

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Bradley visits Moscow; candidacy next?

Speculation that New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley might be getting ready to enter the presidential race has redoubled, in the wake of his January visit to the Soviet Union.

It has become an informal tradition for Democratic presidential hopefuls of a certain stripe to trot off to Moscow to get the Kremlin's imprimatur on their political ambitions: Gary Hart and Al Gore both undertook the trip prior to announcing their candidacies, and now, Bradley has followed suit.

Bradley got the red carpet treatment on the trip, which took him from Moscow to Baku and Tbilisi. He held a cozy tête-à-tête with Anatoly Dobrynin, formerly ambassador to the United States and now secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee. According to a Jan. 13 Tass wire, they discussed the "advantages" of the INF treaty, "the pre-election situation in the United States," and the prospects for increased U.S.-Soviet economic cooperation.

Bradley gave a glowing report on Mikhail Gorbachov's perestroika upon his return to the United States. Repeating the Soviet line verbatim, he told the Jan. 22 *Newark Star-Ledger* he was "rooting" for Gorbachov's economic reforms, and claimed the Soviet leader was trying to shift resources away from the military to the domestic sectors.

"Perestroika is a little bit like jazz," he said. "They are a fourth of the way into the piece and they know where they want to go, but they don't know how to get there."

Terry and Gore: married in Moscow

Speaking of the Soviet faction in the Democratic Party, Bradley's Senate colleague and possible rival for the party's nomination, Al Gore, has picked up an endorsement from a rather interesting quarter: Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry.

Terry has been smack in the middle of the Justice Department's politically motivated witchhunt against another Democratic presidential candidate, Lyndon H. LaRouche, and his supporters, which was undertaken at Moscow's behest. Moscow wants to eliminate LaRouche and his ideas, recognizing him as the chief political threat in the West to Mother Russia's imperial design.

Gore's main political patron is Armand Hammer, the Soviets' favorite billionaire, and a key player in the "Get LaRouche" operation. Despite his attempt to portray himself as the "conservative" Democrat in the presidential campaign, Gore's positions on such crucial issues as the INF treaty and the SDI, toe the Moscow line; hence, his nickname, "the American Gorbachov."

Terry's endorsement of Gore's presidential bid, announced at an Arlington, Virginia, press conference Jan. 23, raises some obvious conflict-of-interest questions: Did she use her office to connive in the judicial persecution of one presidential candidate's supporters, in order to benefit another's?

A deal between Bush and Kemp?

Is Jack Kemp angling for the vice presidential slot on a Republican pres-

idential ticket headed by George Bush? That's what GOP candidate Pat Robertson's supporters are charging, after Kemp abruptly ended an arrangement he'd had with the TV preacher to block Bush's delegate-gathering efforts in Michigan.

Kemp's move came just a week prior to the Jan. 29 state party convention, and, according to Robertson strategists, will enable Bush to rack up a major victory there. The Kemp-Bush deal could give Bush 35 of Michigan's 77 national delegates, Kemp 30, and Robertson, who has invested massive resources in the state, a mere 12.

Robertson campaign officials accused Kemp of "betrayal." "We're very disappointed by Jack Kemp personally. . . . [He's] a Washington insider, so he cut a Washington insider deal, a backroom deal."

Robertson himself was even more blunt: Kemp is looking to become Bush's vice president, he contended.

That's not just sour grapes on Robertson's part: Just a few weeks before Kemp broke his alliance with the evangelist, he had received the endorsement of a prominent figure in the Bush "old boys" network, Max Hugel. Since Kemp's chances of garnering the GOP presidential nomination are exceedingly slim, the best explanation for the Hugel endorsement is a Kemp-Bush deal. The arrangement would benefit Bush by giving him an "in" with the conservative wing of the party, the old Reagan coalition.

Another signal that a Bush-Kemp agreement is in the works came from Rev. Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority, and a Bush supporter. Falwell, no friend of Robertson's, avidly pushed Kemp for the vice president's slot in an interview with the Jan. 15 *Washington Times*. Kemp would make "an ideal running mate" for Bush, Falwell said.