

Hometown rout

Boston voters turn away 'liberal' mob

Senator Edward Kennedy's Democratic machine suffered a serious setback in its own backyard last month, when Kennedy-man Joseph Timilty received only 28 percent of the vote in a Boston mayoral primary won by incumbent Kevin White, who received 42 percent in a field of five. In 1975, Timilty came within a hair's breadth of winning the mayor's post in a race against White.

In this year's primary, Timilty suffered heavy losses in the areas where he had previously made a strong showing: South Boston, Dorchester, Charlestown and Hyde Park. These are largely white working-class areas, heavily Irish Catholic. South Boston is particularly depressed economically, never having recovered from the shutdown of the naval shipyards in the 1960s. Candidates other than Mel King, who received 15 percent overall, fared poorly in this area. Timilty had hoped to not only maintain his support in these areas, but to gain strength in the black area of Roxbury. To his surprise, he did not. Why?

The city of Boston, and Massachusetts overall, has grown increasingly conservative. Edward Kennedy, in the 1976 primary for the Senate, was challenged by two conservatives in Boston, and the support given to them surpassed Kennedy's own vote in the city. In the presidential primary the same year, conservative Democrat George Wallace was a strong second, and carried the city itself. Massachusetts voters showed that the major issue for them is economic growth, not "legalized gambling," drug decriminalization and other issues pushed by the liberals. In 1978, conservative Edward King, running on an economic-growth platform that included nuclear energy development, defeated incumbent Michael Dukakis for the state governorship. Dukakis is an associate of the Kennedys, and had prevented numerous development projects like expansion of Boston's Logan airport.

Timilty tried to pass himself off as a conservative, but the campaign of U.S. Labor Party candidate Lawrence Sherman tied him clearly to the Kennedy machine. As Sherman pointed out to voters, Timilty's entourage includes Gerald Doherty, former State Democratic Party chairman who worked for the campaigns of all the Kennedy brothers, and whom Timilty acknowledged was sent to advise him many years ago by the Kennedys.

Although most candidates including Timilty focused their campaign on incumbent White's "imperial may-

orality", Sherman caused much of the debate to focus on the drug plague promoted by a Kennedy associated "liberal" mob, and a related campaign to bring legalized gambling to Boston. Timilty was beaten on these issues. At public debates, on television, and on radio, Sherman charged that Timilty was in fact run by the same drug-mafia that are Ted Kennedy's "handlers." He cited David Garth, Timilty's chief campaign advisor, paid \$15,000 a month to spruce up the candidate's image. Garth was also image-maker for New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne, New York Governor Hugh Carey, and New York City Mayor Edward Koch. Each of these men moved rapidly to legalize gambling and decriminalize drugs as soon as Garth got them into office.

Near the end of the campaign, the Boston press revealed Timilty's receipt of campaign funds from a director of Whitehall Liquors, a firm connected to Joe Lindsay, leading mafia boss in the area. Lindsay began his career running boot-leg liquor, just like Joseph P. Kennedy, the senator's father. Timilty, the press revealed,

BOSTON

District 8 (partial)

District 9 (partial)

District 11 (partial)

Joe Timilty, a Kennedy machine liberal lost much of his 1975 electoral support in the white working-class areas that he had considered his base. For the first time in his political career Mayor Kevin White carried the South Boston area along Boston harbor, a heavily Irish Catholic working-class area with much unemployment, trouncing Timilty here. Timilty also lost much of his 1975 support in Charleston (northern District 9), Dorchester, and Hyde Park (southern part of Districts 9 and 11), also white working-class areas. In the largely black Roxbury area (central District 9) Timilty lost heavily, not picking up hoped-for new support. Timilty almost won the mayoralty in 1975, but received only 28 percent this time. It should be noted that Ted Kennedy himself, running in the 1976 Senatorial primary, failed to carry the City of Boston. After Timilty's showing, he can be expected to do even more poorly in the future.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

had also received funding from World Jai-Alai, a "legalized gambling" operation that is one of Meyer Lansky's better known fronts.

Timilty made a great show of returning all these funds, to little avail. From the very outset of the campaign, his "image" had been connected to organized crime, Kennedy-machine elements in a variety of different ways.

At the start of the campaign, legislation to legalize gambling in the state had been introduced by Kennedy associate Sam Vitale. Timilty simultaneously called for a luxury hotel project in Boston, a transparent call for a casino complex. The charges to this effect by candidate Sherman, in particular, caused Timilty to make a public statement opposed to legalization of gambling.

Later in the campaign, a bill stipulating stiff penalties for drug users went to the floor of the legislature. Timilty publicly opposed it. Sherman did not fail to point out that his U.S. Labor Party had drafted the bill.

The state legislature was reflecting the political mood of the voters in other ways. Graham Lowry, a colleague of Sherman's in the U.S. Labor Party, and Lucy Forti, who heads the Massachusetts Concerned Citizens Against Drugs, submitted legislation requiring every school to conduct surveys on the extent of drug use in the school; to submit regular progress reports on drug-use; and to institute antidrug curricula in every school. The bill was overwhelmingly passed by the state senate, even as the state's foremost representative in Washington, Edward Kennedy, was introducing legislation that would make drug-use no longer a crime.

In a similar way, the Massachusetts legislature sent a resolution to the President and Congress condemning the efforts of the International Monetary Fund to force Third World nations to produce marijuana and other drugs as "cash crops" for export. In Colombia, the nation first on the IMF target-list, advocates of the drug-export economy are open about Massachusetts Senator Kennedy's collaboration to legalize "drug-imports" to the U.S.—the very program that elected Massachusetts lawmakers denounced officially.

The handwriting was already on the wall for Kennedy-man Timilty when reports came in that a Kennedy-backed Hartford slate had been defeated badly. Timilty, when he hears of the Hartford and New Haven victories by anti-drug forces, was heard to exclaim to another candidate: "Geez, what happened? We were smashed!" A few days later, in Boston itself, Timilty was "smashed."

Test of strength that failed

Cleveland machine can't get out votes

In April of this year, the Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) Democratic Party leadership committed an extraordinary political blunder that would bear its fruits six months later. During that month, the Cuyahoga County Democratic Committee held a convention under the chairmanship of county Democratic leader Tim Hagan and became the first in the nation to endorse a presidential bid by the still unannounced Senator Edward Kennedy.

That announcement proved not to be the political boon it was expected to be for the primary campaign of Kennedy supporter and Mayor Dennis Kucinich. In spite of the full backing of the core of Cuyahoga County's Democratic machine—the most powerful in the state of Ohio—and the regional leadership of the United Autoworkers, Kucinich was trounced by a Republican in the Oct. 2 nonpartisan primary race—the first test of strength for the Kennedy machine in a major U.S. city.

In a city with a seven to one registered Democratic majority among voters, Kucinich took a bare 28.7 percent of the vote in the four-man race, losing to Republican George Voinovich, Ohio's Lieutenant Governor, who polled 37.5 percent. These results were almost precisely the reverse of the expectations of the Kucinich poll takers.

The two candidates will face off in the November general elections. Voinovich is favored to win.

As in other setbacks for the urban machines behind Ted Kennedy, the Kucinich defeat was the result of a de facto coalition between the white ethnic and black communities unhappy with the mayor's urban policies—policies that have pushed Cleveland to the brink of collapse.

Across the board, the primary results show an erosion of liberal support from all voting blocs in Cleveland. Among the white ethnic community of primarily East European ancestry—hitherto the strongest Kucinich supporters—the mayor lost some 25 percent of his support. Among the black community, the drop was nearly 40 percent.

The black vote went to Basil Russo who waged a strictly anti-Kucinich campaign. Although Russo did not win a place on the general election ballot, his primary returns are a clear black vote of no confidence in the Democratic machine and its mayor. Russo's