

## Elephants & Donkeys by Katherine R. Notley

### Churches not thrilled with Bush-Clinton duo

George Bush presented a queer interpretation of family values to a conference of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition on Sept. 11, saying that when he talks about "family values," he doesn't mean the traditional nuclear family. Maintaining that "the family is at the center of America," Bush went on to say that family values does not mean a return to "the days of Ozzie and Harriet." "That may be wrong," he said, "but nor do I pass judgment on the kind of family you live in." Families are not measured by "what kind," he said, "but by how close." Bush's remarks came just a few days after Dan Quayle publicly patted the Bush administration on the back for having hired homosexuals and lesbians.

Earlier Robertson had told reporters that if Bush "doesn't mobilize his right wing, that he'll lose the election." Robertson claimed that 83% of evangelicals voted for Bush in 1988, "and that accounted for probably 25% of his total electoral coalition. If you lose that, you lose the election."

Meantime, "Slick Willie" Clinton thought he could curry votes at Notre Dame University by invoking Catholic social teachings to promote abortion. "All of us must respect the reflection of God's image in every man and woman. And so we must value their freedom, not just their political freedom but their freedom of conscience—in matters of philosophy and family and faith," said Clinton, in an obvious reference to "abortion rights."

More recently, Mr. "Lesser of Two Evils" was blasted by the leader of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., at their convention in

Houston on Sept. 10. The Rev. E. Edward Jones, chairman of the 4.5 million-member denomination, attacked Clinton, a professed Baptist, in his keynote for not attending the convention. Jones told the 15,000 delegates that Clinton's failure to attend shows that he does not know that "we are not an insignificant society," one that can be ignored.

Reverend Jones also attacked George Bush's North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in his speech, while many convention delegates also expressed their anger at Clinton: Rev. J.D. Williams, the Home Mission Board chairman, told the *Houston Post* that Clinton seems to be trying to "out-Bush Bush."

### Workfare, Dixie-style

Claiming that people on welfare are "dying" for an alternative "to the welfare system as we know it," Bill ("Bull") Clinton declared on Sept. 9: "People who can work, ought to go to work, and no one should be able to stay on welfare forever."

Speaking to social workers in Jonesboro, Georgia, outside Atlanta, Clinton announced a \$6 billion plan to reform welfare over the next four years. With an unspecified program of education, job training, child care, and transportation, Clinton would terminate all welfare payments at the end of two years. "Everyone on welfare would have to go to work," Clinton said, either in a private sector job or in "community service" jobs funded by the state or local government.

He also called for a crackdown to enforce child-support payments, through the creation of a nationwide databank that would automatically

withhold wages and notify credit agencies of nonpayments. Clinton said his plan represents "real family values," declaring that "we ought to be pro-child and pro-work, and that's what this plan is."

### Clinton, Gore blanch at sight of Bush bio

Clinton and side-kick Sen. Al Gore were on the Texas campaign trail in late August, at a large rally in Austin, to which they had invited former Sen. Ralph Yarborough, pleading that the party needed his presence. Senior statesman Yarborough, who defeated Bush in the 1964 senatorial race, showed up on the podium carrying two copies of *EIR's* book *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography*.

Yarborough presented a copy to Bill Clinton, saying it was the most honest treatment of Bush in print. He demanded that Clinton use it, and that it would make Clinton a better Democrat. Yarborough also criticized the party's pro-death penalty stand. Clinton replied that he had already received the book in the mail. (He had received it from *EIR* Houston bureau chief Harley Schlanger, to whom Clinton had written a reply that he would enjoy reading it in the White House—apparently not before.)

Clinton pushed the persistent Yarborough over to Al Gore. Yarborough demanded that Gore take the book, and Gore replied that he, too, had already received it—from his father, former Sen. Al Gore, Sr. The elder Gore was especially enthusiastic about Chapter 10's inspiring account of Yarborough's defeat of Bush. Yarborough also put a copy in Hillary Clinton's hand, and she was seen holding the book at the rally.