

Abu-Jamal, In Rare Interview, Criticizes Judge



ABU-JAMAL

PHILADELPHIA - Black activist Mumia Abu-Jamal, seeking a new hearing on his death sentence for killing a policeman, has renewed his criticism of the judge who presided over his 1982 trial and is now overseeing the retrial hearing.

In an interview with New York's WBAI/Pacifica radio, Abu-Jamal said Court of Common Pleas Judge Albert Sabo's conduct in the hearing is a repeat of his

original trial.

That trial, Abu-Jamal's attorneys claim, was marred by judicial bias and prosecutorial misconduct.

"What should be clear to everyone is that the behavior of the judge has not changed one iota," Abu-Jamal said.

The interview was conducted

Thursday, and broadcast late Thursday evening.

Abu-Jamal is a former teenage Black Panther and radio journalist who was convicted of the 1981 murder of Philadelphia policeman Daniel Faulkner.

The case has drawn widespread international attention, with foreign political

leaders and activist groups calling for his sentence to be commuted.

Abu-Jamal said he has been gratified by an outpouring of support, which has come from Hollywood celebrities, academics, foreign governments and others.

"They're not all radicals; they're not all ex-Black Panthers," he said. "No one could have predicted that this movement would have grown and mushroomed as it has among such a broad spectrum of people, but it has, and I'm sincerely and deeply grateful to

every one."

The retrial hearing, now in its third week, has been marked by verbal sparring between Abu-Jamal's attorneys and the judge.

Sabo at one point briefly jailed attorney Rachel Wolkenstein for arguing over a ruling, and he has threatened lead defense attorney Leonard Weinglass with contempt fines.

Sabo has criticized the defense lawyers for being unprepared and violating court procedure; they have criticized him for not acting in good faith.

He has rejected motions to (See Abu-Jamal, Page 20)

Jackson Cloud Hangs Over Clinton

WASHINGTON - As President Clinton's re-election prospects brighten, a political threat from the left hangs over his future — the prospect of a presidential run by civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

Now 54, Jackson is an inspiring but polarizing figure who ran unsuccessfully for the White House in 1984 and 1988 as a Democrat. This time, he says he is considering running as an independent.

Even if the charismatic black leader only took 5 percent of the popular vote away from Clinton, political analysts and Democratic strategists believe that could be fatal for the president in what is expected to be a close race against the Republican nominee.

In a wide-ranging interview last week, Jackson freely expressed his frustrations with what he sees as a string of broken promises by Clinton.

"We were promised by Mr. Clinton an economic stimulus, a plan to reinvest in the cities — there's been no plan to reinvent or reinvest. The only plan for our youth is to lock them up in historical numbers," he said.

"I supported Bill Clinton for president in 1992," Jackson said. "He put forward some very strong promises for our cities. He promised not a child (should go) to waste and yet, what do we see?"

Jackson rejects the notion that he would be responsible for

putting a Republican in the White House if he ran as an independent. "If I were to run, I would run to win," he said.

He believes he would inspire large numbers of disaffected citizens to register to vote, which could help the Democrats regain control of Congress even if they lost the White House. Most of all, he believes his candidacy would force Clinton to address issues he is currently ignoring.

"If my not running would help assure his victory and my running would assure his defeat, therefore we are part of this equation, are we not? And if we are part of the equation, we must be at the table to discuss direction and priorities. That becomes critical," Jackson said.

Jackson was pleased last month when Clinton backed affirmative action programs that seek to help minorities and women in work and education, but he is pressing for more.

He knows that as long as his candidacy is a viable threat, Clinton cannot afford to ignore him. He is therefore likely to prolong the suspense as long as possible.

He could delay a decision to run as a Democrat until next December. If he were to run as an independent, he could wait as long as May or June 1996 before making up his mind.

Jackson believes he could have the same electrifying effect as he did in his previous

campaigns, when he generated huge fervor on the campaign trail, won several state primaries and pushed the Democratic Party to the left — a factor that

may have contributed to its defeat in 1984 and 1988.

He also polarized opinion between blacks and whites and (See Jackson, Page 20)

Poll: Americans Unhappy With Politics, Politicians

NEW YORK - Americans are disenchanted by politics and politicians as never before and do not necessarily believe that a third party would solve their problems, according to a poll released Saturday.

The New York Times/CBS News poll, published in the Times, reveals that Americans are just as dissatisfied with the work of Republicans on Capitol Hill this year as they are with the performance of President Clinton.

In each case, only 26 percent said the officeholders were doing a good job.

Although 55 percent said the United States needed a new

party, 61 percent said a third-party president would still have trouble dealing with Congress, according to the telephone poll of 1,478 adults between August 5 and August 9.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

The results of the survey suggested that former Army General Colin Powell would run more strongly than other third-party nominees against Clinton and Republican frontrunner Senator Bob Dole, the newspaper reported.

It said that in a trial race, the three finished in a virtual dead

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