

Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Bill Clinton's cocaine connection

Democratic front-runner Bill Clinton has been caught in another explosive scandal.

The March 23 *Los Angeles Times* revealed that the Arkansas governor has personally lobbied state legislators to award a state bond contract to one of his political backers, a Little Rock investment banker named Dan Lasater, even though Lasater was widely known to be the subject of a cocaine probe.

Lasater was ultimately convicted and jailed on drug charges, although Clinton issued him a pardon after he got out of jail.

Lasater's company was awarded a state bond contract to finance a new state police communications system in 1985. However, the contract was held up when the Arkansas Legislative Council failed to endorse the award.

At this point, Clinton intervened, persuading three members of the council to drop their opposition to the bond contract. According to FBI documents obtained by the *Los Angeles Times*, one of Lasater's partners, George Locke, stated flat out, "Because Lasater and Co. backed the right individual in Governor Clinton, Lasater and Co. received the contract."

Three months before Clinton lobbied on his behalf, Lasater had been identified in a court hearing in Hot Springs, Arkansas as the prospective target in a cocaine sting.

In December 1986, Lasater pleaded guilty to federal drug charges of cocaine possession and distribution, and was given a 2½ year sentence. FBI documents cited by the *Times* show that Lasater admitted that he gave cocaine to his friends, employ-

ees, and business associates on more than 180 occasions.

Bill Clinton was not the only member of his family to receive favors from Lasater, in the form of campaign contributions and rides on his private plane; so did Slick Willie's half-brother, Roger, who also served time on drug charges.

The *Times* reported that Lasater told the FBI he loaned Roger Clinton \$8,000 to pay off cocaine debts in 1984, after Roger Clinton said that cocaine dealers were "putting the heat on him and something might happen to his brother [Bill] and his mother." Moreover, Lasater told the FBI that he had once given Roger a job in his stables.

Roger Clinton was arrested in Hot Springs in 1984 on five counts of distributing cocaine and one count of conspiracy to distribute. After pleading guilty, he served just over one year in a federal prison.

Mob lawyer chairs Clinton campaign

Bill Clinton recently named a key Democratic insider—and mob lawyer—Michael "Mickey" Kantor, a partner in the law firm of former Democratic National Committee chairman Charles "Banker" Manatt, as his national campaign chairman.

A recent *Washington Post* profile described Kantor as "a Los Angeles mega-lawyer with clients like Occidental Petroleum" and "perhaps the most influential Democrat west of the Mississippi."

The *Post* said Kantor's recent "ascendance signifies the campaign's transformation from the candidate's personal fief to a Democratic juggernaut," given that Kantor is "vast, powerful, [and] connected."

Kantor and the Manatt firm repre-

sent the circles of the late Averell Harriman, as well as the Hollywood organized crime circles associated with Paul Ziffren and Sidney Korshak, which have run the California Democratic Party since it was revived after World War II.

Hillary Clinton vs. the family

Bill Clinton is fond of telling campaign audiences that he's all for restoring traditional family values. But his wife, Hillary, also a Yale Law School graduate, has been a leading advocate of a new legal theory of "children's rights" which represents a major attack on the institution of the family.

According to an article in the March 5 *New York Review of Books*, Mrs. Clinton has been in the vanguard of a movement to overturn the traditional concept that children should be subject to their parents' authority, in favor of the idea that children should be declared legally "competent."

In practice, this would destroy parental authority, and with it, the family, leading inexorably to the obscene situation that prevails in Sweden, where "children's rights" are frequently used to seize children from parents who are considered out of step with Swedish totalitarian liberalism.

In Mrs. Clinton's *Brave New World*, a child would have the right to sue his parents on a wide range of issues, ranging from his "right" to have a homosexual affair to his "right" to commit suicide.

"Decisions about motherhood and abortion, schooling, cosmetic surgery, treatment of venereal disease, or employment, and others where the decision or lack of one will significantly affect the child's future should not be made unilaterally by parents," she wrote in 1979.