

## Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### 'Wife of a slumlord'

Fritz Mondale's naming of Geraldine Ferraro to be his vice-presidential running mate may have brought no end of joy to the radical feminists, but otherwise it's shaping up as a liability to a ticket already headed for defeat.

Along with Bert Lance, who was forced to leave the Carter administration when he was charged with bank fraud, Ferraro personifies the sleaze factor in the Democratic Party. According to various sources, Mondale aides are "nervous" about some of the revelations about Ferraro. They should be.

"Ferraro is the wife of a distinguished New York slumlord," was how presidential contender Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. characterized the congresswoman.

That's no exaggeration. Ferraro's husband, John Zaccaro, has made a financial killing as a "real-estate developer" specializing in loft conversions in Manhattan's Soho district. He also owns properties in Chinatown and Little Italy in downtown Manhattan.

According to news reports, Zaccaro's buildings have been repeatedly cited for violating the city's building code. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Zaccaro "has been criticized by some of his tenants as a landlord who skimps on heat and building repairs," and that the buildings he owns are "inadequately heated during the winter and are often in poor repair."

Madame Ferraro, who last week said President Reagan "is not a Christian" because he isn't compassionate toward the poor, served as the secretary and treasurer of Zaccaro's firm.

Ferraro used the proceeds from her husband's slumlord business to buy a congressional seat. Subsequently, Zaccaro was fined by the Federal Election Commission for having made illegal loans to his wife's 1978 congressional campaign.

### Organized crime?

However, the Zaccaro-Ferraro problem goes beyond simple avarice. There is ample evidence to suggest that behind her carefully cultivated "I'm just a middle-class housewife from Queens" facade, Ferraro ties into some pretty suspect operations.

*EIR* is investigating several leads indicating that Zaccaro may be linked to organized crime, specifically the Joey Gallo mob. Moreover, New York's speculative real-estate market functions as a major money-laundering center for the international drug trade. As anyone familiar with it knows, it is nearly impossible to make the kind of money Zaccaro has by honest means.

And make money he has—although exactly how much is not yet known, since Congresswoman Ferraro somehow managed to forget to disclose his income as is required by financial disclosure regulations governing members of Congress.

Judging by their circumstances, it must be quite a pile. The Zaccaro-Ferraros not only live in an exclusive section of Forest Hills, but they also maintain residences in St. Croix and Fire Island, as well as a pied-à-terre in Washington, and have educated their children at such Eastern Establishment preserves as Spence and Choate. So much for Ms. Ferraro's "Archie Bunker" profile.

### A female Tip O'Neill

It's not just the sleazy aspect in Ferraro's background which has caused many Democrats to view her as an albatross around the party's neck. The fact that she comes from the ultra-liberal, pro-Soviet wing of the party isn't helping.

Ferraro is the creature of House Speaker Tip O'Neill, who picked her

up when she arrived on Capitol Hill as a freshman in 1979 and proceeded to get her such plum positions as a seat on the House Budget Committee, chairman of the 1984 party platform committee, and then plugged her for the vice-presidency for months.

Ferraro has repaid O'Neill in spades. She has consistently lined up with the Kennedy wing of the party, voting against the MX missile, beam weapons, ASAT testing, and the deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles to Western Europe, and for the nuclear freeze.

She also co-sponsored House Joint Resolution 120—the anti-space defense resolution which the Soviet embassy in Washington helped draft.

Like Gary Hart, Ferraro is an "Atari Democrat" who wants to dismantle the American economy under the rubric of a "post-industrial transformation." She's an ardent advocate of legalized casino gambling, "pro-choice" on the abortion issue, and for the ERA.

With Hart, Ferraro was one of 35 international up-and-comers invited to participate in a January 1983 conference called "1983/2003: Transitions in Industrial Democracies in the Next 20 Years." Sponsored by the Aspen Institute, the meeting discussed how to replace nation-states with a "new age" world-federalist structure.

Then there's the question of the vice-presidential hopeful's personal truthfulness. Ferraro has repeatedly claimed that she kept her maiden name in gratitude to her mother. But it now turns out that Ferraro used her married name until the eve of her first congressional campaign. She obtained a court order in May 1978 changing it back to Ferraro, because her political advisers told her she could capitalize on the record of her cousin, Nicholas Ferraro, a well-known former state senator and Queens district attorney from the same area as Mrs. Zaccaro.