

Campaign 1980 by Kathleen Murphy



The anti-Carter 'surge'

President Carter's thrashing in the March 25 New York and Connecticut primaries may be the beginning of the end of his reelection drive. The final results, giving Ted Kennedy 59 to Carter's 41 percent in New York and 47 to 41 percent in Connecticut, agree with the latest AP/NBC poll which reports Carter's popularity rating dipping to where it stood before the Iran crisis lifted him out of the pits.

The media has immediately acknowledged the anti-Carter "surge" within the population, unreported until recently, while stating that the results have also revived the sagging fortunes of Senator Kennedy.

That deserves important qualification. The anti-Carter surge has been building for some time. Carter's approval ratings on foreign policy and economic policy have always been abysmally low; only the rigged character of the polling services has hidden this. Until the most recent period, policy circles around the New York Council on Foreign Relations, which control the media and the polling services, propped up their puppet president. Now, these circles have decided to let the air out of the balloon.

Hence, the media report a "sudden anti-Carter surge."

Ted Kennedy's phoenix-like rise can be explained in a similar way. Kennedy is universally acknowledged as perhaps the most singularly unpopular politician in memory. The vote for Kennedy has been anti-Carter; the vote for Carter has been anti-Kennedy. And the low turnout in both New York and Connecticut shows that many people really can't stomach voting for either under any circumstances. Kennedy could never get the nomination; events will soon show that neither can Carter.

The upshot of New York and Connecticut voting, as an informed observer put it, is that "the whole Democratic ballgame is up for grabs. We may well see a dark horse candidate moving into the spotlight soon."

Kennedy: A new Henry Wallace?

Kennedy's New York and Connecticut primary wins could convince him to launch an independent candidacy, observers say.

According to one old hand in Democratic Party-labor politics, "the real danger of Kennedy doing well in New York is that this may encourage him to stay in the race. ... I absolutely would not discount the possibility of Kennedy doing what Henry Wallace did in 1948—running as an independent—if he doesn't get the nomination."

An "independent Kennedy candidacy" scenario was first mooted by a leading Republican last October. In an interview at that time, Hoyt Ammidon, chairman of the board of the U.S. Trust Company, a member of the New York Council on Foreign Relations and the Ditchley Foundation, confidently predicted that Kennedy "would definitely bolt the party

and launch an independent candidacy" if he lost the Democratic nomination.

Zionist lobby moves behind Reagan

Leading Zionist Lobby spokesmen are loudly touting Ronald Reagan as the best presidential candidate and not just because of his strong commitment to Israel.

One top official with the World Zionist Organization last week explained his support for Reagan:

"We have to prevent the French from outflanking the U.S. in the Mideast, and the only way we can do this is by electing Reagan. Reagan will lead us on the path to rearmament so that we'll be able to command respect from our allies once again. ... The other problem we have is economic; but the problem doesn't stem from high interest rates or the declining value of the dollar. The problem is we need more productivity and we need a strong man in the White House who can leash the unions."

LaRouche places third in Connecticut

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche placed third in the March 25 Connecticut primary, outpolling Jerry Brown by more than 1,000 votes. LaRouche, who had not campaigned in the state, won more than 3.5 percent of the vote, with a total of 6,333 votes cast. Another 12,925 Democrats voted "uncommitted," reflecting widespread disgust with both Carter and Kennedy.

LaRouche, considered by party professionals to be an unpredictable factor in the campaign, is known for his strong advocacy of a nuclear-energy based industrialization program for the U.S., and a gold-based monetary system.