

## Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### Eagleton replay?

Is Geraldine Ferraro headed for the same fate as Thomas Eagleton? Will Mondale be forced to dump her as his running-mate like he dumped Bert Lance or, more to the point, like George McGovern dropped Eagleton in 1972? And, if Mondale does have to get rid of her, will he himself survive till November?

These are some of the burning questions which are now dominating the inner councils of the Mondale campaign, prompted by a seemingly endless series of revelations about Ms. Ferraro's "slum and slut" connections which have hit the press.

The prospect of an Eagleton replay has increased dramatically over the past week. The conservative Washington Legal Foundation filed a complaint with the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the U.S. Department of Justice Aug. 7, contending that Ferraro did not properly disclose her finances in documents submitted to Congress.

The Committee announced that it will act on the charges by Sept. 12. According to the *New York Tribune*, House Democrats had already launched their own "informal investigation" and found such "serious errors" that "certain circles" on Capitol Hill are betting on what date Ferraro will withdraw from the ticket.

These developments are generating such heat that Mondale, Ferraro, and Ferraro's patron, House Speaker Tip O'Neill, have all been compelled to issue official denials of any wrongdoing.

Mondale is said to be extremely upset about the situation, as well he should be, since his running-mate is rapidly turning out to be a female Frankenstein.

### Bottomless pit

This column reported July 31 on some of the early information that had emerged concerning Ferraro's failure to disclose her husband's substantial business holdings. We also reported our suspicions that "Mr. Ferraro" (John Zaccaro) might be linked to organized crime.

But even we were somewhat shocked by the extent of the Zaccaro-Ferraro tie to what can only be termed some of the dirtiest and most sordid of criminal activities.

According to copyrighted articles in the *Tribune*, which *EIR* has subsequently confirmed, Zaccaro is manager and part-owner of a building which houses a major pornography distribution center linked to the DeCavalcante and Gambino organized crime families. The building, at 200 Lafayette Street, houses the distribution headquarters of Star Enterprises, Media Distributors, and Bonate, Inc., which disseminate such hardcore filth as *Whips & Chains*, *Screw*, and *Smut* magazines. *EIR* is now investigating leads that these outfits may also be involved in child pornography.

That's only the beginning of the scandal. The officers of Star Distributors are Theodore Rothstein and Robert DiBernardo. The latter is listed by the New York Police Department and the Justice Department as a member of the Sam DeCavalcante family, as well as a close associate of Ettore Zappi, capo of the New York Gambino family.

According to Pat Casey, director of the California Attorney General's Bureau of Organized Crime and Criminal Intelligence, "Star is one of the biggest [pornography] distributors. . . . DiBernardo was in charge of distribution of pornography for the two families."

That's not all. It turns out that an-

other building managed by Zaccaro's company, P. Zaccaro & Co., houses one of the largest gambling dens in New York's Chinatown. The building, at 68 Mott Street, has been the scene of more than 100 arrests for illegal gambling in the past five years.

According to Sgt. James McVeety of the New York Police Department's "Jade Squad," which probes Chinatown vice activities, the club is "one of the well-known gambling holes. We have raided them pretty consistently over the years." Police sources cited by the *Tribune* confirmed that the gambling club has ties to Chinese organized crime.

Although Zaccaro has denied any knowledge of the building or what goes on in it, police spokesman Norris Holoman told the *Tribune* that under department policy, the manager of a building that has been raided by police is notified of the action by city authorities.

### Smut queen

It's bad enough that the spouse of a vice-presidential candidate is involved in such activities, but in this case, Ferraro herself is directly implicated. Ferraro lists herself as secretary-treasurer and stockholder in her husband's firm—meaning, among other things, that she makes money from the sale of pornographic materials.

No doubt this is the major reason why Ferraro has consistently omitted her husband's business dealings on her financial disclosure forms.

The problem here is that members of Congress are legally exempted from reporting their spouse's holdings *only* if they are not aware of, or do not benefit from them. Given Ferraro's direct relationship to P. Zaccaro and Co., it's awfully hard to see how she could claim either exemption.