

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Hart, Mondale fizzle

The results of Super Tuesday's 11 primaries and caucuses proved two things: that the bulk of Democratic voters remain wildly unenthusiastic about the crop of "officially approved" Democratic presidential candidates, and that whatever support does exist for the two top contenders, Gary Hart and Walter Mondale, is largely a media creation.

Voter turnout March 13 was abysmally low, as voters stayed away from the polls in droves. In the Democratic stronghold of Massachusetts, for example, only 25% of registered Democrats thought enough of the entrants to cast ballots; 627,000 Democrats voted, compared to 906,000 in 1980. In Georgia, voter turnout averaged only 28% statewide.

Sources in the big industrial states where key primaries will be held over the next few weeks report that neither Hart nor Mondale has a grassroots machine in place. As one old-line "Daley Democrat" from Chicago bluntly put it: "These campaigns are all being run by TV. I've never seen anything like it. There aren't any machines anymore. I'm disgusted!"

Mondale's problems: drugs and . . .

Although Walter Mondale made what the press is touting as a "big comeback"—simply because the erstwhile frontrunner managed to eke out narrow victories in Alabama and Georgia while losing Massachusetts, Florida, and Rhode Island to "new age" candidate Gary Hart—Mondale's labor support continues to evaporate.

Despite an AFL-CIO "Fritz blitz" in Massachusetts, exit polls showed that Hart took 42% of the union vote,

to an insultingly low 27% for Mondale. But that doesn't mean labor likes the Senator from Aquarius; it simply reflects the contempt that the union rank-and-file has for AFL-CIO chief-tain Lane Kirkland, and his orders to "vote Fritz."

What does labor say about Hart in private? One steelworker local president in Pennsylvania says "We call him the Edsel version of JFK." And another asks: "Who is this guy, anyway? Did he fall out of a tree?"

Meanwhile, private AFL-CIO polls show Mondale badly trailing Hart in Michigan, and Building Trades leaders are reportedly threatening to oust Kirkland if Mondale continues to falter.

An article titled "Mondale Taking Medication That Poses Questions About His Health," appearing in the March 12 issue of the *New York Tribune* over the byline Lewis Kaplan, poses troublesome questions about Mondale's mental stability. Kaplan notes that Mondale "is in a state of depression," due partly to the panoply of drugs he is taking for high blood pressure.

Kaplan reports that starting in 1970, Mondale began to take hydrochlorothiazide for high blood pressure. To this, in 1973, were added hydralazine hydrochloride and diazide. "These are some of the adverse reactions that can be expected from hydralazine: . . . Headache, palpitations, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. . . ; nasal congestion and flushing, evidenced by numbness and cramps, dizziness, tremors, muscle cramps, *psychotic reactions characterized by depression, disorientation or anxiety* [emphasis added]."

In August 1983, Mondale's doctor added the drug atenolol. Possible reactions to that include: "Reversible mental *depression*, progressing to *catatonia*, visual disturbances, *hallucinations*, acute reversible syndrome characterized by *disorientation of time and place, short-term memory loss,*

emotional lability, slightly clouded sensorium, and decreased performance [emphasis added]."

Jesse on the skids?

And Jesse Jackson is having troubles of his own. Though he scored 21% in Georgia's primary—requalifying him for federal matching funds—he did not do as well as anticipated among southern black voters. In Alabama, Jackson garnered only 51% of the black vote to 44% for Mondale—a telltale indication that the Chicago-based preacher's radical image, Libyan financing, and tasteless ethnic references don't sit too well with more traditionally oriented black voters.

Kissinger costing Reagan support

Private surveys conducted by *EIR* indicate that there is a very strong undercurrent of disaffection among loyal Reagan Republicans and Democrats who voted for Reagan in 1980. The cause: Henry Kissinger's increasing domination over the Reagan administration.

The trend is particularly noticeable in the President's home state, California. One resident, a Democrat who went for Reagan last time around, says she is "horrified" at Kissinger's comeback. "I've been watching the President over the last seven months, and noticed a remarkable change. He doesn't seem to be his own man anymore. Now I know why," she said, referring to Kissinger's appointment to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Another Californian, who describes herself as a "loyal Republican going back 41 years" and has certificates of merit from Sen. Paul Laxalt to show it, recently wrote to Laxalt, one of Reagan's closest friends, vehemently protesting Kissinger's reentry into the administration.