

Campaign 1980 by Kathleen Murphy



“Felix the fixer” as Anderson’s Treasury Secretary?

The question of where independent presidential candidate John Anderson gets his bizarre economic program has been partially solved: It seems that the Trilateral Commission-Bilderberg Society member who’s parading around as a born-again populist has recruited Felix Rohatyn as his chief adviser on economic matters.

Rohatyn, of course, is the Lazard Freres partner who, as chairman of New York City’s dictatorial Big Mac, has almost succeeded in reducing that once-great metropolis to Third World status. Claiming that what New York needs to get back on its financial feet is ‘more pain and agony,’ Rohatyn has slashed services, axed municipal employees, consigned whole chunks of the city to the garbage heap, and proposed turning areas such as the South Bronx into ‘free-trade zones’ for legalized gambling and other so-called victimless crimes.

Now, characterizing Anderson as “a very serious man (with) ra-

tional thought processes,” Felix the Fixer is applying his economic genius to the Illinois Republican’s campaign platform. Under Rohatyn’s tutelage, Anderson has added to his already proto-fascist program—which includes a 50 cent-a-gallon tax on gasoline—the following items: a temporary wage-price freeze; an incomes policy, whereby corporations that grant wage increases above government guidelines will be punished through additional taxes; an expansion of youth employment programs; a reconstituted Reconstruction Finance Corporation that would, among other things, be empowered to take over and run shaky corporations, and—shades of Mussolini’s corporate state!—a “temporary national economic commission” with a mandate for developing “innovative solutions” to the country’s economic problems.

Two weeks ago, Anderson picked up the endorsement of another prominent New York investment banker: former Undersecretary of State George Ball. Rumor has it that Rohatyn is hungrily eyeing the Treasury Department, while Ball, now a partner in Lehman Brothers-Kuhn Loeb, will stay in the background as “senior advisor” should Anderson somehow manage to snatch the Oval Office.

Reagan backtracks on Trilateral issue

Ronald Reagan is backing off from the issue that informed observers say pushed him to the front of the GOP presidential race: the Eastern Establishment’s pernicious control over U.S. policy.

According to press reports, Mr. Reagan went out of his way while campaigning in Texas recently to assure his chief rival, George Bush,

that he never had and never would make Bush’s membership in the elite Trilateral Commission a campaign issue.

Reagan’s vow startled many of his grass-roots supporters, who believed, at least until now, that the California Governor was a staunch opponent of the East Coast foreign policy establishment. Their dismay doubled when Reagan promised last week to keep Bill Brock on as chairman of the Republican National Committee if he wins the November election. Brock is a member in good standing of both the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission.

Byrd warns Carter: Nomination not sewn up

In what the major media are calling a “calculated sting” to President Jimmy Carter, Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd has put out the word that, delegate counts notwithstanding, Carter doesn’t have the Democratic presidential nomination sewn up.

In a briefing for reporters May 10, Byrd—whose influence extends into nearly every layer of the party—bluntly stated: “The mathematics (of the primary process) favor Mr. Carter now, but we have seen him rise and fall in the polls depending on events. Who knows what could happen between now and the convention. Who knows what the prevailing issue will be. ... In November, or at the time of the convention, Carter could be at his high-water mark or at his low-water mark.”

Byrd’s statements came just days after New York Governor Carey and his political ally, Senator Daniel Moynihan, also of New York, called for an “open convention” and vowed not to attend it committed to a particular candidate.