fraud on a large scale. Campaign workers for the election bid of "dark horse" presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche amassed evidence of fraud at 13 different polling places, where more signed affidavits were collected from LaRouche voters than there were votes recorded on the voting machines. On the basis of this pattern and the official votes tallied for congressional candidates running on LaRouche's slate, LaRouche campaign analysts conclude that their candidate got at least 20-27% of the vote in New Jersey.

Mondale's New Jersey "victory" was more than offset by his unexpectedly strong defeat in California, where Gary Hart garnered delegates at a rate of 3 to 1. While Mondale may, as his campaign claims, have more than the 1,967 delegates required to win a first-ballot nomination, the California results reconfirm what has been apparent during the entire primary season: Mondale is still unacceptable to millions of Democratic voters.

Far from going into the Democratic convention on a triumphant note, Mondale will arrive bearing all the earmarks of a loser. Delegates will

have to ponder the implications of his losses in such states as Ohio, Florida, Massachusetts—not to mention Ronald Reagan's home state of California. They will have to consider what it means that in spite of a multimillion dollar war chest, the backing of the AFL-CIO, and the support of the Democratic "establishment," Mondale was repeatedly trounced by Hart and Jackson.

Finally, they will have to do some hard thinking about Mondale's policies. What will the American voter do in November when presented with a candidate so closely identified with the despised Jimmy Carter, a candidate who has announced that he will slash the U.S. defense budget, dismantle the MX missile program, and ban the development of a U.S. ABM system just to keep the Kremlin happy? This may play well in Manhattan's Upper West Side, but not in Peoria.

### The LaRouche problem

Democratic Party chairman Chuck Manatt and his friends are trying to put on a happy face about their predicament, but are nevertheless clearly worried. As *EIR* went to press, both Hart and Jackson were still refusing to embrace Mondale—Jackson even told the national press that he had "grave reservations" about Mondale's leadership abilities—weakening Fritz's position even further.

Worse, Manatt and Company are still faced with the "LaRouche problem." LaRouche has been making life miserable for the Manatt crowd through his blockbuster media campaign and his "citizen candidates' movement" which has scored important electoral victories at local, state, and federal levels this year.

During a three-day period at the end of May, LaRouche, in an unprecedented media barrage, aired three national TV addresses exposing the collusion between Mondale Democrats and the KGB to wreck U.S. defenses.

LaRouche also detailed a comprehensive series of emergency measures he would take to resolve the looming strategic and economic crises facing the country.

The dilemma facing the Democratic Party's kingmakers is being openly bemoaned by such media "insiders" as Joseph Kraft, a member of the New York Council on Foreign Relations who speaks for the loftier echelons of the American Establishment through his syndicated column. In his June 7 offering, Kraft bitterly complained that Mondale "has come across as a faltering leader, shrill in speeches and with little capacity to project his wit or brains. While he has the delegates to go over the top, . . . he has not so much swept to victory as stumbled through by backroom deals."

Where other political pundits have been claiming that the proper choice of Vice-President could assure Mondale's victory in November (the names most frequently heard are New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, Arkansas Sen. Dale Bumpers, Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, and New York Rep. Geraldine Ferraro), Kraft dismisses this as pure wishful thinking. Kraft's bottom line? "Mondale is heading for a loss to President Reagan that seems likely to bury what has been the dominant element in the Democratic Party."

### The bomb under Reagan

Does this mean that Reagan is a shoo-in? Not by a long shot. The President is sitting on top of a multi-fused bomb that could be set off by any number of events: the collapse of the world's financial markets—a probability underscored closer by the Continental Illinois banking crisis, an international oil crisis precipitated by the Iran-Iraq conflict, or a new Soviet strategic thrust aimed at forcing the United States into a humiliating backdown.

Reality is threatening to overturn the best laid plans of both Elephants and Donkeys.