

answers, and is not a viable President, whereas the President is trying hard—

**Q:** Do you see the possibility for an open convention?

**A:** Well, I do anticipate a rules fight. I certainly anticipate the people who don't want Carter getting at least a minority report out of the Rules Committee this week onto the floor of the convention. But I'm a Carter delegate and I'm committed to Carter, and I think if you run for a candidate, you've made a commitment to your electorate.

**Q:** But I've heard a lot of local Democratic candidates fear being swept away by a Reagan landslide.

**A:** Is that what people are saying nationally? Well, you're absolutely right. We're biting our nails here in New York. Our entire U.S. congressional delegation, as well as our State Senate and Assembly, are up for reelection. Losses could be very significant. . . .

**Q:** What effect will Anderson have on your state?

**A:** If he runs on the Liberal Party—devastating. If I were [Liberal Party leader] Ray Harding, and my party was at the lowest ever and I saw an opportunity to revive it, I'd look very hard at Anderson.

**Q:** What have the Liberals gotten from Carter, anyway?

**A:** That's what everyone would like to know. For that matter, I don't know what my party has gotten from him in New York, either.

**Q:** Are you saying the DNC isn't running the campaign well in New York?

**A:** Are you kidding? I'm terribly concerned. Right now the DNC has maybe three people in New York who constitute the Democratic effort. The Carter people have nothing going. I told them the time has come to get off their butts and start pulling it together. . . .

**Q:** What about some dramatic diplomatic crisis to rescue Carter?

**A:** Yes, yes. I'm hoping for that, that's the tremendous power of the incumbency.

*Notable also are the comments of Democratic State chairman James Fitzgerald about Connecticut: "About as close a state as there is in the nation." He predicted a Democratic victory "by an edge," assuming the Anderson factor is "minimized by November." One Maryland Democratic leader said that "Economic issues are starting to take root much more strongly in the state. . . . The Democratic Party has to sell a very difficult case and a very difficult set of policies." New Jersey State Senate president Joseph Merlino said simply: "Reagan would win."*

## White House strategy

### Carter's plumbers hit the 'key states'

The Democratic National Committee, nominally the executive body of the Democratic Party, has been recently transformed into a sub-branch of the Carter/Mondale election campaign. The DNC doesn't care about, and won't be supporting, Democratic senators, congressmen, any major part of the party's apparatus, or even the party's survival. The DNC will only be supporting Jimmy Carter.

That is the successful result of the Carter/Mondale campaign's creation of a "plumbers unit" within the DNC to ensure that, even before Carter really has the nomination, all party resources will be at the Carter campaign's disposal—thus ensuring that he does get the nomination.

The unit, known as Campaign Support Services, is headed by DNC Executive Director Les Francis, until recently the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Carter/Mondale Campaign.

Francis has used his control to designate 25 "Key States" or "battleground states" upon which the DNC will concentrate resources. The Key States are in the South, the industrial Midwest, and Northeast—where Reagan is expected to reverse Carter's 1976 vote. Accordingly, these states are where Democratic machines are rapidly falling away from Carter, enough of them that by August 11, the President could lose the nomination, or if he gets it, face masses of local candidates disassociating themselves from his national ticket.

To ensure against both developments, Les Francis has sent CSS "Coordinators" into each of these states. The coordinators, all former Carter campaign organizers, are now on the DNC payroll, and have orders to take over the state party machine to control local Democrats. States not designated "Key" will get no financial or other support from the Democratic National Committee.

For local congressional and other Democratic candidates, already very nervous about running under a Carter ticket, no Democratic National Committee support exists. "The DNC isn't giving the Senate Campaign Committee a red cent," said a Washington source famil-

iar with the embattled position of various Senate Democrats up for reelection in November.

"When you're about to lose control over the Senate, this is inexcusable. There is tremendous anger in the Senate, especially when they see the Republican National Committee's huge cash infusions into the Republican Senate races, targeting our seats."

With the clearly implied threat that Democratic candidates at state and local levels will disassociate from Carter if he gets the nomination, the CSS unit now controlling the DNC is taking over all aspects of state parties' preparation for the November elections.

CSS "Coordinators" in the 25 key states will "coordinate fundraising . . . general election strategy . . . schedule campaign speakers . . . and link the Presidential, Congressional and local races," says Les Francis. Obviously, distancing oneself from Carter could become impossible for a local candidate under these conditions.

### Locking up the nomination

The other problem is Carter's nomination itself. DNC Campaign Support Services is working directly with the Carter/Mondale campaign's Delegate Tracking section under Tom Donilon. It is the purpose of Donilon's unit to prevent an open Democratic National Convention or any other development threatening Carter's renomination. Pressure, blackmail and any other available means are being used to pressure delegates to vote Carter on the first ballot.

Francis has made his entire Democratic National Committee field staff available to Donilon for delegate pressuring.

Says CSS head Francis, "We are of course basing our plans on the belief that the President will be renominated. . . ." Just in case, they're making sure.

Francis is a protege of California Carter/Mondale chairman Richard O'Neill. In 1977, Carter made him Deputy Assistant to the President for Congressional Liaison. In the spring of 1979, he became Deputy White House Chief of Staff under Hamilton Jordan. In October, he became Deputy Chief of Staff of the Carter/Mondale Campaign in charge of Field Operations. On May 5 he was confirmed as DNC Executive Director.

"The contest for the Democratic presidential nomination is all but over, and the President has an insurmountable lead," White told the press. For this, Senator Edward Kennedy's campaign director Paul Kirk and press chief James Flug demanded White's resignation and even "civil and criminal prosecution" for misuse of his position in the party.

The rest of the CSS staff members are also "Carter's men."

Chris Brown, Deputy Director, was 1980 coordinator of the New England primaries for the Carter campaign; Tracy Gallagher, Director of Voter Registration, was New Hampshire primary coordinator; Carl Strubel, Director of Voter Targetting, is from the Carter/Mondale Field Staff.

## The state plumbers

Carter strategists under Democratic National Committee Executive Director Les Francis have designated "Key States" in which Carter must win to take the overall election. Accordingly, the Carter campaign has deployed "plumbers units" into those states under what are called "DNC Coordinators." Those named so far include:

### Midwest

**Curt Wiley**, Michigan. Former coordinator, Michigan, Wisconsin and Maryland primaries.

**Jerry Austin**, Ohio. Former coordinator, Ohio primary.

**Scott Burnett**, Missouri. Former chief, White House Speakers Bureau.

### South

**Robert Beckel**, Texas. Former coordinator, Texas primary.

**Walter Moore**, Louisiana. Former head, Labor for Carter.

**Jay Beck**, Alabama. Former coordinator, Alabama primary; former member, White House staff.

**William Romjue**, Virginia. former coordinator, Iowa, Utah, Montana and Nevada primaries.

### Northeast

**Joel McCleary**, New York. Former coordinator, New York primary; former aide, Lloyd Cutler, White House General Counsel.

The Carter campaign will soon name chiefs for plumbers units in Illinois, Wisconsin, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Minnesota, California, and Washington State.