

■ Sen. **Phil Gramm**'s May 6 speech at Rev. **Jerry Falwell**'s Liberty University—meant to appease Religious Right—won praise from social conservatives like **Phyllis Schlafly** of Eagle Forum and **Gary Bauer** of Family Research Council. Gramm's emphasis on family values and flat declaration, "I'm pro-life," another sign evangelical Christians are becoming to Republican politics in Nineties what union chiefs like **George Meany** were to Democratic politics in Sixties. The same week as Gramm's speech, his presidential rival, Sen. **Bob Dole**, took Bauer and his mentor, Dr. **James Dobson**—host of radio's popular *Focus on the Family*—to "support me" lunch. (Dole and wife, **Elizabeth**, have also left D.C.'s Foundry Methodist Church because of new pastor's liberal views.) But Christian Coalition's **Ralph Reed**—subject of *Time* magazine cover story that profiled him as "choirboy to the rescue"—has told *Wall Street Journal* that absence from '96 presidential race of **Jack Kemp**, **William Bennett**, and **Dan Quayle** has left social conservatives restless: "It's the Kentucky Derby, you're all dressed up in your best jockey clothes, and there's no horse to ride." Reed also reminded Washington meeting of **Newt Gingrich**'s GOPAC that evangelical Protestants are only one part of coalition of "Reagan Democrats." Reed noted role of ethnic Catholics in big GOP presidential wins in '80, '84, and '88 (and their desertion of **George Bush** in '92). Privately, Reed hopes Catholics will organize themselves in manner similar to his own Christian Coalition. . . . Meanwhile, Speaker Gingrich's closest political associates say his refusal on *Meet the Press* to rule out presidential bid is no accident—he will make final decision this fall. But *Newsweek* political analyst **Joe Klein** knows what Speaker Newt will do: "My guess is he'll be in Iowa by Thanksgiving."

■ GOP House members' determina-

tion to get massive spending cuts this year was buttressed during two-day retreat in Leesburg, Va., by speech of **Ralph Klein**, premier of Alberta, who won re-election overwhelmingly after cutting spending by 25 per cent. . . . Further sign of GOP determination on issue was press conference blasting American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). "I just view them as a tool of the Democrats. . . . They never even talk to Republicans," said Sen. **John McCain** (R., Ariz.). Supposedly independent AARP, which actually has close ties to liberal National Education Association, supported Clinton's health-care boondoggle and led opposition to Balanced Budget Amendment. . . . But GOP presidential candidate **Lamar Alexander** is worried about Senate action on budget and other issues: "Our greatest danger is a Republican Senate that is too timid. . . . the best hope of the Clinton White House is a do-nothing, timid Republican Senate." . . . Heritage Foundation report says cutting farm subsidies would increase farm income \$14 billion and decrease deficit by \$27 billion by year 2001. . . . GOP push on budget cutting also seen at state level in budget impasse between N.Y. Gov. **George Pataki** and state legislature, in which he has refused to pay himself or legislators until he gets budget reductions. Pataki's firmness is based partly on **Arthur Finkelstein** polls showing that for the first time the public wants spending cuts even more than tax cuts.



"Federal law, sir—you have to wait three days to pick up your shredder."

■ "The only battles lost in advance are battles not joined," said victorious French presidential candidate **Jacques Chirac**—considered a goner only months ago. A *Wall Street Journal* editorial claims his victory augurs well for France because of Chirac advisor **Alain Madelin**, a supply-sider who is pushing tax cuts. . . . In face of U.S. opposition to Russia's sale of nuclear reactors to Iran, one defense offered by Deputy Foreign Minister **Albert Chernyshev** is that they are similar to those Clinton Administration wants to supply to **Kim Jong Il**'s North Korea. . . . Russian President **Boris Yeltsin**'s decision to stand atop **Lenin**'s tomb during V-E Day celebration followed extensive debate in Kremlin; his aides feared symbolic reminder of **Stalin** and other Soviet leaders. . . . Archives show Soviets recovered remains of **Hitler** from his Berlin bunker and kept them until 1970, when KGB boss **Yuri Andropov** ordered them burned and dumped in Elbe River. . . . After failing last October, British Labour leader **Tony Blair** finally got his party to drop 77-year-old "Clause Four," which calls for state ownership of major industries. But few Brits may have noticed, since country is transfixed by four-hour nightly coverage of **O. J. Simpson** trial beamed by **Rupert Murdoch**'s satellite system. Prominent English barrister **Geoffrey Robertson** has concluded U.S. defense attorneys are "greedy egomaniacs." . . . Sweden's conservative former prime minister **Carl Dildt** says voters will regret current spending by socialists—"either Sweden returns to the reform path . . . or it could face a debt crisis around the turn of the century that will take extremely harsh measures to resolve." . . . Sens. **Dole** and **Paul Simon** (D., Ill.) will host 97-year-old **Mme Chiang Kai-shek**, who lives in New York City, at a reception in the Capitol in July to commend her and her husband's roles in the Allied victory in Asia in Second World War.

■ *New York Times* reports Harvard Medical School has appointed a committee to investigate Dr. **John Mack**, a faculty member whose recent best-seller is about people who say they were "abducted by diminutive, large-eyed, grey-colored creatures from outer space and forced to have sex with them."