

## Kissinger and Fisher out to steal the White House

by Richard Cohen, Washington Bureau Chief

Pushing the line that "the Reagan administration's foreign policy is in disarray," the Henry Kissinger-Max Fisher group is attempting a coup over U.S. foreign policy.

On Nov. 19, after a meeting between Vice-President George Bush and Max Fisher, chairman of the GOP's Jewish Advisory Committee and the man who masterminded the fight against the AWACS sale, 33 top financial contributors to the Reagan campaign met with the President, reportedly to demand "reassurances" that he would not pursue comprehensive Middle East peace negotiations along the lines suggested by Saudi Arabia's Fahd plan. As a "test" of the President, New York attorney Howard Squadron leaked from closed-door discussions remarks by Reagan which he presented as an administration policy shift to total support of Israeli claims for full sovereignty over Jerusalem. The thought was that the President would be unwilling to risk a denial in an atmosphere in which Max Fisher and others have privately and not-so-privately begun to charge the Reagan administration with anti-Semitism.

The Fisher crowd's strongarm tactic fell short, however, when the White House immediately issued a statement proclaiming that there had been no change in longstanding U.S. policy that the status of Jerusalem is something to be determined through Middle East peace negotiations, not unilateral statements. Hardly anyone thinks the matter will end there, however. Once again, the word has begun to circulate that the administration will pay for its "foreign-policy mistakes" through a new Israeli military action in Lebanon, and Republican losses at the polls in 1982.

More than Middle East policy is at stake. Among Fisher's co-conspirators are Henry Kissinger and other leading figures at the Jesuits' Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), who have conducted guerrilla warfare against Reagan since his presidential nomination. Now they want full control over all U.S. policy.

The current escalation in coup plans comes after the fortunate AWACS victory on the Senate floor, secured through a total mobilization of presidential resources and Reagan's personal interest in the Fahd plan. Further, the President's commitment to other British-initiated policies regarding North-South relations and arms-talks manipulations have been assessed by those Kissinger controllers as "shaky at best," with the President endorsing both for time-buying purposes.

Strong suspicions are widespread here that a dramatic change in Reagan's foreign-policy directorate, led by the ouster of National Security Adviser Richard Allen and quite possibly Haig, would be linked with a pre-arranged Israeli invasion of Lebanon with direct military implications for both Syria and Saudi Arabia. Even if a clean sweep is not secured, Kissinger-linked press outlets have already promoted as desirable replacements for the scandal-ridden Allen either Brent Scowcroft, Kissinger's deputy and President Ford's NSC chief, or Kissinger-surrogate David Abshire, head of CSIS. Max Fisher's liaison George Bush already chairs "emergency" national-security decision-making.

As for Haig himself, this longtime asset of the Fisher-Kissinger-CSIS crowd is viewed as "a spent force" who can be tossed to his enemies on the White House staff in

exchange for increased direct Fisher-Kissinger influence. Indeed, some of my U.S. intelligence-community sources say the "maximum goal" of Fisher's current maneuvers, if backed by Israeli war moves, will be to bring back into the White House Gerry Ford (Max Fisher's avowed first choice as President in 1980) as a special adviser on foreign affairs, and to make Kissinger himself at least a special negotiator for the Middle East.

### A bit of history

In effect, this would represent the same proposal Fisher and Kissinger made to Reagan in the early summer of 1980, when Fisher and Kissinger hatched a plan to gain veto power over the national-security apparatus of a potential Reagan administration, as well as effective power over the budget process and the White House staff. The best-known feature of the plan was offering their unfortunate plaything Gerry Ford as number-two in "a dream ticket" that would guarantee GOP victory in November. Next, Fisher called an old, close friend, Alfred Bloomingdale, who as a Reagan intimate was asked to intercede for the "Ford option."

At the July 1980 Republican convention, the ante was upped. Reagan had been prepared to offer Kissinger and Fisher power over the Defense Secretary appointment in exchange for a Ford candidacy. Greenspan demanded that Ford be made "chief operating officer" in a "co-presidency" whereby the former President would oversee "national security affairs." Greenspan also wanted the National Security Adviser appointment for his sponsors, and veto power over the choices for State and OMB as well as Defense. Going down to the wire, Kissinger himself stepped into the negotiations. A new "Ford for V.P." committee headed by quondam GOP chairman Bill Brock and supported by Senators Baker, Dole, and Griffin and Gov. James Thompson of Illinois, was whooping it up for Ford on the convention floor. Kissinger put "Ford's final demands" on the table: Kissinger as Secretary of State, Greenspan Treasury Secretary, James Lynn to return to his Ford post as OMB director, and Scowcroft as National Security Adviser. According to a source present, a "flabbergasted" Reagan shut down negotiations.

Fisher and Kissinger were hardly distressed with Reagan's vice-presidential choice; Bush had also been Ford's first choice as V.P. However, Reagan intimates such as Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada were outraged at the price for "Republican unity." Reagan delegates and key supporters around the country openly voiced concern that Bush as well as Ford opposed the Reagan tax-cut and defense-buildup plans. Bush's Connecticut coordinator, Malcolm Baldrige, was named Secretary of Commerce, and James Baker III, former Ford adviser and Bush campaign director, was named White House Chief of Staff. Baker's senior aide, Dick Darman, who

never campaigned for Reagan, was not only an early Bush supporter but the longtime right-hand man to arch-Fabian Elliot Richardson. Yet Darman has risen to "super-star" status in the White House.

### Back to the domestic economy

The Ford-Bush policy of high taxes and defense cuts dominates the case of OMB Director Stockman.

David Stockman, who owed his start in Congress to the auspices of the Fisher-connected Rosenwald family of Sears Roebuck, elaborated his own support for that policy in the scandalous *Atlantic Monthly/Washington Post* interviews. It is worth noting that Stockman traced his abandonment of Reaganomics to Wall Street's adverse response, which in turn was orchestrated by Ford adviser Alan Greenspan as part of an inside-outside job against Reagan's foolish, unsound "free enterprise" policy, in order to wreck both Reagan's remaining independence and his political fortunes. Stockman himself joined forces with James Baker III late this summer to attack the already inadequate Weinberger budget, then called for sizeable tax increases. The *Atlantic Monthly* scandal was timed to undercut White House resistance to that policy by undercutting presidential credibility and to hand the initiative to the worst elements on both sides of the floors of Congress.

On Nov. 16, the Senate Budget Committee narrowly defeated a proposal by its Chairman, Peter Domenici of New Mexico, who sought to tie the 1982 budget to a \$48 billion tax increase for FY 1983 and 1984, and to brutal cuts in defense and entitlement programs of upward of \$102 billion for the same fiscal years. Similar sentiment for that International Monetary Fund approach has dominated the GOP leadership of the key Appropriations and Finance Committees. Stockman's spirit has taken over the frightened GOP majority in the Senate and an increasing number of House Republicans.

The real world in which all this occurs is the slide into industrial depression obtained by the Federal Reserve's credit policy, and celebrated by the Democratic Party leadership under California banker Charles T. Manatt, House Speaker Tip O'Neill, and AFL-CIO President (and Trilateral Commission member) Lane Kirkland. Conveniently, Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers Chairman, Murray Weidenbaum, appeared on national television Nov. 15 to predict an all-time post-World War II unemployment rate by early next year. The next day, the AFL-CIO opened its convention, with its executive board having passed a resolution in support of credit controls. Kirkland, Walter Mondale, Ted Kennedy, and Tip O'Neill took turns blaming Reagan's tax cuts for Paul Volcker's depression. This is the "outside" pressure preparing the way for the intended Kissinger-Fisher cold coup within the administration.