

Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Gore hits the campaign trail—in Moscow

Armand Hammer's favorite presidential candidate, Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), was off to Moscow in early June to avail himself of the advice and approbation of Soviet officials. He met with Anatoli Dobrynin, former Soviet ambassador to the United States and now Central Committee Secretary for International Relations, on May 28.

A *Pravda* report on the session quoted Gore, "Today as never before, new political thinking is required" on both sides to stop the arms race—a formulation which led one wag to wonder whether Gore isn't short-hand for Gorbachov.

Gore promised the Soviets, according to *Pravda's* report, that the need to improve Soviet-American relations would take "a prominent place in the U.S. election campaign."

While in Moscow, Gore also delivered an address to the seventh congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which receives lavish funding from Hammer.

The speech no doubt pleased his Soviet hosts. A fanatic opponent of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, Gore told his audience that the phenomenon of "technological and human error" supposedly evidenced in the penetration of Soviet air defenses by the 19-year-old West German pilot Mathias Rust; the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster; and the Challenger space shuttle disaster, demonstrated that the SDI was a dangerous chimera.

Cuomo too courts the Russians

Gore isn't the only presidential hopeful courting Moscow. New York's Mario Cuomo, whose activity in the race seems to increase every time he claims not to be running, embraced the lie of Soviet *glasnost* (openness) in a May 28 commencement address to Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

There is an "unprecedented convergence" of U.S. and Soviet interests, the New York governor claimed, and this holds out the possibility of ending the cold war and the nuclear arms race.

"For the first time in 40 years," Cuomo said, "we face the awesome possibility that Soviet history, our own history, and the demands of world history have conspired to offer us an opening to the beginning of the end of this period of constant hostility and incipient violence."

By "convergence," he apparently means American willingness to submit to Russian domination. While paying lip service to the need for the United States to maintain its military strength, Cuomo denounced the Reagan administration for thinking about abandoning the so-called narrow interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. "We cannot insist that other nations comply with arms-control agreements that we seek to reinterpret to our own benefit," he said. Cuomo did not mention the fact that the Soviets have repeatedly violated the treaty and are vigorously pursuing a strategic defense of their own.

Seven dwarves, plus Nunn?

Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) is on the verge of making up his mind whether to become the eighth dwarf in the

Democratic field. The June 1 *New York Times* reported that former Virginia governor Chuck Robb, one of Nunn's biggest boosters, is telling people that Nunn is "clearly moving closer" to a formal declaration. One Democratic "insider" told the *Times* that Nunn is "40% in right now."

Nunn is expected to be nudged toward a declaration at a fundraiser sponsored by the Democratic Leadership Council June 8. Nunn and Robb, who helped create the "centrist" policy grouping, will be the guests of honor at the event, which will be hosted by Democratic Party kingmaker Bob Strauss, and his pal Dwayne Andreas, the man slated to inherit Armand Hammer's mantle as the Soviets' best-loved "capitalist."

The *Times* notes that the reception will offer Nunn a key opportunity to meet party moneybags.

Celeste inherits Hart's zipper problem

Gary Hart may be out of the Democratic race, but the "zipper factor" is still with us. Ohio's Gov. Dick Celeste, it seems, has been carrying on a lively extramarital love life.

According to the June 3 *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Celeste has had at least three adulterous affairs in the past decade. Neither Celeste nor his wife Dagmar denied the report; and the governor told a hastily called press conference after the report appeared, that his personal life "was no one's business, and that he wouldn't let it affect his decision about whether to toss his hat into the presidential ring.

But Celeste's advisers are known to be worried that the womanizing issue will doom his candidacy even before it's declared—especially since Celeste is still tainted by the Marvin Warner bank scandal which erupted in Ohio in 1985.