

Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Hart gets the 'LaRouche treatment'

Sen. Gary Hart's presidential campaign has been rocked by a series of dirty tricks carried out by the political apparatus associated with former Democratic National Committee chairman Robert Strauss and the Carter-Mondale network which controls the Democratic Party.

These are the same networks which are trampling over the rights of another Democratic presidential candidate, Lyndon H. LaRouche. While Hart's constitutional rights have not been violated to the same degree as those of LaRouche and his supporters, the fact that his campaign is being targeted so flagrantly, demonstrates just how far the "secret government" is prepared to go to wipe out anyone considered to be politically problematic.

The first major blow to Hart came April 15, when federal marshals walked into a campaign fundraiser in Los Angeles, and seized approximately \$30,000 in contributions, to satisfy debt Hart incurred during his 1984 bid. The action was preceded by a massive media campaign, focusing on Hart's financial difficulties, complete with interviews with disgruntled contributors and creditors.

The action was blatantly illegal. As Hart campaign spokesman Brian Sweeney noted, under U.S. election law, funds raised for Hart's 1988 campaign cannot be legally attached to pay off debts from the 1984 campaign, be-

cause the two campaign committees are separate entities.

Hart issued a statement April 16 implying that the action was politically motivated.

At the end of April, Hart's campaign manager, William Dixon, confirmed that the Federal Election Commission has gotten into the act against Hart. Dixon said that the FEC is probing the 1984 campaign for possible election-law violations. The FEC, which has come under repeated criticism from disparate political quarters for its unconstitutional activities, is investigating charges that a Virginia advertising company, Group III Communications, violated campaign finance law by extending more than \$400,000 in credit to the Hart effort in 1984. The FEC is in the process of determining whether this constitutes a corporate contribution.

In addition, the FEC is also looking into whether the use of Hart's personal AMEX card to cover \$20,000 of campaign debt in 1984 violated federal campaign laws.

While Hart and LaRouche differ markedly on most major policy issues, political and intelligence-community sources say that the same powerful political faction which has been trying to shut LaRouche down, is also orchestrating the recent attacks on Hart. Hart has based his political strategy on running against the power-brokers who currently control the Democratic Party, notably including Texas wheeler-dealer Bob Strauss, who is also reputedly directing the operation against LaRouche.

Ironically, Strauss recently volunteered his services to Hart, pledging to help him retire his 1984 campaign debt. But reliable sources tell *EIR*, that Strauss is the proverbial Trojan Horse, and is offering his assistance merely to insinuate himself into Hart's inner circle, where he will proceed to at-

tempt to wreck the campaign from within.

Al Gore's campaign: crime and punishment

Sen. Al Gore (D-Tenn.), who announced his interest in the Democratic presidential nomination in early April, is quickly emerging as the fair-haired *wunderkind* of liberal Democratic circles. Richard Gardner, former Carter administration honcho, is just one of many well-placed Eastern Establishment types who is promoting the pretty boy from Tennessee for the Oval Office.

Gore has also received the backing of Impac 88, a group of Democratic Party moneybags organized by Washington metro-area real-estate speculator Nathan Landow, a top fundraiser for Democratic Party and Jewish causes.

Shortly after Gore announced, Landow held a press conference to pledge that he and 17 other members of Impac 88 plan to raise a whopping \$4 million for Gore's campaign coffers.

But Gore may be getting more than he bargained for: It turns out that Landow has a rather questionable past, which includes dealings with reputed organized-crime figures. In 1978, when Landow was pressing the Carter White House to name him ambassador to Holland, the *Washington Post* reported he had hired an underworld figure as a consultant on a proposed Atlantic City hotel and casino. That killed his ambassadorial ambitions, but, as a booby prize, he was named a U.S. representative to the United Nations.

Along with Gore's ties to long-time Soviet agent Armand Hammer (Gore's father, former Sen. Al Gore, sits on Occidental Petroleum's board), the Landow connection could spell trouble down the road.