

## NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE

U.S. Political Newsletter

# The Republican Convention Adopts Plank For Fusion Development



*This special report is based on on-the-scene reports from the NSIPS news team in Kansas City.*

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 13 (NSIPS) — The Republican Party Platform Committee closed its deliberations here today, after it swept aside a series of provocations directed by Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller. Instead the Platform Committee ended by reaffirming President Ford's quest for peace and has drawn up planks on the issues of economic and technological development which will enable the United States to play its central role in a New World Economic Order.

The fullest realization of the progress-oriented potential of the Republican Party came today when the Platform Committee voted to put a fusion energy plank in the party platform. The plank singles out the "unique potential of fusion power as a future energy source" for "continuing emphasis." This Republican call for fusion power came after Dr. Morris Levitt, Fusion Energy Foundation Executive Director, testified Aug. 10 before the Energy Subcommittee. Dr. Levitt's testimony, reprinted below, completely changed the parameters of the Platform Committee's programmatic discussion.

### Ford Forces Foil Rocky

The Ford forces at the Convention are being led by a battery of Cabinet officials and Senators Roman Hruska of Nebraska, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, and John Tower of Texas. Since their en masse arrival Tuesday, Aug. 10, Ford forces have dominated the proceedings and have defused each of the Reagan platform disruptions — all originated by the Vice-President — with strong statements in support of strengthened relations with the Third World based on scientific and technological development. And with healthy partisan gusto, the Ford forces have torn into the policies of Wall Street's candidate for deindustrialization and genocide, Jimmy Carter.

Nelson Rockefeller, who last week effusively declared his support for Carter and his politics of "national unity," tried to have it otherwise. On Aug. 9, the first day of the platform hearings with his own right-wing Reagan agents dominating the activity, Rockefeller tried to inflame anti-Soviet hysteria and raved that "with their military and their nuclear weapons, and their Army and their Air Force and their Navy ... and their satellites and sensors ... and their bugging and bribery and blackmail and economic sabotage ... the Soviets are driving for worldwide dominance and hegemony." (see Rockefeller speech below) Laying the ground for his candidate Carter's policy of preemptive strike against the Soviets by 1977, Rockefeller warned that the Soviets will have outstripped the U.S. militarily by the 1980s unless the U.S. commits itself to a "new national defense effort and the innovation ... and adoption of new strategic concepts."

Rockefeller's insanity, however, did not take hold. Ford forces continued to stress the President's pro-detente policy. But more importantly, the overwhelming majority of the delegates — both

Ford and Reagan alike — had no interest in Rockefeller's rantings. Rather, they have been seriously committed to deliberations on industrial, agricultural, and technological development and economic expansion for the United States.

### Ford's Foreign Policy Looks to Soviets, Third World

President Ford personally keynoted the platform deliberations with a weekend interview granted to UPI and AP. The two news services, both controlled by Rockefeller, proceeded to censor the interview's most significant sections. One reporter at the Camp David interview reported that Ford stressed the dual priorities of a strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT II) by November and "broader solutions to the problems of the Middle East and most probably a Geneva peace conference in 1977."

With Rockefeller's anti-Soviet screechings countermanded before he even uttered them, Ford partisans took the offensive at the Foreign Policy Task Force early on Aug. 10. Sen. Hugh Scott, stressing in his testimony the need to avoid confrontation and to strengthen and expand relations with the developing world, proclaimed that a "lasting peace for mankind" can be built only on the foundation of patient diplomacy and on the establishment of joint scientific and technological efforts with other nations and especially the Third World (see Scott testimony below).

This statement, unprecedented for a member of Congress and a GOP spokesman, is public indication that the Ford Administration is very much attuned to Third World efforts to break the back of Wall Street's dollar empire with a declaration of unilateral debt moratorium coming out of the current Colombo, Sri Lanka summit of Non-Aligned nations. One of the President's top economic advisors confirmed here that the White House is aware of the potential for debt moratorium to come out of Sri Lanka and has a special White House Task Force, including the Council on International Economic Policy (CIEP) preparing a "fall-back position" in the event of moratorium. Early in the week, a CIEP spokesman counseled, "At the proper time, the Ford Administration will announce the proper policy" with regards to the Third World.

The Ford forces — connected directly to the White House through an intricate walkie-talkie and communications system — by today had beaten back every attempt by the Rockefeller-Reagan faction to insert Cold War planks on the Panama Canal, on Rhodesia, on arms limitation talks and China.

### Fusion Breakthrough at the GOP

But it is the commitment of the majority of the platform members to progress which has given the Ford forces a broad base of programmatic support and has resulted in the historic inclusion of a fusion energy plank in the platform. The plank in full reads, "Among alternative future energy sources, fusion, with its unique potential for supplying unlimited and clean energy, and the promise of new methods of natural resources recovery, warrants continued emphasis and a national energy

research program.”

When Sen. Scott tried to modify the import of the passage with the inclusion of a mention of solar, wind and solid-waste forms of energy, two Energy subcommittee members — one involved in the oil industry in Texas and the other from the coal regions of West Virginia — stressed that the purpose of the plank was to emphasize the uniqueness of fusion power. The plank passed as accepted by the Energy subcommittee.

Sen. John Tower of Texas had given critical support to the concept of fusion development earlier in the hearings, calling for massive expansion and exhaustion of coal and present energy sources as a bridge to the full development of nuclear energy and as a guarantee of a decent standard of living for future generations.

The GOP platform also declares that science and technology must be essential aspects of federal policy. “We recognize that only when our technology is fully distributed, can it be assimilated and used to increase our productivity and our standard of living. . . . We will encourage our young Americans to study science and technology. . . . National space programs play a pioneer role in exploring the mysteries of our universe and we support its expansion.”

The issue of progress was brought into sharpest relief here during the Energy subcommittee hearings themselves by the testimony of Dr. Levitt, from the Fusion Energy Foundation.

Previously, two environmentalists lecturing about preserving our primitive wildernesses were stopped short by the subcommittee members who reminded them of the importance of man and technology in the maintenance of any ecology, even a “primitive wilderness.” Testifying last, Dr. Levitt took the pro-growth, pro-technology outlook of the committee members to its full realization with a discussion of fusion development ranging from the future exploration of space to the critical theoretical questions facing plasma physicists to the immediate pre-fusion implementation of the Jordan steel process. Levitt received the only ovation of the subcommittee and was asked numerous questions following his half-hour testimony. Afterwards one subcommittee member approached him to declare, “That was exciting, you spoke in terms that the common man can understand!”

The term that “common men” were understanding was progress. U.S. Labor Party members in attendance at the hearings distributed 50 copies of the USLP’s brief on Industrial and Scien-

tific Policy and soon found themselves identified as “the communists who are closer to the GOP than to the Democrats.” At another platform hearing, a black banker, testifying as a private citizen, explained that he had changed party affiliation after the initial civil rights struggles of the 1960s because it was in the GOP that blacks could find hope for real economic growth and progress, not share-the-existing-wealth policies represented by the Democrats and the Humphrey-Hawkins slave labor bill.

Indeed, the Democratic Party is the party of Nelson Rockefeller, whose wealth is based on oil and whose family has done everything in its power to sabotage fusion energy research and development.

### Rocky’s Gambits

With serious discussion of economic development defining the early activity and with Ford forces very confidently in command, Reagan’s Rockefeller-directed procedural skirmishes to “gain momentum” have so far failed, despite press attempts to puff them up as major tactical victories. The attempt to force Ford to name his own Vice Presidential choice prior to his own nomination, thereby alienating some of his supporters, has been defeated so far, Ford appears to be steering clear of other Vice Presidential minefields Rockefeller has laid for him such as John Connally. The so-called Reagan victory giving platform members the right to appoint their own subcommittee chairmen resulted in the election of six out of seven pro-Ford chairmen.

The Rockefeller faction on Aug. 12 threw out Sen. James Buckley of New York as a possible name to be placed in nomination for the Presidency. The proposed nomination of Buckley, whose family has served as faithful right-wing retainers for Wall Street for years, was designed to force both Reagan and Ford further to the right on platform issues, and barring that, to deadlock the convention. With Reagan just about finished off by this rather stupid move and by the earlier Schweiker move, Rockefeller now appears to be holding the Buckley tactic open as the seed crystal for the formation of a split-off Third Party. Already suggested by Rockefeller-right-winger Sen. Jesse Helms, by Buckley crony and National Review editor William Rusher and by the Rockefeller-dominated American Security Council, a third party tactic, Rocky hopes, would provide the dual capability for stealing conservative votes from President Ford and blue-collar votes from the U.S. Labor Party — and hand the election to Carter.

## Fusion Foundation Head Tells Republicans:

### ‘The Central Issue Is Progress’

*KANSAS CITY, Mo., August 10 (NSIPS) — The following are excerpts from the testimony of Dr. Morris Levitt, Fusion Energy Foundation executive director, before the Republican Party Platform Sub-committee on Energy, Conservation, and Natural Resources meeting here today.*

The current global drought and international food shortage poses the problem of energy and resource utilization policy in its sharpest form. Energy-resource policy is no less importantly related to the issue of the growth of overall industrial output in the advanced sector of the world economy, particularly the United States.

The drought has already affected major grain-producing areas on four continents. California, parts of the northern Midwest, all of Western Europe, much of Australia, and parts of Brazil and Argentina have all been hit — in the case of Western Europe, the

drought is the worst in 200 years. Overall crop losses are already estimated at 35 to 50 million tons and rising. Even before the drought, food requirements minimally necessary to prevent starvation and epidemic diseases in the underdeveloped sector were more than 100 million tons above production. Under the present circumstances, unless rapidly counteracted, the drought means death by hunger and plagues for millions.

Rectifying this situation — the prerequisite for restoring a healthy and growing world economy and markets — requires industrial inputs to the agricultural sector of millions of tractors, tens of millions of tons of fertilizer, and massive amounts of pumps and piping for irrigation. When translated into primary production categories such as steel and agrochemicals, it is clear that we are talking about increases in the rate of growth of energy production well beyond the recent several per cent per year.

In the face of these needs — which constitute a tremendous