Souljah stirs hatred

Governor Clinton's remarks are justified

he fire on Vice President Dan Quayle's criticism of television character Murphy Brown has begun to wane, but not before an outbreak in another area. Only this week the target is different, and so is the issue.

Arkansas governor and democratic presidential hopeful Bill Clinton has been praised by some and condemned by others for his rebuke Saturday of rap singer Sister Souljah's views on the

Souljah was quoted by The Washington Post as saying, "I



mean if black people kill black people every day, why not have a week and kill white people?"

Clinton called the remark, "the kind of hatred we do not need."

Jesse Jackson said Clinton's comments showed poor judgment and constituted an attack on Souljah's character and reputation.

Souljah said her remarks were taken out of context and criticized Clinton of

trying to win moderate white voters.

Others commended Clinton for gambling that more white Americans would be impressed that he stood up to Jackson than black people would be offended.

Our own Sen. Bob Kerrey said Tuesday that Clinton merely did what was right.

"What the rap artist was quoted as saying was ignorant, racist and self-destructive. Nothing more," Kerrey said. "These comments on their face warrant an outcry of condemnation."

Doing, or rather saying, the right thing seems to be the issue

Souljah's comments can't do any good. How much more encouragement is needed for the killing to continue? One life taken, white, black or any other color, is one life too many.

Her statement is filled with hatred. The fact that more black teenage males die of gunshot wounds than any other cause is a great tragedy, but so is taking life so lightly as to celebrate a week of killing white people because they're white.

We don't need this hatred. Hatred started this war, but it can't end it, only keep it going.

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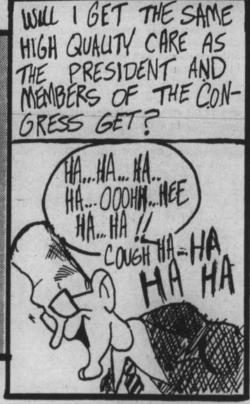
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Can Perot become president?

e has been called a monster by White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater and a temperamental tycoon by Vice President Dan Quayle. And because people seem to be blindly following him, he has even been compared to Hitler by the Mayor of Cleveland. He's Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who announced, seemingly out of the blue, that if enough petitions were gathered to put him on the ballot on all 50 states, he would run for president as an independent candidate.

George Bush and Bill Clinton are both stunned by Perot's strength. Political experts don't know who he's hurting more. His name is on the ballot in eleven states already, including the two important states of Texas and Florida. He has been leading Bush and Clinton in poll after poll. And the parties have no one to blame but themselves.

Critics of Perot say he hasn't declared a stand on most of the important issues or proposed plans to solve problems facing us, but here's what we do know about Perot: As President, he would hold frequent national town hall meetings where the American public would call in and vote on the issues. But our system is a representative democracy, with the public electing individuals to represent them in Congress.

An important issue of his is the budget deficit. He says if he's elected, he would "go in there and fix it." But that's all he says. This John Wayne-type of solution might have worked in his financial operations, but it won't work in a more complex problem like the budget deficit. If it were that easy, we would have a balanced budget by now.

He appears to be a man of action as well as a risk taker. He launched Electronic Data Systems in the early days of computers. He profited greatly from having a contract with the Texas

state government to modernize its Medicare system. In 1978, he hired a retired colonel, Bull Simon, to rescue two of his EDS employees who were being held hostage in Iran. He succeeded with the unintentional help of the Iranian Revolution. The revolutionaries stormed the prisons and freed all the prisoners, including Perot's employees

Some of his past actions have raised questions. An article appeared in the National Review about Perot that he

People on both sides of important issues, such as abortion and gun control, are supporting Perot because they see the budget deficit as a pressing problem that could affect future generations.

didn't like, so he called William F. Buckley, editor-at-large of the magazine, asking him to stop the article. When Buckley told him the magazine had already gone to the presses, Perot offered to buy up all the copies. Buckley declined the offer.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, he was committed to serve four years in the Navy. But after two years, he wanted a discharge because he found the Navy to be a "godless organization." What does he mean by that? Mr. Perot, this is the Navy, not the church.

Another story from Perot's days in the Navy is that he claims the captain of the destroyer he was serving his time on, wanted him to use the crew's recreation fund to decorate the captain's cabin. Perot refused. The captain denies the story.

There is a joke T-shirt that reads, "Perot for President: don't ask why, it doesn't matter." It doesn't matter so far to his supporters what his stands on the issues are.

Example: At the Republican National Platform hearings, a key issue was the reconsideration of the party's stand on abortion. Outside were prolife protesters carrying signs supporting George Bush. Suddenly, some of them crossed out Bush's name and wrote in Perot's. But Perot is prochoice, which he has admitted on national television. Another example is that members of the NRA have been seen at his rallies, even though he said

he is for gun control.

People on both sides of important issues, such as abortion and gun control, are supporting Perot because they see the budget deficit as a pressing problem that could affect future generations. They support him also because both parties are not getting problems solved and they see Perot as someone who could do it. Bill Clinton has the support of Congress, which will hurt him, because Congress is part of the problem. Bush has been a disappointment. He promised no new taxes in the 1988 campaign, but when he became president, he did raise taxes. Also, Bush has increased the budget deficit more than any other president. People don't want promises, they want action.

If Perot gets the support on Election Day that he has now, he could throw the election to the House of Representatives.

I predict that it won't come to that. Perot will lose support when he gets specific on the issues. But a warning to both parties: if you continue to be stagnant and voters stay fed up, then this may not be the last time we see a strong independent candidate run for president.

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