

February 2000

Dear Sam --

The ultra-conservative Republican establishment tried to coronate Bush as the next emperor of the US, but he was challenged by McCain, playing the role of a reformer & social moderate, in spite of his corrupt (e.g. Keating 5) & socially conservative (abortion, civil rights) record. McCain seems to be beating Bush as I write this, but he has already retreated to the social right. Nonetheless, a McCain shake-up of the Republican establishment would be pleasant.

The ultra-right have driven Ventura out of the Reform party, & it seems that they would like to kill off all third party action, & let the Reform party wither away. The media is saying that US independents no longer want a third party movement, which is obviously false. Ventura has returned to his own Minn Independence party, & has suggested that libertarians throughout the country follow the example of Minn & either form other state Independence parties, or pull state Reform parties away from the right-wing national Reform party leadership, & join them to a national Independence party movement. If libertarians insist upon continuing to work with Ventura to create a third party, the ultra-right seems ready to turn the Reform party into a nazi party under Buchanan & Duke, rather than let it fall back into the hands of Ventura & the libertarians.

Trump has dropped out of the presidential sweepstakes, where he had the same billionaire non-appeal as Forbes. I still say Ventura should try to draft Gov Johnson of NM to run for president in 00, now on an Independence ticket. And I still fantasize about Marla Maples as a libertarian congresswoman.

Sincerely,

Elliot