

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Brown, Clinton ready to attack Iraq again

Jerry Brown and Bill Clinton may be running against George Bush, but they totally agree with the current White House occupant's barbaric policy toward Iraq.

During a joint appearance on Ted Koppel's "Nightline" television show on March 24, the two Democratic candidates expressed wholehearted support for a new military strike against Iraq, which has become an increasing likelihood in the context of Bush's domestic political woes.

Koppel posed the question: "If either one of you was President now and facing precisely the kind of situation that the world is facing with Saddam Hussein right now, what would you do?"

"I'd work within the U.N. framework," responded Brown. "I'd tighten up the boycott. But if it required it, with U.N. approval, we'd go in and take whatever action was necessary to get rid of those nuclear weapons." Asked specifically if he would use "force . . . air power," Brown elaborated: "Yes, [but] only within the framework of that U.N. agreement."

Clinton, who, unlike Brown, had publicly backed Bush's war against Iraq last year, said he too would be willing to deploy the military against Iraq again. In response to Koppel's query, Clinton said, "The way I read the law and the agreement, we have the authority to go now if our allies who took military action before want to go with us. . . . If I were President, I would take whatever action was necessary if they refused to comply with [the] deadlines."

Clinton said he would "certainly support" an air strike "if that were the only way to stop the development of nuclear capacity. . . . There has to be a deadline. It has to be observed. And

you can't rule out military force as a lost option. It would have to be undertaken."

Clinton stressed that he "supported the Israeli strike several years ago when they knocked [out] a research reactor in Iraq," adding: "I think you've got to eliminate Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapons capacity. . . . Ultimately that's a threat we can't tolerate."

Brown's insider ties

Jerry Brown's attempt to paint himself as a latter-day Sir Galahad leading the charge against "insider" greed and corruption lost some of its steam, when the March 29 *Washington Post* published a front-page exposé on Brown's financial ties to businessman Milan Panic.

Panic, the main contributor to the political action committee which financed Brown's political activities after he left office, runs a firm called ICN Pharmaceuticals. Brown served on ICN's board for several years, from 1988 through 1991, for which he received \$20,000 a year.

In 1988, while a board member, Brown called Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) asking him to help ICN in a dispute with the Food and Drug Administration over the licensing of the drug ribavirin. Waxman said he told Brown that the request was inappropriate.

Last year, ICN was forced to pay a \$400,000 penalty and \$200,000 in expenses to settle civil charges stemming from the firm's illegal promotion of ribavirin as a treatment for AIDS. The company also signed a consent decree with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and desisted from claims that the drug would slow the onset of AIDS symptoms in HIV-infected persons.

Clinton raking in Wall Street funds

If Bill Clinton's front-runner status gets destroyed by a poor showing in the April 7 New York primary, it won't be for lack of support from Wall Street's finest. The Arkansan has been raking in buckets of money from some of the most corrupt elements of New York's financial elite.

According to published accounts, key Clinton backers and fundraisers in New York include:

- Arthur Liman, from the law firm of Paul, Weiss, who was deeply involved in the Drexel Burnham scam, and who served as lawyer for junk-bond king Michael Milken. Before that, he served as a lawyer for the notorious Bernie Cornfeld/IOS scam, which fronted for organized crime. In 1987, Liman was counsel to the special congressional panel which investigated the Iran-Contra scandal, and contributed to the massive coverup which left the "secret government" virtually intact.

- Roger Altman, partner in the Blackstone Group, which specializes in buying up bankrupt S&Ls. The group is headed by Peter Peterson, chairman of the board of the New York Council on Foreign Relations.

- Kenneth Brody, a limited partner at Goldman Sachs, and, according to the April 6 *Business Week*, the "architect of Clinton's New York fundraising." Another Goldman Sachs partner, Robert Rubin, is also raising money for Clinton.

- Theodore Ammon, partner in Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the leading buy-out bandits of the merger and acquisitions junk-bond mania of the 1980s.

- Peter Tufo, partner at Felix Rohatyn's investment bank Lazard Frères.