

more telling reasonableness and rationality." Is it rational, Mario, to throw the elderly out in the streets so your real estate friends can "rebuild" Times Square? Is it rational to forge ahead on Westway while the poor and the middle class risk their lives in the subway system? Is it rational to allow a private carting company to befoul our waters and endanger the lives of our citizens while your commissioner looks the other way? Is it rational to give \$20 million in raises to your palace guard while your beloved homeless sleep in subway tunnels?

In the speech to the convention, Cuomo also said: "There are people who sleep in the city's streets, in the gutter, where the glitter doesn't show. . . . Maybe, Mr. President, if you asked a woman who'd been denied the help she needs to feed her children because you say we need the money to give a tax break to a millionaire or to build a missile we can't even afford to use. . . . We stand for . . . millions of reasoning people fighting to preserve our environment from greed and stupidity. . . . for young people demanding an education and a future. . . . how high will we pile the missiles?" This was Governor Jaberwocky's answer to the evil Republicans. He lambasted them for saying that "government can't do everything," which is exactly what he told Islanders two weeks ago. He's right, of course. Government can't do everything. However, in the Empire State, in the family of New York, under the direction of Governor Jaberwocky, government: threatens working people with a lawsuit if they don't get out of the way, encourages destruction of the environment, builds convention centers and wastes \$200 million in overruns, gives tax breaks to millionaires in Times Square, destroys vibrant neighborhoods like Clinton and talks about the homeless but does nothing about them.

Cuomo is one of the few political hacks I've met who can talk for an hour and say nothing. He is also one of the few who can make you think that he just promised you the world. Depending on what day of the week it is, he is either a priest, a philosophy professor, a lecturer on how government works, a deal-maker for the real estate interests and builders (who are the real monied class of New York), a radio-talk show host, a traveling medicine man, a shrinking violet presidential candidate, or a book author. He does all these things with great panache, and they are all duly recorded by his admiring bootlicking press. Rarely is he what we pay him for -- governor of the family of New York, where people sleep in the streets and the gutter. He is far too important for such minor distractions.

Cuomo is far too busy sounding like a liberal, acting like a conservative and being neither. In the final analysis, Cuomo will be whatever is convenient, whatever will get him the most votes. Just don't ask him to govern.

**Man bites dog department:**

From the Associated Press came this wonderful piece of news from the City of Brotherly Love:

"City councilman Ed Schwartz, riding one of the city's trolleys to see what the average commuter goes through, was mugged at a transit stop near his home. Mr. Schwartz said two men had approached him and demanded his money. He said one of them threatened him with a gun. When he pointed the gun, the councilman recalled, 'I said: You're dealing with a city councilman, are you sure you want to go through with this?' The effect of that was it made no difference. He put the gun to my left cheekbone."

Can you imagine the denseness of a public official in admitting to being a politician while being mugged? In parts of Staten Island, this would get you rubbed out by any self-respecting mugger. Also, what kind of pol would think that proclaiming his status would spare him the fate that has befallen so many of his constituents?

I think the offenders should get the electric chair for this crime. This is the only possible deterrent. What kind of a country would we have if the people started stealing from the politicians? We would quickly disintegrate into anarchy, since few people would ever run for public office again.