

Campaign 1980 by Kathleen Murphy



GOP proclaims 'down with Europe'

The Republican Party put the final touches on its 1980 platform in Detroit this week—and it is a bomb. Expected to be approved almost unanimously at the GOP's nominating convention, which opens July 14, the platform is bound to convince our NATO allies, particularly the West Germans and the French, that Ronald Reagan is as great a threat to world peace as they thought.

The foreign policy/defense planks of the platform don't simply feature the anticipated shibboleths about "Soviet expansionism" and the relative decline in U.S. military strength under the Carter administration; they contain language that can only be interpreted in Bonn and Paris as a declaration of war against Europe. The platform harshly criticizes French President Giscard and West German Chancellor Schmidt for meeting with the Soviet leadership on the grounds that this is a step in the direction of the "neutralization" of Europe.

It also attacks the two European leaders for their attempt to find a workable solution to the Mideast deadlock, terming their recent call for the PLO to be included in the autonomy talks a sign of capitulation to Soviet pressures.

It goes on to demand that Europe back a massive rearmament program including the extension of NATO into the Persian Gulf and

the Indian Ocean; support a "growing relationship" between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China; and denounce U.S. sales of nuclear fuel to India.

Despite appearances, the platform is not the child of pure stupidity. When informed by one observer that it would completely alienate Europe from Reagan, William Van Cleave, a key Reagan adviser and architect of the foreign policy plank responded: "So what? It has to be done, that's all. Europe has got to learn who's giving the orders."

The platform's domestic aspects are just as awful. Under the cover of encouraging "job creation" and "economic growth without inflation," the GOP program promises to replicate in the U.S. the devastation wrought on the British economy by Iron Lady Maggie Thatcher. A plank proposed by New York Congressman Jack Kemp, contender for the vice-presidential slot, is a case in point. Modeled explicitly on a pilot project devised by Thatcher's Chancellor of the Exchequer Geoffrey Howe, Kemp's so-called jobs enterprise zones proposal will try to stimulate investment in ghetto areas by rescinding zoning laws, safety and pollution requirements, rent controls, most business and property taxes, and Social Security taxes on both employees and employers. For tactical reasons—the Republicans are planning to exploit Carter's unpopularity by courting traditional Democratic constituencies like labor and minorities—Kemp's plan does not mimic the British model in lifting minimum wage requirements.

Dope king endorses Reagan

Max Fisher, a leading Zionist lobby figure and reputed international illegal drug magnate, is helping to steer the Reagan bandwagon.

During a recent trip to Israel, Fisher—who tried to get a "Draft Jerry Ford" movement off the ground several months ago—told the *Jerusalem Post* that he can now "enthusiastically endorse and support" Reagan's candidacy. "Reagan's much more moderate than he is perceived," he said. "He'd be much better for Israel than Carter," because he understands Israel's importance to the U.S. as a reliable ally in a vital strategic area.

Fisher's endorsement has a few strings attached, though. He wants Reagan to nominate "my great friend" Alexander Haig as his Secretary of State. "That would be just wonderful," said Fisher, who knows from the inside how Haig worked to undercut the President during the final days of the Nixon administration.

Court rules for Anderson

John Anderson's "independent" presidential candidacy got a major leg up July 9 when a federal circuit judge in New Mexico overturned the state filing deadline, which had prevented Anderson from getting on the ballot there.

The ruling is expected to help Anderson get on the ballot in another five states, where he is also challenging the legality of filing deadlines.

Meanwhile, NBC-TV is also doing its bit to boost the blue-haired Congressman from Illinois. The network—which employs Henry Kissinger as a guest commentator—plans to run exclusive interviews with Anderson twice daily during the Republican Convention. The interviews will be aired from Europe, where Anderson is currently meeting with heads of state and other leaders in an attempt to palm himself off as the alternative to the much-despised Carter and Reagan.