

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Clinton to kill another retarded prisoner

Bill Clinton's political ambitions may soon cause the death of yet another Arkansas prisoner—and one who may well be innocent.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is protesting the pending execution of Arkansas prisoner Barry Lee Fairchild, who is the second retarded black man to face the death penalty since Clinton launched his bid for the presidential nomination.

Just weeks before the February New Hampshire primary, Clinton rushed back to Arkansas to oversee the execution of Ricky Ray Rector, who was sentenced to death for murder despite the fact that he had been lobotomized by a gunshot wound.

Clinton seems determined to pull off another similar publicity stunt in the case of Fairchild, who was convicted of raping and murdering a white woman. The only evidence against Fairchild, however, was a videotaped confession, which he says was tortured out of him at the behest of Sheriff Tommy Robinson, later appointed by Clinton as director of the State Public Safety Department.

Fairchild, who has maintained his innocence, appears on the video with his head wrapped in gauze.

Since Fairchild's 1984 conviction, Clinton has set three execution dates, but they have all been stayed by the courts. The last was in late 1990, after a deputy in Robinson's office revealed that confessions of a number of black suspects had been beaten out of them by Robinson's men.

Nevertheless, Clinton, who once opposed capital punishment but changed his mind out of political expediency, has stubbornly refused to grant Fairchild a pardon.

In a March 24 letter to Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), Richard Burr, a Clin-

ton supporter and director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, charged, "Thus far, Governor Clinton has shown no concern for the gross abuses and unfairness surrounding the prosecution of Mr. Fairchild. When we approached him in early September 1990, with early glimpses of the egregious police abuse in the case, he saw 'no reason' to intervene."

AIPAC love affair with Ross Perot

The American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the premier U.S.-based Israeli lobbying group, has apparently fallen in love with H. Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who's mounting an independent presidential bid.

At its conference in Washington in early April, Perot received many accolades. Thomas Dine, AIPAC executive director, declared that Perot "is a believer in the Israeli way of defending itself. I am told by those who know him that he would be a very interesting person to deal with and probably very friendly."

Dine's paean sparked warm applause from conference participants. One attendee told the *Washington Post* that "before Perot arrived on the scene, most Jews would prefer to vote for none-of-the-above. But now he's emerged as a serious anti-Washington establishment candidate, I think he's the best thing that's happened to the election process."

'Web of corruption' surrounds Bush

Republican strategist Kevin Phillips explored some of the infrequently raised issues of George Bush's personal corruption, in the April 5 *Los*

Angeles Times. Under the headline "The Ties That Tarnish: The Web of Corruption That Surrounds George Bush," Phillips charged that "under Bush, the conduct of U.S. foreign affairs is starting to resemble the 'bank' at the House of Representatives, a cash club for the favored and faithful."

Among the beneficiaries:

- Bush's brother, Prescott, who "stood to make \$1 million by arranging U.S. deals for Tusho," a front for the Japanese Inagawakai crime syndicate that owned Asset Management International, which employed Prescott as a consultant.

- Bush's son, George, whom Phillips describes as "a significant shareholder—along with Saudi and South African investors—in a Texas company, Harken Energy," which, just before the Gulf war, "won a major oil drilling contract . . . from Bahrain."

- The President's brother, William (Bucky) Bush, who, reports Phillips, advises Korea's Samsung on U.S. investments.

- Bush's son, Jeb, who runs his father's Florida campaign, and has "multimillion-dollar backing from Japan's Mitsui Trust" for his international real estate operations. Jeb has been cited as a potential witness in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) case.

The article also speculates on Bush's ties with the Persian Gulf owners of BCCI, including Sheikh Kamal Adham, former head of Saudi intelligence, and Sheikh Zayed ibn Sultan al Nuhayan of Abu Dhabi, BCCI's dominant shareholder. "Quite extraordinarily, [BCCI's] Zayed's chief Washington strategist happens to be James A. Lake, deputy manager of the Bush reelection campaign, who also advises the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and is a lobbyist for Japanese interests."