

The media

A fix that wouldn't work

by Lonnie Wolfe

When Americans overwhelmingly rejected Jimmy Carter and his policies last week, they also beat an effort by the media and the national opinion pollsters to rig the election.

For the last month, the media, including the national radio and television networks, have pumped out a consistent line that the election was neck and neck. The percentage difference between Reagan and Carter never showed more than a 4 to 5 percent Reagan lead. More significantly, each of the key states—Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas—was identified as too close to call. This was specifically designed to negate the idea that Reagan had an overwhelmingly decisive majority in the electoral college—far more than the 270 needed to win.

As *EIR* pointed out in a Nov. 4 report, since his nomination in August, Jimmy Carter's only chance for reelection depended on maintaining a narrow base in the South and Northeast and deploying enormous vote-fraud capabilities in key urban and labor precincts. Political insiders informed *EIR* that the vote-fraud capabilities could shift only between 3 and 5 percent of the vote under maximum conditions. For this to have a chance of success, the talk of potential Reagan landslide had to be dampened. More importantly, the public perception that the race was extremely close had to be maintained.

Calls to the various polling services on the morning after the elections elicited confused apologies. Gallup said that they had failed to continue their polls to the "last minute," and since many voters made up their minds at the last minute, such an effort would have produced more accurate results. Spokesmen for Lou Harris claimed that their poll wasn't that really far off.

Spokesmen for the *New York Times*/CBS refused to comment at all.

Regardless of the pollsters' excuses, the polls were totally wrong—so much so as to suggest deliberate rigging. While *EIR* continues to investigate this serious charge, our preliminary reports reveal ample available information to suggest that the media deliberately lied to obscure an impending Reagan landslide. As *EIR* reported, Reagan was marginally but decisively ahead in every key state that the polls identified as a toss-up. The only reason that such states could be considered close was because of vote-fraud capabilities. Spokesmen for the polling agencies refused to comment on whether such capabilities were included in their findings.

Other information points to the polls being deliberately rigged through selective editing of information. For example, well-placed sources in the AFL-CIO report that their own private polling revealed an incredible softness in labor support for Carter. In addition, they showed that Reagan was doing far better among unionized voters than anyone expected, pointing toward the actual outcome of the election. The private polling information showed Carter's support eroding as Election Day drew nearer. Carter had to win a decisive plurality from labor in order to have any chance to win key Midwest states. The AFL-CIO strategists realized that even with a huge vote-fraud capability, they could not deliver the needed vote. These results were confirmed by early morning polls on Election Day. By noon, AFL-CIO headquarters confirmed estimates made a week earlier—Reagan was headed for a landslide.

It is impossible to imagine that the major polling services, who crisscrossed the nation with phone calls

The polls and the election

On Nov. 3, one day before the national election, the three major networks released their last, definitive, preelection polls. All showed a tight race. All were completely wrong. The chart at right shows the predictions of the four media polls and, by way of contrast, the actual election result.

	Reagan	Carter	Reagan lead	Anderson	poll's maximum error
CBS-NY Times	46%	45%	1%	8%	2%
NBC-Gallup	47%	44%	3%	8%	3%
ABC-Harris	47%	42%	5%	10%	3%
Washington Post . .	44%	47%	-3%	8%	4%
Actual election	51.6%	41.6%	10%	6.6%	—

and in-person pollsters, did not reach a similar conclusion long before Election Day, regardless of incompetence in polling methods. We can only state that no major polling service reported the possibility of a Reagan landslide.

On July 18, the *EIR*, drawing on interviews with national and regional Democrats, reported: "If the 1980 presidential election were held today with Jimmy Carter heading the Democratic ticket and with Ronald Reagan the GOP standard-bearer, the Democratic Party would receive its worst trouncing in more than two generations." The trend line remained constant throughout the entire campaign. Nonetheless, the polls showed "Carter gaining, Reagan strength eroding."

EIR's Nov. 4 issue identified a handful of key states and key urban areas that would determine the outcome of the election. Should the rigged polls' effect on the population in holding down a Reagan vote, coupled with principally black and labor vote-fraud capabilities, roll up large pluralities for Carter, the President might squeak by; if not, there would be a rout.

Throughout the week before the election, *EIR* received reports of Carter-Mondale efforts to mobilize its vote-fraud capability in such places as Philadelphia, Chicago, Newark, Detroit, and in the Mexican-American areas of south Texas. Money was being tossed around to buy votes, while reluctant Carter supporters were being threatened by campaign officials with reprisals should they fail to deliver votes. Other information revealed that such efforts would not be enough.

By Election Day, key field operatives of the Carter-Mondale campaign recognized that an unstoppable Reagan landslide was under way, and this contributed to aborting much of the big vote-fraud capability. This is not to say that significant vote fraud did not take place during the day in several places, such as Chicago, where Carter people were reportedly buying votes for a \$2 apiece in the black wards. What it cut down on is the normal last-minute "ring up the votes"—which includes voting phantom registrations. It was these operations that gave Jimmy Carter his margins in places like Ohio in 1976. But in 1980, with Reagan running far ahead everywhere, there was no percentage in pulling out the stops and risking possible arrest by GOP anti-vote-fraud squads. As one Democrat put it, "A lot of people just pocketed the money and sat on their hands. With Carter being thrown out, they had little to fear."

The final insult to the American people occurred during the Nov. 4 election coverage. All their armies of "exit pollsters" who interrogated voters as they left the booths turned in reports of the developing anti-Carter vote. As the election night programs droned on, the report of the landslide was held back. "It looks bad for the President," said CBS's Walter Cronkite, over and over again. At three o'clock, sources report, CBS had briefed its staff that Carter had lost.

The Senate

GOP takeover

by Susan Kokinda

The sweep that delivered Ronald Reagan to the White House also gave the Republican Party control of the U.S. Senate for the first time since 1954. Led by George McGovern himself, no less than nine incumbent Democrats went down to defeat on Election Day, including *five* committee chairmen. Coupled with the unexpected pickup of three other open, but formerly Democratic seats, and the self-transformation of Virginia's Harry Byrd from Independent to Republican, the Republicans now command a 54 to 46 majority.

As they received each report of another liberal Democratic defeat, even the Republican Senate staffers partying at the Reagan victory celebration in the Washington Hilton were stunned at the magnitude of the Senate upset. They had not reckoned with the depth of nationwide disgust at the policies of depression, environmentalism, and destruction of American industrial and military capabilities, which came to be associated with the likes of Jimmy Carter, George McGovern, Frank Church, Birch Bayh, and John Culver.

But while the American population was delivering a clear mandate against a U.S. Senate run by Foreign Relations Committee chairman Church, Intelligence chairman Bayh, and now-deposed chairmen such as Banking's William Proxmire and Judiciary's Edward Kennedy, it was also delivering a mandate against the libertarian flip side of those policies. The next two years of the Republican-controlled Senate promise to yield an unending battle between the policies of the progrowth, American conservative majority and the depression and confrontation policies of Milton Friedman and Henry Kissinger—typical of the GOP faction that would wish to continue Carter's policies.

Democratic debacle

In the final tally, the GOP picked up 12 seats, as follows:

- *Democratic incumbents:* Leading his minions into defeat was George McGovern, targeted by the conservative political action committees and written off early in the game. Also successfully singled out by the PACs were Church, Culver, Bayh, John Durkin, Gaylord Nelson, and Patrick Leahy. The only liberal who survived from the conservative hit list was Gary Hart of Colorado. But other non-McGovernite Democrats went down with the ship as well.