

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Hartdale comes to California

Several months back, a few political pundits began applying the term "Hartdale" to the candidacies of Gary Hart and Walter Mondale. Their point was that despite Hart's claim to represent the new generation and Mondale's to speak for the old, the two are basically interchangeable.

That's all too true. But some new information about the California primary demonstrates just how closely intertwined the two alleged opponents are.

Gary Hart's California campaign manager, John Emerson, and Mondale's state campaign manager, Mickey Kantor, not only both work for the same law firm, but are close friends as well. And the firm they work for happens to be Manatt, Phelps, Rothenberg and Tunney—the law firm of Charlie Manatt, chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

The two don't simply share the same employer—their relationship is much cozier. Kantor, 44, worked for Gary Hart in 1972 when Hart was George McGovern's campaign manager. He also headed Jimmy Carter's California reelection campaign in 1980, and former Gov. Jerry Brown's U.S. Senate race in 1982. The 30-year-old Emerson worked as an aide to Kantor in both the Carter and Brown campaigns.

Emerson and Kantor say the campaign doesn't get in the way. "We're partners and friends and have been involved with each other in many political and legal efforts for several years now," Kantor says. Emerson "is a very accomplished and effective spokesman for his candidate and I couldn't be more pleased with his success."

Says Emerson: "It just produces a friendly rivalry. It's very similar to the situation where two friends play against each other in sports. You do everything you can to win, but after it's over, you walk off the field friends."

California scenario

The Emerson-Kantor-Manatt connection is just one indication of the orchestration behind the scenes of the Democratic presidential selection process. Even with this high degree of control, the political volatility of the electorate and the complete lack of enthusiasm for the "frontrunners" has made it impossible for the newfangled boys in the back room to wrap up the nomination for Fritz. At this point, a brokered convention is a near-certainty.

Sources privy to the inner councils of the Democratic Party establishment tell *EIR* that Hart intends to fight it out with Fritz, primarily in order to force himself on the ticket as Vice-President.

Knowing that Hart's ploy could backfire, several other contenders are positioning themselves as choices for the VP slot, or possibly even the top spot, should the convention deadlock. But with the sole exception of *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, however, the "dark horses" come from the same malodorous stable as Hart and Mondale.

Among the names being bandied about are Sen. Dale Bumpers (D.-Ark.), a frequent visitor at the W. Averell Harriman family's Georgetown salon. Bumpers's wife, Betty, is the founder of "Peace Links," a national organization of pro-nuclear freeze women which maintains close contacts with KGB-sponsored "peace" groups in the Soviet Union.

Another whose name is often mentioned is New York governor Mario Cuomo. An avowed devotee of

Jesuit death-cultist Teilhard de Chardin who claims to represent traditional family values, Cuomo has initiated a cost-cutting drive in the state involving a moratorium on hospital construction and restrictions on the acquisition of high-technology medical equipment. Recently, Cuomo established a review board aimed at legalizing "Do not resuscitate" orders, that is, medical orders under which certain patients are not given life-saving treatment.

Another leading contender is Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, a reputed conservative Democrat who recently took to the pages of the *Washington Post* to defend Fed chairman Paul Volcker's economy-wrecking high interest rates. Bentsen has been strenuously courted by the Mondale camp.

A recent entrant into the contest is Robert Strauss, the Texas wheeler-dealer whom Averell Harriman appointed DNC chairman in 1972. Our sources report that Strauss is selling himself on the basis of his strong ties to organized labor (in contrast to Hart) and to the Jewish community. In fact, Strauss is telling people that he will have to be on the ticket to carry the Jewish vote because Mondale hurt himself badly among Jewish voters when in 1982 he advised then-Senator Muriel Humphrey (D-Minn.) to vote for the AWACS sales to Saudi Arabia.

Strauss is resorting to some obvious tricks to further his campaign, going so far as to tell a Japanese politician on May 7 that, under present circumstances, Ronald Reagan has a 60-70% chance of winning re-election in November.

Strauss's bid may get some help from Lane Kirkland, the Trilateral Commission's head of the AFL-CIO. The number-one Mondale endorser is reportedly planning a huge demonstration at the Democrats' July nominating convention against the "post-industrial" policies represented by the Hart camp.