

## Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### 'Front-runners' see more troubles ahead

Bill Clinton and George Bush came out of the March 10 "Super Tuesday" primaries as the putative Democratic and Republican front-runners, but they may not hold onto that status for long.

On the Republican side, Pat Buchanan didn't win any primaries, but he continued to eat away at Bush, garnering anywhere from 16% of the vote in Mississippi to 32% in both Florida and Rhode Island.

As far as "Slick Willy" Clinton is concerned, many Democratic activists harbor deep concerns that the scandals which have dogged his campaign are merely the tip of the iceberg. If he wins the nomination, they fear Republicans will dredge up all sorts of as-yet-unpublished dirt that will knock him out of the running.

"Bill Clinton is one shoe-dropping away from imploding," Democratic consultant Alan Secret told the March 11 *USA Today*. "The question is, where and when?"

Exit polls continue to register an extraordinarily high level of dissatisfaction with all the major candidates. A poll of voters in five of the Super Tuesday primaries showed that only 39% of Democrats, and 45% of Republicans, strongly favor any of their party's candidates.

### Bush's health a campaign issue

The state of George Bush's mental and physical health has started to emerge as a campaign issue, with possibly disastrous consequences for the incumbent.

The London *Times*, representing an influential segment of the Anglo-American establishment, published a

lengthy article on March 10, which painted a grim picture of Bush's physical and emotional health.

The article is based principally on discussions with Stanford professor Dr. Herbert Abrams, an expert on the health of world leaders, who has just published a book, *The President Has Been Shot* (New York: W.W. Norton), on the 25th Amendment (which governs the succession in cases where a President is incapacitated).

As part of his research, Abrams was given access to Bush's medical records, and came to the conclusion that Bush is in danger of crippling his party's election prospects because of lack of public confidence in his health "after his hospitalization for heart fibrillations and his startling collapse in Japan."

Abrams said that more and more people are asking him about the possibility of Bush having a heart attack, about whether the 25th Amendment might be invoked, and about Dan Quayle's chances of becoming acting President.

The *Times* is not the only press to raise the possibility that Bush may be unfit to run for reelection due to his medical condition.

In early March, the White House was forced to deny rumors circulating in the Washington press corps that the President's cardiac condition was going to require a pacemaker, and that he had already been put on nitroglycerin pills. And during CBS News's coverage of the Super Tuesday returns March 10, anchor Dan Rather made several references to Bush's health problems as a potential bar to his re-nomination.

Meanwhile, the Dan Quayle fan club continues to beat the drums for its favorite presidential candidate. The March 10 *Wall Street Journal* ran a commentary by its editor, Robert Bartley, stating that the failure of any

of the current candidates, including Bush, to command popular support, suggests that Quayle should get into the race.

### LaRouche shapes economic debate

Although every effort has been made by the establishment to destroy Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche's influence—he is not only in federal prison on trumped-up charges, but has been denied federal campaign matching funds, given almost no media coverage, and kept out of the presidential debates—he nevertheless is making his presence felt in the election campaign.

In the Super Tuesday voting, LaRouche won 2% of the vote in Oklahoma, and 1% in a number of other states, including Texas and Louisiana. The percentage could have run much higher, had LaRouche not been blacked out by the major media, which caused many voters to believe he was not on the ballot.

Moreover, LaRouche's policies are having a definite impact on the election debate over economic policy. In the wake of widely viewed and enthusiastically received national television shows, several of the presidential candidates have picked up on key elements of LaRouche's platform.

Jerry Brown, for example, is calling for large-scale port development, to be serviced by a network of high-speed trains.

And Pat Buchanan, who has heretofore embraced a strictly "free market" approach, said he would revive President John F. Kennedy's investment tax credit to spur an industrial recovery. This is an idea which LaRouche, alone, among U.S. politicians and economists, has vigorously advocated.