

The post-McGovern era

After 12 years of purges by the McGovernite liberals against old-line Democratic constituency leaders, at one blow the constituency leaders and the voters at large have revolted against both Carter and the McGovern faction.

It was the 1968-80 "McGovern reforms" that tipped the party's national leadership and procedures away from broad constituency representation, toward spokespersonship for antigrowth, antitechnology Eastern Establishmentarianism. The McGovernites' funders shaped the liberalism of this period away from the mere fondness for détente and government social programs represented by an Adlai Stevenson, Jr., or even the noisy but restricted populism of an Estes Kefauver, toward all-out environmentalism and sponsorship of "alternative life-styles" including drug legalization and homosexuality.

Who will pick up the pieces? If the Democrats are to maintain their edge in the House and recapture their Senate majority in 1982, much less win the White House in 1984, clearly they will have to restore the party's constituency links and its policy credibility.

Voices within the party warned repeatedly that renominating Carter and holding the party hostage to the McGovernites would bring an electoral disaster. Among the most insistent was former Democratic presidential candidate and *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.; one of the factors in the changing topography of the party is the two-month-old National Democratic Policy Committee, whose advisory board he chairs. A second factor is the future activity of the two politicians most identified with McGovernism and currently maintained by the national media as the party's leaders, Ted Kennedy and Fritz Mondale.

Among Democrats, unable to believe that a dose of Reagan will take care of their devastating problems, the time for choosing candidates and legislative policies for the post-McGovern era has arrived. The initial test falls in the coming weeks when Democratic committee chairmen in the House will be selected, and the Democratic National Committee executive office will be reviewed.

After George McGovern's crashing presidential defeat in 1972, heads rolled on the DNC, followed by the advent of Robert Strauss—who with DNC current chairman John White was most responsible for the Carter renomination and the Nov. 4 results.

Party, represent in total the strongest single political force in the United States.

This defines the proper immediate perspectives for Democratic Party Whig forces. We represent the political balance of power for getting things done during the coming period of the Reagan administration. That is our political power; that is the key to our moral responsibilities of leadership during the coming period. That is key to the kind of reorganization that must now occur not only in the Democratic Party congressional caucus, but in the state and national party organizations.

We, the Whig Democrats, are based in fact on a harmony of interests among farmers, labor, scientists and related professionals, and entrepreneurially minded business forces. That harmony of interests is also based on the consciously and implicitly Whig forces of the so-called minorities, those currents struggling for full assimilation of minority groups into the realization of their potential for contributing to our nation's life and policy making. It is our Whig commitment to that principal conception of a harmony of interests that is the key shading of difference between ourselves and many among Republican Whigs.

If Whig Republicans will understand us clearly on this issue of principle, a bipartisan cooperation on policy and legislation can be developed rapidly between the Whig currents of the two parties. With such a bipartisan force every other political current of either party must reckon.

The implicit promise of the election

The implicit promise of the Reagan landslide victory includes a commitment to the following leading items of immediate action. Whig Democrats must use their leverage to cause these implied promises to be fulfilled quickly.

The slide into a new depression must be stopped. The "Volcker measures," in particular, must be repudiated and repealed.

We require a selective credit policy which provides ample credit at reasonable borrowing costs for production and commerce. Let credit otherwise be relatively restricted, except for short-term consumer credit and first mortgages on new construction, and let borrowing costs rise on inflationary categories of investments.

We require immediate tax reforms.

There must be selective tax relief in the form of increases in the federal per capita income-tax exemption, to move a large section of the households presently taxed into poverty out of the poverty category.

There must be substantial increases in rates of tax credits for depreciation, amortization, and depletion of investments in capital goods of agriculture, industry, and commerce. There must be investment-tax credits, in